

# THE MAGAZINE

**u3a**  
learn, laugh, live

## Market Drayton



Pezenas - Market Drayton's twin town

*The Spring Issue*  
2024

# Market Drayton u3a Committee Members 2023-2024

## Executive Committee

<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	Alan Cartwright
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Phillip Glover
<b>TREASURER</b>	Andy Shearer
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b>	Judy Cowdale
<b>PROGRAMME SECRETARY</b>	Kevin Read-Jones
<b>'THE MAGAZINE' EDITORS</b>	John & Viv McVittie
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Jacqui Wright
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Sue Walker

## Other Roles

<b>WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Jill Glover
<b>NETWORK CO-ORDINATOR</b>	Jill Glover

Please note that the Committee is always on the lookout for new Members. Our Chairperson and Secretary complete their 3-year terms of office in September. Please consider how you could help Market Drayton u3a grow and put your name forward. A form for this is included on the page advising of the next AGM on September 19th 2024.

## **Newsletter**

I hope you are keeping well.

There is temptation to feel fairly complacent about the way in which Market Drayton u3a is going at the moment. All our special interest groups appear to be doing well - the sole exception being the Mediumship group which has sadly come to an end for the moment due to dwindling attendance - and we have a strong line up of speakers at our monthly Festival Drayton Centre meetings thanks to our Programme Secretary, Kevin Read-Jones, and his predecessor, Colin Barthorpe. Although we still have to get back to our pre-pandemic level we have also got a pretty healthy number of members, with quite a few newcomers having joined us in recent months.

Fortunately the Committee is aware of the risks that arise with complacency and committee members are currently working on both providing better support to all convenors and members, and ensuring the Group's continued growth. You can help, of course, by spreading the word about our organisation and the benefits of being a member.

Incidentally, as we have said in the past, the fact that we have a good range of special interest groups doesn't mean we don't have room for more. Most of our neighbouring u3a Groups have at least one language group and it would be great if we could reintroduce something along those lines, with a German group having had a lot of success in our early days. And as we've always stressed you don't have to be an expert on a chosen subject to become a convenor, just interested enough to get a group up and running.

Please note that Judy Cowdale has recently volunteered to be the main contact between the Committee and all the convenors.

Sadly there have got to be a few Committee changes at the end of this programme year. Under our constitution, which is based on the national model approved by the Third Age Trust, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, are all required to step down after three years service. As a consequence Phil Glover and I will cease being the Secretary and Chair of Market Drayton u3a at this year's AGM, hopefully paving the way for two newcomers. So, in addition to our continuing search for volunteers to help support the Group and Committee we are currently looking for two members who can take us forward. Please don't hesitate to come forward if you feel you might be interested in taking on either of the two vacancies. Thankfully, Andy Shearer will be continuing as your treasurer until the end of 2024 - 2025.

On a personal note I would like to thank Viv and John McVittie for taking on the responsibility for editing The Magazine. Producing it has been an enjoyable challenge for me over recent years and I am glad to see it in safe hands.

All the best for the coming months,

Alan Cartwright

Chair of Market Drayton u3a

## Where does the all money go?

A brief explanation of where your membership fee actually goes, and how we budget this income.

We have +/-200 members at the time of writing so all the calculations are based on 200 and the figures are rounded to the nearest 10p. For 2023-24 we were obliged to increase the annual membership fee to £16, from the £12 it had been since anyone could remember. This provides an income of £3200.

At this point in our financial year the costs and expenses quoted are all for budgeting purposes, apart from the membership subscription to the Third Age Trust (Trust) which is currently fixed at £4, so any of the other charges and costs could increase with little or no notice.

	Total £	Per head
First up is the membership subscription to the Trust, based on the number of our members.	800.00	4.00
Next comes the cost of our regular monthly meetings. Our guest speaker fees vary, but the average is £90. We hold 8 meetings.	720.00	3.60
Then there's the amount which Festival Drayton Centre (FDC) charge us for the room hire and refreshments. We plan for our eight monthly meetings, plus our AGM.	860.00	4.30
There are also plans to hold a social event in July – yet to be arranged. We have budgeted £200 for this.	200.00	1.00
Publicity materials (displays to promote membership growth).	100.00	0.50
Then there are a number of smaller, but essential costs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination fee for the year-end accounts</li> <li>• Affiliation fee to the Shropshire Network</li> <li>• Cultural Event at the FDC</li> <li>• Post and stationery</li> <li>• Convenors meeting</li> <li>• Third Age Matters magazines and adjustment fee from 2022-23</li> <li>• Wreath for Remembrance Day.</li> </ul>	220.00	1.10
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2900.00</b>	<b>14.50</b>

So you can see that this leaves a forecast 'surplus' of £1.50/head or £300 in total for contingencies.

