

PLAYREADING

Playreading was formerly Playreading Two, it started according to the u3a principle that should a group be full if at all possible a second group should be formed.

So I took on the task, with no background in scripted drama and very little experience of live theatre. In the true spirit of u3a pooling of skills right from the start, people joined the group who could compensate for my limitations and over many years the group has sometimes flourished, sometimes faltered but managed to carry on.

Meeting in my home became essential because of increasing disability, but 6 Abbots Way has a spacious lounge, and a lovely view and right from the start refreshments were provided with group members serving each other and often doing the washing up as a social activity at the end of the session.

Some of us have got to know one another very well, but thankfully we have never become a clique, and new members are welcomed, particularly if the core group is depleted, though at such times the skill of some members becoming several characters has been invaluable.

We meet on the last Thursday of every month apart from December, now at 9.45 in an attempt to complete a play in one session. My own favourite plays that we have read over the last 12 months—John Mortimer's 'A Voyage Round My Father.' Terence Rattigans 'French Without Tears' and Noel Cowards 'Blithe Spirit. August's play is Edward Albees 'Whose afraid of Virginia Woolf' In September we will be reading Alan Ackybourns 'Time of My Life'

Jean Platt