



THE CRYER!

u3a learn,
laugh
live

The voice of Dronfield and District u3a

Issue 122 January 2024

EDITORIAL

Morning and welcome to issue 122 of the Dronfield u3a newsletter. It's the start of January and time for New Year resolutions. Monday the 8th is 'Plough Monday' which marks the start of the agricultural year. Traditionally a time when plough boys should parade a decorated plough through the streets along with mummers and Morris dancers. Monday the 15th is 'Pothole Day'. There is nothing you can legally do about those annoying holes in the road as it's probably all the fault of the Romans. After all they invented roads and used a bed of clay as a base for them. Local potters would then make holes in the roads to get at the clay. Hence the name! So on to Wednesday 17th. A fortnight into the New Year and its 'Ditch those Resolutions Day'. It is the day to acknowledge your New Year's Resolutions were totally unrealistic, unworkable and totally pointless so just forget about them until next year. Read on and enjoy. (Jd) (Editor)

END OF THE YEAR QUIZ

Twenty questions based on events of 2023 that you may well have forgotten all about.



1. The New Year firework display in the harbour at Scarborough were cancelled because of the over night stop of which arctic visitor?
2. Jan. 10th - This day saw the release of the 'fastest selling nonfiction book of all time'. What was it?
3. Jan. 19th Rishi Sunak apologised for doing what in a moving car?
4. Jan. 28th - Which airline cancelled all flights into and out of the UK after it went into administration?
5. Feb 15th - saw the resignation of a northern political leader. Who was it?
6. Feb 21 - Which two stores were the first to limit the sales of some fruit and vegetables because of severe weather in Spain and North Africa?
7. Mar 10 - Which BBC presenter was banned from appearing due to their use of social media?
8. Mar 22 - DNA analysis of a composer's hair reveals he probably died of cirrhosis of the liver and hepatitis B, but does not explain his hearing problems.. Which composer was it?
9. Apr 12 - Who visited Northern Ireland to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement?
10. Apr 20 - What happened to the SpaceX Starship on its first test flight?



11. May 13 - What competition did Loreen from Sweden win?

12. Jun 9 - Who resigned his position after saying a committee was trying to 'drive me out' before their report was even published?

13. Jun 23 - With whom did the Arctic Monkeys and Guns 'n Roses headline at Glastonbury?

14. Jul 19 - A 14th century document asking for a day off is identified as the only known example of handwriting by which famous author and poet?

15. Jul 15 - The Czech left hander Marketa Vondrousova becomes the first unseeded player to win what?

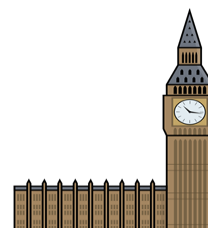
16. Aug 6 - She started as a doll in 1959 and today made more than a billion dollars at the global box office as a film. Who is she?

17. Sept 11 - A stolen painting, 'The Parsonage Garden at Nuen in Spring' (1884) is returned in an Ikea bag to an art detective. Who was the artist?

18. Oct 18 - Which climate activist was arrested at a demonstration outside an oil conference in London?

19. Nov 2 - Apple records released 'Now and Then' a final song by which group?

20. Nov 13 - Who made an unexpected shock return to the Parliament's cabinet?



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 - 10th JANUARY (10 - 12)

The speaker will be

Philip Caine

Barrow to Baghdad



Philip has spent thirty years travelling and working in difference places around the world.

Although the Speaker will be on Zoom, we are still unable to broadcast this to members at home due to ongoing technical difficulties. We apologise for any disappointment but will look forward to welcoming as many as can make it to come along in person.

MEETING - 14th FEBRUARY (10 - 12)

The speaker will be

Larry Richardson

High tech in ancient times

Early Civilisations achieved astonishing advances in technology and science, some of which have yet to be reproduced today.

Further details of the meeting will be available next month.

FROM THE COMMITTEE.

Announcements of Death.

The Committee have agreed that, if requested, and verified by a relative or close friend, a simple notice of death of a past or present Member can be published in The Cryer, but not an extended obituary.