However, we must also be mindful of the Trust's guidelines which state that we should try to maintain a reserve of c 50% of our income – in our case that's £1600. We carried over £1392 from 2022-23, so the £300 should keep us in line with the recommendations.

Andy Shearer (Treasurer)

**MARKET DRAYTON u3a**

**NOTIFICATION OF AGM**

**2.00pm Thursday 19th September 2024 at**

**THE FESTIVAL DRAYTON CENTRE**

**Annual Subscription £16.00**

**Election of Committee Members  
and  
Sign up for Special Interest Groups**

**NOMINATION FORM FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>

**Please return the completed form to:  
Mr. Alan Cartwright, Pine Trees, Buntingsdale Road, Market Drayton, TF9 1LT**

## STRAIGHT FROM THE CENTRE

*The test of an enjoyment is the remembrance which it leaves behind.*

Logan Pearsall Smith

Note from the editors:

We hope that those of you who have attended the monthly meetings at the Festival Drayton Centre over the last few months have enjoyed our speakers. Many thanks to both Colin Barthorpe and Kevin Read-Jones ( the previous and current programme secretaries) for providing us with such a varied and entertaining line up. Here are the highlights:

### **The Red Cross 19th October 2023**

Speakers are booked well in advance for these meetings. They are contacted nearer the time to make the final arrangements. On this occasion it proved to be a baptism of fire for our new programme secretary, Kevin. The speaker who had been booked over a year before had retired. So our thanks go out to Kevin and the Red Cross for sorting things out and to **Jayne Owens** for interrupting her holiday and travelling a considerable distance to step in. Jayne is the community legacy manager for Central England, but she provided us with an enlightening and at times emotional talk on the history, structure and work of the Red Cross, internationally and at home.

We learnt that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement started in 1863 and was inspired by Swiss businessman Henry Dunant. The Red Cross emblem is the reverse of the Swiss Flag.

Dunant witnessed the suffering of thousands of men on both sides of the Battle of Solferino in 1859 with many being left to die due to lack of care. He proposed creating national relief societies, made up of volunteers, trained in peacetime to provide neutral and impartial help to relieve suffering in times of war. He also proposed that countries adopt an international agreement, which would recognise the status of medical services and of the wounded on the battlefield. This agreement – the original Geneva Convention – was adopted in 1864.

The British Red Cross was formed in 1870. Originally called The British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, it gave aid and relief to both men from sides during the Franco-Prussian War under the protection of the red cross emblem. In 1905 the society was renamed as the British Red Cross. It is now part of a world wide movement consisting of 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). These groups are bound together by seven fundamental principles, proclaimed in Vienna 1965 as a result of 100 years of experience: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary service, Unity and Universality.

Jayne explained: How the International Red Cross works behind the scenes, being neutral and not visible, to coordinate what happens on the ground in a war zone or other crisis where international support is needed; how different countries specialise in different areas of relief such as sanitation or providing shelter; how difficult it can be for volunteers to remain impartial but that they must. She illustrated her point by telling the story of her

friend who, when in Syria, had to watch as first aiders treated a bomber before a child because his injuries were more severe.

She also talked about how the British Red Cross works at home providing cost of living support, mobility support, refugee services, emergency support, provision of free mental health resources, international services, and first aid training.

Regarding supporting the Red Cross, Jayne explained why cash is so important to the aid they provide. When clothes, bedding etc', are donated in an emergency the response is always amazing but goods need sorting here, transporting and then sorting and distributing at their destination. Cash can be used to buy exactly what is need as near to the incident as possible. Donating goods to Red Cross charity shops so the cash is constantly coming in is generally a better way of helping.

At the end of the talk we were all very moved and surprised that Jayne didn't have a collection box. A carrier bag was found and in addition to the speakers fee, £84 was collected.

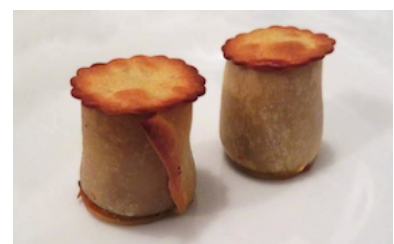
## Market Drayton Town Twinning Association 16th November 2023

For our November meeting we were treated to two speakers, **Carol Hitchens** and **Alison Bates**, who told us of the background to the Town Twinning Movement and of the strong links formed between Market Drayton and citizens of Pézenas, in the Languedoc region of Southern France.

Le Mans in France and Paderborn in Germany formed an association as early as 836AD but the modern concept of twin towns began in the 20th century, blossoming after the second world war and with the development of the European Union. The social aims of the movement are to learn about each other's way of life and to help avoid conflict. Cultural, business, educational, sporting and other recreational links have grown from this and are often cemented by the formal signing of an agreement between representatives of the two towns.

