



The Sentinel

The newsletter of Balsall Common u3a



Chair's message August 2022



I hope that everyone enjoyed a pleasant July and survived the heatwave! During the month and either side of the very hot weather I enjoyed pleasant walks and company with the Shorter Walks (Packwood) and Ramblers (Hunningham)

groups — do continue to support them and look out for the next walks on the website.

At our Core Meeting our Guest Speaker gave a dramatic presentation on our planet and the universe.

It's great to see our u3a continuing to grow — 31 new members in the first 6 months of 2022 represents a 10% increase!

Forthcoming Events:

The Balsall Common u3a Dance and Fish & Chip Supper with music from The Prime Numbers (featuring our very own Jim Henry as lead singer) is on Saturday 24th September — tickets have been selling fast but, at the time of writing this, there are a few left. See pages 7–9.

And finally:

The next Core Meeting will be on Thursday 4th August in St Peters Hall at 2.00 pm when our Guest Speaker will be Hugh Sharp whose subject is "The life and expeditions of Sir Ernest Shackleton" — it should be very interesting.

Let's all enjoy our u3a and continue to
Learn, Laugh and Live!

Best wishes,

Matthew Stephens



Book Group 2



Fancy a book group where you actually talk about the book?

Do you ever wish to discuss the books you have read more deeply?

We take it in turns to choose a book and lead the conversation each month.

We cover a wide variety of genre. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Come to

BOOK GROUP 2

P.S. We also eat cake!

Best not to stack cakes on top of each other, it'll end in tiers



Family History Group

The next meeting of the Family History Group will be on 15th August at 1400hrs.

Contact Robert Farmer, farmerr64@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Robert Farmer

Photography

This group continues to be represented in the monthly u3a Eye competition. Congratulations to our newest member, Tina Sheppard, whose image entitled "Corfe" was selected for the topic of "Red, White & Blue"

The biannual exhibition of 24 prints from our members was on display in Balsall Common Library in the first fortnight of July and the staff received many compliments.

If you are interested in joining, please come along to our monthly meeting which is held in Balsall Common Village Hall on the 4th Thursday of each month, starting at 2pm.

Jim Melville



Social & Political History Group

The Social and Political History Group meet on the third Monday of each month, in the Westlake Room at the rear of the Village Hall, with typically ten to twelve members present. We discuss a wide range of issues, chosen by members themselves and have discussed more than one hundred topics since the group started, covering a wide range of topics ranging from major events such as the origins of the First World War, the lives of important figures in politics, medicine and engineering, social histories, education, the health service, the Lancashire and Irish famines, the Poor Laws as well as the history of canals, railways and the aircraft industry. One of the members undertakes to introduce the topic to facilitate the discussion (not a presentation or lecture). This involves researching it sufficiently to carry out the task and members are also expected to be able to contribute to the discussion as well as gain knowledge and understanding.

We are very happy to welcome new members, so, if you have an interest in history, come along to a meeting for a try or contact the co-ordinator, Geoff Kennedy on kennedy@tiscali.co.uk.

Geoff Kennedy

Are they really thespians, or are they just acting? 😊

U3a "Found In Nature" learning initiatives

21 photos were selected for this webpage from the entries received in May & June. Of these, two were from our members, whose photos are:



Richard Hancox —
"Cattel Egret in Flight —
May 2022"



Jim Melville —
"Mother Goose and Three
Goslings"

As this initiative is open to any member of a u3a, you may wish to submit your own photo on the topic "Found In Nature". This can be done through this link:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/found-in-nature>

Jim Melville

U3a Solihull Cluster event

On Saturday 9th July the Solihull Cluster Group celebrated the 40th anniversary of the start of the u3a in this country by hosting a stand on Solihull High Street. The event was organised by the cluster Chairman, John Alderson. All of the local u3a groups were asked to support the event by providing volunteers to spend an

hour of their time manning the stand, and Barbara and Phil Hammonds and Juliet Hancox attended in the afternoon, for Balsall Common u3a. They were joined by colleagues from Olton & District u3a.

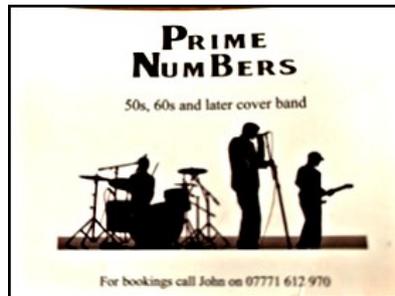
The purpose of the event was to bring the u3a to the attention of the public and advertise the variety of groups and opportunities available across the cluster. Interested members of the public were given contact details and sign-posted to the cluster u3a websites. The stand was highly visible and luckily it was a lovely sunny day with plenty of shoppers about.



from left to right, a passer-by, Carole Oakden (chair Olton & District u3a), John Alderson (chair Solihull u3a cluster), Barbara and Phil Hammonds (Balsall Common u3a), Gill Nolan (Olton & District u3a).

St Peter's Hall, Holly Lane, Balsall Common
Doors open 7.15pm Carriages at 10.15pm

*Entertainment by
The Prime Numbers Band*



Tables of 6

Come as a table of 6 or join a table on the night
Open to all our members (plus one guest per member)

Tickets cost £12.50 per person

Ticket includes a fish and chip supper



Payment by bank transfer (preferably)

Members please ask treasurer for
bank account number

**Payment to be referenced with your Initials,
Surname, Dance and number of tickets**

**Payment should be based on the number of tickets
required @ £12.50 per ticket**

Alternatively, payment by cheque at
the Core meeting on the 4th August.

A table of 6 can be reserved by providing a lead name
and payment totalling £75

**Payment will be acknowledged within 5 days
by David Thomas**

Treasurer@balsallcommonu3a.org

**Tickets are limited and on a
first come first served basis!**

Please bring your own drinks, glasses, cutlery and plates.

Please help the committee by taking away your own rubbish.

Forthcoming Philosophy Group Open Meeting

Philosophy: an open house session, an interesting
conversation, coffee and good biscuits!

Have you ever wondered...? "Evil, where does it come
from? Are we born with it?"

You are warmly invited to come to the Philosophy
Group's open house session as we discuss this topic. Just
listen or contribute if you want to.

We're meeting at 28 Meeting House Lane at 10.00am on
Monday 10th October. For further info ring 07970 886910
or email michael.watkinson1948@outlook.com

Michael Watkinson

Things that go bump in the night
Should not really give you a fright
It's the hole in each ear
That lets in the fear
That and the absence of light



If you know of any member who is ill or in need of assistance, please contact a committee member or group co-ordinator.

If you have any information you'd like to share in the next Sentinel, please email to editor@balsallcommonu3a.org no later than Friday 26th August 2022.

u3a learn,
laugh,
live