

Derby u3a News

March 2024



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 to book your place. When booking, please let us know what type of device you plan to use, eg: 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 28th – 1.30 pm St Mary's Church Hall

The agenda for the AGM, along with Trustees and Financial reports will be sent out by email before Tuesday 4th March – please look out for them in your Inbox. We will be sending them by postal mail to those who do not have an email address.

We hope to see you there – 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.**

A new Committee will be elected at the next AGM. The current committee are all willing to re-stand, but it would be lovely to have more people joining us. You don't have long to apply now though! The closing date for nominations is **February 29th**. Contact derbyu3a@gmail.com

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. 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.

Outings

Our next outing to Sheffield Millennium Gallery is now fully booked and a waiting list is in operation. The trip in March on Thursday 21st is to Southwell Minster and The Workhouse. This will include a guided tour of 1.25 hrs of the Minster. Southwell itself is a place of interest and is the home of the Bramley apple. The cost of the trip will be around £22. There is free entry for National Trust Members at The Workhouse but a £14.25 charge for non-members.

Equipment upgrade at Friends Meeting House

On the laptop at Friends Meeting House, the version of Windows 10 has been fully updated and the Wifi card in it is now working properly and tested. Libre Office has been updated to the latest version – some users may find this more effective for opening and editing Powerpoint .pptx files if they are not displaying correctly in Powerpoint Viewer (which is no longer supported by Microsoft).

A 50 watt PA speaker owned by the u3a, which has not been working for a while, has been refurbished with a new battery (so can be used without mains power if need be). It has been tested and used for presentations. In the near future the microphone for this unit will be cleaned and tested and it may also be possible to add a Bluetooth receiver to the unit, so that it is more convenient for playing audio from a phone or tablet.

General Meetings for February and April

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.

- February 29th – Gretna Girls and the Devils Porridge – David Skillen
- April 25th – Shrovetide Football – Ian Collis

Membership renewals due – just a few days left to renew!

Thanks to all those who have renewed their membership for this year. A gentle reminder to those who haven't that you can do so until February 29th. After that time any renewals will be charged at the new members' rate of £20. ***For details of how to pay, or if you are NOT renewing your membership, please contact Membership Secretary, by email at derbyu3amembership@gmail.com*** ***There will also be the last opportunity to pay in person at our February General Meeting.***

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 17th April, from 10.15 am to 12 noon**

Booking is essential – please contact derbyu3amembership@gmail.com

LOCAL NEWS



Free History Tour of the inside of St Mary's Catholic Church

Darley Lane, Derby DE1 3AU

Saturday 23rd March 2024 1 – 2pm

Hear about how St Mary's was founded, how the internal appearance has changed, and how the church has served the community for 185 years. Led by Jonathan Grattridge. No booking required – just turn up. Donations welcome.

Independent Monitoring Board Volunteers

We received the following message from IMB: *"Do you want to obtain skills in a new and interesting way? Are you searching for ways to meet new people and fill your time? Maybe you're looking for ways to increase your confidence or develop your skillset and gain*



experience? If so, then you could join our team of ordinary people doing an extraordinary role: independent monitors in prisons and immigration detention. All our members are unpaid public appointees, appointed by Ministers.

We are currently recruiting at HMP Sudbury and HMP Dovegate. So why join? As one member says: "It could be the most rewarding thing you have ever done." Volunteers are required to commit to an average of 3-4 visits a month, checking on conditions, talking to those who are detained and monitoring how they are treated.

We are looking for people who have the following qualities

- *integrity and honesty*
- *ability to analyse situations and make decisions*
- *commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion*

Training and support will be provided during the 12-month induction period.

Although this is an unpaid role, we pay travel and subsistence expenses, childcare/carer costs. Please visit www.imb.org.uk to apply."

GROUPS NEWS

Ideas in Society – Group closure

This group evolved from one led by Eileen Cameron which taught philosophy for many years. However, the examination of philosophical concepts associated by school of thought gradually gave way to using a philosophical approach for deliberation of questions relevant to modern life – hence the change of name to Ideas in Society. Unfortunately, interest never really recovered after the Covid shutdown and, with falling attendances, it has been decided to terminate this group and there will now be no more meetings. We would like to thank Roger Jackson who has been the group organiser for this group for 10 years.

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: We will be quizzing on the 7th and 21st of March this month. 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. Our February quizzes included: The UK; Law and Order and Film. So if you know, or want to find out: What large statue is visible from the A1; who was hanged in 1955 for the murder of David Blakely and which film introduced the word 'Paparazzo' to common usage, you would be very welcome. March topics will include: Famous Canadians, European Countries ending in 'A' and Ancient Egypt.

