

# Kidsgrove and District

Newsletter – June 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

June 27<sup>th</sup> – a talk on the Art of the Japanese Kimono

July 18<sup>th</sup> (NOTE: not 25<sup>th</sup> as in last newsletter) – Phil Austin talks about his lighthouse on the Bridgewater canal

No meeting in August

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> – Steve Booth on Chimney sweeps and climbing boys in Victorian times.

## ***Group Reports***

### ***Ukelele Group***

The first meeting of this new group at Butt Lane Community Centre attracted a number of interested parties. Experience levels ranged from “playing for a few years” to “which way up do I hold this thing”. This meant that we had an interesting, if at times somewhat cacophonous, experience. You know that noise when the orchestra is just tuning up? Well it definitely isn’t any better when it’s a small herd of ukeleles trying to get in tune.

The second meeting was somewhat more musical. And despite some early misgivings we are already playing a variety of songs from Amazing Grace to Blue Suede Shoes, not necessarily well but certainly recognisably.

The next meeting is on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm and new members are still welcome. Even if you don’t have a uke if you think it may be fun, just turn up and we’ll find you a spare one to try out.

### ***Poetry Appreciation***

In June we spent some time with the life and works of Ted Hughes (1930-1998), Poet Laureate and husband of last month’s poet Sylvia Plath. Hughes was widely regarded as a “Nature poet”, though he seemed to see mainly the darker side of nature, but his poetic reach was wider than just that. There is no doubting the power of his best works and his influence on some of the current generation of poets.

Note: there will be no meeting in July. The next meeting is on August 15<sup>th</sup> when we will look at the poetry of A.E.Housman (who apparently wrote the famous “Shropshire Lad” poem cycle without ever having been to Shropshire in his entire life).

### ***Music appreciation***

This time it was Jan who was brave enough to talk and play us through the music of her life in an entertaining “Desert Island Discs”. And we still had time to play some of the other music the members had brought along, accompanied by glasses of the prize that Philip had won in the quiz at last month’s AGM. You’re welcome to come along to the next meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup> bringing along whatever music you would like to play for us. We’ve been playing quite a lot of mainly pop-ish music lately so it may be time for something a little more classical...or not! It’s up to you as always.

## Walking Groups

Although June didn't start brilliantly suddenly it was summer. The weather was disconcertingly warm, hot even. The waterproofs have gone along with the mud and sunglasses and legs are much in evidence.

While the walking has been excellent occasionally the bus ride to the starting point has been "different". I'll let Chris take up the tale "Upon us assembling at the bus stop at 9.40 am we learned that there had been an incident on the A 500 (the D road) where some kindly lorry driver had shed a load of nails thus (as you may be guessing) causing chaos on the surrounding road system. At about ten past ten one of the small Potteries buses rounded the corner to pick up by now quite a collection of passengers. As we made our way towards Butt Lane we dropped off some passengers but gathered more and by the time we arrived at the bottom of Talke Bank we had a full complement of passengers, 22 sitting and 16 standing!

Well, our intrepid bus driver selected first gear and proceeded to slowly climb up the hill. This is when everyone on board began to get a little worried because the bus was travelling slower and slower and we thought we all might have to bail out and push the bus to the top of the hill, but in a fit of desperation the bus driver managed to find the crawler gear of the bus and within five minutes we had reached the top of Monument Road – a distance of about half a mile! But to give him his due the bus driver continued on his way, still carrying a full complement of passengers (picking up and dropping off) and managing to climb to the top of Red Street before rolling down into Chesterton where we alighted. Expanding our chests again we set out across Loomer Road for our rendezvous at Apedale Heritage Centre."



## Contacts

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

Chair	Hilary Coombes	01782 782250
Membership Secretary	Liz Staffell	01782 461782
Newsletter/Website/ Group Coordinator	Steve Lewin	01782 788216

Up to date information can be found on our website at [www.kidsgroveu3a.org.uk/](http://www.kidsgroveu3a.org.uk/)

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