

Learn Laugh Live



Newsletter no 90 March 2024

Hello Everybody

This month, rather than do my normal ramblings, I thought that I would give you all a heads up of a change coming for our u3a.

Currently, Daventry & District u3a is one of over 700 u3as to use a system called Site Builder as a website tool to publish and publicise their activities.



u3a SiteWorks is a volunteer-led project which will provide **WordPress** websites to u3as, replacing the existing Site Builder platform. WordPress is a popular tool for website creators and is used by over 40% of websites worldwide.

So how will it be better? Page layouts can be much richer than Site Builder with features such as image galleries and multi-column layouts. WordPress also automatically renders pages in a readable format on smart phones and smaller tablets which means that it is more accessible to existing or prospective new members.

I, as our Web Master, will be shortly going on an Introduction Zoom meeting to start preparing for migration, it will definitely be a learning journey for me as I haven't done anything like this before. The date of migration will depend on how quickly I can pick it up and amend our existing site. Once we have migrated obviously training will be cascaded to our Group Leaders so that they can update their own pages.

If you have any questions, please do let me know, or I will be at the Open Day on the 21st March.

Hopefully I will be showing the u3a ethos of Learn, Laugh & Live

Wish me luck!

Janice Hargreaves, Chairman.

daventryu3a@gmail.com



March 21st 2024

Open Afternoon

Showcasing our u3a

2pm – 4pm

It's

FREE

Note the correct date - Bring your friends so that they may also enjoy the displays from many interest groups, chat with Group Leaders and other members.

Enjoy some refreshments too!

April 18th 2024 - Chris Tickle - You be the Judge

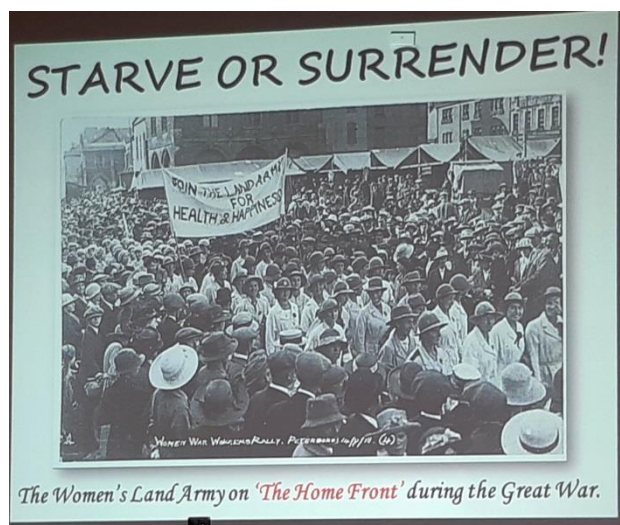
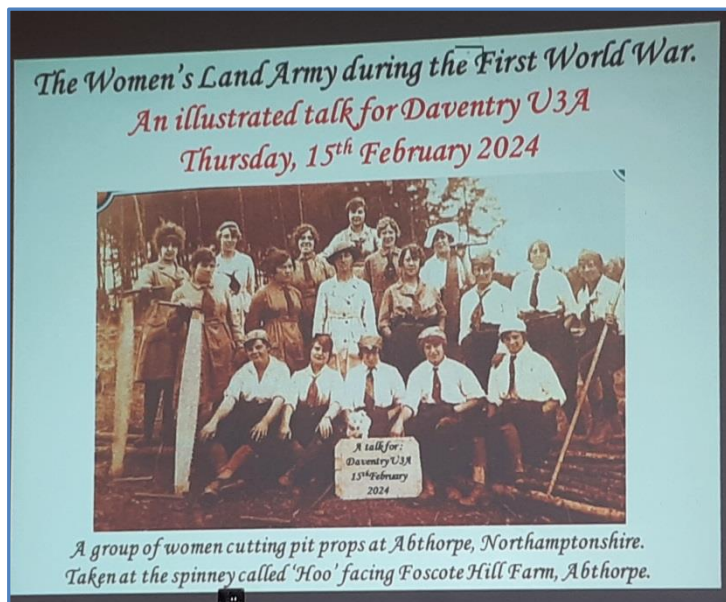
Chris Tickle is a retired Crown Court Recorder who gives interactive talks about how judges decide on the appropriate sentence for an offender. The participants are shown how to approach the problem, using Judicial Guidelines and in small groups decide sentences for various offences and offenders – with some surprising results!

