



RADCLIFFE NEWS SHEET

Registered Charity No. 1152459

APRIL 2022 — ISSUE 65

MEMBER'S MONTHLY MEETING

Doors for the Members Monthly meetings at the Grange Hall will not open before 2pm with the meeting proper starting at about 2.15pm or as soon as everyone is seated and had refreshments.

A STORM IN A TEASHOP

At our last meeting we were treated to a very entertaining talk and slide show by Dr Ann Featherstone entitled "Storm in a Teashop".

On 8th April 1908 during the lunchtime rush the waitresses at the Cabin restaurant on Piccadilly Circus put down their trays and came out on strike. They were very poorly paid, out of their wages (about 6 shillings per week) they had to provide their own uniform, pay for their food and any breakages. The catalyst came when one of their number was wrongly dismissed. They were all threatened with the sack as their action had closed the restaurant. They refused to return to work and were dismissed. They were undeterred and had popular support. They decided to go into business for themselves. Under the leadership of waitress Miss "Ken" Ware they raised money to open their own co-operative restaurant. They were let down by their first sponsor but eventually opened a successful restaurant "Ken's Kabin" on Brompton Road. These waitresses were not part of any political party or Suffragettes, but radical women who wanted to be in charge of their own destiny. The accompanying slide show contained many interesting and historical photos of the characters and their premises.

Melanie Gregg

AVIATION & AEROSPACE GROUP

On Tuesday 5th April starting at 2.00pm in the Trent room, Grange Hall, Radcliffe on Trent the Aviation & Aerospace welcomes two speakers. The first is Brian Cleary who will give us a talk on 'John Ford' - Fighter, Test pilot and Co-pilot of the ill-fated Avro Vulcan that crashed at RAF Syerston in September 1958. After a short refreshment break this will be followed by a second speaker, Professor Joe Colls. The theme of this talk is the commercialisation of space activities. The talk focusses on recent developments at Space X with their Starship project, together with progress at Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic, and other newcomers. Both speakers have given talks to us before and both are excellent speakers and deeply knowledgeable of their respective subjects. It should be a memorable and most interesting occasion and I look forward to welcoming members and new potential members.

Mike Seymour Group Leader. Email : seymourmd@aol.com

GEOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GROUP

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday in the month. Our most recent meeting, on 16th March, took the form of a Quiz based on rock, fossil and mineral specimens plus photos of geological landforms and some simple map structures all , resulted in 2hrs of lively discussion. very well organised by Greg Chapman and Bob Addison.

The next meeting, on 20th April, follows on from Bob's "Ice Ages" talk but concentrates on the most recent 20,000 yrs. of Earth History during which time the last ice age waned and Homo Sapiens was the only surviving human species following earlier extinction of the Neanderthals. Britain and Europe were joined until 8,000 BP (Before Present) when rising sea levels flooded what has become known as Dogger Land which now lies beneath the North Sea. Remarkably, everything we might call civilisation (DISCUSS), has developed in these last 8000 years, from farming, through writing to the internet.

ADVANCE WARNING: our 18th May meeting is planned to include CRESSWELL CRAGS to search for evidence of Early Man.

More information from ***Martin Clarke*** (Group Leader) Email : sumatraman947@gmail.com

OUR 7th APRIL SPEAKER



“What Ruddy Cucumber?”

By
Andy Smart

Andy has worked as a journalist for the Nottingham Post since the 1970s, including producing the Bygones articles. This talk will be a stroll down memory lane with some of his experiences as a journalist at the newspaper.

FEBRUARY'S SPEAKER

It was great to welcome 141 members and guests to our February monthly speaker event at The Grange. We were so pleased that more members renewed and several new members joined our u3a on the day.

It was good to see the return of a new refreshment team and a new meet and greet team. Thanks to all volunteers that helped the event to run smoothly.

The guest speaker was the very entertaining and amusing David Bell with a talk entitled 'The Plague Doctor'. David is an ex-Civil Servant and by his own admission definitely not a doctor. A true Geordie, David related tales about his unexpected move from inner city Newcastle to the 'plague village' of Eyam in Derbyshire. He soon discovered that the village was a tourist hot spot and was shocked to find coach loads of tourists visiting the village and viewing his house and the waterfall in his garden.

As a result, David decided to make the most of the situation and took a keen interest in the history of the village and living conditions in those times. Drawing inspiration from Samuel Pepys Diaries, he also investigated the medical procedures of that era. He hilariously described and demonstrated some pretty eye-watering operations. Without going into too much detail the demonstrations involved a dummy, a cucumber, a bunch of grapes and a mallet amongst other things! I will leave the rest to your imagination.

Finally on a more serious note David talked about the Great Plague and its devastating effect on the family that lived in his house during those times, drawing parallels with the current Pandemic.

We hope you enjoyed the event which drew two rounds of applause at the end.

