

**INTEREST GROUPS**

**ART APPRECIATION**

Art Appreciation has just created its programme up to February 2011. We're covering two French artists, Renoir the painter and Rodin the sculptor, Russian artists around the time of the Revolution, and Seago, an English artist who painted for royalty. We'll also look at First World War artists of many nationalities. At Christmas we're looking at food and drink in art, and eating and drinking too.

We're a self-led group, with no single expert, but a lot of expertise between us. We welcome anyone who's interested in art, whether they just want to sit and listen, or are keen to add ideas of their own, or run some of the sessions. We usually have about 20 people, and there's room for more. If you're interested you can contact me, or simply turn up at Ecgwins on the second Monday of the month at ten o'clock.

Caroline Bagshaw (41384)

**SKITTLES**

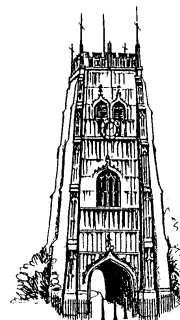
Will all members of the group please note that skittles will start again in October:

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
 St. Ecgwins Club 117 High Street  
 10.45am to 12.30pm

Mary Greenwood (45932)

**Don't forget the last date for items for the December newsletter, which is 30th October!**

**Keep in touch online via our website: [www.u3a-evesham.org.uk](http://www.u3a-evesham.org.uk) and don't forget that all groups have their own web page. John Scotland is anxious to keep your information up to date. Either email him or phone him on 881594**



U3A



EVESHAM & DISTRICT  
 NEWSLETTER  
 ISSUE 33 SEPTEMBER 2010

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**A WORD FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN**

It is pleasing to report an increase in membership since our AGM, together with a start-up of new interest groups. As I mentioned in the June Newsletter, we shall be staging a small exhibition in the Evesham Library later this year – with the aim of further boosting membership. The Library is, however, due to undergo a refit in the autumn, so we are unable to give a firm date for our presence until later.

Committee members will be attending the next AGM of our parent body – The Third Age Trust – at Cirencester, in September. Also that month we shall be holding another seminar for group leaders (on Tues 14<sup>th</sup>), at which further ideas will be out-lined – to encourage and support the vital and on-going work carried out by this 40+ core of our lead members.

Other projects in hand by the committee include initiatives to encourage more members to become confident in computer use, particularly bearing in mind the ever growing march of the digital age via the internet, email use etc in to our daily lives. May I remind group leaders and all other members that we shall be holding another annual “Open Day” at the Town Hall on Wed, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Please also bring along any interested friends and others, who may be thinking of joining us.

Finally, with the holiday season drawing to a close, I wish you all well whatever you may be doing – and let us hope for some “goldilocks” weather – not too hot and not too cold!

Ian Simpson.

*COMING PUBLIC MEETINGS*

**Wednesday  
October 6th**      **Talk by David Fetcher (Title tba)**  
Check website or September meeting for information

**Wednesday  
November 3rd**      *OPEN DAY*

**Wednesday  
December 1st**      **Christmas Celebration**

Meetings are held at Evesham Town Hall from 2pm to 4pm . They are open to all members of Evesham and District U3A and visitors are welcome.

Coffee and tea are served after the meetings.

**All members must show their current membership card.**

*OUTINGS*

Monday 20th Sept.      **EXETER**      Price £15

Monday 18th October      **LONDON**      Price £13  
- a repeat of our successful visit earlier in the year.

*All outings depart at 8am from Evesham Country Park, except for the Symphony Hall, which will be at 5.45pm from Merstow Green. For additional information contact Jill Armstrong (831380) or Norma Tigwell (47787).*

*PLAY READING AND DRAMA*

Members continue to meet monthly and have enjoyed the dark humour of Alan Ayckbourn in his trilogy of plays 'The Norman Conquests'- (absolutely no connection with 1066). Currently we are reading 'Dancing at Lughnasa' by Brian Friel, an intriguing drama of a family in rural Ireland in the 1930's.

Some of us have volunteered to provide voices for some short audio-plays to be recorded about Evesham Mop Fair, following a visit from the organiser, Lisa Kimberley.

We were surprised to discover that our Group will be three years old in September, so we plan to celebrate with the help of a dozen founder-members plus many others, who have since joined and stayed to prove 'The Play's the Thing'.

