

March 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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### Monthly Meetings

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



**Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>** : Falconer Katherine Darlington with her Harris Hawk Hoss

Katherine says that she started *Beaks and Talons* to bring creative learning into school, giving students and teachers an opportunity to get up close and learn all about birds of prey.

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

**Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>** : 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*

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### Last Month's Meeting

On the afternoon of Friday, 4th February, 73 members of Ashbourne U3A attended the latest monthly meeting, held once again at the Ashbourne Elim church. This was a presentation by Mr. Michael Kelley entitled *The Closed Country of Yemen*. Mr. Kelley spent most of his working life in the Oil industry and much of it in the Middle East but his talk related specifically to this one country in the south-west of the Arabian peninsula, during the 1990s.

Mr. Kelley described a society and a geographical landscape which are both very different from the normal experience of most Britons or other westerners. Life in much of the Yemen has not changed greatly since mediaeval times. After the end of British colonial rule in Aden in the 1960s, the Yemen was for a time divided into two countries, North and South. These were unified for a time after a war but recently the political equilibrium has once again broken down and the country is now in the grip of a brutal civil conflict between two heavily armed groups, one backed by Saudi Arabia and the other by Iran.

When Mr. Kelley was working in the country, in the 1990s, the situation was comparatively stable and he was able to travel extensively across Yemen. His photographs showed a spectacular mountainous desert landscape with towns and villages perched precariously on top of hills, built of "mud and straw" bricks, a material which is apparently strong and durable. The buildings are constructed in this fashion for reasons of self-defence because the Yemen is a society plagued by tribal and familial conflicts and vendettas. All adult males carry knives and guns as a matter of

routine. Kidnapping is a commonplace hazard and Mr. Kelley had to travel with an armed escort at all times. He also had a frightening "run- in" with the authorities while trying to investigate the murder of several Europeans, and had to leave the country without delay. However he clearly found his time in the Yemen interesting and stimulating and he painted a vivid picture of the life and geographical appearance of this isolated country.

The next meeting of Ashbourne U3A will be held on **Friday, 4th March**, at the same location and time, **2.30pm**.

Philip Aitchison

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## Proposal for a New Group

### BADMINTON

Before the pandemic, plans were being made to try to establish a Badminton Group. Now seems the right time to revive that project. Would any member interested in establishing such a group? Please contact Peter Worboys at p.worboys@outlook.com. If there is sufficient interest, further enquiries will be made. The probability is that regular court times will have to be arranged at The Leisure Centre, & participating members would share the hire cost, but that necessitates sufficient members willing to commit to play fairly regularly.

Peter Worboys

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## Group Meetings

### ART APPRECIATION

I am contemplating organising a visit to the **Manchester Art Gallery** for our **March** meeting. Whether this will take place or not will depend on numbers expressing an interest. Otherwise, we will hold a meeting at the Mayfield Memorial Hall at 2-00pm on the 23rd March involving a presentation about Russian realist painters, and/or possibly a DVD. Members will be notified by Beacon nearer the time. Contact John Barnett email: j.r.barnett@reading.ac.uk or Tel: 07503152610.

John Barnett

### ART- LEARN TO PAINT

The summer term will be **26<sup>th</sup> April to 28<sup>th</sup> June**.

Jean Ross

### BEGINNERS' BRIDGE

The last of this session of weekly classes on **Monday** afternoons will be on **21<sup>st</sup> March**, after which we shall take a break until, hopefully the beginning of October.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back again later in the year and any other person who may wish to join us.

Pat Dixon

### CANASTA

Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted it was lovely to see so many at our last session at Wyaston. Twenty two members attended and we welcomed two new players from Uttoxeter U3A. Our next session will be on **23<sup>rd</sup> February** and **every two weeks** until the end of **July**.

Sue Carpenter

**CHATTER**

The Chatter Group met for the first time on 10<sup>th</sup> February and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to be out and chatting together in person! The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** at **10.30am** again at **the Gallery Café, Lower St. John Street**. I have arranged for us to meet on the first floor so only one flight of stairs!

Mark makes us very welcome and offers delicious cakes and tea cakes plus the opportunity to look at all the lovely paintings. It will be for the group to decide where we meet in April. It could be a different venue for coffee or perhaps lunch. Space is limited so do please let me know if you would like to come.

Also, if you have to cancel, it would be helpful to know in case other members wish to come along. I look forward to seeing you.

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.

During the close we have bought some new music, thanks to the generous donations from the Better Derbyshire Dales fund and our late dear friend, Andrew Brown Jackson.

