



THE CRYER!

u3a learn,
laugh
live

The voice of Dronfield and District u3a

Issue 116 July 2023

EDITORIAL

Good morning and welcome to issue 116 of the Dronfield u3a newsletter. As July starts, it is forecast to be the hottest month of the year so far. This is good news for tennis fans as Wimbledon starts on Monday. July 2nd is also *World UFO Day*! First celebrated in 2001, it is the anniversary of the supposed crash of a flying saucer at Roswell in 1947. Presumably UFO enthusiasts the world over will be scouring the night sky for signs of UFO's! Friday the 7th is *World Chocolate Day*, celebrating the arrival of chocolate in 'Europe from America in 1550. Finally July 31st is *Harry Potter's birthday*. He'll be 43!

On a much more serious note:

Please be sure to read Marion's message overleaf and consider whether you can help. The DDu3a's very existence depends upon more members being willing to 'step up.' Thank you. *Jed (Editor)*

TRIPS AND VISITS

On a very hot day in June we took a party of thirty-five members to **Knutsford and Tatton Park**. Our first stop in Knutsford gave us time to look around this lovely market town, to enjoy a coffee or have lunch .

The Knutsford Heritage Centre, although quite small, was well worth a visit and contained some interesting exhibits including a wonderful tapestry created for the millennium & capturing life in Knutsford in the year 2000. With contributions from over 3000 people it's a three panelled masterpiece.

We then travelled the short distance to Tatton Park where members were free to explore the gardens at their leisure or have a look round the magnificent mansion with its diverse collection of paintings, books and furniture amassed by the Egerton family since 1598.



Sadly, apart from our first trip to Liverpool, none of our day trips have been fully booked. For us to consider arranging a full programme of visits next year it is essential that sufficient members support the group by booking places on the trips to make them viable. If this does not happen then the future of the trips and visits group may be in jeopardy or at least we would have to consider only arranging a small number of trips next year.

However, each trip has been really enjoyable and I would like to say a big thank you to all members who support T&V and join us on our outings.

Our final day trip of the year is to **Lincoln** on Friday 8th September. We still have places available and they can be booked at the next monthly U3A meeting in July. The cost is £12.50. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to book a place please contact me by e-mail and I can reserve a seat for you. *Glenys Sharman*

Email: trips@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

SOME LINCOLN ATTRACTIONS

According to legend Satan sent two imps to create chaos on earth. In Lincoln **Cathedral** they smashed tables, chairs and tripped up the Bishop. An angel appeared and turned one to stone. He can be found in the cathedral. The second tried to escape but the angel caught him too and sharp-eyed visitors can spot him outside on the south wall. The Cathedral is open for visitors every day (there is an admission charge.)



Just opposite the cathedral is **the castle**. It is nine hundred years old and has been used as a prison and court into modern times. You can walk along a complete circuit of its walls and visit the **castle museum**. Grounds entry is free.

The **Usher Art Gallery** is adjacent to **Lincoln Museum**. Both are in the city's Cultural Quarter not far from the excellent shopping area.

DRONFIELD DDu3a NEEDS YOU!

Yes, I know I wrote something like this last month. But the reality is, I have to do it again and you will be seeing the same message repeatedly over the next few months.



In October, we have to elect new Committee Members (Trustees), as we do each year for our DDu3a to continue. This year we will need at least three 'Officers' – a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. But it isn't just Officers we need. We need a new Groups Manager plus other general Trustees.

If this all sounds familiar, it's because we've said the same thing for last two years. We can have up to 15 Trustees in total, although for the last year we've managed with just 9. But it hasn't been easy. In 2021-2022 we had only 6 and all of us pledged never to repeat that experience!

If we can't find members to fill the roles in October, the outgoing Committee will have to seriously consider winding up the u3a.

Please, think about whether or not you could be a Trustee.



You're more than welcome to come to a monthly Committee meeting to see what's involved. The next one is 9.30-11.30 on Monday 24th July. If you're interested please email Julia Harris, our Secretary via -

secretary@dronfieldu3a.org.uk .

Thank you.

Marion Clyde

COMMITTEE NEWS



This will be my last newsletter contribution as Chair of DDu3a. Over the last few months, as my personal commitments have increased, I have struggled to dedicate enough time to u3a matters. Realistically,

this situation will continue for some months to come, so I have resigned as Chair. Julia Harris, our Secretary and Events Coordinator, has kindly agreed to be Acting Chair until the new Committee is elected in October.