February Meeting

Helen Frost treated us to an interesting talk with stories and pictures of the Woman's Land Army during the First World War.

Helen has studied this almost forgotten subject in-depth and also had a fantastic array of additional material on show.

The country owes a lot to their hard work.



Members enjoying their refreshments after the meeting



Members getting ahead and paying for next year's membership

Group News

u3asites.org.uk/daventry/groups



RAMBLERS GROUP

Group Leaders – **Your** group can also be featured here - pictures and some explanatory text. (No pdf's though). Send to Daventryu3anewsletter@gmail.com



Photograph courtesy of Brenda Collison

On a very cloudy morning in February, thirteen members of the group met at Middlemore Farm pub for what was to be a very muddy walk. The recent downpours certainly made the going interesting!

We passed an air shaft where you can often hear people talking from the boats below before joining the Grand Union Canal towpath, walking to the Admiral Nelson. We then turned onto Jurassic Way to cross the A45 and walk alongside Braunston Covert.

We continued our waterlogged walk to enter Kentle Woods which was planted by the Woodlands Trust to celebrate the Millenium.

We finished our muddy adventure back at Middlemore Farm pub where many of us enjoyed some welcome refreshments.

Walk Leader: Wendy Hall

Motoring Group February 2024

Meet up at Whilton Locks



Our first meeting of 2024 took place in the Coffee Lounge at the Whilton Locks Garden centre where ideas were discussed for outings. The first of these is to be to the Oxford Bus Museum near Long Hanborough. This museum also has the Morris Motor Museum and a collection of vintage bicycles.

We aim to view the displays and stop for lunch or coffee – we like our cakes – before heading home.

Details will be available at the open day display, so please come and speak with us if you would like to join this trip.

We have several other ideas in the pipeline, and are always open to suggestions from members, whether from motoring group or u3a generally.

B.Wood

**GARDEN VISTAS & VIEWS GROUP
VISIT TO THENFORD GARDENS + ABORETUM
FOR THEIR "SNOWDROP SPECTACULAR" DAY**

What is so special about Snowdrops, do I hear you say?

Did you know:

- They symbolise Hope and Resilience. One of the first flowers that appear no matter the weather.
- There are 900 varieties of Galanthus (proper name).
- Although they are thought of as a British flower there is some dispute as to their introduction to this Country. Some think it was the Romans whilst others think they were introduced in the 15th C.
- They originate from Europe and the Middle East.
- In ancient Greece, in the 4th Century BCE, they were referred to as "white violets".

Our Group have visited Thenford at this time of the year on previous occasions but each year brings new delights. Thenford hosts one of the widest collections of Galanthus in the Country and are extending their collection yearly, under the guidance of self-confessed Galanthus Obsessive, Emma Thick. Thenford are soon to become holders of the National collection. We were greeted not only by an array of Snowdrops but also aconites, hellebores and various flowering trees and shrubs. What was not to like? Spring sunshine, birdsong, beautiful array of planting and the privilege of taking in the wonders of Thenford.

There were also talks by a variety of Snowdrop specialist as well as Lord Michael Haseltine who spoke about the history of the site and how it has been developed to be what we see today.

Some comments received from our members regarding the highlights of the visit:

- The carpet of white snowdrops interspersed with the pink cyclamen was a delight. SS
- The highlight was sitting in the sunshine looking across the gardens, after walking as much as I could round the spread of snowdrops and other spring flowers. BS
- Apart from the amazing snowdrop collection, the walled garden, the sculpture garden and the wonderfully fragrant hamamelis and daphne plants; there was just so much to admire that it's difficult to select one highlight! ELM
- The Snowdrop presentation by Emma Thick, assistant head gardener, was interesting due to her depth of knowledge. AM
- Very much enjoyed the visit, especially the walled garden with the tropical flowers in the greenhouse. LP
- The first talk was given by David and Margaret MacLennan, who presently owns the National collection of Galanthus which is being transferred to Thenford. It was interesting to hear about the many types of Snowdrops with the accompanying photographs. CT
- My highlight of a really enjoyable day was the sheer number of snowdrops everywhere that heralded Spring and was so uplifting. NV
- The walled garden where vegetables, fruit trees and soft fruit were planted within the framework of a very formal garden was inspiring. AS
- I loved the sculptures set in the maze-like layout and being able to recognise some of the plants in the greenhouse that I grew up with in South Africa. JR

