

October to December Quarter 2022 Magazine

Welcome to the October to December 2022 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st October to 31st December 2022.

Reports include:

- Annual General Meeting—Thursday 6th October 2022
- Garden Appreciation Group visit to NT Upton House— Tuesday 11th October 2022.
- (Thanks to Suzy Genge, Group Leader, for the photos and information.)

- November Monthly Meeting—Thursday 3rd November 2022
- November Walking Group meeting. (Thanks to Linda Randall for the photograph)
- December Mionthly Meetings - Thursday 1st December 2022—Christmas Carol Singing
- SNATTs Christmas Quiz and Tea—Friday 9th December 2022

Last update: 11th December 2022



The major change in British life during the last 12 months was the death of our Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, at the age of 96 at her beloved holiday residence Balmoral Castle. Her reign was the longest ever for a British monarch at just over 70 years and 4 months. She had been fairly active but did miss attendance at a few State functions during the summer. Her death occurred on 8th September 2022 with the cause of death stated on the Death Certificate as 'old age'.

The coffin was transported to London and was Lying-in-State at Westminster Palace from the evening of 14th September to 06.30 am on 19th September. At 10.44 am the coffin was borne in Procession on the State Gun Carriage of the Royal Navy to Westminster Abbey.

The State Funeral Service started at 11.00am and lasted for about an hour after which the coffin was transferred to Marble Arch on the State Gun Carriage pulled by the Royal Navy. There it was transferred to the State Hearse for transport to Windsor.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was interred with her husband Prince Philip in the King George VI Memorial Chapel after a Service of Committal in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.



The Lying-in-State of the coffin



The procession to Westminster Abbey

The Annual General Meeting Thursday 6th October 2022 Held at Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Hall

Jack Smith, Chair for the past 2 years opened the meeting at 2.00pm. He thanked all members present for making the effort to be there in support of the committee and all who work to make our u3a operate and who put on the interesting and enjoyable programme of meetings, interest group meetings and all the other events that happen. He highlighted the Choir who, under the direction of Stewart Wallace, have put on two performances of a concert on the past two Fridays. There were two perfor-

mances to allow the 'social distance' rules to be met. Both performances were thoroughly enjoyable and sung to a very good effort. For a full account of the concert see the July-September edition of the Magazine.

Jack then proceeded with the election of the officers and committee members for the ensuing year. The results are given on the following page.



Members of the u3a watching and taking part in the meeting

Chair: —**Jayne Jones.**
Vice Chair and
Business Secretary: - **David Haggarty**
Treasurer: - **Sue Tringham**
Deputy Treasurer: - **Glynis McDougal**
Membership Sec: - **Sandy Stewart**
Speaker & New
Members Sec.: - **Cindy Willoughby**
Archivist: - **Edwin Lilly**
Groups Coordinator: - **Sylvia Crooks**
Newsletter Editor &
Website Manager: - **Robert Tringham**
Committee Members::
- **Barbara Whiting**
- **Graham Orme**



Above: Sue Tringham talking Accounts

Below: The audiencs at the AGM



Jack speaking at the AGM



Garden Appreciation Group Visit to NT Upton House Tuesday 11th October 2022

The Group visited Upton House on Tuesday 11th October 2022. Upton House was the country estate of the 2nd Viscount Bearsted from 1927 until the 1980s, although the house and its garden was gifted to the National Trust in 1948 following the death of the viscount. The family of the 3rd Viscount continued to live at Upton House until the late 1980s and that family still live nearby and continue strong links with the property. The 4th Viscount decided not to live in the house as he and his family were comfortable in their own estate in the south of England. Shell Oil was founded by the 1st Viscount and the 2nd Viscount continued as Chairman during the 1920s to the 1940s.

The Group met in the car park and walked

down the restaurant for morning coffee.

Afterwards they explored the terraced gardens, including the Aster collection, pictured below. There were benches where one could sit and admire the view. Most of the garden was open and there are some good walks around the various parts of the garden.



November Monthly Meeting
 Thursday 3rd November 2022
 "Judge, Jury, Judgement, Justice...." presented by Alan Cutler

Alan Cutler came in wearing legal robes including a white judge's wig. In declaring the purpose of the presentation, he would be presenting a case held in the High Court in Edinburgh concerning murder and the audience would act as the jury and decide the result of the trial. He would then review the actual case and what happened in the High Court and afterwards.



