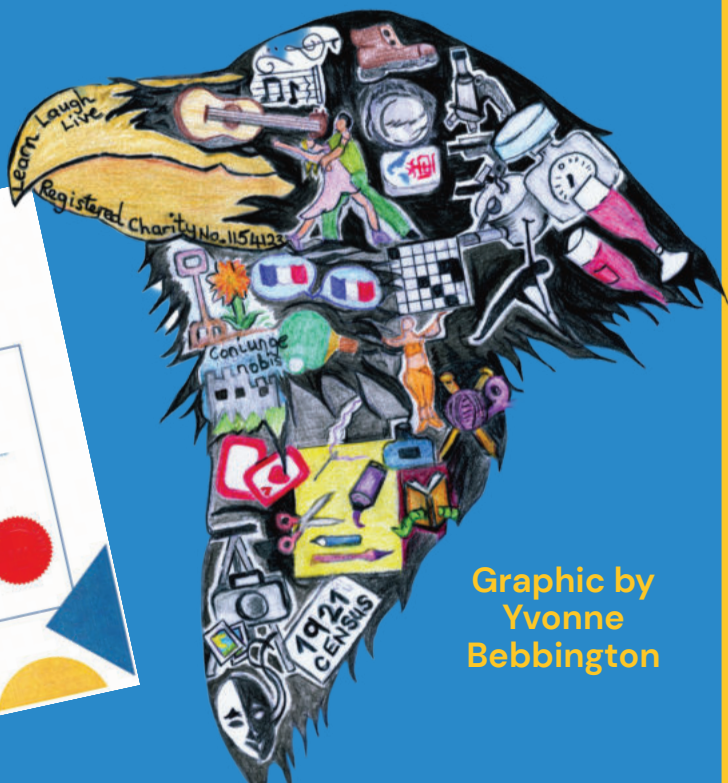


Ravenshead u3a Magazine

10th Birthday Edition



Graphic by
Yvonne
Bebbington

Issue No 24: Summer 2022
Celebrating 10 years of
Ravenshead u3a

Charity: 1154123

Website: www.u3a.org.uk/ravenshead

Freephone: 0300 030 2990

u3a Ravenshead
learn, laugh, live

Welcome from the Editor

As 2022 is the year that Ravenshead u3a celebrates its official tenth birthday (although, like the Queen, we could actually claim two as the process of its formation actually began very late in 2011) we decided it would be a good idea to mark this milestone with the production of a commemorative magazine. Obviously ten years is a long time and this magazine is only twenty pages in total so we have had to make many editorial decisions as to what to include from the wealth of material available. Some of the earlier events are less well documented so we apologise if any information is inaccurately recorded. Having said that we hope reading this will bring back lots of memories as well as reminding us all of what we have achieved over an eventful ten years.



So here's to celebrating the past and looking forward to the future.

Judith Moore (editor), Terry Moore (desktop publisher)

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Let's start at the very beginning.....Irene Chapman was contacted by her friend Jean Hogg from Southwell u3a to discuss the idea of setting up a new u3a in Ravenshead. They met over coffee, planned a way forward and began creating posters. Irene's husband, Ralph, observing the proceedings and aware of existing activities in Ravenshead, came up with "It'll never take off you know!"

Towards the end of 2011 flyers began to appear on noticeboards around Ravenshead advertising an organisation called the u3a and inviting anyone interested in finding out more to attend an initial meeting to be held at St.Peter's Church. Having just moved from full time to part time employment as a teacher and with some spare time to fill I was sufficiently intrigued and joined around two hundred similarly interested people to see what u3a was all about!

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

There was quite a buzz at the Church which was filling up quickly. Jean Hogg from Southwell u3a chaired the meeting and a team of volunteers from well established Notts. u3as explained what the u3a stood for and how it could benefit individuals and communities.

As it became obvious that the general reaction in Ravenshead was positive and there was more than enough interest to look at setting up a new u3a to join several already established in the Notts. network things progressed smoothly. Volunteers stepped up to fill the various roles necessary to form a steering committee, ideas for group activities were discussed and we were ready to go!

