

MEETING 14th June

This Monthly Meeting is set to be a busy one. We will start with a fun Beetle Drive, followed by a general knowledge quiz with members of the Gardening Growers group providing a Plant Sale alongside. Refreshments will be served at mid-morning.

New Members will be invited to a bespoke New Members Meeting, where they will meet members of the Committee, learn more about our National organisation as well as Dronfield u3a and be able to ask all their burning questions. We hope you'll be able to join us and if you have a friend who'd like to come with you, all the better.

Julia Harris. (Event Coordinator).

MEETING 12th JULY

July's speaker will be
Mike Higginbottom on
Yorkshire's Seaside Heritage.



The Yorkshire coast admirably illustrates how nineteenth-century holiday resorts almost invariably owed their origin to the growth of the railway system but depended for their success on the fickleness of public popularity.

From Bridlington to Scarborough, from Whitby Abbey to the regency terrace at Filey the architectural and hidden gems of the Yorkshire coast will be revealed.

We are still investigating the technical problems we had trying to broadcast our speaker meeting in May and have decided to suspend our hybrid meetings until we have resolved them. Therefore, **this will be an in-person meeting only.**

Apologies if you usually try to join online. We hope to start the hybrid meetings again in the autumn.

Don't forget that details of all the monthly meetings from now until next March are available on the [Members](https://u3asites.org.uk/dronfield/page/69472) page of the website
(<https://u3asites.org.uk/dronfield/page/69472>).

Marion Clyde (Chair)

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The Third Age Trust publishes a monthly national u3a newsletter. It's full of information about national u3a programmes and events plus what's happening in u3as across the country. To receive it, just enter your email address on the Trust's website:
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>

POLICY UPDATES

In the last couple of months, the Committee has approved minor changes to several policies, including the Personal Data Management and Safeguarding Policies and Incident Report Form. It has also published a Legitimate Interest Assessment. This explains the reasons why we hold members' data and how we process it and is a requirement of the General Data Protection Regulations.



Boring as they are, as a member of the Third Age Trust and a registered charity, we are legally obliged to have these and other policies. What's more, as a member DDU3a, you are expected to abide by them. So please check them out.

You can see them on the [Policies](https://u3asites.org.uk/dronfield/page/91217) page of the website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/dronfield/page/91217>.

YOUR u3A NEEDS YOU!



Yes, it's that time of year again.

The time when we start reminding you that we will need several new



Trustees and Committee members in October. This year we will need at least a new Chair, Treasurer and Groups Manager as all of us have served for three years now.

The Constitution changes we agreed in February allow Trustees to serve for longer than three years if they are willing to do it but only in exceptional circumstances. Remember, without Committee members, the u3a cannot continue.

Officially, we can have up to 15 Trustees. At the moment we only have 9. So please, think about whether or not you could fill any of these specific roles or just be a general Trustee.

You're more than welcome to come to one of our monthly Committee meetings to see what's involved. The next ones are 9.30-11.30 on Monday 26th June and Monday 24th July. If you're interested email either me, Marion Clyde, chair@dronfieldu3a.org.uk or our Secretary, Julia Harris secretary@dronfieldu3a.org.uk.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



The Early Bird catches the worm, but it's the second mouse that gets the cheese!!
Steve Wright

FROM THE TREASURER

Newsletter distribution volunteers



To all those who volunteer to print and deliver the monthly DDU3a Cryer to members who don't have access to emails, firstly a big

THANK YOU!

Don't forget that you can claim for your associated costs for the paper & printing. Just contact me and I will email you the expenses claim form for this. I suggest you keep a tally of the total number of pages (ie sides of A4) you print each month & submit your claims every 3 or 4 months.

Cash held - My thanks also to the Group Coordinators who updated their Beacon account, or contacted me regarding their 'cash being held' in mid-May.

Chris Stone

email treasurer@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

RECYCLABLE CUPS

We now buy fully recyclable cups for our Monthly Meetings and we'd like to ensure we recycle ALL of them. At future meetings please take your cup back to the bin that is by the kitchen hatch when you have finished with it. We will then ensure that they are properly recycled. A small thing to ask, but let's do what we can towards recycling. Many thanks.