Melanie Gregg



FILM APPRECIATION GROUP

At our February meeting we discussed 'Memory Box', our month's film choice. Definitely one for the purists, it split our company as to its merits. Beautifully filmed and full of media effects, it told the story of a woman forced by her daughter to face the experiences of her youth in war torn Beirut. Despite eloquent arguments from the impurity camp that it lacked traumatic content, the majority empathising with the characters and the story line. The ensuing discussion ranged from the sociological and historical aspects of the drama and resulted in an overall increase in the final score our group awarded the film. During March we returned to humour as national treasure Jim Broadbent played a taxi driver who steals a Goya from the National Gallery in broad daylight in the film 'The Duke'.

David Richards Group Leader. Email : d.richards68@ntlworld.com

JIVE GROUP RESTART

The Group's weekly Wednesday 3p.m. afternoon sessions at The Royal British Legion's Radcliffe Hall began again on March 9th after a long pandemic-related break. An encouraging 24 group members plus newcomers emerged bravely from Covid hibernation to enjoy some brief respite from the prevailing sad news around the world just now.

Many of the group also attended the Legion's Rock'n'Roll Party Night on the evening of March 19th. featuring our local excellent band "Rocket88" who are brilliant for jiving - or attempting to jive in our case!

Come and join in the fun on a Wednesday afternoon!

Chris Worthington Email : worthington690@btinternet.com

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

As the new Photography Group Leader, I would like to invite any new members to join us at our next meeting on Wednesday April 13th at 2pm. Our new format is to assemble outside the Grange Hall and then go round the Village taking photographs on a pre – specified theme, which in April be "**shop signs**". After about an hour we will move to the Radcliffe Room in the Grange to discuss photographic topics and to view, via a screen, member's photographs taken at the March meeting. We are a mixed ability group who aim to learn from each other.

Janet Groves Group Leader Tel: **07743 543 577**

We were delighted to welcome the following New u3a Members during March

**Angela Brown - Paul Carpenter - Janet Cheetham - Sharon Coad
Doreen Greenhalgh - Annie Higgins - Jane James - Janice Mullarkey - John Speirs.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on 3rd MARCH

It really is a shame the way the AGM on 3rd March panned out - too many dogmatic statements from both sides of the debate I fear. I sincerely hope that the reconvened AGM on 7th April following Andy Smart's presentation goes more smoothly.

One particularly contentious issue raised at the March meeting was the question of Lifetime Membership Awards. We have taken advice on this matter, and we must offer apologies that successive Committees have not acted strictly in accordance with the Constitution which makes no provision for such awards, indeed it effectively precludes such awards. All four recipients of such wrongly awarded Lifetime Memberships have been advised.

On a lighter note Spring is in the air and we can look forward to a better Summer 2022 than the one we had in 2021. Although there seems to have been a rash of Covid infections in the village around mid-March the impact seems to be little worse than seasonal 'flu - well that's how it affected me!

Looking forward to seeing yet another good turnout at the next monthly meeting,

Best Wishes **John Addiscott** Vice Chairman

FRIENDSHIP & SUPPORT GROUP AND THE REAL ALE GROUP

WE CAN NOW WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Friendship & Support Groups A & B are for those members who live on their own or are carers and who want to make friends and arrange activities each month, be it visiting a cafe, restaurant, garden centre, the theatre, concerts or similar social activities. These groups meet monthly at 2 pm on a Monday.

The Real Ale Groups 1 & 2 are for any member, (we have male and female members), who enjoy a social drink usually with a meal at lunch time and in a different establishment chosen by the group each month. And there are very many decent and interesting public houses accessible from the village by bus. These groups meet monthly at 12 noon on a Wednesday.

If you are interested or want to know more about these groups contact

Rodney Fogg Tel 0797 1537 119 or email: rodneymogg@gmail.com



PLAYREADING GROUP

The Playreading Group has managed to meet in a variety of venues depending on the regulations, whether it be in gardens, conservatories or the back of members' garages! From March we should be returning to our original venue, hopefully for the long term, in the Rainbow Room at St Marys' Church Hall.

Over the last few months we have read a variety of plays, often comedies or thrillers. These have included Alan Bennet's *The Lady in the Van*, Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, Alan Ayckbourn's *Norman Conquests*, Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, Richard Harris's *Outside Edge* and last month Ray Cooney's "Run for your Wife".

We meet on the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month from 2pm till about 4pm.

Enquiries to **Jan Powis** Email : jan_powis@yahoo.co.uk or tel: **0115 9336048**.

GREEN ISSUE NEWS AFFECTING ALL u3a MEMBERS

Nottingham City Council has recently announced a recycling scheme for small electrical appliances (eg toasters, hairdryers, toys, mobile phones and chargers) at three locations. These are :
The Dales Centre, Sneinton. Clifton Leisure Centre and Loxley House, which is near Nottingham Station. **NB.** Batteries should be removed and recycled separately.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

We send our thanks to Group Leaders for their articles and contributions throughout the year.

Please send your items, articles, photos or sketches to: radcliffeu3a.news@gmail.com

Our next issue is MAY 2022 So the deadline for articles is 20th APRIL 2022

Rod & Patrick