



# THE CRYER!

u3a learn,  
laugh  
live

The voice of Dronfield and District u3a

Issue 125 April 2024

## EDITORIAL

Morning and welcome to issue 125 of the Dronfield u3a newsletter. Since Roman times, festivals at the end of March have celebrated the Vernal Equinox, the arrival of spring and the start of the New Year. Then, in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian Calendar which set the the start of the New Year to January 1st. In France, those who were slow to adapt to the new arrangement and continued to celebrate April as the first month of the year were called 'poisson d'avril' (April Fish). This symbolised young, easily caught fish (or in this case gullible persons) and they often had a paper fish secretly stuck to their backs. It became the French version of our April Fool's Day. It is now a little late to start cutting out paper fish so I suggest you just read on and enjoy (Jd) (Editor)



## CLIMATE MATTERS

Where does our Burgundy bin recycling go?



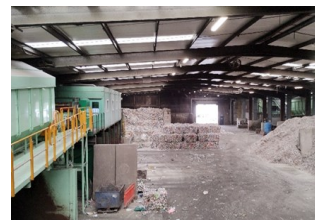
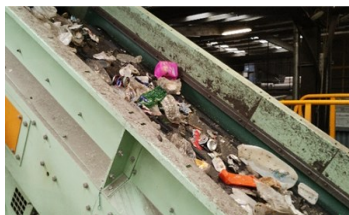
Seven of our Climate Matters group recently visited the HW Martin recycling plant at Somercotes.

Once attired in hard hats and Hi-Vis vests we were given an introduction by Stacey and then shown around by Inga, who joined the company as a line picker in 2007 and is now the Site Operations Manager.

The site operates 24 hours 365 days a year, with three shifts of about 25 people - pickers, loader operators, baler operators, engineers and technicians. It is busiest in January and takes recycling from about seven local authorities and commercial contracts.

We watched from above the site floor as the materials were emptied into hoppers then through a large tumbler machine the size of a bus which breaks up glass which is separated through screens. The remainder goes up conveyor belts where further separation of materials occurs.

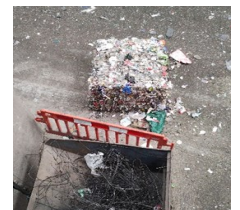
Articles such as card, paper, plastic milk and water bottles, as well as steel and aluminium tins are diverted to different bays. Some are removed using camera sensors and air jets, others by magnets. In the final sorting operatives pick items manually. It was, overall, quite noisy but not too smelly.



Food residue in containers such as pizza cartons, nappies, and soft plastics such as crisp packets are a problem. These materials are ground into pellets for incineration producing heat and energy. Mattresses are stripped down by hand and all the fillings, cloth and metals are recycled. Some jobs don't sound too pleasant!

We then went outside to look at the clean and dirty glass bays where we spotted small items such as Lego bricks, a ping pong ball, a Barbie doll's arm, AA batteries, tops of wine bottles with metal screw caps, and a disposable cigarette lighter. These items will be sent elsewhere to be recycled.

Sorted bales are sold to customers, 80% stays in the UK, and the price depends on quality and market conditions. Paper and card are transferred to their Leeds depot. They want to remove the word WASTE from signs as there is money to be made when it's sold as a raw material.



We have heard that items are put in the recycling bins by parcel delivery drivers but retrieving items is not possible – apparently a wedding dress was not found despite an effort to locate it.

We found it an informative visit which made us think about putting the correct items in our bins.

The next question is what happens to our black bin waste and the large recycling skips from Stonegravels and other recycling sites?

Steve Pyke (group coordinator)

## 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 APRIL (10 - 12)

There will be no speaker this month as it is the Groups' Fair and Renewal meeting. There will be representatives from all our interest groups ready to promote their groups and encourage new members to consider joining their group. It will be an ideal opportunity to invite a friend, neighbour or ex-work colleague to see all that DDU3a has to offer.