Pezenas is a small market town with a population of about 8000. The main occupation is agriculture, especially in grapes, olives and honey. It is a historical settlement with medieval warm yellow stone architecture and an artisan culture. The French playwright, Moliere led a troupe of players in the area in about 1650.

Carol and Alison told us that the link with Pezenas can be explained by the fact that Robert Clive (of India), born in Market Drayton, went there to convalesce in 1768. Whilst there he introduced the locals to his favourite snack - coffyn pie filled with mutton, spices and fruit and said to originate from Market Drayton but probably strongly influenced by his time in India. Pezenas took to it and developed their own version, Le Petit Pâté de Pezenas, a golden crisp pastry with a moist sweet filling of lamb, sugar, lemon, salt and pepper. It is still a favoured product of Pezenas and patisseries throughout the town make it and it is celebrated by the Confrérie du Pâté de Pezenas, formed in 1991 to promote and defend the dish.



In 1989 a banquet celebrating Clive of India was held at Goldstone Hall and the following year a group from Market Drayton visited Pezenas taking with them examples of Shropshire food and wine. Other visits ensued and in 1995 an agreement was signed linking the towns. In 1998 a group of children from Pezenas visited Grove school. In 2000 a group from Pezenas presented Market Drayton with a weather vane in the shape of 'Poulain' (an ancient type of pantomime horse which is a symbol of Pezenas) which now sits on top of our Town Hall.

This led to a series of biennial visits between representatives of the two towns and friendships were formed and business connections made. In 2015 a 20th anniversary celebration was held at Goldstone Hall but the advent of Covid in 2020 threatened to disrupt the visits and jeopardise the link. The MD Town Twinning Association were delighted when visits could start again in 2023 and the Mayor of Pezenas and his wife visited Market Drayton for the Ginger and Spice Festival in September. The Town Twinning Association are working hard to develop the links further and are planning to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the partnership in 2025.

## **New Orleans to New York 18th January 2024**

I originally thought (along with several other members I have spoken to) that this talk was going to be about a road trip. I was then told it was about jazz music and I wasn't sure if, personally, that made it more or less appealing. It turned out to be an amazing talk charting the story of slaves, singing and making music in the 'Deep South' to the making of hit shows on Broadway. The whole story was illustrated and brought alive by Roger's amazing piano playing. If you missed this talk you missed a treat and that's not just my opinion.

Our speaker was **Roger Browne**; actor, singer, speaker, musician, director, composer, writer and jazz pianist. Roger began by giving us an introduction to his musical background. He grew up in Salford in the 1940s. He remembered growing up surrounded by music, listening to music on the radio and at the bandstands in the local parks. By the age of 4 he was entering talent competitions, often singing songs by Al Jolson, whose music he particularly enjoyed. His singing career ended at the age of eight. Having performed ten of his Jolson favourites at Salford Central Mission, as the last winner to get to choose a prize, Roger was awarded a token for a Toni perm. Not impressed, he decided to retire from singing and talent shows and focus on playing piano. He joined his first band at the age of 15 and, as a jazz pianist, he has accompanied many top International and UK based jazz artists.

Roger carried on to enlighten us as to how the Twelve Bar Blues developed from the work and spiritual songs of the African Americans along with other influences in the Southern United States. He explained how the faster Ragtime eg. Scott Joplin's 'The Entertainer' developed and how the speed it was played got faster and faster at rent parties. At these, the pianist only got paid after the host had raised enough money to pay his rent. The faster the pianist played the more money got thrown in the hat and the bigger the cut he would get.

Roger described how Jazz had its roots in Blues and Ragtime and how music was subjected to many influences and continued to develop in America. Moving north from New Orleans to New York, Broadway shows were originally variety shows, the acts and



music being linked by a usually flimsy story. Before recorded music, people could only hear music if they attended a show or sung and played the music at home. Popular songs would comprise of simple tunes and words because they had to be easy to learn.

Companies producing sheet music for popular songs began to increase in number, particularly on West 28th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues in the Flower District of Manhattan which became known as Tin Pan Alley. The name referred to the cacophony of sounds emanating from cheap pianos in the many music shops. Many of the publishers, musicians and song writers were Jewish immigrants and they continued to have a strong influence on the development of the American music industry.

Roger explained that the first real Modern Musical on Broadway was 'Show Boat' which opened in 1927. It was the first musical to provide a cohesive plot and initiate the use of music that was integral to the narrative. Combining dancing, choruses, toe-tapping melodies, and huge spectacle with a strong plot and plausible characters, the story of a travelling showboat that plays to audiences along the Mississippi River, it focused on serious subjects such as racial injustice, alcoholism and abandonment. A hard pill to swallow for white Americans; the audience reportedly left the theatre in stunned silence.