As always, we have to thank Jill Moran, our 'Actress-in-Residence', who unfailingly finds plays for us to enjoy and discuss.

Tom and Heather Long (40148)

*PAINTING FOR PLEASURE*

We meet 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings at the Red Cross Hall in Avon Street.. Most members paint in water colour or acrylics while others sketch or draw using pastels, pencil or charcoal.

There are some very talented artists in the group: one lady has undertaken a commission to paint a portrait of a family pet, a handsome Weimaraner dog. Another member has had four paintings put on sale in the recently opened art shop at the bottom of Port Street. It's lovely to see talent recognised and gives the rest of us something to aspire to.

Members are currently tackling a wide range of subjects including landscapes, waterscapes, portraits and flowers. Beach scenes are popular ; we are longing for those sun-soaked holidays.

Several members are just beginners but we get a lot of help from the group and it doesn't matter how good you are the pleasure is being able to spend a couple of hours painting with no distractions, except of course the sparkling conversation.

Mary Simpson (832528)

***INTEREST GROUPS***

***BOOKWORMS***

Unfortunately, due to ill health, we have lost two of our original members who joined Bookworms when U3A first started in Evesham. Two new members have recently joined us and they have fitted in to the group very well. Our reading since April has consisted of “*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*”, which most of the group enjoyed, although one or two disliked the way the book was constructed in letter form. We followed this with Graham Greene’s “*Brighton Rock*”. Everyone in the group agreed on the standard of writing and the amount of research done but found none of the characters likeable. Of course many of us remember the old black and white film with a very young Richard Attenborough as a gang leader. The last book we read was “*The Secret of Crockley Hall*” by J. Herbert, which provoked long and lively discussion. Crickley Hall, the stuff of legend, lies at the bottom of a steep valley in Devon that had been flooded in recent years. After their small son disappears, the Caleigh family rent the house to have a break while they wait for news of their son. The family dog seems really spooked by the house. Gradually the terrible things that happened in the past are revealed. Some of the group enjoyed the supernatural aspects of the book, some hated the description of events that had taken place, while most of the group thought the book poorly written and unpleasant and not one would recommend to other readers.

Bookworms has no meeting in August and during the holidays will read works of their own choice in readiness for our September meeting.

Jean Parlett (830081)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>Ian Simpson</b>	<b>41667</b>
<b>VICE CHAIRMAN, WEBSITE &amp; COTSWOLD LINK</b>	<b>John Scotland</b>	<b>881594</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Paul Griffin 01527</b>	<b>821319</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Jane Couper</b>	<b>424167</b>
<b>MINUTES SECRETARY/PUBLICITY</b>	<b>Joyce Davey</b>	<b>443755</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b>	<b>John Halford</b>	<b>834648</b>
<b>GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR</b>	<b>Caroline Bagshaw</b>	<b>41384</b>
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	<b>David Way</b>	<b>442753</b>
<b>PROGRAMME SECRETARY &amp; HALL LIAISON</b>	<b>Una Wassell</b>	<b>765105</b>
<b>PASTORAL &amp; REFRESHMENTS</b>	<b>Judy Knight (co-opted)</b>	<b>429434</b>

***A NOTE FROM YOUR PROGRAMME SECRETARY***

Thank you to everybody who sent me suggestions for future public meetings and for the last minute emergency cover offers. Please do not be disappointed if your idea does not come up in the next programme for 2011. I try to balance topics so as to cover a variety of interests and there is always 2012!

Una Wassell

***.....AND ONE FROM THE GROUP COORDINATOR***

**Breaking Down Barriers – let the generations unite**

Worcester Volunteers has started a programme to get older and younger people together to produce art. Art can mean anything. It could be painting, drawing, photography, film-making, sewing, sculpting, collage. It could even mean singing and dancing. A whole group could take part, or interested individuals. There'll be no charge at all to participants, and they might be able to try out a new art form without having to pay for it. So if you want to spend some time making art and chatting, please get in touch.