Julia Harris

GROUP NEWS

The Strolling Group start their first walks on Thursday 15th June, at Holmebrook Valley Park.



Garden Visits are off to Breezy Knees Gardens at Warhill near York and later to Calke Abbey at Ticknall near Derby.

Cycling are visiting the Shipley Country Park and Trent Lock. This is always a good ride and in the past has had a pub stop enroute. Later they will go to Thurcroft and Langold Country Park.

Spanish Beginners will have just started on their course and getting to grips with the language.

The **Computing** Group are focusing on the most useful apps and programs and how to use them.

All the **Book Groups** are meeting. As normal.

Social Studies are looking into Friendship and what makes a good friend.

Walking have a full programme of events on Mondays and Fridays.

The History Group are off to Newark this month to explore the Civil War aspects of the town.

Doug Emery (Groups' Manager)

STROLLERS NEWS



With summer upon us it is the right time to try something a little different. Come and stroll along later in June and July to several different parks, trails and open spaces.

There are six short, flattish walks arranged. Following the first at Holmebrook Valley Park will be to Clumber Park on Friday 23rd June. The strolling walks are 2 to 3 miles long with a café visit somewhere along the route or at the end.

Everyone is welcome to join in. Each walk starts from Dronfield Sports Centre car park (off Farwater Lane) at 10 am. Please come along.



If you are interested please contact me by email at

groups-manager@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

Or by phone on - 0785517627.

Doug Emery (Groups' Manager)

TASTER SESSIONS

Twelve of us recently enjoyed a fun afternoon in the sun at our Croquet Taster Session, courtesy of Sheffield u3a. As a result we are now in the process of setting up our own DDU3a Croquet Group - more details later.



By the time you read this a further 30 will hopefully have enjoyed an equally good afternoon trying to get to grips with Crown Bowling at Cliffe Park.

The Short Mat Bowls on Wed 26th July is now full. However, we have a couple of places available on the Ten Pin Bowling Taster on Mon 19th June at 2pm in Chesterfield. If you would like to come Ten Pin Bowling please contact me at

secretary@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

or see me at the Monthly Meeting on 12th June.

Julia Harris (Events Organiser)

DID YOU KNOW?



A recent DNA study by the University of Adelaide shows that the whole Aboriginal population dates back 50,000 years to a single migration into Australia.

JOGGING GROUP



Would you be interested in joining a new *Jogging Group*? The group will meet 08:00 - 09:00 on either



Monday or Thursday at Sindelfingen Park with the intention of jogging a reasonable distance at a gentle pace. The session will include warm up and cool down, periods. If interested please contact *Doug Emery (Groups Manager)* at groups-manager@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

SHAKESPEARE STUDY GROUP

Did you ever study Shakespeare at school? If you did the u3a needs you! We are hoping to form a group who are interested in the works of William Shakespeare. The initial aim of the group will be to read the works of Shakespeare to gain a better understanding of the plays and the background to them. Should the opportunity arise the members could go to see one performed on stage. If you are interested please contact *Doug Emery (Groups Manager)* at groups-manager@dronfieldu3a.org.uk



TRIPS AND VISITS



We still have a few places available for our trip to Knutsford and Tatton Park on Thursday 22nd June. The cost of the trip is £12.50 for National Trust members and £19.50 for non National Trust members. This includes admission to the gardens only. Please book and pay at the June monthly U3A meeting if you are interested.

We did not have a very good response for our day trip to Blackpool on Wednesday 19th July so unfortunately I have had to cancel this trip. This is due to the small number of members who actually signed up to go on the trip which made it not financially viable to run.

Our final day trip of the year is to Lincoln on Friday 8th September. The cost is £12.50 each and we will be taking names and payment at the June U3A monthly meeting. We will depart as usual from outside Dronfield Sports Centre at 9.00am. I hope you will join us for this day out.

