

April 2022



## ASHBOURNE & DISTRICT U3A

Registered charity no. 119048

It may become necessary to update some of the information that follows.  
Please check the Ashbourne & District section of the [u3asites.org.uk](http://u3asites.org.uk) website to check whether changes have been made to dates, times and meeting places.

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## Two Messages from our Chairman

### The Annual General Meeting May 6<sup>th</sup> 2022

You may be thinking it is a very short time since our last Annual General Meeting which is true because we had to postpone the one in March 2021 due to the pandemic. This time there will be vacancies to fill on our committee. Under the terms of our Constitution the position of Chair is for a three year period only and so I will be stepping down in early May. Karen Tallant is also stepping down under the Constitution rules having been on the committee for a period of six years. Patti Green is reluctantly stepping down due to personal commitments. Patti and Karen will continue as Leaders of their groups and we are very appreciative of the time and effort they give to these roles.

You will find information regarding the nomination forms on the website so if you know of anyone who may join the committee then you need to ask the member if they are willing to stand before completing the form and submit as per the details provided. An opportunity to come along with great enthusiasm and new ideas. This can only be a benefit for our ever growing u3a.

Sheila Allen

### Tea, Talk 'N' Tech Digital Café

Members of u3a have no doubt increased their skills in this digital age during lockdown but there is always more to learn. If you would like help and friendly advice on how to develop your digital skills further then there is now an opportunity to do so free of charge. Members can take their laptop, i-pad and i-phone along to **the new Ashbourne Sports and Community** on **Thursdays** at **11am** where expert on-line advice will be available. Maybe there is something on your laptop you don't understand or you are not sure how to set up *WhatsApp*, send a message or access a website. There will be someone there to sit down with you over a cup of tea and guide you through. This is not a u3a group but a community opportunity to get helpful advice. We have all had to address technology over the last two years but some of us are still hesitant about learning more. At a recent meeting about the digital café I was told many young people don't know how to use all that technology offers so it isn't just us more mature people who need help.

Do think about going along with any problem or query however small which can be solved. Just **call 01335 818283** to book a place on any Thursday morning to suit you. You will also have the opportunity to see this new light and modern community pavilion of which Ashbourne should be very proud.

Sheila Allen

## Monthly Meetings

These are all assuming that we can continue to have face-to-face meetings at 2.30pm at the Elim Church, Waterside Centre

**Friday April 1<sup>st</sup>** : Bob Cannell and Les Green: *The Manchester Ship Canal*



The Manchester Ship Canal, often referred to as the Channel Tunnel of the Victorian age, is a magnificent feat of engineering, 36 miles long linking the centre of the industrial revolution, Manchester, to the Mersey Estuary, allowing direct trade to world markets for both import and export of goods of all kinds loaded on ocean going ships. Today's talk tells of the history of the building of the canal, the people who worked on it, the ships that sailed up it, some of the incidents that occurred and some strange visitors, all contributing to the fascinating and continuing story of this great North West waterway.

The talk is delivered by two of our volunteers.

Bob Cannell was born in Old Trafford within sight and sound of Manchester Docks, with close family connections to the Manchester Ship Canal. He was involved in the last years of the traditional cargo ships working in the Manchester Docks and saw the transition to the modern containerisation and larger ships which eventually meant the end for the upper reaches of the Ship Canal.

Les Green was born within 100 yards of Latchford Locks in Warrington. He regularly passed over Warrington's famous swing bridges as he went to the grammar school close to canal and spent much of youth on Latchford Locks watching ships passing.

**Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> : AGM** and Paula Cornwell: *The Flying Housewife*

**Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> :** No meeting

**Friday July 1<sup>st</sup> :** Simon Corble: *White Light, White Peak: part 2, July - December*

## Last Month's Meeting

Around 80 members of Ashbourne u3a attended the March monthly meeting on the afternoon of Friday 4th March at the Ashbourne Elim church, where they heard an interesting and unusual talk by Ms. Katherine Darlington on the subject of *Falconry*.

Ms. Darlington defined Falconry as the art of training and deploying birds of prey for hunting and recreational purposes. Apparently Falconry originated several thousand years ago, probably in either Mongolia or Iran. It is now most commonly practised in the Middle East.

Throughout its history it has been practised by two distinct social groups, the ruling elite on the one hand, for recreation and as a matter of displaying status, and on the other hand by the poor and hungry in order to feed themselves.

There are three broad groups of birds of prey, she informed us, the first includes eagles, hawks and buzzards, the second includes the various species of falcon and the third covers owls.

Katherine was accompanied throughout her presentation by her own Harris hawk, "Hoss" a rescue bird.

