



THE CRYER!

u3a learn,
laugh
live

The voice of Dronfield and District u3a

Issue 117 August 2023

EDITORIAL

Morning and welcome to issue 117 of the Dronfield u3a newsletter. As I started on this editorial, 'Mrs Dale's Diary' sprang to mind. It was a fifteen minute radio serial that centred on Mrs Mary Dale a doctor's wife and her husband Jim. It was broadcast from 1948 until 1969. The innovative feature that brought it to mind was the opening which was always spoken by Mrs Dale as though she was writing in her diary. On news of its demise a liberal MP attempted to introduce a reprieve for it through Parliament. There must be a quiz question in there somewhere. As to National Days August is loaded with them. There is a National Dog Day (10th), 'Tell a Joke Day' (16th), 'Take Your Cat to the Vet Day' (22nd) though my favourite is 'Ten-Pin Bowling Day' (8th). Of course have to remember 'The Glorious 12th' when you can go shooting grouse on the moors or see the 'Nottingham Carnival' (27th). An interesting month. Read on. Have fun. Jd (Editor)

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE.

As a group, we have been busy this Spring, learning new dances and taking part in Dance Days and other activities.

Some of our members joined with Matlock U3A dance group, and Sheffield Horo, (Balkan dance group) to demonstrate dances at Bakewell Day of Dance. We danced alongside many other groups, including the 'Lizzie Dripping Clog Dancers', and 'Black Pigs Morris Dancers'!. We had lots of people, young and old, join in our dances at the end of our demo.



The Horo Dance Group

Cathy Meunier, from the Society of International Folk Dance, came to Calver Village Hall to teach us some lovely old dances. Old but new to us! We were joined at the event by dancers from Nottingham, Leeds and further afield.

As well as this social side to our group, the advantages of this form of dance are many...



You don't need a partner or any other experience of dancing; learning new steps is great brain training (as our new members will testify!); and the physical exercise can be as strenuous or as gentle as you like, members age range from 60 to 90, and many of us have well worn joints!

A side bonus is that we learn dances from across the world, the Balkans, Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Africa, Japan, and from them learn much about the history, culture and traditions of those countries.

We meet every Wednesday 10-12 at Unstone Village Hall.. everyone welcome to come for a taster session....men included!!

Christine Martin

DANCING THOUGHT



Life is not
all about
waiting for
the storm
to pass.



It's all
about
learning
to dance
in the
rain.

COMMITTEE NEWS

You will have read in last month's Cryer, that Marion Clyde is stepping down as Chair and I am stepping up as Acting Chair until the AGM in October. If you need to email either of us please contact myself, Julia Harris at chair@dronfieldu3a.org.uk.



Marion will retain her Beacon & Website roles until the AGM so to contact her please email her at either, Beacon@dronfieldu3a.org.uk or website-editor@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

Many thanks.

Julia Harris (Acting Chair)

WELCOME TEAM VOLUNTEERS

We really need a few more people on the Welcome Team that meets members and visitors at monthly meetings. They are there to ensure everyone signs in, answer any questions they may have about our u3a and help and advise if necessary. So, if you are a warm hearted individual, and would be happy to welcome people to our Monthly Meetings we would love you to have you on the team.



If you are interested please see me, Julia Harris, at our forthcoming meeting on 9th August or email me at chair@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Julia Harris

REALLY USEFUL GROUP



We are looking to recruit members for a new Really Useful Group (RUG). This will be a group with a difference. It will be a team of people willing to tackle a variety of tasks as and when a need arises, to help run our u3a.

For example, we may need people to help on a stall, or with the catering at an event. Stewarding, may be required or members many be needed to serve on a small group that is looking into some aspect of the u3a.

The more members that we have the more smoothly events will run and the easier it will be to keep our organisation running as it lightens the load for everyone.

When help is required we will send out emails to the group explaining what help is needed. It will then be up to you if you respond or not.

If you would like to be involved in some way please see me or email me at chair@dronfieldu3a.org.uk . Thank you.

Julia Harris

YOUR RETIREMENT LIFE.

Is your retirement turning out the way you wanted? Take a moment or two to think seriously about that.



We all need decent health and enough money to live on but we also need friends and interests.

