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Notices

Used Stamps

Liz White of Lutterworth U3A is still collecting used stamps on behalf of **Medical Detection Dogs**. They can be any used stamps but please could you ensure they have approximately a 1cm (roughly a finger's width) surround.

Please hang onto your stamps until we are able to meet again and give them to Sue Creeden, or you can pop them through her letterbox (25 Holly Drive, Lutterworth) and she will pass them on.

* * * * *

Used Toner Cartridges

Unfortunately, due to a change in Recycle4Charity's system, Sue is no longer able to accept the toner cartridges.

Sue Creeden

Two rounds of Quiz

A Also Known As

1. Which pop star's real name is Reginald Dwight?
2. What was the well-known pen name of the author Samuel Clemens?
3. Which actor came into the world as Marion Morrison?
4. Which international city is known as 'The Eternal City'?
5. Which pop star's real name is Paul Hewson?
6. Maurice Micklewhite is better known as which film star?
7. Which football team is nicknamed 'The Owls'?
8. Which pop star's real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta?
9. Which famous cricketer was nicknamed 'The Whispering Death'?
10. Which politician was called 'The Grey Man', owing his reputation to Spitting Image?

B Ghosts

- How many ghosts visit Ebenezer Scrooge in 'A Christmas Carol'?
- Who is the ghost in Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'?
- What is the name of the book by Susan Hill which is still a long-running play in the West End and which was turned into a film starring Daniel Radcliffe?
- The headless horseman appears in which famous book by Washington Irving? It has been turned into a film several times, most recently with Johnny Depp.
- The King of the Dead and the Dead Men of Dunharrow appear in which famous book by J R R Tolkien?
- Can you name any of the Hogwart house ghosts in the Harry Potter series?

- What is the name of the book and film by Stephen King in which a family caretaker runs an off-season hotel and in which the young son has psychic abilities to enable him to see into the hotel's horrific past?
- What is the name of the 'friendly ghost' who started life in comic books and then appeared in television series and films?
- The world's best-known non-human ghost is a seventeenth-century merchant ship said to haunt the high seas. The ship recently appeared in the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' films. What's its name?
- What is the name of the ghost who appears in a mirror when her name is chanted repeatedly and who reveals the future? She also shares her name with a royal historic figure in England although there is no connection.

Sent in by Richard Hill

Answers on page.....18

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Enquiries to: thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

Wednesday 28 April 2021

If you would like to join the walk please can you advise Sue and Peter by email (sueandpeter.creeden@talktalk.net). We will then inform you of the final arrangements that will ensure we comply with Covid-19 rules.

Walk Suitability: Please review the walk description and consider if it is suitable for you.

Start Point and Time : The Boathouse Inn Braunston. NN11 7HB. Park at the far end of the very large car park. Be ready to depart at 10.00am.

Directions to start : Take A5 to Kilsby,. At the roundabout in Kilsby take the A361. Just after you cross the M45 take the right turn and follow The Ridgeway which changes (as it crosses the Daventry Road) into Longtown Lane to reach the A45. Turn left and after 1.5 miles The Boathouse will be on the right. Typically 25 minutes

Route and distance: We cross the canal on the A45 bridge then SW by track to the old church near Wolfhamcote. We continue on track and minor road to Flecknoe where we will stop for a coffee break. Leaving Flecknoe we head north to Nethercote and join a track that takes us to the canal towpath which we follow back to Braunston. Walk distance 5.75 miles and no stiles.

Lunch – The pub may be offering meals outdoors by the time of our walk. Please make your own enquiries if interested.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 NOTE (follows on next page)

IMPORTANT COVID-19 NOTE

Please can you:

Review your personal health and circumstances referring to current Government guidance and decide if it is safe for you to walk

Consider the health risk category of anyone else in your household

Avoid touching gates and path furniture wherever possible

Bring hand sanitizer and possibly gloves

Bring a face mask just in case of an unexpected incident

Remember to maintain social distancing at all times

Not share food or walking equipment with walkers not in your household

POETRY GROUP

[Enquiries to: thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com](mailto:thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com)

The poetry group is meeting monthly by zoom, although if regulations and weather allow, it might be possible to have April's meeting in my garden.

March's topic was Irish, Scottish and Welsh poets. Our favourites were:

Gillian Clarke - Musician. Full of very strong imagery, if you read this you will feel that you can really hear the music.

W H Davies - Leisure. Invites us to stand still and immerse ourselves in nature.

W B Yeats - An Irish Airman Foresees His Death - An intensely moving poem.