Katherine described vividly how a peregrine falcon could reach speeds of 200 mph in a dive, or "stoop" and showed various photographs of other birds of prey also.

She displayed the essential accoutrements of a falconer, including gauntlets, a hood, anklets and a swivel.

Katherine interestingly pointed out the significant influence that Falconry has exerted on the English language, giving rise to expressions such as "gorge", "under your thumb", "fed up", "haggard" and "hood-winked".

The audience were clearly captivated by what Ms. Darlington had to say, and by Hoss, and there were quite a number of questions at the end.

Philip Aitchison.

## Proposal for a New Group

### POSSIBLE NEW BOARD GAME GROUP

Is there anyone out there who, like me, loves to play board games but doesn't get the opportunity as often as they would like? If you would be interested in joining a group to play regularly then please contact me and let me know which games you enjoy. My current favourites are *Ticket to Ride* and *Carcassonne*. If there is sufficient interest we can then determine the format, frequency and location of group meetings.

Sue Edmonds, sue@axgb.com

## Group Meetings

### ART APPRECIATION

On the **27<sup>th</sup> April** we plan to visit the **Nottingham Castle Gallery** to see an exhibition of work by Dame Laura Knight and Caroline Walker. Full details will be given at the group's meeting on the **23<sup>rd</sup> March** and communicated to members via Beacon in due course. Contact John Barnett Tel: 07503152610 email [j.r.barnett@reading.ac.uk](mailto:j.r.barnett@reading.ac.uk)

John Barnett

### ART- LEARN TO PAINT

Art - Learn to Paint begins again after Easter on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April**.

Jean Ross

### BADMINTON

The new Badminton Group met for the first time last Tuesday and the turn-out was impressive. In fact, we had to put out a third court. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves (at least they said they were coming back again!).

We meet **every Tuesday: 09.00 – 11.00** at **The Leisure Centre** and its only £4. It's open to all members or potential members, irrespective of experience. If you don't have a racquet, the Leisure Centre has a few that it can lend to us free of charge.

Its on a "Pay As You Go" basis, so you don't need to attend every week. Equally, don't feel you have to stay for the full 2 hours. It's very flexible and meant to be enjoyable and sociable yet providing the option for regular players to get a game.

All I ask is that you let me know by **Sunday evening**, by e-mail to: [khbarclay@hotmail.com](mailto:khbarclay@hotmail.com), so I can get a feel for how many will be coming along and if necessary, book an additional court.

Look forward to seeing you next Tuesday.

Kevin Barclay

### **BEGINNERS' BRIDGE**

These classes are held at **The Bridge Restaurant** every **Monday** afternoon from **2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** and will continue to be held during the course of the year. Anyone wishing to come to these can contact me at [kpatdixon@yahoo.com](mailto:kpatdixon@yahoo.com) or ring me on 01335 342 016.

Pat Dixon

### **CHATTER**

The Chatter Group met for the second time at the Gallery Café for coffee, cake and lots of chatter. Members welcomed the idea of offering alternative coffee, lunch or afternoon tea. I have now booked for an informal lunch at **The Royal Oak, Nr Mayfield** for **Thursday 14th April at 12 noon**. Members who have already shown interest or attended the group will receive a menu via email. Anyone unable to access the internet please contact me by phone to discuss your menu choices. Places will be limited so do confirm as quickly as possible if you would like to come along. We welcome male members too!

Sheila Allen

### **CHOIR**

Calling all Gentlemen:

The choir would like to recruit new gentlemen members. Of course ladies, particularly altos are welcome, too. So come on boys, give us a go, its great fun and good for your health, too.

The choir sings a wide variety of music including songs from the shows, traditional and folk songs and popular classics. The atmosphere is nice and relaxed with a break for tea, biscuits and a natter and is quite a social occasion. We have a mix of singers from beginners to the experienced, but the most important thing is that everyone feels they can contribute and everyone feels comfortable and enjoys themselves.

We meet **every other Thursday** with the next practices on **April 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** at **Wyaston Village Hall at 2.00pm**.

Martin Winfield: 01335 346278

### **CRAFT**

We are not holding a meeting in April (it would be Good Friday) but hope some of you will make your way to the Uttoxeter Quilt Show which is on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 4.30pm - it's always interesting.

Our **May 20<sup>th</sup>** meeting will be a Swapshop - so get sorting through your stash and see what you don't need but might be just the thing that someone else is looking for !

Jill Smith

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

We met face-to-face at last but, for various reasons, we were an exclusive group of five but we really enjoyed getting back normal. We met at Elim where it was incredibly sad to see all the parcels stacked up to send to Poland for the Ukrainian people who have been made homeless and stateless.