Roger concluded his talk by giving us background information on composers: Cole Porter, who made a conscious decision to write songs in a minor key, so they would sound more Jewish and appeal more to the many Jewish producers. And Irving Berlin, a Russian immigrant who became a key Tin Pan Alley figure, writing more than 1,000 songs, including classics like 'White Christmas' and 'God Bless America'.

He finished by playing a medley of tunes by Irving Berlin, Richard Rogers and George Gershwin. A truly wonderful talk.

A vote of thanks was given by Alan Carter

## **Chester Uncovered Part 2 15th February 2024**

A year after his first very informative and entertaining talk, **Stephen Shakeshaft**, a registered Chester tour guide, returned to tell us more about interesting things we may have missed when visiting the city. Unfortunately the bulb in the slide projector failed as he switched it on, so the talk couldn't be illustrated and the order of the presentation was a bit random. I have attempted to group together places Steven talked about that are near to each other rather than in the order they arose in the talk.

Starting in the North Gate area:

1. The present Northgate stands on the site of the original northern Roman entrance to Chester.
2. Northgate Staircase Locks are a staircase of three locks situated on the canal just outside the city walls to the left of Northgate Street and St Martins Way.
3. Also across this stretch of the canal is The Bridge of Sighs. Constructed during the late 1700s it was used to take prisoners who had been condemned to death from the

city jail across the Chester Canal to the former Chapel of St John Baptist, in the Bluecoat School. Here they received the last rites before their execution.

4. King Street: Situated between the "Pied Bull" and the "Red Lion" on Northgate Street is King Street where it is possible to see houses dating from four different centuries.
5. Walking down Northgate Street towards the town centre on the left is the Bluebell Inn. This is the only surviving example of a genuine medieval inn in Chester. Some of the building possibly dates from as early as the 11th Century, but the braced 'King Post' roof dates the present structure to somewhere between 1250 and 1400. Although an inn again now the building has been used for variety of purposes over its life time. An extension was added to the front of the building in 1684. This was used as a barber shop until the 1920s. In the 18th Century the cabin also served as a stage coach ticket office. A small window high on the building was used to sell tickets to the passengers sitting on top of the coach. The Bluebell is host to a resident ghost, Henrietta, who climbs the steps from the cellar and walks through the upstairs restaurant to the window. It is said that this is where she stood and waited for her lover to return from the battle of Rowton Moor in 1645. When she realised he had been killed she went down to the cellar and took her own life.
6. Heading West along the city wall from Northgate you will find Morgan's Mount. This watch tower and gun emplacement was originally called the 'Raised Square Platform'. It was later renamed after Captain William Morgan (a commander of the Royalist garrison during the English Civil War). At the base of the tower is a life size sculpture of a damaged canon.
7. If you continue walking in this direction you will find two water towers, Bonewaldesthorne's Tower and The Water Tower and the Water tower gardens.
8. Alternatively heading East along the city wall from Northgate you will come to King Charles Tower (also known as the Phoenix Tower, or the Newton Tower). An inscription on the tower states: 'KING CHARLES STOOD ON THIS TOWER SEPT 24th 1645 AND SAW HIS ARMY DEFEATED ON ROWTON MOOR' but it would have been impossible to see the field of battle from here.
9. Continuing in this direction you arrive at the cathedral. Originally founded in 1092 as a Benedictine Abbey, it was subsequently rebuilt around 1250 taking 275 years to transform it into the Gothic-style building we see today. Things Stephen said we should look out for were: a) A painting of the Madonna and Child on a canvas of cobwebs (located near the organ). A rare piece of artwork, it is the only cobweb picture in the United Kingdom, and it is one of only a few that still exist. b) In the choir stalls look for the misericords ("mercy seats"). These are small shelves which project from the undersides of the hinged choir stall seats. Standing for long hours of worship, the monks used these to provide some much needed support. c) In the Lady Chapel there is a roof boss carving depicting the Murder of Thomas Becket. This rare because most were destroyed under the orders of Henry VIII. It is thought this one was missed because it is so high up.
10. Behind the Cathedral on St Werburgh Street is Superdrug which is housed in probably the oldest building in the world to be used as a cinema, although it has been altered and extended over the years. The original building was constructed in 1280 as a Chapel dedicated to St Nicholas. It was first used as a theatre in 1773. In 1855 the

building became the home of The Chester Music Hall. Films were shown occasionally from the early part of the 20th Century and on a regular basis from 1915 when it was known as Music Hall Pictures. It closed as cinema in 1961.