The Beginning

FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The new steering group met formally for the first time on 18.11.11 in St.Peter's Church Hall. Everyone was excited to explore new roles and begin to plan for the future. We had a new chair (Bob Ford), vice chair (Lionel Castle), treasurer (Peter York) and business secretary (Paul Craddock). Judith Moore and Val Ford were looking forward to working together as joint group coordinators, and Chris Dean had volunteered to be membership secretary. Other roles were taken by Margaret Craddock, Rona McCann, Janet Castle, Alan Paul and John West while Sue Tidbury and Julie James also attended. Also present were u3a advisers Jeremy Lloyd, Liz Wilson and Jean Hogg. The main discussion concerned arrangements for a meeting on December 13th to sign up members and start up various groups.

Two of that original steering committee are still serving as committee members. Can you recognise them from their photographs? (Although they may have aged a bit since then!)



Margaret



Judith

COME AND JOIN US!

On December 13th the steering group and volunteers met to set up in the Church Hall to prepare for the first members' meeting which began in the Church where the new steering committee was introduced and the various roles explained. We then adjourned to the Church Hall where tables had been set up for groups to be advertised, members could be signed up and refreshments were available. Over 250 members signed up that day for an initial annual subscription of £20. Groups started included art, computing, country dancing, family history, guitar, trips, reading and walking. Those with no leaders but significant interest included photography and gardening. After a successful "launch" we felt ready to head into 2012 and our first year as Ravenshead u3a.



Former Church Hall

Thoughts from the Chairs!

Since Ravenshead u3a was formed there have been four chairmen (three of whom have been women) and all have contributed their “Thoughts from the Chair” in our own Ravenshead u3a magazines. We can look back at their initial thoughts here.



Bob Ford 2012

My name is Bob Ford and I was just one of the staggering number of people who initially turned up at St. Peter's Church to find out what the U3A was all about. It certainly sounded like a wonderful idea to get people together to share ideas and expertise and I was moved to volunteer to help out. Little did I know what that would mean and I still do not know how I ended up as Chairman.

I have always wanted to learn to play the guitar and joined the Guitar Group. Harder than I expected! I will never be a Hank Marvin and John has certainly got a few more grey hairs since I joined his class. The Thursday walking group has introduced me to walks in and around the area. I have started to learn to read a walking map and have enjoyed good company and had a lot of laughs. As a fully qualified BWY yoga teacher I am thoroughly enjoying teaching yoga classes 2 and 3 and hope everyone is enjoying the experience.

Judith Moore 2014

Following our very entertaining AGM in June our new committee met as usual on the third Tuesday of the month. Amongst other things we discussed what the various committee roles and responsibilities involve so as to check that everything is covered and to ensure that our U3A runs smoothly and successfully. It is surprising (or maybe not!) to note what a lot goes on “behind the scenes”, and this is perhaps an opportunity to thank all committee members for the hard work they put in on our behalf.

Of course it isn't only committee members who are working hard. We mustn't forget groups organisers, visit coordinators, welcomers, the refreshments team and all the other helpers and volunteers. However, we still need more volunteers, particularly for the monthly meetings which take a lot of setting up and packing away. If you could help to spread the load a little please let us know.

I am looking forward to my term as Chair, and it will be interesting to see what this year brings as our U3A continues to grow and develop.



Thoughts from the Chairs!

Lesley Green 2017

As I sit in the chair for the first time I am reminded how much everything has changed since I queued with many others to join Ravenshead U3A five years ago.

It has changed my life as I am sure it has many other members who are doing things they never envisaged they would be able to do as well as making new friends.

So I have a hard act to follow from Judith, but I hope I can continue with my committee to help Ravenshead U3A expand and widen our horizons.

Wish me luck!!



Maria Gabrielczyk 2019



Now, I ask myself am I the chair or maybe chairman or even chairperson? Well, I think a chair is a piece of furniture to be sat on. There might be odd times when members or the committee will want to sit on me but I hope we will all work as a team. “Chairperson” sounds impersonal and from experience I have found that whilst men continue to be called chairmen, “chairperson” is usually reserved for a woman at the helm. So in my book a “chairman” can be a man or a woman. Just look at the Interpretation Act and you will find that male embraces female! So, I think I will stick with “chairman” – but actually I will answer to anything!