Our subject this time was *The Test*. I had thought that most people would write about their driving test but not so, one member had even set a test for the rest of us. Ingenuity never fails to surprise. Our next subject is *What a Surprise* which should bring forth a variety of surprises.

If anyone would like to 'test the water' by coming along, our next meeting is at **2.00pm** on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March** at **Elim**.

Pat Hall

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

It's difficult to describe Bob Hodgson's qualifications, skills and experience without using very long words. For example, he is a world-renowned expert in "the quantitative analysis of actual economic phenomena based on the concurrent development of theory and observation, related by appropriate methods of inference". Putting it more simply, he's a problem solver, been doing it for 40 years, in 70+ countries, for multi-national businesses and governments. He corrects mistakes and devises solutions. Monumental change (e.g, the knock-on effects of the fall of the USSR in 1991) inevitably creates chaos. Bob's good at chaos. His talk to 17 of us at our March meeting was outstanding. He had us fascinated and entertained - and he didn't use any long words!

This was our first meeting face-to-face for two years: it was lovely to be back together again after so very many Zoom sessions.

On **14<sup>th</sup> April**, Vic Needham will lead us in considering the future of the BBC in the light of the recent announcement by the Culture Secretary about the licence fee. This is likely to be a lively debate.

David Holt

## CYCLING

Once again the weather was kind to us and seven riders enjoyed a circular route from Waterside with lunch at the Crown Inn, Marston Montgomery. We were intending to ride from Minninglow but some of the trail was closed for maintenance.

The next ride is on **21<sup>st</sup> April** starting in **Ashbourne** and taking us to Buttermilk Coffee House, Brailsford for lunch.

See website for more details.

Doug Billings

## DISCO DANCING & SOCIAL GROUP

Thanks to all those who came to our first disco. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. We are now looking forward to our next event, which will be on **Friday March 25th** at **Wyaston Village Hall**.

After the last disco I asked for feedback from those who went, as we wanted to improve everyone's enjoyment of the evening. From the suggestions given there will be a few changes.

The disco will now start at **7.00pm** and finish at **9.30pm**. As we want to make the evening more of a social occasion, we will have a break half-way through to have a breather & be able to mingle & talk.

The DJ is happy to take requests on the night but the internet is not too good at the hall so, to ensure he plays the music you want to hear, please let me know your playlist before the day.

As usual, please bring any drink & refreshments you would like to consume to make the evening go with a swing.

Please let me know if you would like to come, as numbers are important at the moment. Don't forget friends, who are not members of u3a, are welcome on their first visit. They can always join up afterwards when they want to come again.

Tel 07702 382709 Email [triciabarclay@hotmail.com](mailto:triciabarclay@hotmail.com)

Tricia Barclay

## FAMILY HISTORY

The majority of members in the group seem to feel that we get more out of a session on Zoom than if we meet in person. However, some of the newer members would like to meet up in-person with the other members. So we are trying to organise a one-off in-person meeting, probably in May,

We usually meet on the **second Thursday of the month at 2.30pm**, and the April meeting will be on **14<sup>th</sup> April on Zoom**. However, exceptionally, the May meeting will almost certainly be on the **first Thursday**, which is **5<sup>th</sup> May**.

For more information about the group please contact me via the blue envelope on the website or by email to [tiano121@btinternet.com](mailto:tiano121@btinternet.com) or leave a voice message on 079 9981 7759.

Vivien Tiano

## FRENCH

At the moment we are still meeting on **Zoom**, but we are aiming to have some in-person meetings, possibly from April onwards, and over the summer months, before re-appraising the situation in the autumn.

The improvers meet on the **1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 2.30pm**. Unfortunately, their sessions are going to be disrupted over the next few weeks by various Bank Holidays. They usually prepare a short piece on a given subject to tell us about at a session, and we try to do some grammar. When we meet in person I like to do pair work with the group, but that isn't possible on Zoom, so it will be an advantage if we get back together.

The advanced group meet on the **2nd and 4th Mondays at 2.30pm**. They do some grammar, talk about a given subject or a subject of their own choice, and the last half hour is used to work on the book we are reading, currently *Arsène Lupin, Gentleman Cambrioleur*.

There is room for new members in both groups. For more information about the groups please contact me via the blue envelope on the website or by email to [tiano121@btinternet.com](mailto:tiano121@btinternet.com) or leave a voice message on 079 9981 7759.

Vivien Tiano

## GARDENS

Organisers Patti Green 07720 812278 [sidewaysw@aol.com](mailto:sidewaysw@aol.com) and Sue Dandy 01335 345157.

