



Spring is a lovely time of the year with all the early morning bird song and the bulbs giving us such a good display. Now that we have arrived in April the cold, dark and dreary days of winter are over and we can all look forward to more sunshine with the days getting longer and brighter.

## **New session: The basics of making a computer-based presentation to your group**

Would you like to learn how to make a presentation to your group using a computer? These are often called "Powerpoints" but you can use other free software to produce very similar results. Our tech advisers, David Tudor and Peter Gill, will take you through the basics of setting up a simple presentation, which will include:

- creating slides
- adding titles and text
- adding pictures
- saving the files



This is a one-off session and will take place on **Friday 19th April at 2 pm at the Central United Reformed Church, Green Lane, Derby**. We may run additional sessions, or more detailed ones, if there is sufficient demand. **Booking is essential**. Please email [derbyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:derbyu3a@gmail.com) to book your place. When booking, please let us know what type of device you plan to use, e.g.: Laptop, Notepad, iPad, Android Tablet, desk-top computer etc. On the day, please bring your device (if it is portable) and a USB memory stick with you. Laptops will be available for those who normally only use desk-top computers. Further details will also be sent to you closer to the date.

### **AGM – Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> – 1.30 pm St Mary's Church Hall**

We hope to see you at the AGM – please do come along as we need to be quorate for the proceedings to progress. There'll also be an interesting talk from Derby u3a member, Max Maughan, titled: "The Pantanal Wetlands, Brazil – The Realm of the Jaguar." **Admission to the AGM and talk is free.**

**We're still looking for people to join groups to help us run Derby u3a**

We had lots of ideas at our Ideas Day last November – now we need people to help us carry them out! If you have skills in the areas below that you can share, do please get in touch – you do not have to join the Committee in order to help.

- **Publicity Group** This group will look at all aspects of publicity, from producing brochures and posters to taking part in local events and giving talks to other groups, as well as our communications on Facebook and the website.
- **New Activities Group** This group will look at all aspects of setting up new groups and activities, including researching appropriate venues, discussing topics for new groups, what training a group organiser might need, and every other consideration in setting up a new group.

If you are interested in joining either or both of these groups, please contact [derbyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:derbyu3a@gmail.com). We will then set up initial meetings to discuss ways forward. Each meeting will be hosted by at least one Committee member.

### Website changeover



We have now been informed by the national u3a that Derby u3a will be in the next group of websites to make the changeover to a WordPress platform, rather than the current one. We must do this as the current platform is being phased out. We are hoping to set up a working group to help us, so we would welcome your input if you have

experience in WordPress, website design or content management. Please contact [derbyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:derbyu3a@gmail.com) if you are interested.

### Outings

The next trip is on Wed April 24th to Clumber Park followed by the Bassetlaw Museum at Retford. This country park has a café and visitor centre, a miniature cathedral, a 4 acre walled garden with the longest greenhouse in the National Trust, a serpentine lake and scenic walks. The Bassetlaw Museum is small but interesting and unusual in having a Pilgrim's Gallery about the local Pilgrim Fathers who sailed to America in the Mayflower.

The cost is £8.50 to NT members and £13.50 to non-NT members.

On May 22nd the proposed trip is to Port Sunlight and the Lady Lever Art Gallery in the Wirral and in June to Bridgewater RHS gardens near Manchester.

### General Meetings for April and May

General meetings take place at 1.30 pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Darley Lane, Derby DE1 3AX. Fee is £2 to include refreshments.

- April 25<sup>th</sup> – Shrovetide Football: Derby's Forgotten Game – Ian Collis
- May 30<sup>th</sup> – The History of Tea Drinking – Maggie Slingsby

### Next New Members Meeting

We extend a warm welcome to recent new members and those thinking of joining. These meetings are your chance to find out more about what we do and the many groups on offer. The next New Members' Meeting is at the Friends Meeting House, 56 St Helen's Street, Derby DE1 3HY on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, from 10.15 am to 12 noon**

**Booking is essential** – please contact [derbyu3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:derbyu3amembership@gmail.com)

## LOCAL NEWS

Derby u3a has been approached by Vita Health Group and we would like to know if anyone would like to know more about the group. If there is enough interest then we would invite Vita Health Group to give a presentation to our group 'MAKING PEOPLE BETTER'.