I would like to thank Lesley and the outgoing committee members for their hard work and I welcome the new committee members. You will notice that where before we had one Treasurer and one Assistant Treasurer we now have what we have called a “Treasury Team” of four members.

I am grateful to Judith and Terry and their team of proof readers and others for producing this magazine three times a year. Please remember that it is your magazine and your opportunity to share stories and experiences.

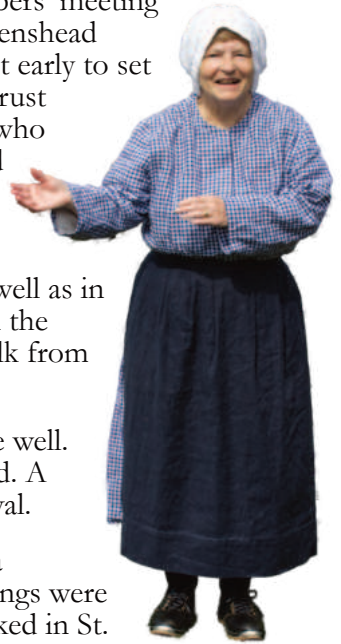
Summer is just around the corner and I hope the sun shines for you whatever your plans – here or abroad.

Our First Year 2012

The first scheduled event of the year was the first members' meeting to be held on Tuesday 10th January. The venue was Ravenshead Village Hall and volunteers from the steering group met early to set up. Our first speakers had been booked: five National Trust storytellers from Southwell Workhouse in period dress who entertained with tales of characters from the past, based on workhouse records, census documents, punishment and medical records and correspondence with the Poor Law Commissioners in London. None of us knew how many would attend. Chairs were placed on the stage as well as in the main hall and tables for refreshments were placed in the Brammer Room. The performers were to deliver the talk from the back of the hall.

Bob Ford's later report stated that the meeting had gone well. More than 200 members attended and the layout worked. A volunteer refreshment team had coped well in the interval.

Although the meeting was a success the numbers were a problem with standing room only for many. Later meetings were



booked in St. Peter's Church and that has remained our chosen venue throughout!

Do you recognise the "inmate" pictured above?

Other visiting speakers in 2012 gave talks on Lawrence of Arabia, Readings from Dickens, National Trust Homes and Gardens, Family History, London Revisited, Ravenshead- Birth of a Community, The Story of Music Hall, Local War Heroes, Tales of a Farmer's Wife and Footpads, Kings and Highwaymen.



U3A
The University of the Third Age
Ravenshead
U3A
The University of the Third Age

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Captain G Dyer

Lawrence of Arabia

The Enigma



Were You There?

Several trips and events were organised in 2012. Here are some of them!



By the beginning of 2013 lots had been achieved. Following a successful first A.G.M. most members of the original steering committee were adopted onto the new Executive committee, with the addition of David Morton who immediately instigated the very first of many Coffee and Conversation drop in meetings. Alan Paul as webmaster, assisted by Terry Moore, ensured that the Ravenshead u3a website was up and running. We had a great team of refreshment volunteers headed up by Glenis Wyatt, monthly meetings were going well and our membership had risen to more than 360. In addition we also had 38 established interest groups.

In spring we published our first Ravenshead u3a magazine, the front page displaying our certificate of membership of the Third Age Trust dated 15.2.2012. (We are governed by our constitution dated June 2012 and amended in June 2016, June 2018 and March 2021).

Contributions from members included:

The Suspicious Death Of Florence Weatherall by Philip Jones

The Big Care Debate at the House of Lords by Carol Wright

A report on a regional u3a initiative: D.H.Lawrence Study Group by Judith Moore

(A full version of all our magazines can be found on the archive page of our u3a website).



There were visits to Birmingham's Back to Back Houses and the Barber Institute in May, and The N.E.C. Food and Drink Show in June, Waddesdon Manor in September, Westbirt Arboretum in October and Chatsworth House at Christmas in December.

The Birding Group, with group leader Peter York, enjoyed a birding weekend in North Norfolk where they spotted over sixty species of birds, braved some squally weather and enjoyed "a reasonable amount of wine."



Also in October Ravenshead u3a hosted a special concert in aid of the new Church Hall fund, with Carlton Male Voice Choir and Terry, the Musical Director.