The membership fee for 2024/5 will remain the same as last year - £15 per person. As usual the Membership Team will be on hand to answer any queries and help you renew your membership if you have not already done so. Tea and coffee will be available as always so it should be a good time to mingle and have a chat.

### MEETING - 8th MAY (10 - 12)

The Speaker will be  
Danny Wells on

Joseph Paxton (1803 - 1865)

Joseph Paxton - the busiest man in England.  
The designer of gardens, conservatories, parks,  
houses and much more.



## FROM THE COMMITTEE.

### LOCAL GALAS

We usually have a stall at Dronfield Gala but when we contacted the Council in March to find out why we hadn't received an invite we were advised it was fully booked at the end of January. We are therefore taking the opportunity to spread our wings and have a stall at Coal Aston's Gala on Saturday 6th July instead and Dronfield Barn's Arts Festival on the weekend of 22nd/23rd June. Please put these dates in your diary and if you are able to help 'man' either stall for an hour (or two), we'd love to hear from you.



*Julia Harris (Chair)*

\*\*\*\*\*

### DDU3a's 10th Birthday Celebrations.

All members are warmly invited to celebrate our 10th Birthday at Coal Aston Village Hall on Saturday 10th August.



The event will run from 2 - 5pm, with Sheffield's *Bus Pass Buskers* playing from 3 - 4pm.

There will be no charge but you will need to pre-book, from the June Monthly Meeting onwards.

On the day there will be a cream tea, a range of *garden fete* games and the opportunity to have a go at Crown Bowls. A photo quiz and a TV quiz will be available for you to enjoy at your leisure, along with a rolling Power-point presentation that will be encapsulating our first 10 years. Groups will also be again invited to showcase their groups so you can see what is available.

We are hoping to run a free raffle with prizes donated by local businesses, but we need your help. If you have a contact in your favourite pub/ restaurant or local butcher/baker/hairdresser/ garden centre etc or would be willing to ask them to see if they could provide a prize/gift voucher from their business for our raffle please email

[chair@dronfieldu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@dronfieldu3a.org.uk)

or phone 01246 900201 with offers so we can coordinate our efforts. No prizes - no raffle.



Many thanks.

*Julia Harris (Chair)*

\*\*\*\*\*

### ADVERTISING OUTSIDE EVENTS

Apologies for contradicting what was said in last month's newsletter but on further discussion, the Exec has agreed that at our Monthly meetings members are able to share information about non u3a events that they believe may be of interest to the general membership. This may be done provided that the subject matter is -

- 1) Run by the Chair before the meeting starts.
- 2) The matter is **not** about a fundraising event for another charity.
- 3) It is brief.

If a Group Coordinator wishes to give such a notice on behalf of their group, they are welcome to do so. Again please speak to the Chair before the meeting begins.

*Julia Harris (Chair)*

## RIDDLE-ME-REE

- 1) What has eyes but cannot see?
- 2) What has legs but cannot walk?
- 3) What has hands but cannot clap?
- 4) What has teeth but cannot bite?
- 5) What kind of band never gets to play music?
- 6) What is cut on a table but never eaten?



## NATIONAL u3a LEARNING EVENTS

### Free Online Talks and Events in April 2024

Here's a selection of Zoom talks this month:

*Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 10am:*  
**Milestones in Aviation**

*Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2pm:*  
**From Pleasure Gardens to Theme Parks**

*Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 3.30pm:*  
**An Introduction to AI Chatbots**

*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2pm:*  
**Electing the President in 2024 – an update**

*Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2pm:*  
**The Arts and Crafts Designs of May Morris**

Visit [www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events) to register for these and more events.



## TRAVEL ON DEMAND

Travel Derbyshire is a bookable bus service that covers the Borough of Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and the District of Bolsover. It doesn't have a fixed time table and the routes it takes and its destinations are planned to suit the requirements of its passengers. For this reason journeys need to be planned and booked in advance. Bookings can be made up to seven days ahead. Early bookings will obviously be prioritised over any made on the day of travel.