Are you enjoying yourself? Could you change something to make your life more enjoyable? Are you making the most of being a u3a member?

Being a member of Dronfield and District u3a is a brilliant opportunity to continue learning, stay socially engaged, and lead a fulfilling life. The u3a provides a supportive environment for older adults to explore new interests, share their knowledge, and stay active.



We have the chance to attend various groups and take advantage of the range of trips, educational classes and activities hosted by the u3a. There's a chance to explore subjects that interest you, whether it's art, literature, history, music, walking or genealogy. Our u3a offers groups led by volunteers with expertise in their respective fields.

We offer outings to famous gardens, hiking, cycling, garden growing, or many other social gatherings. You can engage in group activities that foster camaraderie and there are opportunities to make new friends who share similar interests.



You can share your skills and knowledge with others. If you have expertise in a particular area, why not consider volunteering to lead a group. You



can also attend our guest speaker events. The talks are on various topics that are designed to expand your knowledge and gain insight into different subjects.

Remember, the key to making the most of your retirement is active participation and a willingness to engage with others. Let's enjoy the journey of lifelong learning and personal growth. You can do that through your u3a membership.

Taking part is a good thing, even if it takes us out of our comfort zones. Learn, Laugh and Live with the DDU3a.

Doug Emery (Groups Coordinator)



GROUP NEWS

There is so much happening this month.

Climate Matters are considering the effect of Air Cleanliness and Pollution



The **Croquet** group have several meetings planned for this month.

Cycling ride their way from Thurcroft to Langold and later in the month go to Sherwood Pines.



In addition there are **Dry Stone Walling** and **Garden Growers** meetings going on.

Garden Visits are also off to Felley Priory.

This month the **Geography** group have a talk about Singapore planned.

The **History** group are attracting a lot of interest. This month they are walking Dronfield Lower town.

An **Indoor bowling** group taster session went well in July and some more meetings are planned to get going in October, possibly when the outdoor bowling and croquet cannot take place this winter.

Maths for Fun are looking into the topology of surfaces and solids.

The **Spanish** groups are in full flow with several group meetings, led by Brian Healy.

The **Strollers** are slowly meandering along the side of the Chesterfield Canal then later are walks to Renishaw and Longshaw.



Tenpin bowling has developed from a 'taster group' into an active group. It is planned for a September start, please look out for information about how to get involved or contact the editor.

The **Walking** groups are off to Derwent Edge, Baslow, Axe Edge Moor, Millers Dale and other places.

Whatever you are interested in, please make an effort to find out about it. Start by taking a visit to the [u3a website, groups section](https://u3a.org.uk/groups).

Doug Emery (Group Coordinator)



THE LUCK OF THE DEVIL



Joseph Samuels, convicted of killing a man, was sent to the gallows in Sydney Australia in 1803. As Samuels took 'the drop' the rope snapped and he survived. The hangman tried again but the trap door only half opened and again, Samuels survived. At the third attempt the rope broke, yet again and Samuels survived, yet again. He was then returned to his cell and was later reprieved.

DRONFIELD EYE

Although the groups are now getting back to normal, we are an organisation that needs to grow to survive. We need to recruit new members to at least get the number of members back to how things were before Covid. Also, if we have more members we will probably be able to expand the number of active groups as this will bring fresh ideas and more group leaders into the association. To achieve this we are undertaking an advertising campaign.



You may have noticed small DDU3a posters that are around Dronfield, and you possibly saw the 'Information Banner' that was on display in the library this summer. These are part of our campaign. If you were at the Gala you may also have seen the new DDU3a advertising banners. One of them was fastened to the railings outside the Civic Hall to advertise the monthly meeting.



These were part of our campaign and now we are going to appear in an edition of the Dronfield Eye. We will have a 'One Page Special' in the September edition. It will take our message into every house in Dronfield and its district. Please keep *your* eyes open for it.