The trial concerns the murder of Marion Gilchrist in 1909 by Oscar Slater. He also went by other names or aliases in various business activities. The prosecution presented evidence from a neighbour and a maid, Helen Lambie. Also Mary Barra who was a local messenger. They claim to have seen the assailant enter the property during the time period that the murder was thought to have occurred. There was no evidence of forced entry so it was assumed that Marrison Ghilchrist knew her assailant. A hammer was produced which the prosecution claimed was the murder weapon, although the defence thought it was not big or heavy enough to have been the murder weapon. Some detail was produced in court about the property, the people involved and the circumstances which I have not produced in this report.

The audience was asked to give their verdict as either Guilty or Not Guilty. There

was an overwhelming verdict of Not Guilty in the audience.

Alan Cutler then went on to describe the verdict of the Jury in the court, There were 15 people in the jury who gave a majority verdict of Guilty:

9 Guilty; 5 Not Proven; 1 Not Guilty.

The sentence was Death by Hanging.

Later, there was an outcry in the press and representations to Parliament and to the Judiciary. The sentence was commuted to Life Imprisonment and much later on the prisoner was set free with a compensation for wrongful imprisonment.

The audience were appreciative of the presentation presentation.

Walking Group Walk around Great Alne Wednesday 9th November 2022

The Group met at Shelfield near Great Alne at 10.00am for the November walk. It was a calm, bright autumn day and they all enjoyed the walk. Six members made it to the walk, which was less than 4 miles long. Linda is trying to find shorter walks that are interesting and is hoping that more members will be persuaded to give a walk a try. There is nothing healthier than a good walk in the fresh air.

Look in the Newsletter for details of the

monthly walks. If you do not have transport to the start please consult Linda and she may be able to help.

During the winter months walks are on hard paths, quiet roads wherever possible. Also, we rarely find bad weather to be a problem; rather that the weather always seems to be reasonable.

Thanks to Linda Randall for the information and photograph.



December Monthly Meeting Thursday 1st December 2022 Stewart Wallace playing and singing Christmas Songs and Carols



of the Year" (a song made popular by Andy Williams).. Another carol followed: "Joy to the World" and "Away in a Manger".

More Christmas songs followed: "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" (proper title is The Christmas Sons! And words were by Mel Torme), "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas". The carol "Hark The Herald-Angels Sing" completed the afternoon.

Whilst we all exited the room for a cup of tea Stewart played and sang a short compilation of other popular Christmas songs which included "Rocking Around The Christmas Tree" and "Jingle Bell Rock".

Thanks to Cindy for booking Stewart for the afternoon and thank you Stewart for entertaining us and leading the singing.

Stewart Wallace, the musical director for our u3a choir, led the meeting by playing the electronic piano and leading the singing of a collection of well known Christmas songs and carols.

The show started with "O Come All Ye Faithful" then continued with "Sleigh Bells Ring", "Walking in a Winter Wonderland", "Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas", "Here comes Santa Claus", "I'll have a blue, blue Christmas without you", +Ending with "White Christmas". He led the singing of a popular carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem", followed by some more popular songs "Let it Snow", "The Most Wonderful Time



Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group Meeting Friday 9th December 2022 Christmas Quiz and Party

Mike opened the meeting with a review of meetings for 2023 already set up and then went on to introduce the hosts for the present meeting. Bob and Chris have been running the Quiz for several years and the present one is to be on the same mould as previous, but with different questions—equally obscure and requiring that bit of knowledge that you didn't know you had or ought to have. The members of the group had brought items of food for the party at the end of the afternoon. Although there was not any pre-arranged list we did end up with a variety of foods, and only 2 plates of mince pies!, not the 12 half-expected!



There were 6 teams, each of 4 members, arranged around the room in a half circle. We had not been asked for team names.

Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group Meeting Friday 9th December 2022 Christmas Quiz and Party



Street chocolates to the winning team, who immediately asked the other teams to share in the prize, so an empty box made its way to someone's home.

We then set about dismantling the tea laid out on 2 tables.

Thanks to all who took part and to Bob and Chris for the excellent questions and refereeing.



There were 25 questions on a variety of subjects, mostly within the realms of Science and nature, some of which had more than one part. The teams did very well with only a few points difference at the end of the quiz. Nobody had full marks; the winning team managed about 17 points, only one more than the runners up.

Winners were a team comprised of Barbara, Edwin, John and Dave, with all members contributing to the total points. Bob and Chris presented the prize (a box of Quality