The service operates Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm and on Saturday 8am to 5 pm. There is no operation on Sundays or Public Holidays. but you can use your 'Gold Card' to travel on it.

To book a seat it is a simple matter of a phone call or you can use the 'Travel Derbyshire on Demand' app. You can specify your pick up and drop off time and they will try to meet your request. You will get a text message when the bus is ten minutes away.



For further details or to sign up for the service call 01773 317173. or check out the website at

[www.roadxs.com/travel-derbyshire-on-demand](http://www.roadxs.com/travel-derbyshire-on-demand)

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1944 it was worked out that if you added the birth year, age, year they took office and number of years in power of Churchill, Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin the figure reached in each case was 3888. This was double 1944 therefore the war would end as it started on September 3rd 1944..... It Didn't.

## TRIPS AND VISITS

Thank you for your continued support of the Trips and Visits group. We sold all the seats for our May day trip to Chester within half an hour so the coach is now full. It will soon be time for our first day trip to Beverley and Hull on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April. I will send an e-mail to all members who are going on the trip about a week before we go.



The next day-trip after Chester to book a place for



is Knaresborough and Harrogate on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Tickets for it will be on sale at the April U3A meeting. The price is £14.00 and the coach departs from

outside Dronfield Sports Centre at 9.00am.

I had an enquiry from one member about whether there are any toilets on the Ellenders coach which we use for our day trips. Unfortunately there is no toilet on this coach. However, Chris Ellender our driver usually makes a toilet stop about halfway through our journey on the way there and on the way back for anyone who wishes to go to the toilet.

If anyone else has any queries about our day trips please do not hesitate to contact me. My e-mail address is - [ddu3atrips](mailto:ddu3atrips) and [visits@gmail.com](mailto:visits@gmail.com)

*Glenys Sharman (Co-ordinator)*

## GARDENING GROWERS GROUP

You are invited to a talk by a local nurseryman on

**“Coping with Extremes in Your Garden”**

Our changing climate could have an impact on the way we garden. As our climate becomes more unpredictable, gardeners face the challenge of dealing with extreme weather conditions. Whether it's scorching heat, frosty cold, or heavy rainfall, there are strategies to help your garden thrive. Delve with us into this topic.



\*\*\*\*\*

The Gardening Growers Group are inviting all u3a members to this talk. It will be held on Monday 22 April, from 2pm to 4pm in the Fred Hopkinson Memorial Hall, Crow Lane Unstone S18 4AL.

Admission is £2 and refreshments will be provided. For further Information contact please contact Gill at - [growers@dronfieldu3a.org.uk](mailto:growers@dronfieldu3a.org.uk)

*Gill Middleton (GG Coordinator)*

## FAREWELL TO A WALLER

It's always sad to say goodbye to a member, particularly one who has been with us for some time and unfortunately, after over 4 years, Ian Mateer is leaving the walling group. He and his wife, Michelle, are moving further north to live in Westmoreland & Furness in Northern Lancashire, a bit far away for a monthly trip to the Peak District for stone walling. We have tried to persuade him to set up a new u3a walling group close to the Lake District so they can become the world's SECOND u3a dry stone walling group after us. We have even offered to come and help to show them the ropes as we understand there may already have some walls up there that need fixing.



Our pictures (with thanks to Martin Horn) show Ian in "action" fixing a wall at Ridgeway Side on the North Lees Estate near Hathersage recently with

other members of the Group. In the second picture they are repairing a semi circular wall around a tree on another site near by.

As we meet on separate days, Tuesdays and Thursdays each month, it is unusual for the two groups to meet up. We took the opportunity before Xmas therefore to gather at the Bike and Boot in the Hope Valley to celebrate.



Whether it was "Xmas spirit" or not, I got the bill wrong and we had too much in the kitty. We invested the overspend in Premium Bonds and one of the possible winners could be Ian should we be lucky. We've promised him his share (honestly) if we "come up trumps" but he's been told he'll have to come back to the Peak District to collect his winnings.