Steve Bradbury

NATIONAL U3A LEARNING EVENTS

Free Online Events in AUGUST

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

Science Network Event - talks on various topics
Wed 9th 10.15am

Expedition Cruising – The Story of the Aleutian Islands Thurs 10th 2pm

Staying Safe Online - Fri 25th 10am
and more

Visit u3a.org.uk website – Events - online learning to register



TRIPS AND VISITS



Our last day trip of the year is to Lincoln on Friday 8th September. We still have a few places available so if you would like to join us the cost is £12.50 and we set off at 9.00am from outside Dronfield Sports Centre. You can book and pay at the August U3A monthly meeting but if you are unable to attend this meeting I can be contacted by e-mail. My e-mail address is trips@dronfieldu3a.org.uk

Glynis Sharman

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 - 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 and 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

MEETING - 13th SEPTEMBER (10 - 12)

The Speaker will be

Pat Hall

"A Good Laugh"

Pat is a standup comedian who has the ability to see the funny side of anything.

The meeting will be in the Civic Hall as usual.



RIDDLE-ME-REE

a) If you are right handed what can you hold in your right hand but never your left?

b) Poor people have it. Rich people need it, but if you eat it you die! What is it?

c) Before Mt Everest was discovered what was the highest mountain in the world?



GEOGRAPHY GROUP

TRAVELS IN CHILE

In the 16th Century the conquistadors arrived in Chili and claimed the country for Spain. It finally gained independence from Spain in 1818.

Chile is a long, thin country, which has an array of climates. They stretch from tropical and desert in the north, via a temperate middle, where most of the population live, to the lakes and forests in the south, and the fjords of Patagonia. It is subject to volcanic activity and earthquakes. It has an income that is mainly derived from agriculture, fishing, mining, and the service industry. Tourism is pretty minimal.

After a long flight via Sao Paulo, the intrepid Pat finally arrived at the Chilean capital, Santiago. It's



apparently a beautiful city, and is surrounded by the imposing Andes mountains. It is very clean, has lovely gardens, and many of the buildings are in the

Spanish colonial style. It is easy to get around and has a fabulous art district. Not really in competition with Rio's Christ the Redeemer but there is the pretty imposing figure of the Virgin Mary atop the San Cristobal Hill, which has stunning views and various cultural events.

Slightly to the north west, and on the coast is Valparaiso, which used to be a major shipping

stopover until the arrival of the Panama Canal in 1914. Chile's second city is a maze of colourful higgledy-piggledy homes, joined by masses of telephone wires which seem to hang everywhere!



Street artists abound in Valparaiso. The wall art goes beyond graffiti and is plentiful and amazing. The poet Pablo Neruda's museum is here....he won the Nobel prize for literature but was also a politician and diplomat. He died in hospital in 1973, possibly murdered by the infamous Pinochet Regime.

The southern city of Puerto Montt is the gateway to the stunning and peaceful Chilean lake district from where Pat travelled by coach into Argentina to San Carlos de Bariloche in northern Patagonia. The architectural style here reflects the early 20th

century settlements from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The scenery is simply stunning, wall-to-wall mountains, lakes and forests. This town is also famous for its CHOCOLATE. It is served everywhere, you cannot escape it, and it even has its own festival.



Pat then travelled to La Boca, near Buenos Aires, where she was embroiled in the lively tango scene and an altogether great and colourful atmosphere.



And thence to the outstanding Iguazu Falls (which she explored from both the Argentinian and Brazilian sides), where it was very hot and wet! But there was a

lot to see and was easy to walk around.

Her tour finished in Rio, where she naturally visited the Redeemer's statue and Sugar Loaf mountain, and enjoyed fabulous food and the incredibly soft sands of the famous beaches. She also learned that big bottoms are de rigeur here, preferably encased in simply a thong. And on that high note this review shall end except to say we all enjoyed a captivating talk and so, many thanks, Pat, for an engrossing experience.

Jan Bradbury

LOGIC PUZZLE

DOG FUN

Each of five neighbourhood dogs (Saber, Ginger, Nutmeg, Pepper, and Bear) is enjoying one of the following activities: getting its ears scratched, playing catch, taking a nap, burying a chew toy, and going for a walk.



Pepper is either playing catch or burying a chew toy.

Neither Ginger nor Saber nor Bear is on a walk.

One of the dogs named after a spice is getting its ears scratched.

A dog not named for a spice is playing catch.

Bear is getting some exercise.

Can you work out what each dog is doing?
Answers at the back.

WOULD YOU CREDIT IT?