11. Leaving Superdrug by Upper Northgate Street, head south to Watergate Street. Here at No.17 you can find the timber framed Leche House. Dating from the 17th Century, it is considered to be the best preserved medieval town house in Chester and incorporates a section of the Chester Rows. Inside there is a large fireplace with an over mantle above which are the arms of Sir John Leche and the motto 'Alla Corona Fidissimo' ( To the Most Faithful Crown). Scratched into the first floor front window is some very old graffiti which reads 'Charming Miss Oldfield 1736'. This is reputed to have been etched by the eighteenth century lexicographer Dr Samuel Johnson. Also upstairs is a squint through which it is possible to see people coming into the shop.

*At time of writing, according to the internet, Leche House is temporarily closed.*

12. At No. 9 Watergate Street is God's Providence House. The house incorporates part of the Chester Rows and is famous for its inscription on the front reading : 'Gods providence is mine inheritance'. It is thought this refers to it being the only house in Chester to escape the Black Death. As it was built in 1652 and the last outbreak of black death was in 1647-8, it must actually refer to the previous building on the site.
13. Around the corner at 24 Bridge Street is a shop and cafe called **Suzie K @ The Secret Garden**. Stephen said that the upstairs is closed but its wonderful plaster ceilings can be seen from street.
14. At 55 Bridge Street is a timber framed building that appears to have four storeys but actually only has three. In the centre of the lower part of the upper storey is a niche that contains a statue of King Charles 1. The proportions of the statue are a little strange because King Charles had to lose part of his legs to fit him in the niche.
15. Further on at No 6 Lower Bridge Street is The Falcon Inn. The first floor of the building facing the Street was the first section of the Rows to be enclosed, as a result of a successful petition to the assembly by Sir Richard Grosvenor in 1643 (during the Civil War). The steps on the left of the building leading to the bar used to provide access to the Rows. Only one section of the Rows remains in Lower Bridge Street.
16. Just outside the City Walls near to Newgate and the Roman Amphitheatre and accessible from Little St John Street are the Roman Gardens. Constructed in 1949 to display Roman artefacts found throughout Chester, the gardens were remodelled in 2000 to provide access to the River Dee. Touching the artefacts is permitted and interpretive panels tell the story of Roman Chester and the garden site.
17. Chester Castle is situated at the southwest extremity of the area bounded by the city walls. If you are visiting the castle, Stephen recommends that as you walk in you look out for a lump of stone (in the Inner Bailey of the Castle) which is all that remains of a statue of Britannia. In 1914 the statue was brought to the Castle from Birmingham, where it once adorned the main station, because it bore the badge of the Norfolk Regiment who were stationed at the castle. When the Norfolks left, the Cheshire Regiment used it to sharpen bayonets.

18. To the west of the Castle is Chester Racecourse, also known as the Roodee. In Roman times this area was the harbour. During the 13th and 14th century, Chester was the largest and busiest port in the north-west. By 1840 it could no longer effectively compete with Liverpool, the silting up of the River Dee being a constant problem. The engraving of The Old Port and Water Tower (1837) shows the river right up to the sides of the Water Tower (point 7)



*The Water Tower, from the Dee Basin, Chester (engraving) by Thomas (after) Allom*

After the departure of the Romans, and following several centuries of river action, silt produced an island in the river. The name Roodee is a mixture Norse and Saxon meaning The Island of the Cross.. A very weathered stone can be seen on the racecourse today. Legend has it that this 'cross' marks the burial place of a statue of the Virgin Mary. According to legend the statue fell on, and killed, Lady Trawst, the wife of the Governor of Hawarden during a thunderstorm, which came in answer to her prayers for rain. The statue was tried and found guilty of murder and left on the banks of the Dee to "drown". It was picked up and carried by the tide to Chester where it was found by the inhabitants. They buried the statue marking the grave with a stone cross.

A vote of thanks was given by Jacqui Wright.

Editors note: A report of Stephen's first talk, 'Chester Uncovered', can be found in the Spring 2023 edition of 'The Magazine'.

## Frauds and Scams 21st March 2024

This was a forced change to our programmed talk after the original speaker became ill. Three speakers valiantly stepped in to give us timely and informative advice.

**Michael Cooke and Sarah Jane Wagstaff of Barclays Bank** began by explaining the differences between frauds and scams. A fraud is an illegal act that results in the perpetrator gaining unauthorised access to and stealing funds or personal information, often credit card and banking details, without the victim being involved, e.g. unauthorised bank account and Pay Pal transactions.

A scam, by contrast, is where the victim is tricked or deceived into participating in the act, a typical example being the transfer of money to a supposedly safe bank account in response to a message from the perpetrator. Phishing is a form of cyber attack that masquerades as a legitimate communication from a reputable source. The communication can be via emails, text messages, Whatsapp, social media or even telephone calls. Telephonic phishing is also known as Vishing, text phishing as Smishing.)