We wish Michelle and Ian all the very best in their new home and don't forget "good walls make good neighbours".

*Mike Baker (group coordinator)*

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"I am not offended by any 'Dumb Blonde Jokes' because I know I am not dumb...I also know I'm not blonde. *Dolly Parton*

## FESTIVALS AND CARNIVALS

My dictionary defines festivals as celebrations, merry-making, periodic musical, events and other performances of special importance. With so much gloom pervading at present our members were looking forward to an illustrated talk by Sheila and Steve Pyke, covering various European festivals and carnivals they had encountered over recent years.



At a garden festival in the Loire Valley in France, our speakers were somewhat surprised to witness teachers explaining to pupils the finer points of some

erotic exhibits. In the Netherlands they visited the incredible tulip gardens at Keukenhof. They also watched a parade consisting of twenty large floats and cars festooned with multi-coloured tulips, travelling on a route that is 40 kilometres long and takes 12 hours! One float portrayed a man, seated in an armchair reading his paper.

In the Netherlands they visited another very popular festival named Floriade. This only takes place every ten years and each time is located in a different part of the country, on land which is to be developed.



Exhibits are on show from many other countries and when they visited it was the turn of the Russians. In 2014 a visit was made to the Spanish



city of Cordoba in May to enjoy the Patio Festival, where you can go into the gardens in domestic courtyards.

A year or so later they went to the Milan Expo. Expos are held in a different country around the world every five years. Some of the Italian residents complained of possible corruption relating to the event but the entrance fee of about €30 was well worth it. Part of the site, once cleared, is to be the HQ for Astra Zenica.

Over the years they have attended many Mardi Gras carnivals in Portugal, Madeira and Mallorca. As well as decorated floats there are



people in elaborate costumes, many doing synchronised dance routines. These processions can take as long as 3 hours to pass.

The fascinating talk finished with references to various English festivals such as one of the annual bonfire processions held around Lewes in East Sussex. Nearer home in Barlow there is the annual procession through the Main Street featuring the Red Barrows Display Team, and in the Yorkshire Dales there is the Scarecrow Festival in Kettlewell.



*Ramsey Hertzog*

## SCAM HOUND

Scam Hound has been out and about and detected several scams that have been trending this month.



The first is the old fake delivery scam. EVRi is the new Hermes delivery service. The scammers are sending out emails saying that you have a failed EVRi delivery and need to reschedule a delivery. Don't click on either the 'Reschedule delivery' or the 'Open here' tracking button. They will take you to the scammers website where they can steal your bank details. (THINK! Were you really expecting a delivery?)

Another scam doing the rounds is a fake McAfee impersonation email. McAfee sell antivirus protection for your computer. The fake email claims to be an 'URGENT REMINDER' that your internet protection is about to expire and you will lose your antivirus protection if you don't renew immediately. Again clicking on the button will take you to the scammers web site so you can give them your bank details. If you don't use McAfee ignoring this is no problem. If you do, check your renewal date and if necessary contact them directly.

There is also an ITVX offer doing the rounds you definitely can afford to miss. It is offering an ITV X streaming service for a subscription of only £2 a year! It's a limited offer and best to avoid if you wish to keep your bank details safe.

Finally, beware of the advert saying Lidl broke its contract with SMEG and is having to sell off its stock of SMEG kettles, worth £130, for the special price of £3 with free shipping! It's a scam! If it looks too good to be true it probably isn't true.

**'Lets be careful out there!' Scam Hound**

## THE SPAGHETTI HARVEST

In 1957 the current-affairs programme Panorama, ran a special report from the canton of Ticino in southern Switzerland. The report was voiced over by the respected broadcaster Richard Dimbleby and showed a family harvesting spaghetti from the family "spaghetti tree".



Picking spaghetti

They were gathering a bumper harvest after a mild winter and the virtual disappearance of the, spaghetti weevil" it was claimed. Footage of a traditional "Harvest Festival" was aired along with a discussion of the breeding programme necessary to develop a strain that would produce the perfect length of spaghetti.