Neil Warnock was born in 1948 in Sheffield. He started his football playing career with the local clubs of Chesterfield then Rotherham before moving on to play for other clubs. He started a career in

management with non league Gainsborough Trinity in 1980. After managing several Football League teams he returned to the city in 1999 to manage his boyhood club of Sheffield United. It was while he was managing the Blades that he hustled his own players!



They were on a bonding session at Scarborough and had just arrived at the Scarborough Ten Pin Bowling alley when Neil Warnock suggested that the entire team took part in a bowling challenge. If everyone put £10 in 'the pot' and then played a single game, the highest score would win the lot. They all agreed and started to change into their bowling kit. Neil briefly disappeared to return with his own bowling shoes and custom bought ball!

The highest score possible, in a single game of Ten Pin Bowling is 300. Neil bowled an easy 200+ to win the pot. He then admitted that when he was a teenager Ten Pin Bowling was a massive thing. It had just come in and the first 24 hour bowl had opened at Frechville a suburb of Sheffield. As a teenager he was good at bowling and could bowl with either hand depending on what pins were left standing. He soon got a job working on the lanes and gave lessons in bowling to the customers.



When asked why he did it he said, 'I wanted to make a few quid for the staff at the Bowl as they had been very accommodating, so I kept mum. They were very grateful'.
(Editor)

TEN PIN BOWLING QUOTE



"Ten Pin Bowling is the ideal sport! It is basically a social event consisting of an hour of talking and relaxing with a small group of friends. An event that is occasionally interrupted by six seconds of exercise."

WHEN THE FAT LADY SINGS.

'It's not over until the fat lady sings' is a well known saying. Its basic meaning is not to count on the outcome of an event as the situation may end unexpectedly. It is often used when a sporting event is nearing conclusion.

The first recorded use of the phrase was on 10th March 1976 in the Dallas Morning News when a reporter used the phrase in the closing stages of an American football match. Its origin lies at the end of Wagner's Operatic 'Ring Cycle'. The 'Fat Lady' is the Valkyrie Brunhilda who is traditionally represented as a buxom lady. Her farewell scene lasts for nearly twenty minutes and leads directly to the end of the whole 'Ring Cycle'. It is 'all over once the fat lady sings!' (Editor)



The Opera Appreciation Group began on 12th January, 2015 and ended on 9th March 2020 when



the 53rd programme was presented just before Lockdown. Sam Copnell presented programmes over that period and then wrote 27 articles for the Newsletter between August 2020 and May 2023. He died on Tuesday 4th July. He was my friend for forty years. I shall miss him.

Margaret Turner

60's MUSIC GROUP

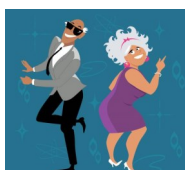


The 1960s Music Group are putting on a music event at Coal Aston Village Hall on 20th October for U3A members. The event will be limited to 80 people.

As well as classic sixties sounds to dance to, there will be prizes for the best dressed man and woman (60s gear of course), a 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



"The Sixties' are now considered to be an historical period—just like the Roman Empire!"

Dave Barry (American Author)

DID YOU KNOW?



George Washington once owned a set of false teeth made from wood and iron. He abandoned them because they began to rust!!

SPOT THE ERROR.



Bob, though an excellent snooker player, was relatively new to the concept and principles of Ten Pin Bowling.

TYPICALLY ENGLISH JOKE

A man walks into a pub and asks for a double scotch.

The Landlord asks, "Are you alright?" as the man looks a little shaken.

The man explained that his car had broke down out a mile or so down the road. He had been scratching his head looking at the engine when a horse popped his head over the hedgerow and told him how to fix the problem.



"Arr! Was it a brown horse?" asked the Landlord.

"Yes", said the man.

"You wuz lucky then," said the Landlord. "There's a black horse in that field, and he knows nowt at all about engines".

PUZZLE ANSWERS

DOG FUN

Answer: Saber is taking a nap, Ginger is getting her ears scratched, Nutmeg is going for a walk, Pepper is burying a chew toy, and Bear is playing catch.

RIDDLE-ME

- a) Your left hand.
- b) Nothing.
- c) Mt Everest. Obviously it was the tallest even before it was discovered.