Julia is new to this role, so please give her your help and support as she settles into her new responsibilities. We will be doing a gradual handover over in July, so you may get one or two final email messages from me as Chair.

For the time being at least, I will continue to

provide support for our Beacon and website users.

If you have any questions about either of these, please contact me Marion Clyde at -

beacon@dronfieldu3a.org.uk or
website-editor@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

TECHIES NEEDED.

Website Redevelopment



At some stage in the next 12-18 months SiteBuilder, the software that DDu3a uses for its website, will become obsolete. As a result, our website, along with those of 700+ other u3as, will be moving to WordPress. That technical talk won't mean much to many of our members, but it might mean something to some of you. If it does, then DDu3a needs your help.

The move to the new software is being managed by a national team of volunteers - the SiteWorks team. Its members will be responsible for helping u3as migrate the information from their existing websites to the new ones and will mentor and support u3as' website editors as they learn how to use the new system.

The good news is that, from what I've already seen the new sites will be a big improvement. There will be far more scope to use colour and far more flexibility over the use of pictures.

The SiteWorks team has been busy developing a set of standard templates for u3as to use. Some of these new templates are available to experiment with now – we just need some willing volunteers to have a play with them, get to know how to use

them and then to advise the DDu3a committee on how to make the best use of the new website. (An example of a page from the new system is above) The u3a motto is Learn, Laugh, Live. This is an opportunity to do at least one of those – Learn.

Hopefully there will be a few Laughs along the way too, although I can't guarantee there won't be a few screams as well!

If you'd like to help, please get in touch with me
Marion Clyde at

website-editor@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

HELP NEEDED.

After the busy Spring weeks we're now entering the long quiet period in the year for a membership secretary. It's also a good time for me to ask members to consider helping with and perhaps eventually taking on this interesting and vital DDu3a role.

The membership secretary is part of a team that is made up of committee members and trustees. It has two elements, an administrative and a human one.

The first is a 'front of house' role which is great if you like being with, and talking to, people. The other takes place in the background. It is a quiet administrative one. Checking and keeping records. You do need IT skills, but training and support will be given as required.

There are lots of written details about this role, but the best way to begin finding out about it, and to see if you're interested, is to talk to me. Please see me at a monthly meeting, ask me questions, or contact me. My contact details are:

T: 01246 900201

E: membership@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

Thank you, Phine



NATIONAL U3A LEARNING EVENTS

Online Events in JULY

There are opportunities for joining a variety of online events this month:

Mindfulness & Meditation

a 6 week course starting 4th July 10am

Laughter Yoga 5th July 10am

Into the Mind of an Artist—Van Gogh - (pt 2)

18th July 10am

History of US Aviation in East Anglia

25th July 10am

To find more go to the u3a.org.uk website
Events - online learning



MONTHLY MEETINGS



Don't forget that details of all the monthly meetings from now until next March are available on the [Members](#) page of the website on -

(<https://u3asites.org.uk/dronfield/pages/69472>).

MEETING - 12th JULY (10 - 12)

The Speaker will be

Mike Higginbottom:

"Yorkshire's Seaside Heritage".



The talk will explore the architectural gems that are hidden along the east coast and illustrate how the railways and the happy Victorian holiday makers brought prosperity to the towns of the east coast.



Unfortunately, we are still having difficulties with our hybrid meetings so this will again be an '*in person meeting*' only. Apologies if you wanted to access the meeting on line.

MEETING - 9th AUGUST (10 - 12)

Following our interesting speaker meeting in July, our meeting on Wednesday 9th August will be a very relaxed affair.



Jordan White, our local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer), is coming to give a short talk on home security. He intends to remain with us throughout the morning to give further advice and answer any questions you may have.

Apart from that, there will be a variety of well known table games available for you to use while having a cup of tea and a chat, though you can, of course, sit and just talk with friends if you prefer. Having said that, please be mindful of any members or visitors coming alone who may wish to be involved in an activity but may not feel comfortable asking to join you.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided as usual but we'd like to suggest, if you are able, that you bring along some small cakes/cookies or similar to share. Shop-bought is fine, but something extra to go with our cuppa on a summer's morning might be appreciated.

Julia Harris

GROUP NEWS - JULY

This month we have some new groups starting up as 'taster' sessions that were recently set up have developed into new groups. Group Activities this month include -



Climate Change - discussing water pollution.