Caroline Bagshaw 41384

## *INTEREST GROUPS*

### **GROUP COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Two new groups have formed. Mike Bagshaw started a Portrait Group in July with four budding portrait artists, and there is now a Quiz Team, which will hold its first session at the end of September. For more information about these, contact Mike (41384) for Portrait Painting, and Julie (442837) for the Quiz Team

Bridge is next. There are now eight definite names and two possibles, which is more than enough to get going. There will be an initial meeting to sort out details in September. There is also some interest in a new Mah Jongg group as the existing one is full.

And after that, there is going to be a group for Memory Improvement. There's already a rush for this, just by word of mouth. We're still looking at books and DVDs and working out the best way to do it, but it will be something like a six-week course for ten people, then a brief gap before a new course with ten new people. Details may change, but we hope to accommodate all comers, eventually. If you'd like to know more, contact Judith Smart (765284) or Caroline Bagshaw (41384).

It's getting close to November, when we have the open meeting where each group has a stall. We also try to get new groups going, so this is the time to come forward with your ideas. If you want to lead a group, that is brilliant, but also let us know if you'd like to join something that doesn't exist yet. All groups started with one person putting forward an idea, so don't hesitate.

Last year there was some interest in geology, calligraphy, creative writing, hand chimes, Latin, movie-making, New Testament Greek, poetry appreciation, pottery, science, stamp collecting, science, and table tennis. There were not enough people to form these groups, but there may be this year, so please add your name if you're interested.

Caroline Bagshaw (41384)

## *INTEREST GROUPS*

Suite Francaise gives an honest and enlightening account of the German occupation from a civilian point of view, portraying life in war as pretty much a mess, where people muddled along, and obeyed or disobeyed rules according to the circumstances, and it turned out more or less all right for most of them, but not particularly good for any of them.

It was possibly the earliest work of literary fiction about [World War II](#), and is remarkable as a historical novel sequence written during the very period that it depicts, transformed far beyond the level of a journal of events such as might be expected to emerge from the personal turmoil and tragedy Némirovsky experienced.

### **The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists by Robert Tressell**

Sometimes we come across a book which, from the title, we think 'I must have read this' and then wonder 'Why haven't I read this before?' The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists is one of those books. It provides a glimpse of social life in Britain at a time when socialism was beginning to gain ground. It was around that time that the Labour Party was founded and began to win seats in the House of Commons.

It is a detailed and scathing analysis of the relationship between working-class people and their employers. The "philanthropists" of the title are the workers who, in Tressell's view, acquiesce in their own exploitation in the interests of their bosses.

This is a novel which is stuffed full of corrupt politicians, corrupt councillors, exploitative capitalists, religious hypocrites and so on. Our group was of the opinion that we have not seen the last of those.

The book provoked lively discussion across wide-ranging issues - politics, religion, the plight of today's under-privileged classes. An enormous book which we would recommend.

The Book Group meets every fourth Thursday in the month, 11 a.m. at the Red Cross Centre. Our future reading choices include Swallows of Kabul, Notes on a Scandal and Fire in the Blood.

We currently have a full complement of members who enjoy our enthusiastic, often intellectually stimulating, debates.

Carole Vizor (41397)

## ***INTEREST GROUPS***

*Two late entries which were too interesting to leave out of the current newsletter so I've squeezed them in! (Ed.)*

### ***BOOK CLUB***

Belonging to a book group means sometimes reading a book which you would never normally consider. Certainly during the past few months our choices have in turn delighted or disappointed us and have confirmed the saying "you can't judge a book by its cover" – or even by its synopsis or reviews.

Earlier this year we read 'Grey Souls' by Phillippe Claudel. Set in WW1 in a small village in France, near to the fighting on the front, the story concerns itself with a policeman looking back on the murder of a 10 year old girl which took place 20 years before. Gloomy, despairing, this was a book which we generally wouldn't recommend, but did appreciate the quality writing.

#### **'Suite française' by Irene Nemirovsky**

This book was potentially an unfortunate follow on from Grey Souls, both books being about the life of civilians in war time. Grey Souls was unremittingly dismal, so this book was approached with some apprehension. Suite française is the title of a planned sequence of five novels by [Irène Némirovsky](#), a French writer of Ukrainian Jewish origin. In July 1942, having just completed the first two of the series, Némirovsky was arrested as a Jew and sent to the gas chambers at Auschwitz by the Nazi regime. The notebook containing the two novels was preserved by her daughters but not examined until 1998. They were published in a single volume entitled *Suite française* in 2004.