- **Dunham Massey visit Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022** - still limited places left on this trip.

Depart **Waterside** (meet near Majestic) **09.30** Leave Dunham 3.15. Back in Ashbourne about 5.

Comfort breaks on journey. National Trust members free entry, non-members £7.60 pp.

Transport fee £15 pp. House, Spring flowers in gardens and parkland walk. Two cafés.

- **Morton Hall Gardens and Webbs of Wychbold Garden Centre May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022** – places available. Depart **Waterside** (meet near Majestic) **09.15**. Formal tour at 11am followed by a quiche (or alternative) light lunch with tea and coffee. We will visit Webbs Garden Centre at Wychbold in the afternoon on the way home. Webbs, Wychbold is one of the biggest garden centres in the UK and has been awarded Garden Centre of the Year by the Garden Centre Association three times!

Other Trips – contact Organiser:

- Possible Extra Trip: Bodnant Gardens 22<sup>nd</sup> June - expressions of interest please
- Newby Hall: Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup> near Ripon. Booking list open
- Felley Priory: Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup> near Worksop. Booking list open
- Southport Flower Show: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August - expression of interest please

Patti Green

## GERMAN

The combined Improvers and Intermediate German group continues to go from strength to strength and at the moment we are concentrating on the German attitude to the EU and the euro. This is part of our *Willkommen* course, which is proving to be quite challenging but very rewarding. After our cup of coffee and chat, we turn our attention to our detective novel *Des Spielers Tod*, which everyone is enjoying. We have returned to face-to-face meetings in Wyaston Village Hall. The ad hoc basic German grammar group is also making excellent progress and will continue with Zoom meetings for the time being. We are always happy to welcome new members.

Visit the website to see the dates of the next meetings.

Rhona Hunt

### HIKING

On **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April** we will be walking from **Ashford in the Water**. There is road parking opposite the church, or a public car park very nearby with an honesty box and loos. (SK194697). We will start walking at **9.30am**. As usual, please let Judy know of your intention to walk.

Judy Harrison

### LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE

The April meeting will be on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April** as the third Friday is Good Friday. Jane Whitaker will be our speaker at **10.30am** at **St Oswald's Church Centre** in **School Lane**, Ashbourne DE6 1AN.

Her talk will be *The Contest of Sophistry with Truth* - how early 19th century elections were carried out in Derby and Derbyshire, and the involvement, not only of the local landowning gentry, but also of the ordinary men and women in the corrupt practices leading up to the 1832 Reform Act. She says that this is surprisingly fun, and gives a most unexpected insight into local social and political life.

Bookings are now being taken for the guided visits to **St Giles Church Cheadle** (Pugin's Gem) and **Cheddleton Flint Mill** on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May**. Please contact me if you would like to come. [pamela@boura.org](mailto:pamela@boura.org)

Pamela Boura

### LINE DANCING

We dance at **Yeldersley Hall** on **Monday evenings** from **7 - 9pm**, concentrating on beginner level dances. It's all very light hearted and good for the brain as well as the body. If anyone would like to join us then please contact me.

Sue Edmonds, [sue@axgb.com](mailto:sue@axgb.com)

### NATURAL HISTORY

By the time you read this we will just have visited Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Tucklesholme Nature Reserve near Barton Marina.

April sees us at **Attenborough Nature Reserve**, hopefully to see lots of their wonderful wildlife of all kinds, flowers, butterflies and birds. We have a trip most months, **usually on the 3rd Thursday**, full details are on our page on the website and on the events calendar. All are welcome, we operate a car sharing scheme at present for those who prefer not to drive.

Sheila Crawley 07968 310255



## PETANQUE



We play **every Tuesday and Wednesday at 11am** at the **Red Lion at Hognaston**. Members play as frequently as they choose, some every week, some bi-weekly and some less often. All are welcome, full details on the website.

Sheila Crawley 07968 310255

## PHOTOGRAPHY

March's meeting was another great meeting held at Mayfield Memorial Hall. The theme was *Texture*, which produced a real variety of photographs from the members and a photograph from each member can now be seen on the website.

Next month's meeting will be held at **Mayfield Memorial Hall** on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 10:00**, when the theme will be *Tools of the Trade*.

New members are always welcome.

John and I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

John (john.green122@outlook.com)

Helen Bluff (helenbluff@btinternet.com)

## SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

We are now meeting in **Wyaston Village Hall** on the **last Thursday of the month at 10.15pm for 10.30 start**.