A new **Croquet** Group is now meeting.

A new **Crown Green Bowling** Group is meeting at the Coal Aston bowling club.

Cycling are meeting up to ride the High Peak Trail on 10th July followed by a trip along the Thurcroft Trail to Langold on 27th July.

Garden Visits are taking a trip to Calke Abbey near Ticknall in Derbyshire.

Geography Group will have a talk about Chile.

The **History** group is having a talk on historical aspects of education followed by a discussion on its good and bad aspects.

A **Short Mat Bowls** group is getting organised, a taster session is at the end of the month.

The **Spanish** groups will continue learning and practising the language.

The easy **Strollers** Walks are taking place on The 1st, 5th, 13th and 21st July.

A **Ten-Pin Bowling** group has been activated.

There is a full **Walking** programme with regular walks on Mondays and Fridays.

Doug Emery

DRONFIELD GALA

Sunday 25th of June was a warm day that drew a crowd of people into the park for the Dronfield Gala. We had a promotional stall behind the bowling green which was just far enough away from the fair ground attractions to be able to talk easily above the cacophony of noise coming from them but fortunately near enough to the band and choirs to benefit from the crowds they attracted.



The volunteers who worked at the stall brought the DDU3a to the attention of as many of those passing-by as possible. It was a bright sunny day that required sitting in the shade but they were ever ready to ambush passersby and thrust promotion leaflets into their hands!

Those under fifty wouldn't actually qualify for membership of the association but they did have



relatives who do. And so the word is spread and hopefully new members will be found.

Thanks goes to all those who gave their time to this event. From the 'highly?' skilled construction team who erected and dismantled the gazebo, to the members who assembled the displays within, and all the team who managed the stall. The day only worked because you were there.

A special mention has to be given to Phine who stayed throughout the whole event.

Editor

GEOGRAPHY GROUP - (Part 1)

On your travels.

What made an impact on your life and why.

We agreed we all enjoyed sharing our iconic travel moments....kicking off in Auckland, New Zealand when June's friend, for no apparent reason, fell desperately ill. It necessitated a hospital trip (not good), even worse, no available beds so June and her friend spent the night on trolleys (sounds familiar), and they don't know to this day what caused the problem but she eventually recovered. Strangely, there is one positive....some massive event was on in Auckland and there was no hotel accommodation to be had anywhere, so a hospital trolley was OK after all!

Lyn, at age 12, with her indispensable flippers, was a very strong and keen swimmer. This combination made her a heroine one day in Babbacombe (near Torquay). As she was enjoying a swim, she heard a lot of scurrying and screaming from the beach. Out of his depth was a drowning man.

Lyn saw his arm appear

....then disappear. He saw Lyn and made a desperate lunge for her. They both nearly drowned and Lyn had to knock him out to enable a rescue.



They both survived, thanks to her swimming skills...and flippers.

Carolyn and Graham (and their son) have had quite a few adventures over the years, once getting a lot of good deals thanks to bird flu (which they managed to avoid). On another occasion, caught up in a melee of people in Rome, unable to get free and wondering what was happening, they discovered themselves within 10 metres of the Pope. And still in Italy, Sicily to be precise, Nora was overwhelmed and chilled in Palermo's catacombs as she encountered the perfectly preserved body of an 8-year-old girl!

The abandoned Moghul city of Fatehpur Sikri (India) inspired Jan in the hall of private audience of the Muslim and far-seeing emperor, Akbar (ancestor of Shah Jahan of Taj



Mahal fame). Within the hall are 5 pillars, intricately carved to represent 5 religions: Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Jainism, and an inscription in Sanskrit "God is One". All were welcome at Akbar's court.

After encountering the furies of a force 10 gale where 3 oceans meet at the notorious Cape Horn, Ann experienced sublime peace and a sense of awe as she reached Antarctica, land of wall-to-wall penguins, 70% of Earth's freshwater, and amazing blue icebergs. The intrepid sailors were asked to whisper to maintain the ambience of this magical world. Heather has actually swum in the Antarctic Ocean...really? you say.....yes, where a volcano spews into the water and heats it up. The same lady has also swum to the edge of the Victoria Falls (when the R Zambezi was very low). Too much excitement methinks!

END OF PART 1

HISTORY GROUP

The history group restarted almost 18 months ago, meeting in the Thomas Taylor Hall of the Peel Centre.