Early in May the knitting group began a project knitting beany hats for RAF troops serving in the Falklands. Each member of the group received a copy of the standard beany hat pattern, raided the odds and ends box and started knitting. At the end of May, when the squadron left, they posted a splendid 41 beany hats. Their arrival a week later created much excitement in the camp. Later in the year the group received a picture of the troops wearing the hats. Knitting group members had fun spotting which ones they had knitted! They also received a card full of thank you messages from the troops and a formal letter from their boss in the Armament Engineering Flight, encouraging them to keep the needles clacking. A short report of the group's activities appeared in the national Third Age Matters magazine. Well done Ravenshead u3a knitters and Carol Wright for the link.



In other news.....

Most early committee meetings were held at the Hutt – and we purchased coffee! Items from committee minutes in 2013 recorded that:

- Sashes for committee members were made by Chris Dean.
- The first Group Leaders' meetings were organised by Val Ford and Judith Moore.
- Early Coffee and Conversation meetings were originally held in Blidworth, and regularly attracted around 30 members and potential members. Later in the year the venue was changed to the Church Hall.
- The first issue of Ravenshead u3a magazine was published in Spring and distributed at the March monthly meeting.
- At the AGM in June four new committee members, Kate Asquith, Ivan McNulty, Brenda Sharratt and Alan Walker joined the committee. Our annual subscription was set at £20.
- In June Ravenshead u3a was invited to set up a stall at the St.Peter's Church Summer Fair where we set up displays, distributed flyers, ran a quiz and generally raised awareness about the u3a.
- A summer BBQ was organised but had to be held indoors due to bad weather.
- Members of Ravenshead u3a committee helped with a start up event for Rainworth U3A.

2014

In April Alan and Judy Walker organised a three day trip to Worthing and Brighton. Twenty one members travelled by Skills coaches, stopping at Windsor for lunch before continuing on to their hotel in Worthing. The following day they headed for Brighton where they enjoyed a visit to the Pavilion. The homeward journey included a stop in Henley on Thames. It was a chance for members to enjoy each others company and make new friends and a good time was had by all.



Other outings in 2014 included visits to Hodsock Priory, a guided walking tour of York, the National Arboretum, a weekend river cruise on the Severn and two theatre trips to see Top Hat and Barnum.



During the summer several committee members took the opportunity to be trained as fire wardens and first responders in order to help out at our monthly meetings.



And finally.... during 2014 the number of Interest groups on offer had risen to 42. New groups starting up were Gardening, Hikers, Singing for Fun and Weekenders.

Kate Asquith and the Craft group made a Ravenshead u3a banner to be displayed at meetings. It made its debut appearance at the monthly meeting in November, where the

popular speaker, Martin Fish, gave a talk entitled "My Life In Gardening, so far!"

2015

In 2015 the new Centre at St.Peter's opened and was immediately booked by several u3a groups and as a venue for activities. Coffee and Conversation moved over from its temporary accommodation in the church lounge, and the 2015 Christmas Bash was also hosted there.



Our March monthly meeting attracted almost 180 members (a record turnout?) who were privileged to listen to an inspirational talk by Arek Hersh, a Holocaust survivor who was awarded an MBE for his service to Holocaust education. *(His story can be read in issue 7 of our Ru3a magazine.)*



The committee took the stage at the March monthly meeting.

In June members set up a stand at the St.Peter's summer fair to advertise and promote our u3a. Pictured are members Janet Hampson, Val and Bob Ford and Judith Moore, sharing information with Molly Bell. The u3a craft stall raised £50 which was donated to The Centre.



Several trips took place including a visit to the Houses of Parliament in July, a two day visit to the Hampton Court Flower Show and the Christmas Art and Craft Show at the NEC.

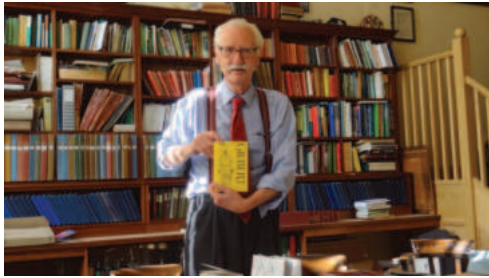


In other news... At the AGM in June it was proposed that membership fees for 2016 would decrease to £15 for full members and to £11.50 for Associate members. Alan Wilson was appointed as Gift Aid Officer, assisted by Sue Owen.

