

DECEMBER 2022 Newsletter**St Mary's Melton Mowbray's Christmas Tree Festival
Taken on a gardening group visit.****Welcome**

I'm sure that those of you who attended November's monthly meeting will agree with me that the guest speaker, Mike Storr, gave a thoroughly entertaining session on his chosen subject of Masters of Mirth. Mike very kindly stepped in at the last minute, when our scheduled speaker for November, Peter Pickering, had to cancel the day before the monthly meeting, due to illness. Consequently, this month's meeting will be very different, as we will not be having a guest speaker, but as the meeting is at the beginning of Christmas week, we have some real treats in store for all of you who are able to attend on December 19th at 2.00pm. We will also be revealing a new interest group and one that I certainly will be joining. For those of you who are unable to attend the December monthly meeting, I on behalf of the committee, would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Peter Wakelin
Chairman

DECEMBER MEETING

Every member attending will receive a ticket for a FREE raffle. We are aiming for a good ratio of prizes to attendees, so it is hoped that at least one in five people will be lucky!

The church does not want us to offer alcoholic drinks as prizes, but currently generous donations include afternoon tea for two at Jaspers and a meal for two at the White Horse. There will be many prizes. So, on arrival, please ensure you collect a free raffle ticket.

Free mince pies will be on offer to accompany your choice of tea or coffee. There will be a Christmas themed quiz, organised by Di and Howard Brown to make sure your brain cells are functioning, but the main aim is for there to be plenty of time for people to socialise.

Wearing your Christmas jumper is not obligatory, but is encouraged !

Future Programme

Monday 16th January 2023	The biggest Worsted mill	Bob Massey
Monday 20th February	Fire Prevention	Craig Langton
Monday 20th March	From Barrow to Baghdad and back	Philip Caine
Monday 17th April	Nottingham Street Pastors	Lynne Miles
Monday 15th May	Fascinating Crimea	Robert Dodd
Monday 19th June	The Climate crisis and some solutions	Brenda Ainsley

Interest Group listings

Regular dates are shown. See updates for any seasonal variations.

Time	Group	Venue	When	Leader	Contact
MONDAY					
10.30 am	Gardening	Various	TBC	Mike Davey	mrdavey004@btinternet.com 0115 9841687
7.00 pm	Wine Tasting	MH	4th Monday of month	Paul Clarkson	redbus84@hotmail.com
TUESDAY					
10.00 am	Book Group	MH	2nd Tuesday of month	Maureen Thompson	maureenfthompson@outlook.com 07803589966
10.00 am	Painting & Drawing	EPC	2nd & 4th Tuesday of month	Liz McAdam	lizmcadam26@gmail.com 07973 615754
2.00 pm	Scrabble	MH	Fortnightly	Di Brown	diandhoward@hotmail.com 07754 008754
WEDNESDAY					
10.00 am	Photography	EPC	2nd Wednesday of month	Ann Hooley	annhooley@virginmedia.com 0115 9211832
9.30 am	Walking 5-8 miles	various	4th Wednesday of month	Paul Clarkson	redbus84@hotmail.com 07496 679953
10.30 am	Table Tennis	MCH	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	Steve Lowe	lowe_steve@sky.com
THURSDAY					
10.00 am	Tai Chi	RVH	Weekly	Judy Hasson	syhasson@aol.com 07505 844009
11.00 am	Tai Chi	RVH	Weekly	Judy Hasson	syhasson@aol.com 07505 844009
12.00 pm	Beginners' Tai Chi	RVH	Weekly	Judy Hasson	syhasson@aol.com 07505 844009

THURSDAY					
1.30 pm	Lunch Club	various	See note below	Margaret Marshall	margaretmarshall70@gmail.com 07914 414848
2.00 pm	Petanque	White Horse	1st Thursday of month	Chris Murdon	rudd_u3a@yahoo.com
2.00 pm	One in one	Varies	Details below.	Pete Wakelin	peter.wakelin1@gmail.com
2.30pm	Travellers' Tales	The Hub	2nd Thursday of month	Peter Davison	pandcdavison@ruddington.plus.com 0115 9845733
3.30pm	French	MH	TBC	Sheila Johnson -Marshall	sheilajohnsonmarshall@hotmail.com 07929 520201
FRIDAY					
10.00am	Knit-a-lot	Philos	Weekly	Sandy Maltby	Sandymaltby989@gmail.com
10.30	Pentanque	White Horse	1st Friday of month	Chris Murdon	rudd_u3a@yahoo.com
2.00pm	Monthly Quiz	FKC	Last Friday of month	Barbara Breakwell	ruddington2012@virginmedia.com
2.30pm	Spanish (Intermediate to advanced)	MH	Alternate Fridays	Debra Lowe	debra-lowesky.com 0115 9844504
VARIOUS					
9.30am	Cycling	Various	TBC	Tracy Meakin	tracymeakin@sky.com

VENUE GUIDE

EPC Elms Park Committee Room

FKH Framework Knitters Chapel Room

MCH Methodist Church Hall

MH Members Home

RVH Ruddington Village Hall

TBC To be Confirmed

Contact Us

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Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Ruddu3a>

National u3a Website:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk>

To subscribe to the national u3a newsletter visit <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

COMMITTEE NEWS

The committee congratulated Barbara Breakwell, our publicity officer, who was recently given the 'Heart of Ruddington' award. This special honour recognises someone who has made an outstanding contribution to Ruddington Village as an exemplary member of the community. It was awarded for her tireless and selfless commitment to supporting local causes.

