

# Kidsgrove and District

Newsletter – Sept 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

**September 26<sup>th</sup>** – Steve Booth on Chimney sweeps and climbing boys in Victorian times.

**October 31<sup>st</sup>** – Tim Coltman, “The Story of Two Crosses”. How the most decorated “soldier” in WW1 never fired a shot in anger.

## ***Website changes***

Our website has moved to a new address <https://kidsgroveu3a.wordpress.com> so please change your links to this. This should be much easier to read on smaller screens like tablets or phones and also easier to keep updated. I’ve also added a detailed calendar on the Activities page so that you can see when a group is meeting without working out “the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month” etc.



You can still get to the new site via a redirect from the old address but this seems to cause problems on some devices so it will go away sooner or later.

## ***Group Reports***

### **Poetry Appreciation**

September saw us contemplating the life and works of R.S.Thomas (1913-2000). A parish priest in the Anglican Church in Wales and an ardent Welsh nationalist, much of his poetry concerns the landscapes of Wales, the rigours of the rural life and his own struggles with his faith. A complicated man who was said to hate the English “invasion” of Wales, described himself as a pacifist but supported the burning of English-owned holiday cottages, Thomas nevertheless wrote all of his poetry in English.

The next meeting is on October 17<sup>th</sup> when we will be looking back in time to Samuel Taylor Coleridge, poet, literary critic, philosopher and theologian, probably best known for “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” and “Kubla Khan” but really with a much greater variety of work to his name.

## Theatre group

In recent months members of the theatre group have enjoyed a number of productions, which include the opera 'Tosca' at the Regent Theatre, and 'Anna of the Five Towns' and 'Around the World in 80 Days' at the New Vic. We have also seen 'Wonderland' – a musical based on Alice in Wonderland – and 'A Judgement in Stone' – adapted from the novel of the same name by Ruth Rendell – both at the Regent.

Our trip to Buxton Opera House this year (on a very wet July day!) was to see 'HMS Pinafore' which we all thoroughly enjoyed. Still to come at the time of writing 'Di and Viv and Rose' and 'Pitmen Painters' at the New Vic.



## Weather & Climate

This time we revisited the very topical subject of how hurricanes are formed and thrive. Warmer than normal water temperatures seem to be the main cause of this year's excessive crop of dangerous Category 5 hurricanes.

And since September is the start of Autumn we had a look back at the Summer, which turned out to have been wetter than normal but otherwise pretty boringly average.

## Contacts

You can find a complete list of committee members with their telephone numbers in the last "Grey Matters" newsletter. A few useful contacts are included here:

Chair	Hilary Coombes	01782 782250 email: hil.coombes@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Liz Staffell	01782 461782 email: lizstaffell@talktalk.net
Newsletter/Website/ Group Coordinator	Steve Lewin	01782 788216 email: slewin@hotmail.com

Up to date information can be found on our website at <https://kidsgroveu3a.wordpress.com>

We also have a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/kidsgroveu3a](http://www.facebook.com/kidsgroveu3a) where you are welcome to add your questions, comments or information about anything related to our U3A activities.