2016: Its all about the groups!

By 2016 45 groups were up and running. New arrivals included Creative Writing, Science and Technology, Latin, Table Tennis, Spanish for beginners and Grumpy Old Men.

Groups often organise their own trips and the Science and Technology group went on their first group outing in March, visiting train manufacturer Bombardier in Derby.



Following a chance conversation about cricket Reading Group Two arranged a visit to Trent Bridge where they were able to visit the world renowned library and enjoy an informative talk by historian Peter Wynne-Thomas.

The craft group was busy, making “wiggly bags”, to hold intravenous Hickman lines and used by children in hospital receiving chemotherapy treatment. Having set themselves a target of 100, members of the group eventually sent 103 to QMC in Nottingham.



In July the Folk and Country Dance group presented gifts to retiring leader and caller Mike Adams who had led the group for five years. As a tribute to Mike, the group has continued to flourish, with a new set of callers who have taught themselves the necessary skills and have fun practising before each dance session, an excellent example of what the u3a is about, sharing skills and learning from each other.



2016 ... continued



In August our Guitar Group (U3Acoustic) entertained an audience of over 400 at the national u3a conference and AGM at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Beeston. They performed for an hour before retiring for a well earned drink in the bar. Their “World Tour” continues!



Trips continued during the year. In October, to the chocoholics’ delight, we were able to visit the Thorntons factory in Alfreton, a visit which had been cancelled the previous year when the factory was taken over by Ferrero Rocher. Interest in the visit was so great the trips organisers Alan and Judy Walker

had to arrange two visits! Dressed in industrial white shoes, white overalls and a becoming mop cap we were treated to a fascinating tour of the factory (including a visit to the tasting station!)

Other visits enjoyed by members were to the Thursford Christmas Show in November and to Chatsworth House at Christmas, where the theme was “The Nutcracker”.



In other news....

The committee voted to thank the licensees of the Sherwood Ranger who had been so generous in allowing parking for all the various trips and visits which had been organised over the years, and continue to do so! We agreed to send a card and a donation of £100 which was put towards the development of an outside play area. The AGM in June was attended by 131 members. At this time membership stood at 388.

As Chairman, Judith attended the regional AGM where Pam Jones, National Chairman, spoke about the history of the Third Age Trust. Membership then stood at over 385,000 belonging to over 1000 u3as.



Two memorable “residential visits “ took place in 2017. Although different in nature they both provided a great experience and were thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. In March around thirty members embarked on a five day “South Wales Adventure” led by Steve Hargreaves. Highlights included visits to Dyffryn Gardens, Cardiff Bay, Swansea Waterfront Museum, the Mumbles and the impressive Cardiff Castle. In contrast the October overnight trip on board the Edward Elgar river boat seemed like a more relaxing though equally enjoyable time.

Our AGM and fifth birthday celebration was held in June, complete with cake, balloons, complimentary pens and a free raffle. Outgoing Chairman Judith Moore was presented with flowers by incoming Chairman Lesley Green and Vice Chairman Val Ford. Afterwards there were lots of group displays and activities set up in The Centre where refreshments were served by our team of volunteers.



In other news....

- During 2017 our membership reached 432. As Gift Aid had now been implemented it was agreed to reduce the following year's membership fee to £13.50. The committee also agreed to cover the cost of an initial planning meeting for any new groups.
- New groups included Cryptic Crosswords and the Hiking Group completed its 50th walk starting from Creswell Crags.
- In December the Christmas Bash moved to Portland and was attended by 150 guests who were entertained by our own U3Acoustic guitar group.



2018

Another busy year for Ravenshead u3a. Two new groups were added to the list. "Exploring Antiques" plan to meet monthly in members' homes where they will discuss and share their knowledge of antiques and collectables.

The Belly Dancing Group met at the Centre for a taster session, learning some moves and routines. Leader Sue said one hour would be enough and she was right. As one participant said "We had a great laugh and fun exercise with everybody leaving with big smiles on their faces!"