The Vita Health Group celebrates life. Improving lives physically and mentally drives everything they do. Working in partnership with the NHS to provide mental and physical health services, work with the UK's largest companies to help support their workforce and provide a full range of physiotherapy services to private customers.

Vita Health Group is a FREE, NHS Talking therapy service for people within the community.

## NATIONAL U3A NEWS

A film has recently been released (Vindication Swim) about Mercedes Gleitze, the first British woman to swim the English Channel. Some U3A members helped to make the film, being extras in some of the scenes. Mercedes completed many pioneering swims around the World, becoming the first person to do so. She has been lost to history and it is hoped that the film will bring her achievements back into the public domain. She swam in Derby in 1930 at the Reginald Street Baths, in one of her Marathon swims (32 hours).



Thousands paid to watch her swim and she used the money to fund her swims and her homeless charity which still exists today.

She was recently inducted into the Swim England Swimming Hall of Fame. <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/mercedes-gleitze-hall-fame-induction/>

## GROUPS NEWS

### Swimming – Imminent group closure

Due to lack of interest, we are announcing that this group will soon close, unless more people come forward to get involved. However, people will still be able to join the Senior Swim sessions at Moorways – see the Swimming Group details in the Groups Round-Up below.

## GROUPS ROUND-UP



**To contact any of the groups on the next pages, visit**

<https://u3asites.org.uk/derby/groups> and click on the group which interests you to be taken to their group page. Click on the blue envelope on the page to send a message to that group's organiser.

**Advanced Maths and Physics:** The Advanced Maths and Physics Group is currently suspended, but is keen to restart if anybody wants to come along."

**The Amusing Quiz Group:** This month, we will be quizzing on the 3rd and 17th of April. Quizzes are held at the CURC, Stuart House, Green Lane on the first and third Wednesdays of each month between 2 and 4 p.m. At each meeting we quiz in different randomly selected teams and questions are in sets of ten across a wide variety of themes. As well as 'General Knowledge', our March quizzes included: Dogs and Cats, TV Theme Tunes and Travel. So if you know, or want to find out: what is unusual about a Basenji; what the theme tune to 'Golden Girls' was or where there are artificial islands in the shape of a palm tree, you would be very welcome. April's topics will include: Rivers, US Presidents and 'ologys'.

**Archaeology and History:** The Archaeology and History group meeting on 12th April will be at the CURC at 10.30. We shall be having a talk on "Richard I (The Lionheart)".

**Architecture:** This month's meeting will be on Thursday 18th April at C.U.R.C, starting at 1.30 pm. The subject will be 'Derbyshire Castles' – even a few remnants will count for inclusion! If the group agrees, we could begin our outside visits in May, so ideas for those will be welcome.

**Art Appreciation:** On Friday, 19 April we will meet in the Museum and Art Gallery cafe at 10.30. We shall be looking at paintings, drawings, prints and other objects from the Alfred Edward Goodey collection of 'old Derby'.

If you would like to join the Art Appreciation group please contact the Group Organiser via the u3a website.

**Badminton Group:** The Springwood Leisure Centre at Oakwood on Fridays from 10am-11am provides the opportunity to play in warm, dry surroundings with friendly members of mixed abilities. New members are very welcome.

**Book Group 1:** Our chosen book for the March meeting was 'The Good Liar' by Nicholas Searle.

'Roy' is an accomplished con man who sets out to fleece widow 'Betty' of her considerable savings. He is totally confident that he will achieve his aim but he underestimates 'Betty' who has her own plans. She is determined to get revenge on 'Roy' for his past actions involving her family in the war. We enjoyed the book and found it well plotted and gripping.

April 4th 'All Passion Spent' by Vita Sackville West

May 2nd 'My Brilliant Friend' by Elena Ferrante.