When the Germans arrive, people flee from Paris with nowhere to go, and as you'd expect, it's chaos. Assorted people gather and wait without knowing what they're waiting for. They are full of fear and hope, are critical of everyone else, show sudden charity and withdraw it just as fast. They are scared and angry and bored.

The German occupation is accepted, because it has to be. There is no official resistance, and some fraternisation. It is a process of acclimatisation, where they begin to wonder what the town would be like without Germans. They lose a lot, profiteer a bit, hate a lot, fraternise a bit, and so it goes on, until the Germans suddenly depart, and it's not clear what's happened or what's going to happen.

## ***FAMILY HISTORY***

Family history usually means picking through archives page by page, to find the occasional gem. But one of our members has had a day of constant gems. It started by finding the mother-in-law as an overnight guest on a census, which revealed her great-great grandmother's maiden name. (Could all mothers of girls please stay with their daughters on census night in 2011 please – it's a huge help to future genealogists). That meant she could look for the marriage, so she organised a day at the record office. She had barely put the first microfiche in place when the right marriage popped up. Having set aside a day, and achieved the result in ten seconds, she set off on a graveyard search (family historians do that). But instead of having to wander round looking at every grave, an official looked it up and led her straight to it, and also to the graves of her grandmother and two aunts and uncles, and all the information that tombstones give. Her luck broke then, because when she started to take photographs she discovered the camera battery was flat. But overall, it was like being in "Who Do You Think You Are," where archives fall open at the right page, and someone comes immediately to escort you to the next stage.

Judith Smart (765284)

## ***GERMAN CONVERSATION***

We may not all have been able to go to Germany during our well-earned holiday break, but will have been able to enjoy the lovely summer sunshine, tasted the delicious fruits in its abundance, did a little '*bit of nothing*' here and there with family and friends or even on your own we might have read a German book or two? Those are the experiences we bring back, when we meet again **at 9<sup>th</sup> September**, at the usual time and place.

That is what it is all about and makes our groups, at different levels, so interesting. We tell stories, we speak, we exchange ideas, we listen, we read and we go home with a little bit more information than we had before and most important of all, we pick up a few travellers tails about Germany. It is the social activity which is paramount, the enhancement of the German language and '*natürlich eine gute Tasse Kaffee*' to make the vocabulary and the grammar more palatable.

**If you want to risk it and have fun at the same time, there is always a warm welcome at Sophie's Tel: 01386 870 421**

## ***INTEREST GROUPS***

### ***CLASSIC CINEMA***

This group is now entering its second year, and over the last twelve months we have enjoyed watching and discussing some of the great (and a few of the not-so-great) films of the golden era of Hollywood and the coming-of-age years of the British cinema, spiced with a few outstanding movies from the Continent.

We start our autumn programme – once again made up of films released, by and large, between 1935 and 1960 – on Friday September 17th.

We will be meeting on the first and third Friday mornings of each month at Evesham Methodist Church at the foot of Bridge Street; and the cost will never be more than £2.00 per head (which includes coffee and biscuits).

New members are always welcome. Details from *Nick Mason (01386 442187)*

### ***U3A CHOIR (SINGING FOR PLEASURE)***

It's with regret we have said farewell to Eileen Miller, who has been a stalwart member of our choir. She and Stan are moving to be nearer her family, so thank you Eileen and a tribute to Stan for all his good work in the U3A.

We are moving our venue from September 7th to the Catholic Church Hall, High St Evesham, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2pm until 4pm each month. However we urgently require an accomplished piano/keyboard player to assist at our meetings: if interested please phone me or Catherine Cox (41820).

New members are always welcome— sopranos & altos.

Glennis Warner (443184)

Mike's session focused on an editing programme called "Faststone". It was explained in terms that all felt they could apply to their photography in the future. Thanks to Jamie and the catering staff at Ecgwins PMC, Roger Wyatt and Mick Parry for their help on the day, Graham Corbett for his assistance in putting together the photography editing session and Penny Scotland for being John's sounding board for his power point presentation.

A good day was had by all.

A new course term of 7 sessions is starting on the 30th September and will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in each month, the last session will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010. All the places for this term have been taken with 6 members on the waiting list for the next term.