In other groups news the Creative Writing Group asked for a one off grant of £30 to help with publication of an anthology of their work which would be made available to members. The committee agreed but asked that the group perform at some of the meetings.



The Weekenders Group arranged a boat trip on the River Trent on what turned out to be a beautiful sunny day in June, which was enjoyed by thirty members.

Several trips were organised in 2018. There were return visits to Bletchley Park and the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. In September there was a great turn out for a visit to the Terracotta Warriors Exhibition at the World Museum in Liverpool organised by Jackie Salmon. Forty eight members were able to view almost 200 artefacts, some of which had never been on show in the UK before.



There was great feedback for our October meeting where we were treated to a story from one of the Creative Writers before being thoroughly entertained by 'YesterYear a cappella' a male barbershop choir. A hard act to follow but we had a go at the December meeting when "Committee and Friends" under the direction of Graham Jukes, performed the Ru3a version of "My Favourite Things" (with apologies to Julie Andrews!)

*"Gaviscon, nose drops and needles and knitting
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings
Bundles of magazines tied up with string
These are a few of my favourite things."*



2019

Throughout the year we enjoyed several visits including two trips to Eden Camp in North Yorkshire, Birmingham Museums Archive, Mr. Straw's House and Welbeck, Black Country Museum and Cromford Mill.



The AGM was held in April and in a change from tradition we welcomed a return visit from speaker Martin Fish to talk about his work as a Royal Horticultural Society Judge. In August another memorable speaker, Ken Heathcote, brought along Piper, his assistance dog, to demonstrate how Piper had transformed his life. Following Ken's visit members collected a total of £184 for the charity, Dogs for Good, which potentially could fund nine puppy classes or the daily costs of sixty working dogs.



Also in August the committee organised an afternoon tea at the Centre after which members were treated to entertainment including acts by soloist Chris Dean who sang three songs accompanied on the piano by Terry Moore who also played a solo. Bob Ford compered.



The new belly dancing group provided the finale and even managed to persuade some brave audience members to "get up and have a go". All in all a successful and fun afternoon.



A new group, Photography for Fun, was launched in June and in August members went on their first "photoshoot" together, discovering plenty of interesting corners of Mansfield and enjoying the opportunity to share ideas and technical tips along the way. They called in at Mansfield Museum where there was an interesting exhibition of photographs of the town from the Old Mansfield Society.

In September we organised our first evening event at the Village Hall, a quiz night with fish and chip supper which attracted 80 members. The evening included three quizzes based on general knowledge, music and cryptic clues.

As usual the year was rounded off with the Christmas lunch at Portland which as always was well attended. Entertainment was provided by “Bestwood Voices” and our own U3Acoustic guitar group which led the communal singing. In a quote from the editor (me!) in our winter magazine I wrote:

“All in all 2019 has been a busy and productive year for Ravenshead u3a. We look forward to an equally interesting and successful 2020 as we continue to Learn, Laugh, Live.”

Little did we know what was around the corner.....

2020 started well enough with an excellent speaker at our January meeting, Paul Barlow from Derby Mountain Rescue Team. Although there were a few technical problems (projector issues) the talk was very well received and generous members donated £109 to the charity. By February there were a few reports filtering through concerning an unusual virus beginning to circulate but life generally was continuing as normal and the Church was full again in February to listen to a presentation by wildlife photographer Jack Perks. Most groups were still meeting, as was the committee who were already planning for the April AGM. However, by the beginning of March global events were causing concern.

On Monday 16th March the Government advised against all non-essential travel and social contact for three months, particularly for those over the age of 70 and those with underlying health conditions. The committee held an emergency meeting by email and consequently advised all members that monthly meetings would be suspended for three months. and that groups should look at ways to stay in touch digitally or by phone if at all possible. Coffee and Conversation and trips were to be suspended until further notice. The committee would continue to meet remotely and monitor the situation.