We were advised to look out for 'red flags' or suspicious words and terms when reading messages.

A total of £2.3 billion was stolen from the UK public in 2023, the highest amount in the last two decades. (Unfortunately there is no data on how much was recovered in that year as the figure is absorbed into the overall amount recovered on a global basis.)

Other types of fraud are: romance fraud, where a criminal will obtain financial aid from someone after starting a relationship with them only to then vanish; and those connected with online auction sites including Facebook Market Place, where members of the public are asked to pay in advance for items such as cars and caravans that don't exist. The message here is that if a particular sales item looks too good to be true, it probably is.

On the positive side, simply opening an illegal email causes no harm so long as the recipient doesn't click on any IT links contained in the message.

This section of the talk concluded with a short quiz in which members of the audience were invited to say how they would respond to particular telephone call and email requests. It was good to see so many correct responses based on what people already knew or had learnt but, of course, the quiz was conducted in a safe environment without any undue pressure.

Following on from Michel and Sarah, **Detective Constable William Seddon of West Midlands Crime Authority Cyber Crime Team** was quick to refer to Take Five, a national fraud awareness campaign. Under this everyone is urged to: stop and think before parting with any money or information; challenge and, if necessary, say no to any requests for money or information; and protect themselves against any further criminal action after discovering they have been scammed by contacting their banks on the latter's legitimate telephone numbers. There is also a need to ensure that the criminal is no longer on the telephone line when talking to bank staff or any other party with a call to a family member or friend beforehand being a sensible precaution.

Police officers will never ask for any bank account information when performing their duties and must have a court order before examining banking records.

William stressed the need for individuals to protect online data by having STRONG passwords, e.g. based on three random words with no memorable dates, family or pet names, and to use separate passwords for different accounts. In order to help remember them passwords can be written down so long as the information is obviously kept somewhere safe or stored in the computer's browser or a standalone password manager app.

It may also be possible to set up a two step authentication process to safeguard the systems being used, by signing in results of a code forwarded to the user's telephone or smart phone.

Andy Shearer proposed a vote of thanks to our three speakers as well as to Barclays Bank and the West Midlands Crime Authority.

## **Upcoming Events**

April 18th 2024 - Antarctica, Trip of a Lifetime	Dean Dixon
May 16th 2024 - Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies	Martin Lloyd
June 20th 2024 - To be confirmed	Nigel Hinton
July 18th 2024 - Into the Shadows (A musical tribute to the Shadows)	Chris Aston
August 2024 - No meeting	
September 19th 2024 - Annual General Meeting (see Page 5)	

# PUZZLE PAGE - (ANSWERS ON PAGE 22)

## A plea from the editors:

Are there any puzzle compilers out there who would like to contribute to future magazines? Please contact the editors if you can help.

## MATHS SQUARE

8	X		-		15
+		X		-	
	+		-		2
-		÷		+	
	X		-	9	11
6		3		3	

Here are six sums that have some of the numbers missing. The aim is to enter the numbers from 1 - 9 exactly once into the nine empty cells to create sums that total the values shown at the end of that row or column. Perform arithmetic from left to right and top to bottom.

There is at least one correct answer.

## 9-LETTER SQUARE

Find as many words of four letters or more from the letters in the grid. You can only use a letter as many times as it is shown in the grid, and there is at least one 9-letter word. Each word must contain the central letter - in this case C.

Hint: In this puzzle there are three 9-letter words.

T	N	O
D	C	E
I	U	A

## MISSING VOWELS      LINES FROM SHAKESPEARE

TBR NTT BT HTS THQ STN

TTD MND SPT

THQLT YFMR CYS NTST RND

MYH RSM YHR SMY KNG DMF RHR S

Vowels have been removed and consonants re-spaced in these lines from Shakespeare plays.

## Have you heard about the ....?

Have you heard that the population of Ireland's capital is growing? In fact it's Dublin.

Have you heard about the kidnapping at the local school? It's OK - he woke up.

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food - no atmosphere.

Did you hear that the Italian chef has died? He pasta way. People die fusilli reasons.

Have you heard about the prisoner with a stutter? He never finished his sentence.

Did you hear about the two men who stole a calendar? They each got six months.

Have you heard about the crab working in Pizza Hut? He's on the crust station.

Did you hear about the astronomer who studied the moon for 24 hours? He got bored and called it a day.

Have you heard about that company that makes 12-inch rulers? They're not making them any longer.

Did you hear about the man who invented the door-knocker? He got a Nobel prize.

Have you heard about the pen that can write underwater? It can write other words too.

Have you heard about the man who doesn't like German sausages? He fears the wurst.

