

Kidsgrove and District

Newsletter – April 2017



For your diaries

All monthly meetings are at Butt Lane Community Centre, Lower Ash Road (next to the Fire Station) – 1.30pm for 2pm start

Apr 25th – Local solicitor Steve Plant on the importance of Wills and Power of Attorney

May 23rd – AGM followed by a U3A Knowledge Quiz. Amazing prizes (or not !).

Bodnant Gardens Trip Mon 15th May

If you have put your name down for this you will need to pay Helen Owen at the April monthly meeting. The cost is £10 pp for the coach (the U3A is subsidising the balance). If you are a National Trust or R.H.S member entrance to the gardens is free, others will need to pay £11.40 entrance fee. The coach will leave Butt Lane Community Centre at 10am and will return from Bodnant at 4.30pm. There are still a few seats available – see Helen at the meeting.

Churnet Valley Railway

We are proposing a trip on the Churnet Valley Railway complete with a cream tea. The cost will be £20 00 per person. The following dates are currently available, Sun Aug 20th, Wed Aug 23rd or Wed Aug 30th. If you're interested please let Helen know at the April meeting or we may miss our chance. These trips get booked up very quickly.

Canal Trip Report

Two dozen enthusiastic crew members turned up at the Heritage Centre and were split into two groups for the two boats. After briefings and short runs to check that we more or less understood how to drive we were on our way. The weather was...well British. Not bad for April but pretty chilly.

There is a more detailed report on our website with more photos, but I'll cover the "highlights" here. Saltie, the diesel powered boat, started at a run but then spent quite a lot of time stationary due to a dead engine so never made it to Bosley Locks. Daydream, the electric boat did make it all the way and back albeit pushing half a ton or so of branches and assorted canal debris which slowed it somewhat. But spring had well and truly sprung so we saw plenty of flowers and wildlife, notably a heron which kept flying ahead of us so we could see it again, and a lot of what birders call LBJs (Little Brown Jobs). Overall most of us seemed to have a good time and we're looking forward to more trips. Many thanks to Helen for organising this one.



Group Reports

Music Appreciation

Another entertaining meeting with the by now normal eclectic mix of music ranging from the 17th century (H.I.F Biber) to the considerably more up to date (Aphex Twin) stopping off on the way at Foster and Allen, Bill Bailey and Larry Carlton among others.

You are welcome to join us at the next meeting on Wed May 10th and as you can tell any style of music you care to bring with you will get a friendly hearing and will undoubtedly be appreciated by at least some of the assembled group (we all have our likes and dislikes).

Theatre Group

Members of the theatre group have enjoyed five productions in recent weeks, beginning with 'Beryl' at the New Vic - a celebration of the cycling legend Beryl Burton, whose 1967 world record still stands today. This was followed by Verdi's opera 'Aida' at the Regent Theatre, a tragic story of war, jealousy and revenge, and then in complete contrast 'Funny Girl the Musical', the story of Fanny Brice, who rose from Brooklyn music hall singer to Broadway star. Next came 'Invincible' at the New Vic, which explored the riotous consequences when a middle-class London couple downsized to a small town in the north of England, and finally 'Dreamboats and Petticoats' at the Regent, which featured some of the greatest hit songs of the Rock'n'Roll era. And we have at least five more productions to look forward to in the next few months.

Walking

March and now April have seen the usual variety of weather including enough rain to make a careful choice of route by the two leaders essential if they didn't want everyone wading knee-deep in mud. Most of the walks have stayed fairly local with visits to Westport Lake, Rode Heath, Swettenham, Cheddleton etc.



Contacts

You can find a list of committee members with their telephone numbers in the last "Grey Matters" newsletter. A few useful contacts are included here:

Chair	David Gould	01782 461782
Group Coordinator	Sue Bayley	01782 786436
Membership Secretary	Liz Staffell	01782 461782
Newsletter/Website	Steve Lewin	01782 788216

Of course after the AGM this may have changed. The latest information will be on our website at www.kidsgroveu3a.org.uk/

We also have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kidsgroveu3a where you are welcome to add your questions, comments or information about anything related to our U3A activities.