The success of the Trips and Visits group depends on the continued support of our membership and without that we would not have been able to continue arranging the many days out that we have already enjoyed.

Glenys Sharman

NATIONAL U3A LEARNING EVENTS

Online learning events in June

There are more opportunities for joining learning events via zoom this month.

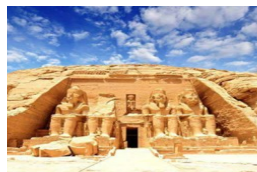
- a) Driving tips to save money and the planet.
Monday 5th at 2pm.
- b) Family History - Parish Registers
Wednesday 14th at 2pm.
- c) Leo the World's first business computer.
Friday 16th at 2pm.
- d) Into the mind of an artist - Van Gogh
Thursday 22nd - at 2pm.

There are a lot more so why not visit www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events to see what's coming up and to register
All are free.

GEOGRAPHY GROUP

Many of the group were away doing research for future meetings so it was a pretty select group who gathered to talk about rivers they've enjoyed for various reasons.

Jan kicked off with a phenomenally cheap river trip along the Nile in July. The ambient temperature



was 46 Celsius, but fortunately she had a guide who cared for his troops in the burning heat. Jan admitted to being 'templed and tombed out' but what did

she expect with a trip down the Nile from Luxor (Thebes) to Aswan, and a side trip across the unrelenting desert to Abu Simbel!

From the longest to the 3rd longest river on Earth.

Ramsey enthralled us with his trip on the Yangtze with its beautiful gorges. It splits China in half (north to south) but is nevertheless a cultural hub, and it has been for



centuries. It provides half of the fish eaten in China, is a major agricultural region and has 33% of the country's population living in its vicinity!

The controversial Three Gorges Dam, a project envisioned back in 1994, is an amazing feat of engineering, the largest of its kind by far on Earth. The whole project involved a lot of relocation of people (the powers-that-be didn't give them any choice) and astronomical, spiralling costs, which are said to have been recouped within 5 years. It is a busy river, with craft of all types and sizes plying

its waters. There are issues with erosion, which the government is making an effort to solve and no chemical works are allowed within 1 km of the river. On the subject of the environment, Ramsey noted that on his visit to Shanghai, at the Yangtze's mouth, he was able to capture a clear photo of the Bund (waterfront) as there was unusually no smog! (apparently, it was a holiday week.)



From there, Graham and Jennifer transported us to the Fraser and Thompson Rivers of British Columbia, Canada. The Rocky Mountaineer train from Calgary to Vancouver runs alongside and at

the confluence of the two near Kamloops, it is possible to see clearly two very different rivers running beside each other....the silt-laden

Fraser and the crystal clear glacial waters of the Thompson.

And then to the other side of the world....first the Brisbane River which flows through the Australian city of that name, which offers pristine walk trails, occasional mini-theatres, and artificial beaches with something for all the family. And then to the equally pristine banks of the small but perfectly formed Swan River on Oz's west coast in Perth. This is another people orientated oasis with a balmy Mediterranean type climate.



Then June brought us back home....to the River Swale of her childhood in N Yorkshire. This beautiful area has attracted visitors for over 200



years (including such luminaries as Wordsworth), a major lure being the glorious Aysgarth Falls. Swale is derived from an old English

word meaning "tumultuous river" and its name is well deserved as it is the fastest-flowing river in England and its water levels can rise 10 feet in 20 minutes.

Thank you all for your wonderful contributions. It was good to share river experiences and to enjoy new ones.

Jan Bradbury

CHARACTERS FROM THE CIVIL WAR

4. Sir John Gell (1593 – 1671)

Winston Churchill is reputed to have said: "Never let a good crisis go to waste". John Gell fully understood this idea. One of Derbyshire's less pleasant sons, Gell often used national events to pursue grudges, especially when there was a chance to make some money for himself.



Sir

When John was born in 1593 the Gell family were well connected and wealthy from lead mines and farming. After the death of his father his mother married into the even richer Curzon family. By the 1630's, Gell was living on his own estate near Wirksworth.