Archaeology and History: The Archaeology and History group meeting on 8th March will be at the CURC at 10.30. We shall be having a talk on "Carthage"

Architecture: The March meeting will take a look at the wave of New Town development mounted after the second World War when the country needed new "homes for heroes". Special mention will be made of Stevenage, where one of our members carried out a contemporary survey that should provide us with a unique insight into the emerging town. The meeting is on Thursday 21st March at the C.U.R.C. beginning at 1.30.

Art Appreciation: On Friday, 15 March at 10.30 at the FMH we shall be having a presentation on British Post-war Social Landscape Photography. 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: At the February meeting we discussed 'Homage to Catalonia' by George Orwell. This is a personal account of Orwell's experiences during 1936 - 37 when he joined the Republican forces in the Spanish Civil War. He wished to fight fascism but this was proved not as simple as he idealistically anticipated. Written within a few months of his escape from Spain and return home the narrative gives a vivid account of the chaos and squalor of war and the infighting between the socialist, communist and anarchist factions of the Republican forces. March's book is 'The Good Liar' by Nicholas Searle. If you would like to join the waiting list please make contact via the Derby u3a website.

Book Group 2: Our February book, 'The Birds and Other Stories' by Daphne Du Maurier, was a collection of six short (26 to 74 pages long) stories. Forget any notions of Du Maurier being a "romantic" novelist and forget Hitchcock's film version of The Birds. The 40 pages of Du Maurier's original story are some of the most descriptive, foreboding and gripping writing ever. The six stories are all very

different but each is well-crafted with a good pace of delivery and plenty of tension and a twist. Highly recommended and an overall group score of 4.3 out of 5. The meeting on March 13 (1.30 via Zoom) will discuss The Doll Factory by Elizabeth Macneal. 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 13th March. We meet in the café bar from 12.30 for the 1.00 film. After the film we meet up again. The film we will be watching is **Copa 71**, the unofficial Women's World Cup. Dismissed by both FIFA and domestic football associations around the world, this event has been entirely written out of history. If you would like to join the Cinema Group please contact the Group Organiser via the u3a website.



Classic Rock: Our March meeting will be on Thursday 14th March, unless otherwise notified, at the Friends Meeting House, St. Helens Street. In March there will be a presentation on – and tracks played by – Jimi Hendrix. 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: The photos show the next stage in our group project. The 'rosettes' that we made previously have been "appliquéd" onto a square of material and are being backed by a piece of wadding and another piece of material. When everyone has completed their squares, our group leader will sew them together, and make a border. The

wadding will create a warm blanket and the rosettes will be a talking point for the child that receives it as part of the Linus Project. In March, we will be starting other projects.

Current affairs: Current Affairs subject for next meeting is FROM RUSSIA

WITH  LOVE

Discussion Group: The first March meeting of the Discussion Group is on the 14th when we will be discussing how relevant class is today. The second meeting on March 28th will be a general discussion of topical issues.

Evening Pubs Group: The Evening Pubs group is meeting from 7 to 9 pm in a Derby city centre pub on the fourth Tuesday of the month with the first meeting taking place on 27th February. This is a social group to compliment the Real Ale group but there is no requirement to drink real ale or even alcoholic drinks! We will be happy to escort people to the venues from the bus station for those who do not wish to walk alone and are unsure of their location. Please contact the group organizers on the Evening Pubs Groups page of the Derby U3A website for more information on the March meeting and to express an interest in joining the group.

Family and Social History: The Family History group will be meeting on the 13 March at 10.15 at the FMH. The subject will be 'Finding out about the history of your house'. If you would like to join the Family History Group please contact the Group Organiser via the u3a website.

French Conversation: The French Conversation Group will be meeting on Tuesday March 19th from 1.00–3.00pm at CURC. One of the group will be talking about Robert Louis Stevenson and his journey across the Cevennes in France. There will news items to discuss and opportunities to work in small groups.

Gardens Group: Our next visit will be on the 1st March when we shall be having a tour of Dower House gardens in Melbourne. 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 5 March at 1.30pm. We will be having a presentation on 'Coastal Landscape Features' as part of our topic on Physical Geography – Landforms.

Local History: Meeting at the CURC Stuart House, Monday 11 March at 2.00pm. We will be having a presentation on 'The History of the Bennerley Viaduct'.

Lunch Group: March 22nd we are lunching at Zizzi in Derby Intu centre booked for 1 pm. Let Barbara know before March 16th if you wish to come.

Motorcycle Group: In view of winter weather we are not planning to have rideouts until weather changes for the better. We had a café meet up at the Bill Lomas Café and Motorcycle Museum, Clay Cross, some came by bike, some by car. We will have another café meet up and then try our luck with the spring weather for a group rideout at the end of March. We now have a draft programme into June. If you're interested, please contact the Group's organiser through the Derby U3A website Groups page.

Music Appreciation: This friendly group meets alternate Tuesday mornings and listen and discuss a range of classical music chosen by members. Some very familiar and others less so. No expertise or knowledge needed. We welcome any members who just want to give us a try. Please contact us through the website so that we can expect and welcome you.