If you would like to be added to the waiting list please make contact via the website.

**Book Group 2:** Our March meeting discussed The Doll Factory by Elizabeth Macneal. The novel is set in Victorian London at the time of the 1851 Great Exhibition. It follows Iris (loosely based on Lizzie Siddal), who has aspirations to be an artist, and her inter-action with both Silas, an obsessive amateur taxidermist, and the part-fact/part-fiction Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood group of artists. The author's description of the work and lives of the lower class Londoners are well drawn and believable but there was a feeling that she was trying a bit too hard to create a best seller leading to disjointed sections in the storyline. So overall a little disappointing but in the course of our discussion we did learn quite a lot about Dante Gabriel Rossetti's pet wombat(!). The average score was 3.2 out of 5.

The books for the upcoming meetings are:

April 10 - Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghase

May 8 - The Taste of Ginger by Mansi Shah

June 12 - Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

July 10 - Lord of the Flies by William Golding

New members always welcome.

**Bowls Group:** The Derby U3A. Bowls group will meet for indoor sessions at Springwood Leisure Centre . The group will meet on Friday mornings at 10.00 am.

**Bridge Group:** The U3A bridge club continues to flourish but two of our players have family commitments which mean they, currently, cannot join us. New players are always welcome regardless of playing experience so come and join us.

**Cinema Group:** The Cinema Group meets on the second Wednesday of every month at Quad. So, the next meeting will be on Weds 10 April. We meet in the café bar from 12.30 for the 1.00 film. After the film we meet up again.

If you would like to join the Cinema Group please contact the Group Organiser via the u3a website.

**Classic Rock:** Our next meeting will be on Thursday 11th April, unless otherwise notified, at the Friends Meeting House, St. Helens Street. So far no topic has been confirmed – but it may feature a presentation on a classic prog rock album of the late 1970's. Keep an eye on the group web page for any update and news on future meetings. New attendees are always welcome, even if it is only to a particular session if the topic, band or artist is of particular interest to them.

**Creative Crafts:** In a March meeting the group made the fold-out cards in the photo. In April we will be continuing with our group and individual projects. Plus, some Easter projects may be in the springtime air!.



**Current affairs:** The Current Affairs Group meet on alternative Thursdays at 10.30 at the CURC.

**Discussion Group:** The discussion group meets fortnightly at 10.15 at the Central United Reform Church on Green Lane. At the first April meeting of the Discussion Group on the 11th we will be discussing whether Western culture is under threat and that is followed by a general discussion on April 25th.

**Evening Pubs Group:** The Evening Pubs group meets from 7 to 9 pm in a Derby city centre pub on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Our first meeting was at the Standing Order pub on Irongate on 27th February. Unfortunately this was on the same evening as a Derby County home match but once the crowds headed for Pride Park we were able comfortably to occupy 2 tables with our 12 inaugural attendees. We will be meeting in March at the Old Silk Mill on Full Street with the April location to be decided. Please contact the group organisers on the Evening Pubs Events page of the Derby U3A website for more information about the

March and April meetings and to express an interest in joining the group. To date we have 20 members signed up.

**Family and Social History:** At our last meeting we had an interesting presentation on the history of the home of one of our members. This included some social history of the area. We are continuing this next time with contributions from other members.

**French Conversation:** The French Conversation Group will be meeting twice in April. The first meeting will take place on April 9th and one of our group will be talking about the Solomon Islands. The second meeting will take place on Tuesday April 30th and we will be hearing about the Burrell Collection. There will be opportunities to talk in small groups and discuss local and international news.

**Gardens Group:** Our next visit will be on the 5th April when we shall be visiting Broomfield Hall Gardens, and the head gardener will be giving us a guided tour.

If you would like to join the gardens group please contact the group organiser via the Gardens Group page on the u3a website.

**Geology and Physical Geography:** Meeting at CURC Stuart House, Tuesday 2 April at 1.30pm. We will be having a presentation on 'Glacial Landscape Features' as part of our topic on Physical Geography – Landforms.