Carol Ann Duffy - Miles Away. Reminiscent of the loneliness of the lockdowns.

Eibhlin Nic Eochaidh - How to Kill a Living Thing. An incredibly powerful take on emotional abuse.

As many of the poems we read had us close to tears, we decided the topic for April (22nd) should be " Humour - Poems to make us laugh."

Sylvia

GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Enquiries to: thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

At last, the Gentle Cycling Group is able to plan its first ride since last December. We will meet at **Ullesthorpe Garden Centre** at the usual time of **10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 21st April**. The route will take us through Ullesthorpe and the Claybrookes and up to High Cross. A right turn into Bumble Bee Lane will lead us down to Sharnford. Unfortunately, there is a short stretch of main road here before we turn right again in the direction of Frolesworth. After a coffee break at Fosse Meadows, we will ride up into Frolesworth and on to Leire. There is another bit of a climb to Ashby Parva before returning to the Garden Centre. The distance is 12.3 miles but it can be shortened slightly depending on conditions on the day. Fingers crossed for good weather!

We ride in groups of no more than six a short distance apart and take our time, stopping for short breaks and walking up any steep hills! If you fancy joining us you will be very welcome. Just give me a call on the above number or email me - sueandpeter.creeden@taltalk.net.

Sue

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Enquiries to: thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

Photo Group Zoom Meeting for 26th March.

Once again, there was a good turn-out for this month's, regular, Photographic Group meeting over Zoom. The first part of the meeting was a presentation given by Nigel Bones on 'The 10 elements of Composition in Photography'. This presentation was based on a magazine article Nigel had read on a photographic website and thought it would be of interest to the other members. The article covered fairly well understood (but not necessarily used) aspects of composition such as the use of points, lines and colour to emphasis the subject, but other aspects such as balance, texture, shapes, distance and space were fairly new concepts to the less experienced photographer such as myself.

It was the use of space that I found to be the most interesting; a feature that I have seen in photographs and used to great effect without fully understanding why this ratio of negative to positive space can have such an impact on the 'mood' of the picture (positive space being the subject that draws the viewer's eyes, negative space being the empty space surrounding it). Texture was another less obvious element that can have a dramatic impact on the atmosphere of a photograph. The whole point of the presentation was to try and make the photographer aware of, and think about, the atmosphere they would like to create within the photograph. The presentation was followed by a 15 minute video of a professional photographer setting out to take 10 photographs in one day, each photograph containing a different one of the 10 elements.

Following the presentation, we then went on to view our own "pictures of the month", the subject being "close-up" photography set at last month's meeting. One advantage of being host is that I can select my own particular favourites from those pictures displayed.

Next month's meeting will be held on Friday, 30th April at 10:00am and will be hosted by Rawden Bottom.



Peter Sands



Michael Bates



Penny Ross



Rawdon Bottom

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Enquiries to: thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

25 March 2021

15 people on Zoom today - more than when we used to meet in the Methodist Church. Many interesting objects were presented. Penni organised an excellent and educational quiz and we then had a general discussion on the pandemic , holidays and the situation in general.

The next meeting will be on 22 April, when Pearl agreed to run another quiz.

Sue

GARDEN GROUP

Enquiries to: thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

We were invited to a Lutterworth U3A Garden Group Zoom meeting in March in which Sally Cunningham gave us some interesting ideas for 'Growing in Small Places and Container Planting'. Sally is a local lecturer and writer and an expert all things horticultural.

One of her first suggestions was to use plants that grow upwards, for example pear trees and wisteria against a wall, or roses and clematis over an arch, to extend the colour in the garden. It is also useful to grow in hanging baskets and pots so that plants can be changed with the changing seasons. Another idea of growing upwards was to use a pallet stood upright enclosed in netting to grow lettuces and trailing plants. Creating shelves for plants in pots was another suggestion.

For a small garden Sally recommended buying dwarf varieties of trees, something like a flowering cherry. She also suggested that maximum use of space was made by planting hostas, ferns and bamboo in damp, shady areas and perhaps having a small vegetable plot which could be divided into sections to enable crop rotation.

She then went on to talk of having a pond in the garden to attract wildlife. Any container could be used including an old baby bath or simply a large bucket. A water lily would happily grow in water about 18 inches deep. Another idea to encourage wildlife is to have a bug hotel or a mason bee box fixed to a fence.

Sally gave us names of lots of dwarf varieties of plants that would grow well in a small garden and tips regarding ways of growing. One particular one I remember was for parsley. She said put the seeds in the freezer for a couple of days before planting and sow parsley in late August or September for the best crop.