Prospective Members

Prospective Members are welcome to attend a maximum of three meetings before needing to join our organisation to continue attending. This can be a combination of Monthly Meetings and/or Interest Group Meetings. We rely on them to adhere to this rule. If there was an incident that resulted in an insurance claim and a non-member was found to have abused this privilege, they may well find themselves uninsured and liable for any resulting costs.

ICE CARDS

Talking about incidents, if anyone does not yet carry an ICE (In Case of Emergency) card please contact our Membership Secretary, Phine Wright and get one. You never know when it might be needed.

Phine will be at the membership desk at the monthly meeting or you can contact her via membership@dronfieldu3a.org.uk or phone her on 01246 900201.

Julia Harris (Chair)

NEW YEAR INVITATION

New Year resolutions are really hard to keep, so I don't do this often. This time it's different, I'm sending an invitation to all DDu3a members, hoping to develop interest in someone becoming a new membership secretary.



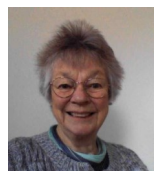
In October this year I reach the end of my very happy 3-year period and also the end of my time as a committee member/Trustee of the DDu3a. I'm convinced this is one of the best jobs a U3A member could have. It comes in two parts.

First there's the administrative element which is the computer (Beacon bit). This is strongly supported all the way, and is not at all daunting. The other part is the 'human' element. This is what brings you into contact with members and would-be members and is the most interesting bit.

How long does the job take? There's a fairly busy period in the spring around renewals. This centres around the actual April renewals meeting but is managed with the help of the very experienced 'Renewals Team'. Online renewals and online first time joining have also made the task easier. There are, of course, other 'Committee' tasks that fall to the lot of the Membership Secretary, but these are much better discussed face-to-face.

If you're at all interested, and here's the invitation, please contact me, in whatever way suits you, so we might meet. You'll find me at the regular monthly meetings, and my contact details are below. (I will, of course, provide support for the new membership secretary while they settle in.)

Thank you,
Kind regards and Happy New Year,
Phine Wright (membership secretary.)
T: 01246 900201 / M: 07890 921759
E: membership@dronfieldu3a.org.uk



DECEMBER EXTRAVAGANZA

The weather stayed fair, the coffee was hot and the pies had arrived. Decorations were up, seats arranged and table cloths plus decorations created the scene. Soon the members arrived, and almost everyone was in their seats by 09:55. It was just meant to be.



The challenge of seating the extra members of the Baptist Church Ukulele Group was quickly sorted, and the opening notes sounded out, promptly at 10 o'clock. It had similarities to an olden day music hall with loud, and sometimes tuneful singing from



every table. Whilst song sheets had been provided, most people remembered these songs from the sixties and seventies without need for referral. Isn't it strange that we can remember things from sixty years ago, but not where we left our keys and glasses this morning?

After the fun of this sing-a-long, time for some much-needed refreshments to restore the lubrication of the throats. Plus, mince pies and cake. Yet soon we were transported from the music hall to the lookalike set of Strictly Come Dancing. Not for a display of dances (although Celia Southern can perform a mean tap dance) but to listen to tables providing their own endings to cracker jokes.

Claudia (Celia) called out 'Enter the Judges', and who should appear but - Craig Revels Hourly, Mozzarella McBusty, Shirley Ballistic and Anton By 'eck! All dressed in their finest, and ready to pass judgement on the offerings.



Craig displayed his usual grumpy self, but did smile once, apparently, though I didn't see it. Mozzarella was all arm waving and cleavage, whilst Shirley

was mostly kind, with only a few withering put downs about the inability of some to spell properly (not to mention a lack of prepositions). So it was left to kind Anton to express his amazement at each joke, again, and again, and again. (Eventually Shirley said, 'Shush'). Each joke received marks, with totals entered on the leader board by the gorgeous Tess 'Likes-a-Baileys' Daly (Lyn Wood). Some said the adding up was like watching Countdown, but with a better looking host.

And finally, there was a chance for all the attendees to display their thespian qualities with the DDU3A unique version of 'Table Articulate'.