We have also linked in with the Evesham Library for a Government sponsored scheme and this is simply to help members of the public access the internet and send and receive emails.

Their sessions are on Mondays 9.30 – 11.00am, Thursdays 6.15 – 7.45pm or Fridays 1.00 – 3.00pm. These sessions are ideal if you do not have access to a computer and are free of charge. Contact the Library direct for these sessions.

John Goodwin (446828)

### ***TAI CHI***

The group has been meeting twice a month until August, when we decided to have a break. The main reason for this was the falling numbers and, unfortunately, if they do not increase the future of our group is not looking good. It is expensive to run with a qualified instructor and room hire to pay.

So, if there are any members out there who want to return to us, or anyone new who would like to join us, we would be really pleased to see you. We are a friendly bunch, who enjoy and have benefited from our sessions, and we round off the morning with a coffee and chat in Amber.

Can I just say a very big "thank you" to the loyal band of members who turn up regardless each time. You know who you are and without you we would have been long gone!

Chris Wright (852440)

## **INTEREST GROUPS**

### **COMPUTERS**

Sixteen members attended the one-day Seminar on Computing and Digital Cameras and Photography at Egwins PMC on the 28<sup>th</sup> July.

John Scotland ran both morning sessions on computing dealing with organising your filing system, Internet and E-mail, Burning CD and DVDs and computing on a budget. The sessions were very interesting and informative with a touch of humour and well received by all present.

After a break for an excellent working lunch, prepared by Pam, we settled down to an enthralling afternoon. Chris Warren of Chris Warren Photography (the shop in the Library Arcade) gave an excellent lecture on digital cameras and photography. He highlighted the many options available even on the entry-level cameras, obviating the need for subsequent adjustment by computer. The standard of photography displayed was stunning.

Not wishing to be outdone Mike Tittensor took the final session and set about trying to convince Chris that the programme used by him and the Photography Group for editing “might” be beneficial in future.



## **ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP**

During the past couple of months there have been one or two changes in membership but the total number in the group has remained at the maximum of 10. We held meetings in June and July and at the latter meeting showed a DVD, provided by the U3A Resource Centre, dealing with archaeology in the urban environment. We are taking a break in August and then in September will be visiting the offices of the County Archaeologist for Gloucestershire followed by a guided tour of medieval Gloucester. In the meantime five of the group continue with their involvement in the Dig for Shakespeare project in Stratford each week. Unfortunately the fieldwork comes to an end at the beginning of September but there will be a huge amount of work still to be done afterwards to clean, identify and record the finds in preparation for a report. The project has provided those involved with an excellent insight into the practical side of archaeology and has fired their enthusiasm for the subject. They are hoping funds will be found to carry out more excavation work next year so they can become involved yet again.

Colin and Joan Campbell (761932)

## **LOCAL HISTORY**

The past few months have included the annual programme of visits to places of local interest and with the pleasant weather we have enjoyed all the visits were well supported. We commenced our programme with a visit to the Lord Leicester Hospital in Warwick which included a guided tour by the Master. As anticipated he provided us with a fascinating commentary on the history and buildings of the hospital. The following month, in June, we visited the Gordon Russell Museum in Broadway. Again we were fortunate to have Ray Leigh, who worked with Gordon Russell and therefore had a personal knowledge of his company, to introduce the museum and its contents. In July we went to Hanbury Hall which proved to be quite homely in feel and size. One of the pleasures at Hanbury is that you are allowed to touch things. So you can sit down, hear the old gramophone or even play one of the various keyboard instruments. Our final visit this year was to Croome Court with a private viewing of the Court and guided tour for the group. Our guide was first class but left us with questions on how we thought future restoration of the Court should be carried out. We now return to monthly meetings in the Red Cross Centre with the September talk being on the subject of navigation on the Avon.

Colin and Joan Campbell (761932)

# Focus on Local History



*Members of the Local History Group visited the Lord  
Leycester Hospital in Warwick on 4th May*



.... and archae-

*Joan Campbell  
Getting down  
to it!*



*Volunteers from the Archaeology Group helping with the  
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Dig for Shakespeare project at  
New Place in Stratford upon Avon*



*Gerry O'Brien  
Jacqui Higson  
Jane Mason,  
Colin & Joan  
Campbell on  
site*