He was reluctant to pay taxes that Charles I tried to raise without the sanction of Parliament. Possibly because of this, he was made High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1635, with responsibility for "Ship Money" which was an unpopular tax levied by the King. It meant that either Gell had to pay the tax for the whole county himself, or extract it from his neighbours. He approached the task with relish and took the opportunity to specify the amount of tax landowners should pay and enforced the payment himself. He evidently particularly disliked Sir John Stanhope of Elvaston, and assessed him at a high rate, taking prized cattle in place of cash.

Gell became recognised as an effective, if vindictive, organiser. He also gained a reputation as an adulterer. His response to this is reminiscent of Donald Trump: "I never meddle with women, unless they be handsome".

When the Civil War broke out, the Stanhopes declared for the King and Gell for Parliament. Gell obtained a Commission to raise a regiment of 1,200 men. He initially got 120, uniformed in grey, from Hull (where he likely had connection via the lead trade). Gell then raised the rest in stages from Derbyshire, many from his own lead mines. The grey uniforms are worn by re-enactors today - Sir John Gell's Regiment Of Foot are a group within the "Sealed Knot" society and appear at various events.



Gell's most notorious military exploit occurred near

Stafford in 1643 at the battle of Hopton Heath. Gell's regiment, largely infantry, faced a similar sized force of cavalry commanded by the Earl of Northampton. Seeing his troops waver, Gell got off



his horse, calmed his men and stood with them as they fought off the Royalists. The Royalist commander, Northampton, was killed when he refused to surrender. Gell had

the Earl's corpse stripped naked and paraded back to Derby, refusing to return it to his family, as would have been the norm.

As the first Civil War came to an end in 1645, new elections were called – time and war had left many posts vacant, both in Parliament and the counties. Although the alliances that defeated Charles I were clear on what they did not want, there was no agreement on what the form of government and religion should be in future. Gell was Governor of Derby and wanted his brother to be elected "Recorder" – senior judge by the "burgesses" (rich landlords) of Derby. Gell attempted to bully the voters in various ways, including marching at least two out of the city at gun point.

Confusion continued when both candidates were declared to have won. Meanwhile, Parliament was receiving a flood of complaints about Gell, which included corruption and a lack of respect for religion. As a result of this, late in 1646, Gell was deprived of his Governorship and denied payment for what he had spent on supporting the war effort.

Aggrieved by Parliament's treatment, Gell may have offered the imprisoned Charles I money and was later on the fringes of various plots to re-establish the monarchy. He was imprisoned for treason in 1650 and only released when Charles II was restored. He held a minor post in the new Royal household until he died in 1671. He was buried in the church at Wirksworth where his memorial slab can still be seen.

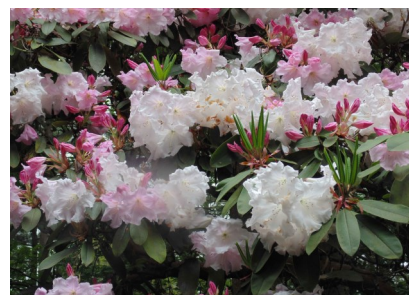
Steve Wood

GARDEN VISIT TRIP

The Chesterfield u3a 'Garden Appreciation' group are organising a trip to the Dorothy Clive Garden in Willoughbridge, Market Drayton, on Tuesday, July 18th. At the time of writing there were several spare places. If you would be interested in going on this trip please contact me as soon as possible. Jed

GARDEN VISITS

Rhododendron is one of those words that I always have to check the spelling of whenever I write it. I need to write it as where I was walking recently, I was surrounded by the most beautifully massed planting of Rhododendron and Azaleas I have seen in a long time. I was joined on this visit by three car loads of U3A members. This was our May visit to the Lea Gardens, near Matlock.