Keeping in Touch. As we now know, that initial prediction of a three month gap was optimistic. It extended throughout 2020 and 2021 and we looked for more ways to continue to do our best to communicate with members and find creative ways to stay connected. Our regular online publication, KIT, began as a fortnightly newsletter and eventually ran for 21 issues, with regular contributions from members and articles ranging from poems, quizzes and jokes to travel, natural history, recipes and all manner of articles. What an interesting lot we are! *You can find all the past KIT publications on our website by clicking on the Archive page. They are well worth a read.*

Zoom Meetings. Many of were introduced to Zoom and it became an invaluable tool which enabled us to continue to meet, albeit virtually. The committee meetings were held on Zoom and many of the groups such as Craft, Roman History, Cinema and Theatre group, Local History, Photography for Fun, Garden Group, Armchair Travellers and Science and Technology also used Zoom. Some groups held virtual quizzes, others just chatted and possibly drank a glass of wine.

By the end of 2020, when it became obvious that the lock-down situation was set to continue, the committee looked for new ways to keep our members interested and involved. An editorial team was formed and the first Click and Meet was aired on December 8th. This first meeting featured a Christmas theme and included a quiz, food and wine recommendations, seasonal interviews and video clips.



Click and Meet became a regular event, replacing our monthly face to face meetings well into 2021. In January we explored Winter, February's theme was Love. In March we looked at Springtime and Gardens with our very own "Gardeners' Question Time" while April took us



into The Natural World. In May we booked our first outside speaker and were treated to a fascinating talk by adventurer and published novelist Philip Caine.

In June we were all very busy organising our own event for the first national u3a day. We met face to face at last and had a great time at the Village Hall with displays from our groups and entertainment provided by U3Acoustic and the Jolly Beggars folk band. The sun shone, there were lots of visitors, refreshments were served and we all enjoyed our day.

In July our Click and Meet finale featured a welcome return of Steve and Carol Robson of Fool's Gold who entertained us with a selection of songs, anecdotes and video clips in their new show "Dark Light, the Flannan Island Mystery".



By September several groups began to plan a return to "normal" and we restarted our monthly members' meetings at St. Peter's Church, when members could also join us on Zoom. Our first speaker was Barbara Meyer who gave an interesting talk on Wild Cat Photography and Conservation.

In a further return to normality we were able to reinstate our Christmas lunch at Portland. It was good to get out and celebrate together and we enjoyed the festive entertainment provided by the U3Acoustic. CHEERS!



2022, our 10th birthday

We have managed to continue our monthly meetings at St. Peter's with a turnout of around 80 members who have enjoyed the opportunity to get together with friends, chat over refreshments and listen to some excellent speakers. This year so far we have been entertained by Andy Smart who regaled us with stories of Nottingham's theatres, William French whose account of his experience of the Falklands Conflict contrasted vividly with tales of his time aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia as butler to the Royal family, Commander Neil Jervis who gave us a fascinating insight into life aboard a submarine and Dr. Rowena Edlin-White who talked about the life of Grace Jane Dexter, a young teacher in late Victorian Nottingham and Derbyshire.



We look forward to more members joining us as we continue to meet up throughout the rest of the year. Future speakers include Dr Tim Grey who will tell us about the work of EMICS, a network of volunteer Doctors who support the East Midlands Ambulance Service, and, fittingly, a return of the Workhouse Storytellers who entertained us at our very first monthly meeting in December 2011.

Several visits have already taken place and visits coordinator Halinka is busy adding more to the programme. *Look for updates on our website.* Meanwhile, more groups have resumed their regular meetings and we are looking forward to creating new groups shortly. Thanks are due to groups coordinators Margaret and Anne who recently held a group leaders' meeting to discuss the way forward.

The committee will continue to meet via Zoom and is already working hard to ensure that the National u3a day scheduled for 21st September will be as successful as the one we all enjoyed last June. Another priority is to ensure the continued success of our u3a by attracting and retaining new members and publicity officer John has created our social media pages and promotes us on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. *Links can be found on the Welcome page of our website.*

And finally.....*compiling this birthday magazine has been an enormous challenge. Compressing ten years into twenty pages forced us to trawl through a mass of information, archive material, committee notes, photographs and magazines. It has brought back a lot of memories and reminded us of how much we as an organisation have achieved and how much enjoyment we have had.*

It has been time consuming, curiously addictive and actually rewarding and fun and we hope you will enjoy reading it and appreciate that we have all been a part of something special! Here's to remembering the past and looking ahead to the future!

Judith and Terry

Our History in Magazine Covers