An early principle was established to encourage group members to read and research into topics that held their interest. That has continued very successfully supported by a variety of experienced external speakers and visits to places of historical interest.

Members have offered talks on many topics including, advertising, the Peel Centre, 'Ten Pound Poms', the NHS, the fifties kitchen and famous local women. At first members were very nervous about standing at the front to talk to the group but they quickly learned that they could do this and the talks have encouraged energetic group discussion.

We have had several external speakers. Sylvia Dunkley presented a talk on 'Women and Work in Sheffield in World War I'. Her talk revealed a lot of imagination, enterprise and business acumen among people who were never expected to work.

Martin Rowley gave an enlightening talk on the 'Sheffield Gang Wars' of the 1920's. At this time parts of Sheffield were ruled by the 'Peaky Blinders' style gangs of the Mooney and Garvey families. They ruled the area by violence and fear until they were forced out by the efforts of Percy Shillito, chief of Sheffield's Flying Squad.



On a quieter note, Janet Ridler introduced us to the residents of 'Sheffield's Hidden Necropolis' the Victorian General Cemetery which is near the Botanic Gardens. It contains grade II listed buildings as well as providing the final resting place for steel masters, philanthropists, soldiers, merchants, business men, and even an elephant trainer. The last burial there was as recently as 1978 and the cemetery is now looked after by the 'Friends of the Cemetery' who do their best to 'keep it alive', so to speak.

There have also been a few trips out. We have visited the 'Ramshaw Lodge estate' courtesy of Jill and Tony Bethell. The lodge was originally the 'Unstone Colliery Manager's House' and the grounds still contain the beehive coke ovens that were an important part of industrial Unstone.

The first part of the 'Dronfield Town Walk' was led by John Harvey. It started at the library and moved down to the church. A short walk that revealed a great deal of Dronfield's history through the buildings along the High Street.



Our last meeting was organised as a trip to Newark. On arrival we were met by two guides who took us on a guided tour of the town. They explained the part the town played in the English Civil War and pointed out the historic buildings

around the town. Afterwards there was a time to visit the Civil War Museum and explore the shops.

On July 26th Angela Richards will present a talk on some historical aspects of education and ask the question 'Changes – for Better or Worse?' The meeting is open and everyone will be encouraged to contribute to a following discussion.

The August 23rd meeting will be the Dronfield Town Walk Part 2, conducted by John Harvey. This walk will take us along 'Dronny Bottom', where there is much of Dronfield's history.

We are continuing to develop research ideas and encourage members to develop their own interests and research, either individually or in small groups. Their discoveries will be shared - as a talk to the group or an organised display.

We welcome guests to all history group meetings. We meet, unless otherwise arranged, or if a visit is booked, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, between 10 and 12. The cost is £2 per person per visit, to cover room hire costs, refreshments and external speaker fees. Any other charges will be notified in advance.

If you have any queries, please contact me. Phine Wright at either—

T: 01246 900201 or 07890 921759 or

E: history@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

Phine Wright (Coordinator)

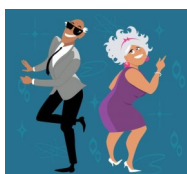
60's MUSIC GROUP



The 1960s Music Group are putting on a music event at Coal Aston Village Hall on 20 October for U3A members. The event will be limited to 80 people.

As well as classic sixties sounds to dance to, there will be prizes for the best dressed man and woman (60s gear, of course), raffle and quiz. It will start at 7.30 and finish at 10.30.

The actual ticket price has yet to be confirmed but will be in the region of £5. Further details will be available in the coming months. Tickets will be on sale at the monthly meetings.

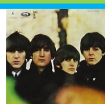


Trevor Sullivan (Co-ordinator)

60's QUOTE

'We were all on this ship in the sixties, our generation, a ship going to discover the New World. And the Beatles were in the crow's nest of that ship.'

John Lennon



SPANISH IMPROVERS GROUP

CLASS of '23 - GRADUATION CELEBRATION

End of year can be a tough time for students, wondering if they have studied hard enough, and whether exam questions will favour them. Not a fear for this Spanish Improvers Group, as teacher Brian (Healy) believes in using general chat to help students improve.

Last year, as a beginners class, we learnt the basics of the language, 'Hello', 'Goodbye', 'How are you' and 'Can we have two beers plus a bottle of red wine?'

This year we have covered how to get directions, get local information, and talked about jobs and holidays, amongst others. And who doesn't want to learn how to cook, or even better, go out for a meal with wine!

