

Kidsgrove and District

Newsletter – May 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**

May 23rd (not the last Tuesday!) – the Annual General Meeting will be followed by a short U3A Knowledge Quiz plus a Mystery Entertainment

JUNE 5th at 3pm first meeting of new **UKELELE GROUP**. See below for details

June 27th – a talk on the Art of the Japanese Kimono

July 25th – Phil Austin talks about his lighthouse at Monton Green

Bodnant Gardens Trip 15th May

On a wet and windy Monday morning 24 of us got on our coach to Bodnant Garden. Getting closer to our destination the clouds had lifted and the rain had ceased with a hint of sunshine. On our arrival we made our way to the garden. With light cloud and just a touch of rain we went walking through the gardens where we were met with an abundance of colours from the azaleas and rhododendrons. Around every corner the colour and scents filled the air. With over 80 acres of gardens and woodland the day was not long enough to see all the beauty this place has to offer. Sadly we had to make our way back to the coach and home. A memorable day was enjoyed by all. The words used to describe this garden from those who went were WOW, AMAZING, ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL, STUNNING. Another visit to this garden next year perhaps?



Churnet Valley Railway

Our next trip is to Churnet Valley Railway on 13/08/2017 with cream tea. This has now been booked so those going would you please pay your £20 to Helen at the May meeting. At the moment there is one vacant place, if anyone is interested in filling that space please let Helen know.

Group Reports

Ukelele Group

Yes, it really is starting. If you are interested come along to Butt Lane Community Centre at 3pm on Monday June 5th. We'll be in the small committee room so turn right not left into the main room that we normally use.

You don't need to be able to read music, you don't need to know much about ukeleles, you don't initially even need to own a ukelele as there should be a few spares available to play during the sessions. You just need to fancy making some (fairly musical) noises. But note that we're all beginners trying to learn together so it could be quite hard on the ears until we get the hang of it.

At the first meeting we'll sort out the direction the group wants to go in...strumming along to some favourite songs or perhaps becoming "The World Famous Ukelele Orchestra of Kidsgrove". And maybe we'll even do a little playing.

Poetry Appreciation

In May we discussed the poetry of Sylvia Plath, American poet, wife of Ted Hughes who was later to be Poet Laureate. Sylvia Plath suffered from serious depression for most of her life but wrote some superb and very personal poetry, though some of it is quite painful to read at times. After a number of suicide attempts she finally took her own life in 1963 at the age of only 30.

Next month on June 20^h, we will move on to consider the work of Ted Hughes though no doubt the name will crop up again.

Walking

Now we're well into Spring much time has been spent by the intrepids communing with the local bluebells in Lawton Woods. Parrott's Drumble and Target Wood (you might just catch the last of them if you're quick).



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.