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 **March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at Wyaston Village hall at 2.00pm.**

Contact Martin Winfield 01335 346278

**CRAFT**

Our meeting on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March** will be at **Wyaston Village Hall from 2 - 4pm** when we shall be making some Easter decorations. Please look at the Links section of the Craft page on the website to see what materials you need to bring. Don't forget to bring a mug.

Any queries please contact Jill.

Jill Smith

**CREATIVE WRITING**

It's good to see that many groups are getting back to normal, fingers crossed that this situation continues. We wrote this month about songs we like and dislike. How odd it is to find out that some songs that one person really likes are hated by others.

As a 'by the way' I would like to say how much I enjoyed the speaker this month and his talk plus pictures of *The Yemen*. This was a complete eyeopener to me and, judging by comments from people in the hall, to many others, too.

Pat Hall

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

The *James Webb Space Telescope* was the subject of Martin Wilson's presentation at our February meeting. This is mind-boggling stuff which Martin dealt with in beautifully illustrated bite-size chunks leaving us that important bit better equipped to understand the exciting news from space we're likely to hear very soon. This was our final Zoom meeting. On **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** we'll meet face to face once again in **Mayfield Memorial Hall** starting at **10am** when Bob

Hodgson will talk about his experiences in his career as economic consultant to foreign governments and the World Bank..

David Holt

### CYCLING

Seven cyclists enjoyed a sunny but cold ride, made harder by the wind (which seemed to be against us most of the way). The ride was interrupted by a rogue cloud dumping hail on to us. After missing another shower while we were having lunch in the Waterloo Inn at Biggin, the return ride was uneventful.

The next ride will be on the **10<sup>th</sup> March** starting at **Minninglow car park**, with lunch at The Sycamore Inn at Parwich. See the u3a website for further details.

Doug Billings

### DISCO DANCING

Thank you to those who came to our first Disco last month. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. We are now looking forward to our next evening which will be held on **Friday 25th March at 7.30 pm at Wyaston Village Hall.**



As in February, the cost will be £5.00 per person, and you will need to bring any drink & refreshments you would like to consume.

If you are interested in coming, please email me at [triciabarclay@hotmail.com](mailto:triciabarclay@hotmail.com) or ring me on 07702 382709.

Tricia Barclay (Veteran Disco Dancer)

### FAMILY HISTORY

We meet on the **second Thursday of the month at 2.30pm**, and for the time being we are continuing to meet on **Zoom**. We actually find that Zoom works very well for the group, as all members can share their screen with everyone else, and show everyone how to do certain searches.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March**. Some months we also have a DNA workshop, run by Sheila, where she shows us how to make sense of our DNA results, and how to find members of our family through our DNA.

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

For the time being we are still meeting on **Zoom**. Most members of the two groups seem happy to continue on Zoom for now. The improvers meet on the **1st and 3rd Mondays** of the month, and the advanced group on the **2nd and 4th Mondays**. The advanced group has started to read a new book, a book of short crime stories *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.

Confirmation of date for Dunham Massey visit: **Monday 25th April 2022**. Spring Flowers. Depart **09.30** Back in Ashbourne about 5pm. Comfort breaks. National Trust free entry, non-members £7.60. Transport estimated £18 tbc. House, gardens and parkland walk. Please re-confirm your interest for this date to Patti Green.

NGS scheme open gardens - please check the NGS website before you set out to make sure there are no alterations to arrangements. Sorry but there is not enough interest to hire a coach.

**19th March:** Cascades, Bonsall, Matlock DE4 2AH, 12- 4pm;

**26th March:** Chevin Brae, Milford, DE56 0QH, 1- 5pm;

**13th April:** 334 Belper Road, Stanley Common, 12 - 4pm.

**18th April:** Burrows Green, Brailsford, 11- 4pm;

**24th April:** Elvaston Castle walled gardens.

**18th May:** We are considering a visit to Morton Hall Gardens in Redditch. This is a private garden tour plus a quiche lunch included at £15pp coach extra. If you are interested please contact 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 been meeting on **Zoom** since the middle of January but from the **8<sup>th</sup> March** hope to return 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 and more information can be obtained from Rhona Hunt via the blue envelope.

Rhona Hunt

## HIKING

**Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>** we will be walking from **Upper Hulme starting at 9.30**. Parking is either in the roadside lay-by, opposite the Roaches tea room or in the small private car park there where you can park all day for £2 in an honesty box (SK006361). The walk will include The Roaches and Lud's Church and is about 9.5 miles. (This is not the Roaches route which we walked in September 2019). Please let Judy know of your intention to walk.

Judy Harrison

## LANDSCAPE HERITAGE

The next meeting will take place on **18<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am in St Oswald's Church Centre** (School Lane, Ashbourne DE6 1AN). Tony Stephens will give an illustrated talk on his research into the historic location of Ashbourne's town centre. All members welcome.