All chapters in the book completed, it was time to put it into practice with a tapas lunch. And whilst the bar staff were more equipped to understand Yorkshire than Spanish, a fantastic celebration party was had. A great course, well recommended.

Steve Bradbury



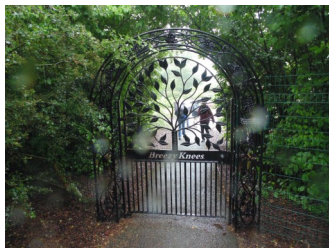
L to R: Nick, Brian, Hannah, Sara, Steve, Jan & Linda

GARDEN VISITS

Have you ever asked a question and then not fully understood the reasoning behind the answer? This happened on the Garden Visits Group visit this June when we went to the twenty-acre 'Breezy Knees Gardens' at Warthill, north of York. When we asked where the name 'Breezy Knees' had come from we were told that the gardens were formed out of arable farmland that had no hedges. If we had stood with the farm workers out in the fields in mid-winter the question would not have been needed to be asked.

Our arrival coincided with torrential rain and we rushed to get a table for a drink before a newly arrived coach disgorged its passengers.

Once fortified, we walked through the ornamental entrance gate to view a fountain in the centre of a Yorkshire Rose design, formed out of variously coloured stones. Masses of multi-coloured flowers were found in an area consisting of raised beds – the tall Alliums being very predominant. Other nearby gardens formed sorts of rooms – each very different from the last.



There was a Rose Garden, full of fragrance and next to that a Cottage Garden. Unfortunately, some of the



more tender plants had been beaten down by the heavy rain which continued throughout our visit. There was also a Shrub Garden, and on the way out, we walked by what was called Stonehedge where we saw a Stonehenge-like structure made of blocks of hedging. We were all very amused by the Wellington Boot Dog we passed on the way out. (See below)

When we met at the original meeting place, some members decided the rain was too heavy to join us but those who ignored the weather enjoyed the wet visit. They expressed the view that we should visit at another time of the year and that if we were prepared to pay a bit more, we might get sunshine.

Ramsey

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Wellington Boot Dog



STROLLERS' GROUP

The strollers group started their summer programme with two short walks.

The first was at Holmesbrook Valley Country Park, a two and a half mile circuit that took in the park and another around the small lake in the middle. The group chatted and shared experiences as we ambled along on this well established local reclaimed area of land.

The second was at Ecclesall Woods, a slightly undulating two mile round walk that took us through a shady tree canopy, over a river and along an attractive wooded area of Sheffield. Each of these walks concluded with a visit to a café.

The Strollers' walks take place every week. There will be four more strolls in July. If you would like to join in you will be most welcome. We meet at the car park on the side of the Sports Centre at 10 am. The dates of the walks are -

1st July – Saturday - Rother Valley

5th July – Wednesday – Baslow to Chatsworth

13th July – Thursday – Thurcroft Trail

21st July – Friday – Monsal Trail



CLIMATE MATTERS

The Climate Matters group have discussed many topics since we started in 2022. Topics have included fabrics, less polluting forms of transport, and recycling of different forms of plastics. Recently we discussed food and farming methods, in particular the amount of food wastage.



A large percentage of people would say that they don't waste food. It is claimed, however, that 30% of food produced for human consumption is wasted. Of that food waste a very large percentage comes from our homes and three quarters of that is

edible! There is much advice these days about how to use left-over food and reduce the amount we buy.

WRAP (Water and Resources Action Programme) works with our government to reduce waste and estimates that the food wasted in the UK totals £19 billion a year - enough to provide eight meals a week for the average family and save £60 a month on food bills.

We would like to think that people of our generation are more aware of the need to live more sustainably.

Farming is another area where methods are changing: Indoor vertical farming has become viable with the use of LED lighting and controlled environments which are ideal for salad crops and soft fruits, especially strawberries. The use of slurry and green waste to produce biogas (mostly methane) by anaerobic digestion is now established. We learnt that 80% of a plant crop is waste green matter and tractors that run on methane are now in production.

Future topics for the group are Water - reducing waste and pollution, and Air pollution and clean air zones.

When looking at modes of transport including less polluting forms, one such vehicle was trolley buses.

Did you know that the largest collection of historic trolley buses in the world is only an hour's drive away in Sandtoft, between Doncaster and Scunthorpe? It's only open for occasional weekends, and once a year they hold a major event called the 'Sandtoft Gathering.' For more information check out the address below.