Each table member had to describe an object written on a piece of paper without using that written word. The rest of the table had, of course, to guess the word. The process was repeated as many times as possible in 30 seconds. I should have been surprised about how fast and loud some people can talk, but after thinking about previous monthly meetings, perhaps not.



All in all a brilliant time was had by one and all. Big thanks go to the many people who helped make this happen. And the spare mince pies were donated to The Green Nursing Home.

Steve Bradbury

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Here are the questions and answers to the Strictly quiz from the Christmas Party.

1. What are two octopuses who look the same called?

Ans - Identical.



2. What did mother Christmas say to Father Christmas?

Ans - It looks like reindeer

3. Why did the turkey join a rock band?

Ans - Because it had the drumsticks



4. What type of bike does Father Christmas ride?

Ans - Holly Davidson.

5. What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?

Ans - The elfabet.



6. What hides in a bakery?

Ans - A mince spy.

7. What do you get if you eat some Christmas Decorations?

Ans - Tinsilitus



8. What happened to the turkey at Christmas?

Ans- It got gobbled.

9. What famous playwright was terrified of Christmas?

Ans - Noel Coward



10. What do you get if you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Ans - Frostbite.

11. What happened to the man who stole the Advent calendar?

Ans - He got 25 days



12. Why was the snowman looking through the box of carrots?

Ans - Because he was picking his nose.

Celia Southern

OTHER CHRISTMAS PARTIES

At least three other DDU3a groups organised their own Christmas events this year. The members of the U3A Genealogy group met at New Leaf for their annual Christmas get together. It was a fairly quiet affair, though you would not have realised it as the acoustics in the New Leaf café would make a mouse tiptoeing across the floor sound like a herd of elephants stampeding through the building. Nonetheless, the group enjoyed themselves and had a chance to catch up.....with all they had been doing in the short while since their last meeting!!

(The photo was supplied by Ann Smith)



The Geography and History groups, for the second year running, held a joint party in the Edward Lucas Hall. The different members of the group put together an excellent spread which everyone enjoyed. The entertainment for the event began with a three part Olympic challenge. In groups the party goers were tasked with mastering three simple tasks.

The first task involved mastering a simple game of Tiddlywinks.



The second involved their observation skills with Pelmanism, a memory game involving a standard pack of cards.



While the third task challenged their mathematical capabilities with a simple Domino game called 'threes'.



Points were awarded for managing to achieve the required targets and prizes were awarded to the winning teams.

The last part of the event was a quiz advertised as 'The worst Christmas Quiz ever'.

With twenty questions such as -

a. Why did the chewing gum cross the road?
and

b. How many labels from one litre coke bottles stuck together would it take to make a standard sized sleeping bag?

- it lived up to expectations.

Nonetheless, a prize was granted to the winning team who remarkably nearly managed to correctly deduce 50% of the answers. It was an unusual Christmas event but everyone managed to survive it and go forth to enjoy their Christmas in a more traditional fashion.

Jed Stone (History)

For those of you with enquiring minds the chewing gum crossed the road because it was stuck to the chickens foot, and scientists have determined that it would take eighty five coke bottle labels to make a sleeping bag. (A history of the chicken joke is on the back page.)

All the questions in the quiz were found on the Internet. Some were factual but looked at from an odd perspective. Others had been investigated by scientists, probably on a Friday afternoon when killing time before going home. It was a quiz for lateral thinkers and those with a Monty Python sense of humour. Best avoided if at all possible.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Photo supplied by the Photography Group

GROUP INFORMATION

How about joining or forming some new groups in 2024?

Interest has been raised in starting a dog walking section - would you like to exercise your pooch (and yourself) with like minded u3a members? If so contact me to find out more.

Talking of exercise, a few members have asked about Pilates and other forms of keep fit classes so please get in touch to discuss further.

I'd also like to hear from any crafty people - card making, needlework, quilting and other arts & crafts would be great for folks looking to develop or share these skills.

Finally, if you have any ideas for interest groups not currently offered by DDu3a please let me know. Happy New Year

Terry Goodyear (Groups Manager)

ON LINE SAFETY



Cyber crime is all too common and it can catch you out if you are not careful. As I said last month, it can happen to you. Knowing that that is your first line of defence and it is also something that I shall probably keep repeating through out this series.