Painting and Sketching: March 8th 1 pm meeting outside Derby Museum and Art Gallery to draw in the museum with a sociable get together in the cafe at 3pm. New members are always welcome, Barbara will give you some help if you need /want it. Let Barbara know if you are coming.

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: The topic for discussion at our meeting on Monday 25th March at 2.00pm at CURC, Stuart House, Green Lane, Derby is "What motivates people to join mass movements". Interested? – we have room for a few new members, please contact Elaine by using the link on the right of the group page on the website.

Real Ale Group: The Real Ale group met on 8th February at the Brunswick Inn on Railway Terrace. Despite the terrible weather that day we had a good turnout of 12 members and met in the Family Parlour at the front of the pub. In March we are planning to visit the Golden Eagle pub on Agard Street in our normal time slot (the second Thursday of the month). 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 are actively considering restricting numbers owing to the continuing new interest in the group and due to the space available in the venues.



Singing Group: We are a friendly and welcoming group that meet 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. Please bring a drink if you need one. Our meetings in March will be 1st and 15th March. Please note we're not there on the 29TH MARCH (GOOD FRIDAY) 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: Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in March will go ahead. There will be no programmes sent out in advance, and Barbara will organize a programme at the start of each meeting.



Swimming: We join the existing weekly Senior Swimming sessions at Everyone Active, Moorways for those aged 50+ on weekly Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10.00 – 11.00 am. You do not have to go every week.

You will need to pay Everyone Active. Pay As You Go sessions cost £4.13 for Seniors and £1.40 for over 75s. You can book also online at <https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/moorways-sports-village-and-water-park/> either for a one off session or as a membership. However, Everyone Active advises that you speak to their sales team if you want a membership as there are various discounts and concessions on offer. Derby u3a members meet in in the Reception Area before the session and in the Café afterwards.

We are still looking for someone to be a contact point for this group – it does not involve collecting money, as everyone pays individually to Moorways. Please contact Groups Coordinator, Andy Timms if you can help.

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 the 4th and 18th March to play Scrabble/Upwords at the Premier Inn on Full Street, commencing at 11am. Tea/coffee etc may be purchased on the premises.

Theatre Group: Cluedo 2 at Nottingham Theatre Royal – the deadline for payments has passed. If you do want to go, let me know as 3 are going and I could probably get tickets if we're quick.



The Kite Runner at Nottingham Playhouse, a new but accessible venue for our group, is on Saturday 20 April at 14.30. Tickets are £22 and we require payment by 4 March, please. Based on Khaled Hosseini's international bestselling novel, it's a haunting tale of friendship which spans culture and continents. So a serious one.

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, including the establishment, an ex-Prime Minister, cross-dressing, misogyny and the medical profession. He brings together an array of distinctive characters, placing them in a series of improbable situations, unflinchingly exploring comic territory few playwrights before or since have dared to visit.



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: We had some good walks in February and have some great ones lined up for March. You can always see where our next walk is by checking out our group page on the 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: Our meetings in March will be on the 12th and 26th at Chester Green Community Centre; and the group will also be giving a concert on the 13th at Kingsway View Home for residents and their families.

Walks – Short: 7 March – Trent Lock walk
21 March – Millfields, Carsington, walk

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: Our next walk is on Friday 29th March. Meet at Derby Railway Station at 9.30 am for the 9.45 train to Sheffield and Hope Valley Line – Derbyshire Wayfarer Day Rover ticket (railway one). Concessionary ticket – £7.70; Adult ticket – £15.40. Please let Allen know if interested, as the walk may have to be cancelled due to industrial action – in which case, the walk will be revised. Please ensure you wear rambling boots or shoes and waterproofs. Also bring food and drink.

Wildlife Group: There will not be a Wildlife Group meeting in March.

Wine Appreciation: The group had a very convivial meeting in February, enjoying an organic Pinot Grigio – Delle Venezia doc which everyone enjoyed, although generally the group prefer reds. Always good when you try something different and it exceeds your expectations. The preferred red was a Primitivo from Puglia, the heel of Italy. In March we shall be trying some wines from Australia, plenty of choice!

Writing for Pleasure Group: We continue to meet 10.15am to 11.30am every four weeks on a Wednesday. We meet at Allestree Library and dates in the diary for 2024 are as follows: 6 March, 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 "leather jacket" and "spice". Books etc discussed recently:

- Keith Waterhouse. Waterhouse on Newspaper Style (1989)
- Olga Mecking. Niksen: Embracing the Dutch Art of Doing Nothing (2018)
- Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg. The little old lady strikes back. Socially engaged, riotous comedy. Translated by Rod Bradbury. (2023)
- Hilary Mantel. The Mirror & the Light. Hilary Mantel (2020)
- Poetry by T S Eliot and Yeats. Plus researching the Jarrow Crusade, and Gericault's Raft of the Medusa for a couple of stories.

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