

November 2020



## 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.

## Monthly Meetings - now via Zoom

Details of how to join these events will be sent out, by our secretary, to those who have registered an interest, a few days before they are due to take place.

### November 6<sup>th</sup> via Zoom at 2.30pm: Nick Lockett "From Newspapers to Art Galleries."

Derbyshire-based Nick Lockett describes his presentation 'From Newspapers to Art Galleries' as an eye-catching talk about his own journey. It includes interesting photographs of news events, lots of famous faces from TV and film, and some thoughtful personal work.

He has been a professional photographer for 45 years. He started as an editorial photographer in newspapers and magazines, then he became Chief Photographer and Head of Pictures at ITV in London.

He left ITV after 25 years to do an MA in photography, and now has a busy commercial photography practice (often contributing to TV and film sets). He also makes and exhibits photographs for his own personal projects. He is a university lecturer and academic as well, lecturing in photography to undergraduate and postgraduate students. He runs photography workshops for the Royal Photographic Society. His personal photographs explore the history of Derbyshire (his last project 'Hoards - Stories Of Buried Treasure in the Peak District' was made in conjunction with the British Museum). Most recently he has been photographing the effect of the Covid-19

Lockdown on the small Derbyshire village where he lives.

Expect lots of eye-catching pictures and some good stories too.



The Bronze Age burial chamber at Minninglow in the Derbyshire Peak District at night, from 'Ancient Stones and Sacred Places' by photographer Nick Lockett.

### December 4<sup>th</sup> via Zoom at 2.30pm



Kevin Little will recount some of the antics of the animals on his smallholding, some of the amusing incidents while travelling around the world and stories of eccentric customers.

He has been a fishmonger for 54 years at *The Smelly Alley Fish Company* (now closed) in Reading, Berkshire and has been making people laugh with anecdotal comedy for many years.

He lives in Somerset, where he has a smallholding on which he keeps 21 rescued cats, a dog, 3 ponies, a mule, 2 goats, 27 ducks and 2 geese.

**January 8th via Zoom at 2.30pm**

Max and Christine Maughan – “Wildlife and Scenery of the Peak District and Lowland Derbyshire”




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## Group News

**CRAFT GROUP**

We are going to have our first Zoom meeting on **Friday 20th November from 2 - 4pm.**

Marian is going to help us make some easy Christmas tree decorations - a dove and a heart from felt. I will email group members nearer the time with details of materials and the link for the meeting. If you need any further information please ring me on 01335 418659 or email at [jillsmith52@hotmail.com](mailto:jillsmith52@hotmail.com) Jill Smith

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Seventeen of us, including one new member of our Group and a guest Zooming from his hospital bed, attended our October meeting and looked at what should be done now about bad things we can't change in our nation's past - such as slavery. Should we concentrate instead on addressing the immense problems of mankind's future ? Opinions differed but not only were fisticuffs avoided, we also had some chuckles.

On **Thursday 12th November**, Malcolm Boura will tackle conspiracy theories. What are they? How do they work? Are they a problem? How serious is the problem? What can be done about them? What **should** be done about them?

(Neil Armstrong didn't really go to the moon, did he? He said all that 'giant step' stuff from a Hollywood film studio.)

David Holt

**NEW-----ENGINEERING GROUP-----NEW**

We will be holding our first meeting of this new group on **Thursday the 29th October at 09.30.** From then on, the meetings will be on the last Thursday of the month at the same time. Unfortunately, due to the current situation it will have to be via Zoom.

At this point in time we have over twenty-six members who have expressed an interest in this group. However, if you are interested please get in touch with me via the U3A web site and I will e-mail you the Zoom joining details.

At our first meeting the idea is to introduce ourselves. Those who would like to will give a brief resume of their careers and interests.

In the future we hope to have some presentations on all aspects of engineering, but I would welcome any ideas from you all. When this pandemic is over, we also would like to have visits to places of engineering in the area.

Anthony Walden

**FAMILY HISTORY**

We are having Zoom meetings once a month, with more than a dozen members taking part. I am so sorry that the other half of the group hasn't adopted modern technology and isn't joining in. It's never too late to start and Sheila and/or I can help you get set up.

At our October meeting Sheila did some researching for members on the British Newspaper Archive website. Several researches involved criminal stories!

Our November meeting will be on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm** and we will have a presentation on medieval genealogy.

Sheila is also happy to run some DNA workshops on Zoom. She can show you how to make use of your DNA results to link up with living distant relations or to discover who some of your ancestors were. She is well-placed to know that the results may be very surprising!

Anyone wishing to join the group should contact me : email to [tiano121@btinternet.com](mailto:tiano121@btinternet.com) or leave a voice message on 079 9981 7759.

Vivien Tiano

#### FRENCH

We are continuing with our Zoom meetings, both with the improvers and the advanced group, meeting as usual at **2.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Mondays** of the month for the **improvers** and the **2nd and 4th Mondays** of the month for the **advanced group**. Most members have now got used to using Zoom.

Our meetings usually consist of a topic of conversation and a little grammar, and the Advanced Group is reading a book, *L'Héritier des Beaulieu* by Françoise Giroud, which most members seem to be enjoying.

There is room in both groups for new members so anyone wishing to join us should contact me : email to [tiano121@btinternet.com](mailto:tiano121@btinternet.com) or leave a voice message on 079 9981 7759.

Vivien Tiano

#### GARDEN GROUP

Our schedule is currently affected by Covid-19.