<https://sandtoft.org/wp/sandtoft-gathering/>

This year it's on **Sunday 30th July** and some of us will be going to enjoy a day of trolley bus and vintage bus rides, a jazz band, a real ale tent, old cars, plus other vehicles and numerous stalls.

If you'd like to join us you'd be very welcome. We're meeting in the car park behind the sports centre to share cars at 10am and we'll be taking picnics.

For any further information contact me at
E-mail steve.pyke@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

Steve Pyke group coordinator

CARHENG

On the flat, Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, stands the well known British cultural icon Stonehenge. It was constructed somewhere between 3000 and 2000 BC. A Neolithic and Bronze Age monument that is now a protected heritage site. The massive stone blocks that make up the monument are well known and attract tourists from around the world.



It attracted the attention of Jim Reinders, an American living in London. He was brought up on a farm in Western Nebraska and the flat nature of the Wiltshire plain reminded him of the terrain at home.

He was an engineer by trade and thought that the stone blocks of the monument were about the same size as the American cars as the 1950's and he became intrigued with the idea that the monument could be duplicated in Nebraska. He thought, 'Instead of large and heavy, and awkward stones, it could be done with cars. Cars are lighter and have wheels.'

His father died in 1982. In 1987 Jim galvanised the family and, over a weekend, on family owned land, they built Car Henge as a monument to their father. They used 39 scrapped cars which were arranged in a duplicate fashion to the stone blocks at Stonehenge. The cars were buried in pits five feet deep, boot down and the cars on top welded and supported in place. The whole structure was completed, for the June 1987 summer solstice.



Jim thought it would be an temporary structure likely to rust away. It quickly divided local opinion. They either loved it or hated it.

Several attempts were made to have it demolished as an eyesore. An attempt was also made to have it classed as a 'junk-yard' and hidden behind a high fence. None succeeded.

In 2006 a souvenir shop was added and before Covid it regularly welcomed 100,000 visitors year. Jim Reinders died in 2021 at the age of 94.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP



At our May meeting the Photography group decided that we would have our Summer monthly meetings as field trips to take advantage of the better weather. It would also enable us to share knowledge of our cameras/phones in a more practical way. June's field trip was arranged for



Thursday 15th . Ten of us met up at Whinell Quarry Gardens, Whirlow, in Sheffield. The weather was kind to us, it being a sunny and warm morning. The trees around gave us some

welcome shade at times and also some very interesting subjects to photograph. As to be expected with gardens, there were plenty of different flowers, plants and water which provided a variety of different colours and textures for our images.

The theme for our group this month was mainly composition but we were also concentrating on using the different camera settings and the photography techniques that we had been discussing in previous meetings.

We all enjoyed the opportunity to be outside with our cameras and for some members it was a first visit to Whinell Quarry Gardens.

For our next meeting, we will be going to Victoria Quays (Sheffield Canal basin) on Thursday 20th July at 10am.

Our August meeting on Thursday 17th at 10am will be to The Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet.

If you are interested in joining the Photography group please get in touch with Gill Middleton, group co-ordinator for further information. She can be contacted on -

photography@dronfieldu3a.org.uk.

If you would prefer to wait until we start meeting indoors again in September, we meet in the Dr Fletcher room at The Peel Centre on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 10am till 12noon . (Bring your own coffee/water etc but biscuits are provided).

Pat Robins / Linda Jarman

Professor Clewley Speaks



The Bishop was walking through Liverpool when a little fella stepped out of the crowd and said, 'Father! Can you help me with my hearing?' The Bishop beckoned the little fellow across and gently placing his hands on either side of his head, silently prayed that the man's hearing would improve. Stepping back he said, 'How's that my son?'

The little fella smiled and gave the Bishop the 'thumbs up' and said, 'I'll let you know, Father. My Hearing's on Thursday'.

GEOGRAPHY GROUP (continued)

On your travels - part 2

Jennifer and Graham had a double whammy in August 1997. When on a fly drive holiday in California, they bumped into a family they'd met a few years before in Cyprus....an amazing coincidence. And whilst they were queueing to visit Alcatraz, an American in front of them, with tears in his eyes, said how sorry he was about Princess Diana - like many of us, they remember where they were when she died.



Ann (again!) was across the country in Florida (not at the same time). The motel was very noisy, with hundreds of people milling around everywhere, and then the ground shook! She then witnessed the launch of one of the Discovery rockets!