Pamela Boura

## NATURAL HISTORY

We meet once a month, usually, but not always, on the morning of the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**. This month's trip is to the **Birdwatching Centre at Egleton on Rutland Water**. New members welcome, see the Natural History page of the website for further details or call me 07968 310255.

Sheila Crawley



Middleton Lakes near Tamworth

## PETANQUE



We continue to meet weekly on **Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at the Red Lion, Hognaston**. New players welcome, see the Petanque page of the website for further details or call me 07968 310255.

Sheila Crawley

## PHOTOGRAPHY

February's meeting was held at the Mayfield Memorial Hall. The theme for February was *Wet* which caused a lot of discussion between members as to what constituted wet within a photograph, e.g. is a photograph of a river wet?

A photograph from each member can now be seen on the website.

Next month's meeting will be at **Mayfield Memorial Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10:00** when the theme will be *Texture*. A reminder will be sent out at the beginning of March.

New members are always welcome.

John and I look forward to seeing you all next month.

John Green (John.green@outlook.com)

Helen Bluff (helenbluff@btinternet.com)

## QIGONG

In February we had four new members join the class, so our numbers continue to grow and we're averaging about 20 per session, which is great. There is plenty of space at Wyaston Village Hall and it is always warm and welcoming, even when we have the windows open!

Since we started in October, five people have joined u3a in order to come along to class, and I have had further enquiries, so there may be more in future months. I hope they will consider joining other groups as well. Perhaps Disco Dancing?

Lindsay Trevarthen

## SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

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

At our January meeting Robert Allen, Business Director Highways of Amey Construction, gave us a presentation about the on-going twenty-five-year contract to maintain the roads, pathways, bridges and street furniture of Sheffield. This was a fascinating insight into all the problems not

only with the trees but also having to suddenly deal with the *Tour de France* arrival. At one time Robert had the ability to control the lights of Sheffield from his smart phone. A most interesting and enlightening presentation.

Our Events diary is as follows: -

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February:** Dave Billings, the Managing Director of Tornado Motorsport, will give a presentation: *Making a Tornado*

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March:** The visit to Taylors Bell Foundry in Loughborough is now going ahead on this date. Please note that this list is now closed. If you would still like to come a reserves list has been established.

**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



The diary for our walks is nearly full but everyone is welcome to lead a favourite walk on a date of their choice. The diary can easily be re-arranged.

**Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>:** **Ashbourne towards Mappleton** returning to Ashbourne :3miles. This is a circular walk from Waterside walking through the tunnel to Mappleton. Returning via Belle Vue Road and descending the steps to St Oswald's Church then back to Waterside. Please contact Karen if you wish to join the walk.

Contact details Karen Tallant Tel: 01335 345122 Mobile: 07411430763

**Monday March 21<sup>st</sup> : Thorpe to Mappleton:** 2 miles. A linear walk from Thorpe along the river Dove to Mappleton. Refreshments at The Okeover Arms. Meet at Halfords to take the Derby Connect Bus to Thorpe and leave prompt at 1.30p.m. The bus will collect at The Okeover Arms to return to Waterside. Please contact Karen if you would like a seat on the bus.

Contact Karen Tallant Tel: 01335 345122 Mobile: 07411430763

Karen Tallant

## TABLE TENNIS

After an enforced break, due to the closure of the Leisure Centre over the holiday period, we have resumed our weekly session. It was a pleasure to see everyone again both playing and socialising. Elaine Beard.

**THEATRE**

26 members went by coach on 17<sup>th</sup> February to see an absolutely enthralling production of *Fatal Attraction* at Theatre Royal, Nottingham when happily married Dan Gallagher met charming Alex on a night out & they committed to a night of passion they couldn't take back. "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned".

The next 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. The 35 tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

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. The 35 tickets will likewise be sold on a first come, first served basis.

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 Worboys

**WALKING**

Walks take place fortnightly. Brief details of those planned for March are:-

**2<sup>nd</sup> March:** 9.30am Car Pool from Waterside for a walk of approximately 5 miles around Lake Rudyard to be led by Peter Worboys.

**16<sup>th</sup> February:** 9.30am Car Pool from Waterside for a walk of approximately 5 miles from The Ship Inn, Wincle to be led by Gordon Lees.

**30<sup>th</sup> March:** 9.30am Car Pool from Waterside for a walk of approximately 5 miles from somewhere led by someone still to be decided.

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.

Peter Worboys

**WORD PLAY**

There will **not be a Word Play meeting** on Monday 7th March.

Christine Wilson

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Please send contributions for the April Newsletter to Mavis Lund by March **18<sup>th</sup>**