We are sorry to advise you that all planned events this year have been cancelled.

If you have any requests for trips next year please do forward them to us – we will visit Wentworth Woodhouse and I will try for slots at Highgrove House again but I am very happy to consider other venues.

I am awaiting a response from Derbyshire County Council regarding the possibility of assisting with the planting of a new flower bed in Ashbourne Memorial Gardens.

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

#### GERMAN GROUP

Two of the German groups have amalgamated to form one Zoom group. We meet **fortnightly** on a **Tuesday morning from 11am until 12.30** when we do vocabulary and grammar exercises, followed by reading or listening comprehensions. Coffee and chat are obviously also included and we are reading a short story entitled *Die Dritte Hand*.

More information is available from Rhona Hunt via the website.

#### HIKING

On **Tuesday November 3rd** we are hoping to walk in a socially distanced way, in groups of not more than 6, as long as there is no further change in the regulations before then. We may walk in the Chatsworth area. An email will be sent to group members about 10 days before the walk. Bookings for the walk must be received by **Saturday 28th November** so that groups and leaders can be organised.

Judy Harrison

#### LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE GROUP

**Friday Nov 20th: Zoom meeting at 10.15am** with John Lambert from Friends of the Peak District. He will talk about the history and current work of this group in preserving the landscape and communities of the Peak District.

Pamela Boura

#### PETANQUE

We meet **every Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes (weather permitting)** at the Red Lion at Hognaston to enjoy the fresh air, a game of boules and the perennially associated banter. We play in a pre-planned group of no more than 6 players with strict social



distancing measures in operation, and everyone gets to play at least once every 2 weeks.  
Best Wishes, Sheila Crawley

### PHOTOGRAPHY

October's meeting was again held via Zoom, though it was not as smooth as usual due to some members experiencing network issues. Thank you to all members for their perseverance.

The photographs from October's meeting, *Two-thirds Sky* can be seen on the website.

Next month's meeting will again be held via Zoom on **Thursday 5th November at 10:00** when the theme will be *Into the Sun*

A reminder will be e-mailed before the next meeting. John and I hope you will join us for the meeting.

New members are always welcome.

John Green ([john.green@outlook.com](mailto:john.green@outlook.com))

Helen Bluff ([helenbluff@hotmail.com](mailto:helenbluff@hotmail.com))

### STROLLERS

The Strollers group is back with their fortnightly walks on Monday afternoons. Thanks to Helen Bluff together with help from Louise Sykes, Jane Harland and Jean Irvine who have kindly agreed to act as leaders for the groups of 6 as required to comply with Covid-19 safety guidelines.

On Monday 5th October 3 groups left at 30 minute intervals from Waterside and walked through the fields to Hanging Bridge, Mayfield and then made their way back to Waterside via Clifton Shrovetide goal. The groups had to negotiate a recently ploughed field, obstinate cattle and a downpour but still enjoyed the afternoon in the fresh air with good company.

Please see the website for updates on future arrangements but booking is essential for the walks.

Karen Tallant



### TABLE TENNIS

All is going well with the table tennis and this week we expect to receive a new table, which we are purchasing with some help from the U3a and contributions from the group.

Wendy Goddard Tel: 01335342532 or 07535411509

### WALKING GROUP.



Ecton Hill, October 14<sup>th</sup>

We are hopeful that we can continue to arrange walks which comply with the Government Covid-19 regulations, but obviously have to keep our plans under constant review. Our website will therefore remain the main source of information about plans for walks, & members should refer to it frequently to keep themselves informed.

The Group's next such walk is provisionally scheduled to take place during the morning of **Wednesday 28th October** & starts at Ilam Hall. It may appeal to some who have worried about climbing stiles unassisted as there are no stiles unless a gate is locked. Distance is 4.9 miles. It is essential to book in advance to participate. Full details are on the website.

Peter Worboys

## WRITING GROUP

Like many groups, we are getting quite accustomed to using the Beacon system to keep in touch. I email out a theme with a deadline, the group members email me their writing, I collate all the contributions and send them out to all members. If they wish, members email me their thoughts on the writings. Our latest theme was *My Fantasy Tea Party*, which yielded some very interesting results! We're happy to welcome others who would like to join this process - just email me at [granimal999@gmail.com](mailto:granimal999@gmail.com).

Leader: Gina Harris Tel. 01335 300041

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## Members' News



Members will recall last November's talk about the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas

Jean Irvin wrote to say:

Ken and I were visiting the National Memorial Arboretum last week and we went to have a look at the Gurkha memorial that Andrew Brown-Jackson and his volunteers

constructed in 2014. It is in the form of a traditional resting place such as would be constructed in the mountains of Nepal for travellers to rest at. It was unveiled by Princess Anne.

We noticed that it was used as a back drop to the VJ celebrations from the Arboretum. It makes a good memorial for Andrew.



*CHAUTARA* is a place to communicate and share:

For women, it has historically been the village pond, the community well, or the lonely tree at the edge of the forest where they rested with their loads of fodder or firewood. For men, it was inevitably the banyan tree, usually near a temple or school. Village elders would gather there to resolve issues of common concern, wonder at the pace of changing times or merely gossip.

In the hills of Nepal, such a *place at a banyan tree*, often with a raised platform, is called a "*chautara*".

Every village would have at least one. There are still many functional chautaras in the countryside of Nepal, but they aren't used as extensively as they used to be. These days people gather at local teashops, in party offices or around the radio.




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