**Local History:** Meeting at the CURC Stuart House, Monday 8 April at 2.00pm. We will be having a presentation on 'The History of the Bridge Chapel, Derby and its builders'.

**Lunch Group:** On April 26th we are going to Bistro Pierre , a £5 deposit to the treasurer is required to book this. Email Barbara for bank transfer details etc.

**Motorcycle Group:** With the weather 'improving' we should start having rideouts soon starting with the Old Smithy Tea Rooms at Monyash. We now have a draft twice-a-month programme into June.

If you're interested, please contact the Group's organiser through the Derby U3A website Groups page.

**Music Appreciation:** Continues to meet fortnightly. Members, who wish to, present a programme of recorded classical music to the group. Our choices are varied and we listen to well known favourites plus others less familiar and our coffee break discussions are lively.

New members are welcome, please contact us through the website.

**Painting and Sketching:** April 5th (Date changed from usual week due to holidays) Meeting at the Museum of Making at 1pm where we have a choice of sketching inside or outside.

**Pickleball:** Sessions continue, on Fridays 11am to 12 noon at Springwood Leisure Centre. We have welcomed new players since the New Year and are actively looking for more new players to introduce to this accessible sport. To this end, the group coordinator can hold initial coaching sessions too if required, but most players have found the game very easy to pick up just by playing. As per Table Tennis, we generally play doubles matches, so new players can be 'coached' by the more experienced.

**Psychology Group:** We are meeting on Monday 22nd April at 2.00pm at CURC, Stuart House, Green Lane, Derby. Our topic is The Chameleon Effect – what causes a person to mimic another person's gestures, behaviours, and mannerisms.

**Real Ale group:** The Real Ale group met on 14th March at the Golden Eagle pub on Agard Street. A good turnout of 12 people enjoyed a varied selection of beers, mostly from the breweries associated with Mr Grundy's (Black Hole and the Little Eaton brewery) and the Brunswick both of which we have visited recently. In April we are planning to visit the Woodlark pub on Bridge Street, a week later than normal, on 18th April. For more details of the event please contact the group organizers on the Real Ale group Events page. The group remains open to new members but we continue to consider restricting numbers owing to the continuing interest in the group (we now have 26 members) and due to the space available in the venues.

**U3A Singing Group:** We are a friendly and welcoming group of the u3a that meet every 2 weeks at ALLSAINTS CHURCH HALL, MICKLEOVER, DERBY. DE3 ODL.



If you enjoy singing anything, from rock, country, ballads you'll find it enjoyable. We would be pleased to welcome you to our group, words for all our songs are available. For further information contact Barry or Janet via the u3a.

Please bring a drink with you if you need one. Our meetings in April will be: 12th and 26th from 1:30 pm to 3pm. Parking is available the entrance drive is opposite the Masons Arms, also the Trent Mickleover bus stops only a few yards away. (Vicarage road bus stop).

**Spanish Conversation:** Spanish Conversation Meetings on Wednesday 3rd and 17th April will be organised by Barbara, based on suggestions from the members.



**Table Tennis:** Sessions continue, on Mondays and Wednesdays, 12 noon until 1pm at Springwood Leisure Centre. New players are always welcome, all levels catered for. We have been pleased to welcome several new members since the New Year and the group numbers are climbing steadily! Springwood are able to provide us with three or four tables in the Sports Hall if necessary to accommodate increased numbers of players. We generally play doubles matches.

**Table Top Games:** Table Top Games will meet on Monday the 1st April (Easter Monday), the 15th and 29th April at 11am in the Premier Inn on Full Street. Those attending will play Scrabble.

**Theatre Group:**

On Saturday 20 April at 14.30 members with tickets will be going to see **The Kite Runner** at Nottingham Playhouse. One still available to book, and open to all members of Derby u3a



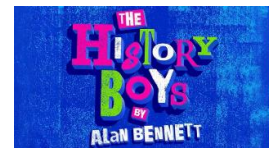
**What the Butler Saw** is on at Derby Theatre on Saturday 15 June at 14.30. Price per ticket is £26, and payment needs to be by 10 May please.