In 1784 John Smedley founded the Lee Mills that are nearby and which, to this day, are famous for producing very high-quality cashmere clothing. The



initial problem at the factory was where the acidic ashes from the factory furnaces could be strewn. The solution found was to take them to a nearby old

medieval millstone quarry. Here, on the wooded hillside, the three acres of garden have been developed. Now Rhododendrons and Azaleas grow and thrive in the ericaceous soils where millstones were once carved. There is also an excellent rock garden with alpiners, acers and heathers to delight the eye.

Our party negotiated the winding paths that wander up and down the slopes of the quarry stopping at times to view the enormous variations of colour and size



from the various vantage points (that had seats conveniently placed in them.) The paths are surrounded by brightly coloured, thick bushes and trees, We were extremely fortunate this year to catch these blooms at their best, as on a previous visit the season had been earlier and most of the bushes had finished flowering. This year was a real treat!

After the walking we took advantage of the well-stocked restaurant and one or two of us also purchased plants to take home.

Ramsey Hertzog

11th U3A Peak District Family History Conference

Saturday 16 September 2023 at the Palace Hotel in Buxton



Presents.....

Mary Evans – ‘Chasing those Brickwalls!’

Dave Annal – Death & Taxes

Jackie Depelle – “Digging into the Parish Chest”

Dr Penny Walters – “Why the Welsh left Wales”

Tickets: £30. *Book early to avoid disappointment - it's always very popular.*
Includes talks, refreshments & 2-course finger buffet lunch

Parking:

Blue Badge holders – may park or drop off at hotel
Others - use side streets or the pay & display car parks
For car parks in Buxton see: <https://en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/buxton/>

Exhibitors:

Once again, about 15 exhibitors will be there – old friends & new:

We plan to offer delegates a free goody bag and a free prize draw again.

To book your place, please complete the booking form on this link:

<https://forms.gle/mXnsgpBhQpmafuNU6>

Please put your **surname and postcode** as a **reference** if paying by BAC
[So we can match your payment with your form.]

Tickets will be issued at our reception desk on the day,

MURPHY’S LAW OF GENEALOGY



The grave stone you want to find will always be located in the extreme opposite corner of the cemetery to where you start your search.



'JED EYE'



Is this an alternative publication by our editor or is there a Star Wars attack pending?

This magazine was discovered North of the Scottish border and fortunately was nothing to do with the latter possibility and neither can it be credited to our Dronfield U3A magazine author either,

though as we have 'Dronfield Eye' locally, it might have been an alternative title for Jed's 'Cryer'. This Scottish publication is in fact the local magazine for Jedburgh.

Jean Hertzog

WOULD YOU CREDIT IT?



Prof. G. Clewley of our History Department said recently that by using DNA scientists have finally managed to establish the authenticity of the pencil that for many years, has been thought of as the one used by Shakespeare to write his plays. Unfortunately, the end of the pencil has been well chewed. Though this produced

excellent DNA material it made it impossible to tell if the pencil was 2B or not 2B!

U3a TELEPHONE SCRABBLE



To play, fit the given letters onto the diagram above and then phone me on 01246 414847 and leave a message. I will notify you of the highest scoring word and some new letters to use the following next week.

Several words have been added since the last Cryer. This week's letters are - M I N S ? D E
Send your highest scoring word to me by Thursday 8th of June.

Sylvia Thompstone

DON'T FORGET If you are going to attend the Gala please drop by and say 'hello'. We will be very pleased to see you

Dronfield Gala 2023

Sunday 25th June 2023

from 12noon until 5pm at Cliffe Park

Free entry for everyone

Craft and Charity Stalls ✿ Fairground Rides & Inflatables ✿ Wipeout & Trampolines ✿ Mega Slide ✿

Live Music ✿ Wild Experience With Birds Of Prey

Food & Drink Stalls ✿ Local Group Performances ✿

Mini Pony Rides

DRONFIELD
Town Council

The Dronfield Gala is a great afternoon of family fun! Make sure you don't miss out...join us in Cliffe Park from 12noon on Sunday 25th June. Don't forget entry is FREE and a number of the activities on the day are also FREE!