Our treasurer Mike Wynn monitors and reports on income, current and planned expenditure each month. We are very pleased to report that his budget monitoring shows that for 22/23 no problems are foreseen. A welcome change after the uncertainties of the covid years.

Di Brown has volunteered to take over the important role of Membership Secretary but to do so needs to pass on some other work. For example a new interest group coordinator is needed.

Co- op Local Community Fund:

Please remember to register if you have not already done so. This will bring us additional income at no cost to yourself.

An offer was received from Eileen Marlowe to start a new interest group in the new year for those affected by bereavement. The committee was very supportive.

Possible New Interest Group

"This group is aimed at any Ruddington U3A members who have suffered the loss of a spouse or partner. After being widowed two weeks into the first lockdown, I personally still suffering from the grief and loneliness of losing my husband. The effects of this are different, I am sure, for others in the same situation. But equally as hard to cope with. I feel that sharing the ongoing diverse effects with others and hearing how they are dealing with a similar situation, will help me to rationalise my thoughts and feelings and build up mental strength for the future.

So I am proposing a fortnightly discussion group meeting initially. Firstly I will host this in my own home starting in the New Year at 11-00am on a Friday. Depending on numbers we might need a bigger venue. But that is for the future. If you are interested when you read this newsletter. I can be contacted by telephone or email 07730566999 or eileenbooker27@gmail.com. I will also be at the December U3A meeting if anyone wants to meet me personally. "

Eileen Marlowe

Interest Group Updates Thanks to all the convenors who sent information and photos. This month some editing and omission of pictures has been required to fit everything in.

One in one

After a successful December meeting the date and location for the January meeting will be announced in the January newsletter

Lunch Club

On Thursday 1st December 21 members lunched at The Dorset, Compton Acres. Judged on the volume of chatter from each table, everyone had an enjoyable time. After seeking the views of those present it was agreed that our stomachs probably could do with a respite after the festive period so there will be no January meeting.

Tai Chi

All groups are now back in action with enthusiasm. It is so enjoyable to see how the groups' skills and confidence have grown over the years. I am really proud of what we have achieved since those first tentative classes. There are always places for more beginners to improve their health and wellbeing with qigong and tai chi which is age appropriate. Each year we have a tai chi groups lunch together and this year we are enjoying the Christmas menu at the Ruddington Arms. The groups have opted to continue our Thursday classes through the Christmas and New Year periods. Judy Hasson.

Painting and Drawing.

At our last meeting we revisited the topic of Perspective. We aim to discuss and help each other in a friendly way. Our numbers fluctuate. Recently we have welcomed some new members but we still have room for more.

Wine tasting

Our next meeting will feature members bringing a favourite drink of their choice to accompany some traditional Christmas nibbles.

The Quiz group has enjoyed a busy year. We would be delighted to welcome any new members in 2023. Our next meeting will be on Friday, January 27th at 2pm at the Chapel at the Framework Knitters Museum. We met the last Friday of each month and share the responsibility of setting the quiz between us, so everyone is able to take part. There is a charge of £1.50 per session, to cover room hire and refreshments.

Barbara Breakwell

Gardening Group

On the rather damp and cold morning of 5th December, fourteen members of the Gardening Group visited the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray. The festival has become a spectacular annual event. This year there were 237 trees on display, all of which are of different designs decorated by local groups, including the Melton u3a, and businesses. Refreshments in the church, followed by a visit to the Pork Pie shop in the nearby Market Place, completed a most enjoyable morning. Please let Mike Davey have any suggestions for garden visits and activities in 2023. Meanwhile, best wishes for a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year. Enjoy your gardens in 2023!



Knit a lot

Now meet weekly by popular demand. Joy Clayton and Sandy Maltby are shown displaying examples of their work at the November meeting.



u3a Spanish (intermediate)

Our group has been running for several years now and is a small, friendly group meeting at the group leader's home. We concentrate on spoken Spanish and, in the process, have covered a wide variety of topics from holidays to favourite books. At our last meeting we talked about an object or photo. In particular we were trying to be more spontaneous and also ask more questions. The social aspect of our group is equally as important : next session we will be having a pre Christmas lunch and using our Spanish to guess which object or famous person we are!



Debra Lowe

Observatory trip

On Thursday 17th November 2022, a group of members visited the Clifton Campus of Nottingham Trent University for a talk called 'The Heritage of the Night Sky' by Dr Daniel Brown. We visited the observatory which most of us didn't know existed. Unfortunately it was a wet and cloudy night so no stars were visible, but with the naked eye we saw Jupiter and Mars. We also entered the small, Planetarium afterwards which was a superb experience. It was all extremely interesting and which was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Jennifer Woodford who instigated the visit.

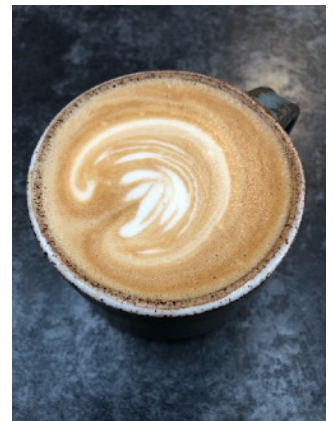


Photography



Our meetings are held in the Elms Park Committee Room on the second Wednesday of the month. Charge £2.50 to cover room hire and refreshments.

If you enjoy photography, why not call in. Interest and enthusiasm are more important than sophisticated equipment and a high level of skill.



You can see some of our 'Drinks' pictures here and our photos of 'Statues and Sculptures' will be on show next. Our first meeting in 2023 will be on January 11th.

Travellers' Tales

We shared our reminiscences about travel experiences in the festive season and partook of some food and drink including stollen and gluhwein.