Rob, when rock climbing in Austria as a young man, was advised 1. to keep on rock climbing back in the UK, and 2. to consider teaching as a career. He trained in Sheffield and, proximity to the Peak District enabled him to pursue both suggestions. Not only that, it resulted in him meeting his future wife. The rest, as they say, is history.

Glenys' husband has always been a very fit man. So everyone was surprised he appeared to succumb to altitude sickness in Peru and he was



very ill. They took a 2nd trip to Peru. Again, he was very ill in Cuzco, involving him passing out, smashing his hand, blood everywhere, and a night in

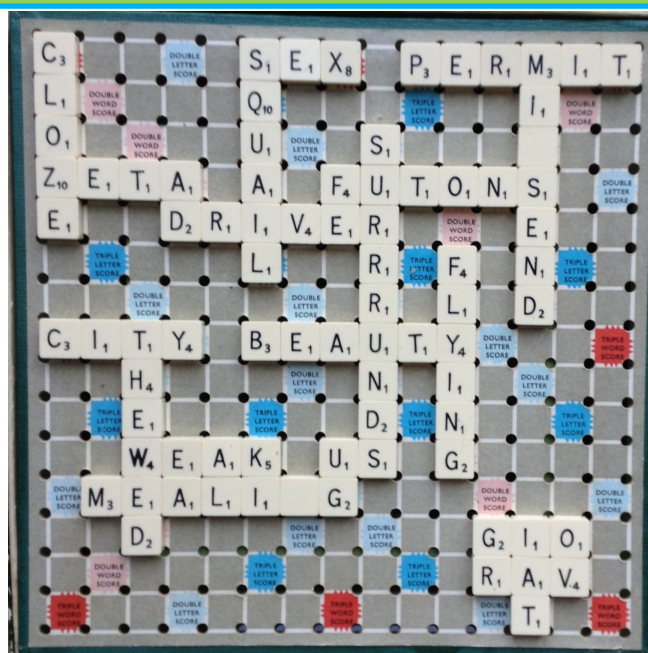
hospital. They subsequently decided not to try for 3rd time lucky and that they're, sadly, not destined to see the wonders of Macchu Pichu .

And Jennifer was wondering what to wear for the sake of propriety on a searingly hot day for her trip to the Grand Mosque in Muscat (Oman). When she arrived, her apparel was inoffensive, but she was given an additional coat to wear. She then had to perform a ritual washing preparation (mandatory for all women). Poor Jennifer was feeling somewhat unnerved. Then.....fabulous! She was thoroughly overwhelmed by the beauty of the mosque, with its major feature, a prayer carpet the size of a football pitch, weighing 20 tons, and which took 4 years to hand weave. There are 600,000 crystals in the main chandelier, which requires a staircase to aid its maintenance.

Finally, Jan, was again humbled on a trip...She and hubby frequented a small restaurant on Koh Samui, where they often partook of Chang beer. Chang means elephant in Thai and the beer's logo shows 2 elephants facing each other. The staff of the restaurant were mainly Burmese. One young man in particular (like a lot of Burmese) used to send money home to Myanmar (previously Burma) for his family. He worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. He had nothing (but a happy face and a great sense of humour). On the day Jan & hubby left to return to the UK, he presented them with a gift.....2 Chang elephants (ornaments, not real ones). Jan is rarely stuck for words.... Many of our experiences sparked off input and a lovely meeting was enjoyed by all.

Jan Bradbury

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 - G I O R A V T
Send your highest scoring word to me by Thursday 6th of July.
Sylvia Thompson

CHESTERFIELD u3a

Chesterfield u3a Garden Appreciation Group is visiting the *Dorothy Clive Garden*, Willoughbridge, Market Drayton on Tuesday July 18th.

At the time of writing they have 2 seats available and invite any u3a member to join them. The cost is £24 for the coach, garden entry and driver's tip. There is an option to have a tour of the garden, lasting ¾ hour at an additional cost of £2.40 per person

If you are interested in going a booking form is available from me (Jed editor).

THE GENERATION GAP

So I said to my daughter, 'Hand me the phone book, please!'

She said, 'Mother! You're a dinosaur. Here, use my i-phone. Get modern!' and she past it across.

So I got Modern. I used her i-phone instead of the phone book.

Now the spider's dead.

The i-phone has a cracked screen.

And my daughter's furious!!

