



The Sentinel

The newsletter of Balsall Common U3A

Editor Len Tomnie

July 2018

Talks.

The talk on the 5th July is the "Life of Beatrice Cadbury" given by Fiona Joseph. On the 2nd August Dave Hollis will talk on "British Wetlands." Talks start at 2pm at St. Peters Hall, Holly Lane, Balsall Common.

Film Group

The film on the 11th July is "**The Red Turtle.**" A man is shipwrecked on a deserted island and encounters a red turtle, which changes his life. The film is shown in the Westlake Room at the rear of the village hall and starts at 1.45pm.

Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese.

New Groups

Is there a subject you are interested in, and are willing to take a lead in it? You do not necessarily need to be an expert, your group members could all contribute to investigating the subject.

If you do have knowledge of a subject or interest, think about sharing it with the other members of the U3A. To start with talk to a committee member who will point you in the right direction.

Out and About Group

Thursday 12th July 1:30 pm guided tour of Guys Cliffe House near Warwick cost £8.00. This visit is now fully subscribed. Payment is due for those booked on the tour is due by 5th July.

13th September starting at 10:30 is a guided tour of Birmingham Town Hall cost £8.00. Note this is not the Birmingham Council House but the Town Hall built in 1836 as a concert hall. The Hall is also famous for its large pipe organ and has many famous people speak / entertain there.

Payment required by the September 6th Core Meeting.

Full details of all this can be found on the web site:

<http://www.balsallcommonu3a.org/Out%20and%20About.htm>

There is a limit of participant's on all these tours so please contact Peter Calver email: petercalver@outlook.com telephone 01676 535318 if you wish to be included on the Birmingham Town Hall Tour.

Well, if I called the wrong number, why did you answer the phone?

The Petanque Group

The Pétanque group are entering the local league and any current players who are interested in taking part should contact barbaradavison@blueyonder.co.uk

Short Walks Group

The Short Walks Group has been running for over a year now. We normally get between 10-20 people on a walk and many stay for a sociable lunch. A normal walk is about 3 miles taking 90 minutes or so. We meet at 11.00 AM on the 1st Wednesday in the month (normally from a pub but the last walk was from The Fisheries Café).

More information is here: [Shorter Walks Group](#)

We have walks planned for the rest of this year but still need a leader for the November walk. Help is readily available to someone who hasn't led a walk before if they want to have a go. Contact Richard Drake or Martin Richards.

Weather and timing permitting we hope to organise an afternoon walk in August to finish with tea & cake! Watch out for announcements

My theory is that all of Scottish cuisine is based on a dare.

Beacon

Some of you may have heard mention of Beacon. It is a system designed by U3A volunteers (you can read more about it here: <http://u3abeacon.info/wp/why-beacon/beacons-raison-detre/>) to support U3As and avoid many of the risks with standalone spreadsheets and databases. Over a 100 U3As are already using it. Your committee decided to implement it and we are now using it for both Membership and Finance. We are taking a "suck and see" approach in rolling it out. To date most Committee members have access. We have recently formed a Beacon Working Group consisting of John Peat (Membership Secretary), Richard Drake (Treasurer) and Peter Calver (Webmaster) to decide how best to make it available to all. You will all start to see e-mails arriving from the system as we start to use it for communicating with you (although this is one-way only). Likely next stages are for it to be made available to Group Coordinators and later in the year to all members.

Amazon Do you purchase items from Amazon? If you access Amazon by clicking on the icon on the home page of our website Balsall Common U3A will benefit by up to 6% of the cost of your purchase at no additional cost to the purchaser.

If you know of any member who is in hospital, ill at home or bereaved, please inform a committee member and, if appropriate we will arrange to contact the member.