Last time I introduced phishing scams. This time I am going to look at a specific phishing scam. The scam that appears to come from a trusted source like the bank or even the police.

Session 2

If a man with a shotgun walked into your bank and demanded that the cashier handed over all the money in till, what would you expect the Bank Manager to do? Would he start ringing round all his customers to tell them that there was a robbery taking place and they had better call at the bank and remove their money sharpish before it was all stolen, or should he ring the police?



In a similar fashion if the police learn of a bank robbery are they likely to start ringing the bank's customers and offer to escort them to a cash machine so they can withdraw their money so it can be taken to the police station to keep it safe? Of course not! You would expect them to send at

least a squad car to the bank to try to arrest the robbers in the act.



When looked at in the cold light of day both ideas look ridiculous. Banks call the police. The police make an effort to apprehend the culprits. The customers are left out of the equation. However, scammers avoid the clear light of day. A phone call or an email that is unexpected, carries the mark of authority and appears to be a threat to your personal finances can be worrying enough to make you act without thinking. That is just what the scammer wants you to do. Act without thinking.

If you ever get an email or a phone call saying that there has been suspicious activity on your bank (or PayPal) account, **STOP and THINK!** A bank will never, ever ask you to provide them with your password or your account details or suggest that you move your money to a fresh account for 'safety reasons'.

Likewise the police will not make contact and claim that your bank account is no longer safe or suggest you have you move money around to keep your account safe. They also do not need your bank account details or cards to do their job.

As a case in point. There was a recent incident locally when a phone call came in from a withheld number. It came from the 'Fraud Squad' claiming that the householder's credit card had been cloned and money taken from their account. They sounded very convincing and said they had caught the perpetrator but needed the actual card for evidence. The card needed wrapping in silver foil to prevent it being cloned again and put in a sealed envelope. An officer would be sent round immediately to collect it. They hung up when the householder said not to bother they would take the card to the police station themselves!!



Scams come in all shapes and sizes. The official sounding ones can catch you unawares so in the words of Sergeant Phil Esterhaus, 'Let's be careful out there!'

Safeguarding Officer

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I tried every diet in the book I tried some that were not in the book. Then I tried eating the book and it tasted better than most of the diets."

Dolly Parton

WHAT A CRAZY YEAR 2023 WAS!

Well the presents have been un-wrapped. New Year's Resolutions for 2024 made ready to be broken and the Editor has sent his customary call for Cryer copy. So I've decided to do a brief review of the past year. Apologies to any readers who are fed up of the various pictures of stone walls, and views of the backs of one waller or another bent intently over a Derbyshire wall some where out in the wilds. The pictures don't always give any clue of who they are or what they are actually doing but we are the Peaky Wallers! It's what we do!



In walling terms 2023 began as it always does, in the Peak District, cold and damp but with an



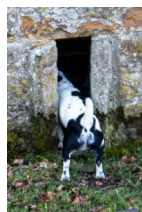
usually cheerful blue sky. To start the year, Tom Lewis and I formally welcomed Tom's terrier Mack to the Peaky Wallers as an Honorary Member and chief wall tester. Ex Matlock Town's record appearing footballer, Nick Tilly and Tom spent a lot of time remembering the good old days while walling and the Peaky

Wallers now have their own logo which is above.

The Spring gave us more blue skies and smiles. While Mack went looking for



Vermin, Trevor Back, Tom and Nick tackled quite a slope up towards Stanage Edge, Meanwhile Nicci Fowler and Tony Brown quickly learnt that first you have to find the stone. It doesn't come delivered.



In the summer, there was heat!! There were blue skies and fluffy clouds. (Not quite a French Mediterranean blue but it did mark the fact that it was summer.) For once Nicci hadn't got a coat on and new member Suzi O'Neill wondered "Where does the concrete (cement) go?".

The end of the year approached and it was off to France for the second time. There were the usual



arguments, "Did you pinch my stone Tony?", some real stone carving tuition from Ranger Matty Green and the inevitable not so walling suggestions, such as, "Let's visit Paris first



before we go to Noyers." Through it all though the French gained some real Derbyshire style stone walling and the lesson of 'Learn, Laugh and Live' (L L L) was left as a mark of our visit to Noyers - literally!!