Did you hear about the riot at the campsite? It was in tents.

Did you hear about the man who dated Wonder Woman, Supergirl and Xena, the warrior princess? He was a heroine addict.

Did you hear about the duck who had cosmetic surgery? He didn't like his bill.

Have you heard about the Irishman who drank 30 pints of stout in an hour?  
It's a Guinness world record.

Did you hear about the man who stayed up all night wondering where the sun had gone?  
Then it dawned on him.

Have you heard about the man who tried to kill a circus? He went for the juggler.



## REPORTS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

*True enjoyment comes from activity of the mind and exercise of the body; the two are ever united.*  
Karl Wilhelm von Humboldt

Each issue we aim to publicise the activities of some of our Special Interest Groups. There are currently about 25 and between them they bring together our members in a variety of activities, some cerebral, some energetic, and doubtless some bridge the gap and cover both extremes. Many members belong to more than one group.

There is an opportunity to sign up for groups at the AGM. Since some take place in member's houses you may find that the one you are interested in is full or has a waiting list. But perhaps that is the opportunity for you to start a second group on the same or a similar topic. For instance there are three reading groups, one poetry reading group and one play reading group. Details of Special Interest Groups and their convenors are given on the programme card all members receive each year and can be viewed on the Market Drayton U3A website.

Anyone wishing to propose or start a new group should arrange a date/time and venue and let Judy Cowdale and Jill Glover know so that they can publicise it.

Here are reports from seven of our groups:

### **Market Drayton u3a Play Reading Group**

We meet at Sarah Pitt's very hospitable home, usually on the second Monday of each month. Shrewsbury Library is my invaluable source of plays and Market Drayton Library my vital coordinator. Seven of us enjoy sharing a variety of lighter plays.

Since April 2023 we have read, amongst others:

The Ideal Husband – Oscar Wilde

Black Prince – Iris Murdoch

Tiptoe through the Tulips – N. Robins

Flare Path – Terence Rattigan

Charley's Aunt – Brandon Thomas

The most agile one to cope with was 'Ferndale Avenue T.W. Guild Christmas Carol.' – many dual role small parts to cope with. This January we relaxed with 'Murder on the Nile' by Agatha Christie.

If you feel you would enjoy leading a second group don't hesitate to contact me. There are plenty of plays with only three to five characters to begin with.

Alison Derwent      01630 - 654697

## Music Appreciation Group

The group meet at Harry Hitchen's house every second Thursday of the month. Attendance is usually between six and eight people, with obvious capacity for more. There is always a jolly atmosphere fuelled by cups of tea and probing discussions about the music. Each session covers a different topic such as Nationalism in Music, the Solo Concerto, Music for Strings, Choral Music, Baroque Music and soon, Variation Form in music. All that is required of members is a mind open to the exploration and appreciation of the world of organised sound which we call Music.

## Desert Island Discs Group

This group meets at The Old School, Buntingsdale Road TF9 1LT beginning at 2.00 pm until 4.30ish. It takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Dates would be 16th April, 21st May and 18th June for the next few.

The group gives people an opportunity to choose two songs which have some sort of meaning for them or which are their favourites. The track would be played and then people would talk a little about why they have chosen it. For example it could be the first record they ever bought or something that reminds them of school, growing up, jobs, family, modern or new tracks. Every couple of months we may have a week when people choose two classical pieces or songs from musicals etc.

It is all quite light hearted and can just be things that you like because you enjoy folk, rock, Tamla Motown. We usually have between 6-8 people and are always looking for new recruits.

Mike Freed

## Local History Group

### Interesting Stones in Market Drayton

Have you ever noticed this stone by the Buttercross?



Or this one in Frogmore Road?



Or these at the top of Kiln Bank Road?



These are guard stones, also know as jostle stones, glancers, wheel stones, touch stones, hub stones and chasse-roue (“wheel chaser”) and they are relics of the days of horse drawn vehicles. The wheel, including the hub, of a horse drawn vehicle projects beyond the vehicle's body and is liable to collide with and damage a building or a gate. Medieval street layouts generally left little room for manoeuvring and guard stones placed at the corners of buildings, gateways and narrow entrances echo the street patterns of the past. Guard stones are different from bollards, which are free standing structures designed to prevent entry rather than to protect buildings.

Guard stones are usually simply rough stones leant against a wall which in time become set into the asphalt as a road is resurfaced or the stone is surrounded by later paving. They were sometimes placed in a line along a narrow roadway. Some are dressed stones, often cylindrical in shape and in some towns metal or concrete structures have been used for the same purpose. In some cases guard stones have become incorporated into the building. There are several surveys of guard stones available on line, most of them in Ireland. In Belgium and France guard stones are regarded as heritage street furniture and the guard stones of Paris are documented and protected under specific heritage regulations.