A very interesting and helpful talk.

There will be no more Zoom meetings for now but it is hoped that we can arrange one or two group visits to gardens during the second half of the Summer. More information to follow in due course. Sue.

SECOND WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Enquiries to: thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

As it's possible COVID-19 restrictions may be lifted soon, I am proposing that the 2nd Wednesday walking group commence in May.

Peter Moore has offered to organise a "Bluebell" walk, but on 19th May rather than the usual 12th. Assuming lockdown dates stay as at time of writing, this change of date allows Peter to organise a meal afterwards.

By amalgamating our walks for May, we believe it to be the best way to commence, allowing us to ensure compliance with the then current rules.

Further details will be in next month's issue.

Mike

English is so difficult!

Over the years I have worked with foreign nationals from different parts of the world, many of them speaking English with the fluency of a native speaker. But all of them said that English is easy to pick up but so very difficult to master if you are not English. Here are a few sentences which highlight the quirks of the English language and thereby the problems faced by foreign nationals.

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The tip was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. You need to polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A sea bass was painted on the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance claim was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does are present.
15. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
16. After a shouting a number of objections my jaw became number.
17. Upon seeing the tear in my new trousers I shed a tear.
18. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
19. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend.
20. After finding the seeds to sow, the farmer then attended to his sow in the pigsty.

Then, of course, there are quirks of the English language which even we struggle with on occasions. Consider the following

1. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England nor French fries in France. Sweetmeats are items of confectionery while sweetbreads which aren't sweet are meat.
2. Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?
3. If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese, so one moose 2 meese? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? Is it an odd or an end?
4. If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
5. Why is it that people recite at a play and play a recital, ship by car and send cargo by ship, have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?
6. You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and which an alarm goes off by going off.
7. All this is because English was invented by people, not the logic of computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race which, of course, is not a race at all. And, as we ponder all this, remember that is why, when the stars are out they are visible, but when the lights are out they are invisible.

Richard Hill

Two rounds of Quiz - Answers

A Also Known As

1. Which pop star's real name is Reginald Dwight? **(Elton John)**
2. What was the well-known pen name of the author Samuel Clemens? **(Mark Twain)**
3. Which actor came into the world as Marion Morrison? **(John Wayne)**
4. Which international city is known as 'The Eternal City'? **(Rome)**
5. Which pop star's real name is Paul Hewson? **(Bono)**
6. Maurice Micklewhite is better known as which film star? **(Michael Caine)**
7. Which football team is nicknamed 'The Owls'? **(Sheffield Wednesday whose first ever game was in 1899 against Chesterfield FC)**
8. Which pop star's real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta? **(Lady Gaga)**
9. Which famous cricketer was nicknamed 'The Whispering Death'? **(Michael Holding)**
10. Which politician was called 'The Grey Man', owing his reputation to Spitting Image? **(John Major)**

B Ghosts

- How many ghosts visit Ebenezer Scrooge in 'A Christmas Carol'? **(4, don't forget Marley)**
- Who is the ghost in Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'? **(His father, the king – also called Hamlet)**
- What is the name of the book by Susan Hill which is still a long-running play in the West End and which was turned into a film starring Daniel Radcliffe? **(The Woman in Black)**
- The headless horseman appears in which famous book by Washington Irving? It has been turned into a film several times, most recently with Johnny Depp. **(The Legend of Sleepy Hollow)**

- The King of the Dead and the Dead Men of Dunharrow appear in which famous book by J R R Tolkein? (**The Lord of the Rings**)
- Can you name any of the Hogwart house ghosts in the Harry Potter series? (**Nearly-Headless Nick for Grffindor, Fat Friar for Hugglepuff, the Bloody Baron for Slytherin and the Grey Lady for Ravenclaw**)
- What is the name of the book and film by Stephen King in which a family caretake an off-season hotel and in which the young son has psychic abilities to enable him to see into the hotel's horrific past? (**The Shining**)
- What is the name of the 'friendly ghost' who started life in comic books and then appeared television series and films? (**Casper**)
- The world's best-known non-human ghost is a seventeenth-century merchant ship said to haunt the high seas. The ship recently appeared in the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' films. What's its name? (**The Flying Dutchman**)
- What is the name of the ghost who appears in a mirror when her name is chanted repeatedly and who reveals the future? She also shares her name with a royal historic figure in England although there is no connection. (**Bloody Mary**)