That brings the year to a close for the Peaky Wallers with our skills being extended to include stone carving, well one go at it, but our efforts will be appearing at a doorway somewhere close by eventually. (A bit more practice is needed first.) No doubt 2024 will see us building and repairing more walls. This time we will be out towards Ashford in the Water so if you're walking in that area feel free to visit us.

Thank you to the whole team from Dronfield u3a dry stone walling group for putting up with my



"pushiness", for not being put off by the varying weather and lack of stone and flat walling sites. A big thank you to our hosts in France. We are available if you'll have us back. Finally to Tom

Lewis, Terry Page and Matty Grrenan from the National Park for their time, patience and giving of their expertise.

Mike Baker

PS. In last month's issue I mentioned our escape from French Police custody so here's the honest truth!

When we visited Noyers in November our first objective was to find somewhere for an evening drink after a hard day's walling. We managed to do so in a Pizza restaurant which served excellent bottled French beer (no draught unfortunately.) Knowing full well that we couldn't be late for dinner back at the chateau, we had to make the most of the available time and "get our round in". As time was of the essence we left to return but were pursued by a staff member who, in his best English, reminded us we hadn't paid for the last round. The bill was settled, an international incident avoided, no one ended up in jail and we were welcomed back by the restaurant and became quite the celebrities. Or was it a matter of, "Here come those English guys, make sure they pay!" Happy New Year everyone.

LOCAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH.

I have a friend who is indecisive but I can't decide whether to tell her or not. Perhaps it's catching, this indecisiveness? I don't know. *Jean Hearn*

OUR VAST ARRAY OF u3a GROUPS

On Boxing Day, I found I spent some time idly looking through back issues of the excellent 'Cryer' for the last year. It was amazing to discover how active our Dronfield U3a had been.

We are a relatively small group and need to advertise our presence, so earlier in the year, with a view to possibly increasing our membership numbers we had a stall at a Groups Fair that was held at the Civic Centre. At the annual Dronfield Gala we also had a U3a stand and the new banner was put on display. We were also represented at the Dronfield 2gether event at the Baptist Church.

At many of the monthly 'Open Meetings' on the second Wednesday of the month, there have been talks given by outside speakers, covering topics from humour to history. For example, one of the



speakers gave a talk on a *very valuable saw - that was a prized possession of the Kelham Island Museum. Turning to Geography other speakers have covered such subjects as the island of St.

Helena, in the Atlantic and the geography of the Scilly Isles.

There are also many different groups that our members could join. Most meet on set days of the month so that a routine is established. In the Geography Group, like so many others, our members' interests, skills and experiences are shared for the reciprocal benefit by members for others. Hence, for example, some will recount about a recent holiday they may have taken. In the Art Appreciation Group members may have researched on a particular artist or theme and then disseminated this information to others in the group.

Some groups, donning their outdoor shoes, venture out of our town for various reasons. The 'Dry Stone Wallers' travel distances to carry out their skills and the Walking Groups explore the countryside around us. The Garden Visits Group visit different gardens, each month, within about a fifty mile radius and Garden Growers share their knowledge of various plants and visit each others gardens,



I could mention the Scrabble and Canasta group or the various language groups but you only need to peruse the website to see the enormous variety



of groups and activities available throughout this last year. It is so gratifying to see that new groups are now springing up. including Ten Pin .Bowling a Short Mat Bowling group too and (for those of us who have fitness in mind) the new game of Pickleball or Line Dancing. Not forgetting our very well established International Folk Dance



So there you have it - do consider joining different groups (very few are filled to capacity) in order to get maximum enjoyment from your friendly U3a. Hoping that everyone has fun in 2024, exploring the various interests.

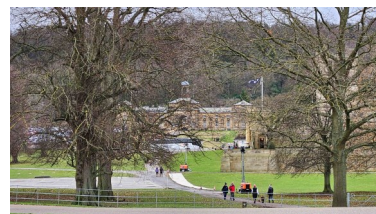
Ramsey Hertzog

STROLLERS

Our Strollers Group is growing!