In Market Drayton there are around 30 guard stones left, nearly all in the oldest part of the town: in and off Shropshire Street, the top of Kiln Bank Road, Stafford Street, High Street and Cheshire Street. Only three are of the sandstone which forms the bedrock in this part of the county, some have been shaped in a workshop and the rest are glacial erratics, having been brought here from the north of the British Isles or from Wales during one of the Ice Ages. Some are granite, others gabbro or some other form of basalt. A study of photographs taken in Market Drayton in the 1950's shows a great many more guard stones which have now been removed. Some members of the U3A Local History group have been involved in recording, measuring and mapping these stones and we are grateful to Dr Steven Rogers of Keele University Geology Department who helped us to identify their geology. We hope to have them recorded as part of the Historic Environment of the town.

Keep your eyes open as you walk round town and see how many you can find!

*“Maybe it is time to look down and note where Guard Stones occur and try to systematically record them before they disappear.”*

from “In Defence of Interesting Stones”

by Dorothy Treasurer, Principal Building Historian Wiltshire Building Record Feb 2020

Kathleen Irving

Convenor Local History

## **Photography Group**

The photography group meets at 7.00pm on the fourth Thursday of the month (excepting December) at the Beacon Centre, Prospect Road. It caters for photographers of all abilities using either digital cameras or mobile phones. Each month the group is set a topic on which to base their photography and the submitted photos are viewed at the monthly meeting. The previous winner selects this month’s winner and runner-up. Members can also submit some of their favourite photos and we can discuss how they were achieved and how they might be improved. The aim of the group is to try and learn from each other.

Below are the winner and runner-up for the month of February on the subject ‘Abstract’.



Photo by Bernard Beekes



Photo by Rose Jessop

The group convenor is Karen Glass.

## **Bird Watching Group**

The Bird Watching Group meets once a month, usually on the third Monday of each month. The Group meets in August to plan their programme for the following year.

The programme is a mixture of half days to local reserves such as Venus Pool, Colemere and Wood Lane, full days to reserves such as Slimbridge, Martin Mere and Attenborough, and one away trip. Last year we visited RSPB Minsmere on the Suffolk Coast, whilst this year we will be visiting South Stack and Cemlyn Bay on Anglesey.

The membership of the Group is around 16, with anything from 6 to 14 attending each visit. We keep a record of the species we see at each venue. Last year we saw over 100 different species.

We meet at Buntingsdale Road, usually at 9.15 am, where car sharing is arranged.

Our program for the next few months is;

15 April	RSPB Middleton Lakes near Tamworth
20 May	Cors Dyfi (Ospreys) and RSPB Ynis Hir
10 June	Cannock Chase (Evening viisit for Nightjars)
16 June	South Stack and Cemlyn Bay on Anglesey (Away trip)

If anyone is interested, or would like further information please contact the Convenor, Colin Barthorpe ,email [colin.barthorpe@gmail.com](mailto:colin.barthorpe@gmail.com), Tel 01630 654954 Mobile 07976 769936

## Drawing group

A drawing group for people who think they can't draw.

The drawing group started about a year ago in response to U3A members saying that they wished they could draw but that they wouldn't have the courage to join an art group. Hence the aim of the group is to provide a non threatening environment in which people who genuinely lack confidence in their own artistic ability can practice and develop their skills. To this end the group is kept deliberately small. We currently have 8 members over 2 groups, which meet for 2 hours every other Thursday, when possible, one group in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The sessions are guided and there is a teaching element.



As the coordinator it has been a pleasure to watch the members confidence in their own ability grow and their drawing skills improve.

People do move on and places become available. So if you think you can't draw and wish you could, please contact Viv McVittie:

Phone: 01630 661318

Email: [viv.mcvittie@me.com](mailto:viv.mcvittie@me.com)

## PUZZLE PAGE - ANSWERS

### MATHS SQUARE

8	x	2	-	1	15
+		x		-	
3	+	6	-	7	2
-		÷		+	
5	x	4	-	9	11
6		3		3	

### 9-LETTER SQUARE

The 9-lettered words are:

AUCTIONED  
CAUTIONED  
EDUCATION

The editors found another 46 words of 4 or more letters containing a C.

Perhaps you did better?

### MISSING VOWELS    LINES FROM SHAKESPEARE

To be or not to be, that is the question.

Out, out damned spot.

The quality of mercy is not strained.

My horse, my horse, my kingdom for a horse.

*"I could see why Archimedes got all excited. There was nothing finer than the feeling that came rushing through you when it clicked and you suddenly understood something that had puzzled you. It made you think it just might be possible to get a handle on this old world after all."*

— **Jeannette Walls, Half Broke Horses**