At the time spaghetti was relatively unknown in the UK. Many people were unaware that it is made from wheat flour and water. It was not an everyday food and it was known mainly because of tinned spaghetti in tomato sauce. At the time, this was considered by many to be an exotic delicacy.

An estimated eight million people watched the programme when it was broadcast on 1 April 1957, and hundreds phoned in the following day to question the authenticity of the story or ask for more information about spaghetti cultivation and how they could grow their own spaghetti trees. The BBC told the latter to "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best".

The 'April Fool' was set up by the Panorama cameraman Charles de Jaeger who dreamed it up after remembering how teachers at his school in Austria teased his classmates for being so stupid that if they were told that spaghetti grew on trees they would believe it. Richard Dimbleby's voice over gave the three minute hoax authenticity.

The main scenes were filmed at the (now closed) Pasta Foods factory on London Road, St Albans, in Hertfordshire and at a hotel in Canatagonia in Switzerland.

## GARDEN VISITS

*'The Manchester and Derby Mail and other coaches pass within a mile of the house. The scenery and the views are beautiful, the situation high and dry, the water plentiful and the drainage complete. Buxton, Chatsworth, and Matlock are within easy travelling distances.'*

(The Times, 17<sup>th</sup> December 1856)

Where might this fairly local property be? The answer is Thornbridge Hall which was the location for our visit to view the gardens in March.



In the 1900's the owner, George Marples, bought the surrounding land, built cottages and as well as enlarging the existing house, landscaped the park and gardens.

We gained access via a new road created during the recent Covid period and enjoyed sustenance at the new 'Quakers Restaurant'. There are over thirteen acres of formal gardens and many of the statues and fountains were installed around 1930 when the then owner, Charles Boot, head of the



Sheffield based building firm, removed artifacts from the large derelict house in Clumber Park. Walking through a stone tunnel we admired the immaculate Italian

Garden with its clipped border hedges enclosing high Juniper trees.

Walking downwards some members enjoyed the sun whilst sitting on conveniently placed seats. Here we could chat with a gardener who was strimming the tops of dead reeds beside the Koi Lake. A few plucky members crossed a narrow, single stone, bridge which had no handrail, to access the Cascade Garden, recently renovated. Here there was the peaceful sound of a waterfall surrounded by Rhododendron trees with buds just ready to burst into flower.



The gardens are open daily, and they are well worth visiting to view the many plants flowering through the different seasons. Our April visit is to the Renishaw Hall, well known for their formally laid out gardens. The Camellias will hopefully, be in full bloom.

**Ramsey Hertzog**

## TEN PIN BOWLING



Ten Pin Bowling is a social event with a little light exercise thrown in. The 'Lane Rangers' (our Ten Pin Bowling group) meets at the Chesterfield Bowl once a fortnight for a couple of hours of bowling and a chat.

Each session is logged and the results recorded in a simple league. The league chart below shows the highest and lowest scores achieved, individual handicaps and the resulting league scores.

(Nom-de-plumes are used to protect the innocent.)

As 'actively retired' we bowl at a reduced rate. We're part of the 'tea and teacake' brigade. Two games and a cup of tea and a tea-cake to finish off the session. Newbie bowlers are always welcome.

LANE RANGERS - BOWLING LEAGUE				
Name	Low	High	HC	Score
Strike Wizard	115	139	66	202
Bowl Dozer	88	141	81	201
Lane Lizard	87	138	99	199
Pin Panther	67	111	95	199
Pin Pirate	76	80	119	196
Gutter Demon	58	74	129	195

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



### HUMOUR IN PHOTOGRAPHY

*Pat Robins.*

## RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS

- 1) A potato has eyes.
- 2) A table or a chair.
- 3) A clock has hands.
- 4) A comb has teeth.
- 5) A rubber band can't play music.
- 6) A pack of cards can be cut on a table but it cannot be eaten.