It is Joe Orton's final, most ambitious play, manic farce and masterclass in fearless comic writing. No institution, political view or tradition is safe, as Orton focuses his wicked sense of humour on a range of targets,



There will be no organised theatre trips for July or August.

History Boys at Nottingham Theatre Royal is on September 12 at 2.30. Tickets are £38.50 (although we may have a discount if 10 people book) Please pay by 5 July.



Welfare is booked for Derby Theatre way off on Saturday 12 October at 14.30. Tickets are £17.50, and you can pay as early as you like. It has brass bands and a miners' holiday theme.



**Tuesday Trampers:** One highlight of our recent walks took us to Magpie Mine and Monsal Head. Eating lunch in the sunshine overlooking the valley was special. You can always check out our next couple of walks on the Tuesday Trampers group page on the Derby u3a website. If you're interested you can contact our group organiser from there. Our walks are around eight miles long and most explore the beautiful peak district. You will also find links to a couple of videos of recent walks on our group page.

**Ukulele for Pleasure:** Members were out in force in March for a visit to Kingsway View Care Home to entertain residents and families, where a fortuitous choice of songs brought out a pleasing audience response!

April's group meetings at the Chester Green Community Centre will be on Tuesdays the 9th and 23rd, starting at 1 pm.

### **Walks – Short:**

Ferrers Centre walk – 4 April

Spondon walk – 18 April

**Walks Long:** Weather permitting, this group walks an average of 8 miles every Wednesday. The varying starting venues include north and south of Derby.. Each weekend information on the venue and the walk on the following Wednesday is circulated to members and is available from the Group Coordinator.

**Walking Group (using public transport):** Last month the Walking using public transport group walked along the Trent Canal, over Bennerley Viaduct which you can just see in the background of the photo and then back along the Erewash Canal.



The walking (using public transport) group, will meet on Friday 26 April at the Derby Bus Station at 9.40 for the 10.05, Trent Barton 6.2 bus to Whitemoor. We shall be walking across to Morley Park Iron works and returning by bus.

Please ensure you wear rambling boots or shoes, waterproofs, and bring food and drink. If you would like to join this group please phone Allen West on 01332 671129.

**Wildlife Group:** Meeting on Thursday 18 April at Wollaton Park.

**Wine Appreciation:** The Group tasted some Australian wines in March. As normal for the group, the reds were the favourite, particularly the Shiraz from the Barossa Valley of South Australia. In April, we shall be returning to Europe for our choice of wines, sampling some from Spain.

**Writing for Pleasure Group:** We continue to meet 10.15am to 12.15pm every four weeks on a Wednesday at Allestree Library. Dates in the diary: 3 April, 1 May, 29 May, 26 June, 24 July, 21 August, 18 September, 16 October, 13 November and 11 December.

No previous writing experience required.

Just come along to check out this friendly and welcoming group.

Our latest challenge is to write a short story or poem including the words “onion”, “boy” and “arm”.

Books etc discussed recently:

- A murder of quality – John le Carré
- Ulysses – James Joyce (audio book on Derby City Libraries BorrowBox system recommended)
- The Mermaid of Black Conch by Monique Roffey
- Jodi Picoult – Wish You Were Here
- Charles Causley – Cornish poet and educator (1917–2003)
- Philip Goff – the purpose of the universe
- Milton – Paradise Lost
- Christoffe Petersen – The perfect game (English author living in Denmark) – self published online <https://christoffer-petersen.com>
- Catherine Cookson – The Cinder Path (film version preferred to the book)
- Sam Neil – Did I ever tell you this? – Sam Neill tells the story of how he became one of the world's most celebrated actors.
- The Salt Path (coming out as a film in 2024) – Raynor Winn and her husband Moth, who is terminally ill, decide to walk the 630 miles of the sea-swept coastline of England. It is a journey of grief, survival and rediscovery of home in the natural world.

**Newsletter editor contact: [derbyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:derbyu3a@gmail.com)**

Registered charity number: 1165445