Mariet Tidmarsh - Group Organiser

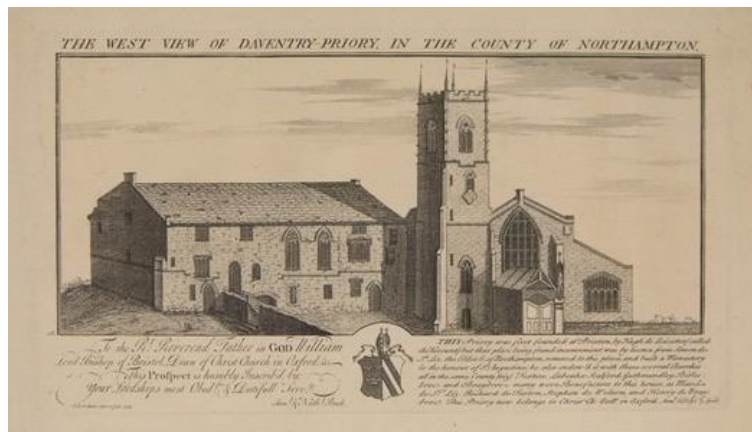
Photographs courtesy of Geoff Moorhouse and Richard Tidmarsh

PS If you have a clump of snowdrops in your garden, why not dig some up and share with friends. Now is the time to plant them.



History Group

February saw Helen Schultheiss deliver a talk based on the Cartulary of the long gone Daventry Priory



The Cluniac Priory of St. Augustine is recorded as being present on the site c1100-1526. Next to Holy Cross churchyard, late Saxon pottery was recovered from several inter-cutting pits and ditches, above which an extensive build up of more recent 18th- 20th century deposits formed a raised terrace. On the western side of the site excavations showed extensive medieval quarrying of Northampton Sand Ironstone for building materials contemporary with the priory's occupation. Subsequent deposition of medieval refuse was used to landscape and reinstate the hillside and a series of later structures encroached onto the land, the last of these was a row of post-medieval cottages known to have been demolished in the 1960s.

Springtime!

We're often told this is the time to do some spring-cleaning and sorting out – but it's not just for the house – gentlemen – take note!

TED'S POEM

Never chuck it out!

Even if it's rusty,
Smelling rather musty,

Never chuck it out.

Put it in the shed!

Anyone who glues things,
Bodges things and screws things,

finds that he can use things.

Put it in the shed!

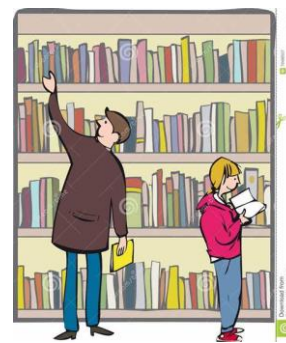


When the shed is full,
You may have enough stuff,
Reasonably tough stuff,
Even if it's rough stuff,
To make another shed!





Daventry & District u3a Interest Groups



Group	Day	AM	PM	Group	Day	AM	PM
Alternative Book Group	THU	X		Photography for Pleasure	TUE		X
Any Craft Will Do	MON		X	Rambles 5 - 6 miles	MON	X	
Art Appreciation	TUE		X	Reading Shakespeare	FRI	X	
BakeXchange	FRI		X	Reading Shakespeare 2	MON		X
Book Group	TUE		X	Rummikub 1	TUE		EVE
Climate Change	THU		X	Rummikub 2	WED		EVE
Creative Writing	MON		X	Rummikub 3	TUE	X	
Family History Beginners 1 & 2	WED		X	Spanish Conversation	MON	X	
Folk Dancing	THU	X		Supper Club	WED		EVE
French Conversation 2	TUE	X		The Art of Painting	WED		X
French Conversation	WED		X	The Stories in my Life	THU		X
Garden Vistas + Views	FRI	X	X	Virtual Book Group	TUE		X
German	MON		X	Weekenders	SAT/ SUN	X	X
History	WED		X	Wine Appreciation	Bi- monthly		
Motoring	TUE	X					
Philosophy	TUE	X					

March 2024

Please note – no group is ever 'FULL', there will be a waiting list until either there is room, or another group is started.

Make a Note

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New email for contacting the editor of the monthly newsletter with all your news and photos



daventryu3a.newsletter@gmail.com