A group of thirteen set off for our Christmas walk on 18th December. It was led by Dougie Wynn, and they went for a leisurely circular stroll through the Chatsworth Estate.

On a mild winter morning they started out from the



Baslow carpark. It's a beautiful walk at any time of year and this time - our second visit - we spotted two

herds of deer close by the track. We stopped for a coffee and a snack halfway, before walking back along the riverside.

Our walks take place on varying days of the week and more are being planned for January, weather permitting. We generally have sufficient car spaces for anyone requiring a lift and we keep in touch with each other via a WhatsApp group. So, if any members would like to join the Strollers Group or join us for a 'taster stroll', you can do so by first contacting Martin Horn at



walking@dronfieldu3a.org.uk.

The more, the merrier!

Graham Archer

WHY DID THE CHICKEN...?

"Why did the chicken cross the road?"



is what is known as a riddle joke. It is commonly seen as an example of anti-humour because of the way the joke is setup. It leads the listener to expect a traditional punchline, but instead they get a simple statement of fact. Over the years the joke has become iconic as a generic joke that everyone knows the answer to but is nevertheless, often repeated. It has been refreshed numerous times over the course of time.

The joke's origin is unknown but it was probably spread through the United States by minstrel shows in the 1840s and became one of the first national jokes. It's first written appearance seems to have been in an 1847 edition of a New York City monthly magazine called the 'The Knickerbocker'.
It read as -

"There are 'quips and quilllets' which seem actual conundrums, but yet are none. Of such is this: 'Why does a chicken cross the street?' Do you 'give it up?' Well, then: 'Because it wants to get on the other side!'"

(The first sentence translates as –"There are jokes and subtleties which seem to be a puzzle but are not")

Over the years many adaptations of the original riddle joke have been developed. Most are set up in a similar fashion to the original. Some provide an alternative punchline such as -

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Ans - Because it was too far to walk around.

Some variations use another creature or animal instead of the chicken but still refer back to the original version. Two examples are

Why did the duck cross the road?

Ans - Because it was the chicken's day off.

Why did the dinosaur cross the road?

Ans - Because chickens don't exist yet.

Another version is both a pun and a reference to the original joke.

Why did the duck cross the road?

Ans - To prove he's no chicken".

Other variations replace the word 'side' with another word often to form a pun. Two further examples are -

"Why did the chicken cross the playground?"

Ans - To get to the other slide."

"Why did the whale cross the ocean?"

Ans - To get to the other tide.

Finally, if we join the chicken joke with the equally well known 'Knock Knock' joke that also has many variations we have -

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Ans - To get to the idiot's house.

...Knock! Knock!"

("Who's there?")

"The chicken."

Editor

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 - Thor the Walrus stopped off at the harbour on his way home.
2. Prince Harry's memoir 'Spare' went on sale and sold fast.
3. Rishi Sunak removed his seat belt to film a social media clip. He received a fixed penalty notice the following day.
4. Flybe cancelled all its flights.
5. Nicola Sturgeon resigned as First Minister of Scotland.
6. Asda and Morrisons limited the sales of fruit and vegetables because severe weather had affected the foreign harvests.
7. Gary Lineker was temporarily removed from Match of the Day.
8. It was Ludwig van Beethoven's DNA that was examined.
9. US President Joe Biden travelled to Northern Ireland.
10. The rocket exploded four minutes into the flight.
11. Loreen won the Eurovision song contest in Liverpool singing 'Tattoo'.
12. Boris Johnson resigned before he could be 'pushed'.
13. Elton John also headlined at Glastonbury.
14. The famous author and poet was Geoffrey Chaucer.
15. Marketa Vondrousova won the Women's Singles title at Wimbledon.
16. Barbie was the doll and the 'Barbie' film was a runaway success.
17. Vincent van Gogh was the artist.
18. The activist arrested was Greta Thunberg.
19. The song was by The Beatles. It reached number 1 fifty four years after their last single made the top spot.
20. David Cameron made a surprise return to become Foreign Secretary.