At our February meeting Dave Billings CEO of *Tornado Motorsport* gave us a presentation *Building a Tornado*. This was a very interesting introduction into the development of a special Land Rover for off road racing. Dave showed us via CAD drawings how the special Tornado was developed for Guy Martin's recent program on Channel 4's *Guy's Garage*. Dave then went on to show us how he had developed a model kit of the famous world war two bomber: *The Lancaster*. Following the presentation we all moved outside to look at and ask questions about a Tornado Land Rover that Dave had brought to our meeting. I think that this would have gone on a lot longer if it hadn't snowed!! Our thanks to Dave for taking the time out to tell us about this form of motorsport.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March: a visit to Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough** so there will not be a meeting at Wyaston Village Hall.

Please note that this list is now closed. If you would still like to come, a reserve list has been established.



Future meetings:

- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April:** Harry Keeling from Rolls Royce will be giving a presentation: *-Small Modular Reactors - producing Carbon free electricity*

Because of this subject's interest now, this presentation is open to all u3a members please e-mail me using the blue envelope on the website if you would like to attend.

- **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May:** Roger Alton will give a presentation: *His Majesty's Airship R-100 designed by Barnes Wallis BSc - Innovator Extraordinary*
- **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Roy Atkinson will give a presentation titled: *Recovery of Canadian Oilsands*

All u3a members are welcome to join us, for more information please contact me via the blue envelope on our page in the Ashbourne & District u3a website.

Tony Walden

## STROLLERS

Strollers continue their walks with healthy numbers turning out despite the wet weather. There is only one walk planned for April because of the Easter holiday: **4<sup>th</sup> April Minninglow.**

It is a 3 mile level walk along trail. Spectacular views and interesting history. Time could be made for anyone, who wishes to go up to the top of Minninglow. Refreshments at the campsite.

Meet outside **Halfords** to take the **Derby connect bus** to Minninglow leaving at **1.30p.m.** prompt – returning at 4.00p.m. approx.

Please let Karen know if you wish to join the walk. The first 15 to reserve a seat can go by bus. Then drivers please help with car share.

Contact Karen Tallant: Tel: 01335 345122 Mobile: 07411430763



Walking from Mappleton Road, March 7<sup>th</sup>

## THEATRE

The next theatre trip will be on **19<sup>th</sup> May** to see the comedy, *Ladies of Letters*, at **Derby Theatre** starring Tessa Peake-Jones and Gwyneth Strong (both of *Only Fools and Horses*). The cost of the ticket & coach transport is £34. So far 25 members have reserved tickets. However, unless at least 3 more members reserve tickets, the trip will not be financially viable. The deadline to reserve & pay for tickets is midnight on **1<sup>st</sup> April.**

The following trip will be to see *Billy Elliot* at **Curve Theatre, Leicester** on **21<sup>st</sup> July.** The cost of the ticket & coach transport is £51. So far 12 members have reserved tickets. The 35 tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis. The deadline to reserve & pay for tickets is midnight on **29<sup>th</sup> April.** We appreciate that members may be unwilling to commit so far in advance, but unfortunately the theatre insist that they can only allow us a provisional reservation of tickets until then. This trip will only be financially viable @ £51 if most of the 35 tickets are reserved, although a coach load of 28 might be viable at no more than £53.

More detailed information can be seen on the Ashbourne u3a website which is always the source of up to date information about planned trips.

Any club member may participate in theatre trips. Those members who have requested Pauline Worboys by email at p.worboys@outlook.com to be placed on the group's email circulation list will inevitably be the first to receive details about trips.

Pauline & Peter Worboys

### WALKING

Walks take place fortnightly. Brief details of those planned for the immediate future are:-

- **30<sup>th</sup> March: 9.30am** Car Pool from **Waterside** for a walk of approximately 4.5 miles from **The Miners Standard** at **Winster** to be led by Bob & Jackie Nicholson.
- **13<sup>th</sup> April: 9.30am** Car Pool from **Waterside** for a walk of approximately 5 miles from **The Rose & Crown** at **Brailsford** to be led by Philip Aitchison.
- **27<sup>th</sup> April: 9.30am** Car Pool from **Waterside** for a walk of approximately 5 miles from **The Hollybush Inn** at **Denford** to be led by Brian Stockwell.

As always, full details of all walks & the arrangements for them are set out on the Ashbourne u3a website at least 2 or 3 weeks beforehand.

After 14 years, I am passing responsibility for organising walks to Ian Jones ( jonesian86@btinternet.com : T-01335 300992). Ian is now seeking volunteers to organise walks from May onwards.

Peter Worboys

### WORD PLAY

There will be **no Word Play** on Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> .

Christine Wilson



Lud's Church on 16<sup>th</sup> March

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Please send contributions for the May Newsletter to Mavis Lund between  
**April 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**