

## MARCH MEETING

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 2.00-4.00 pm. Doors open at 1.40 pm and we aim to start just after 2.00 pm. (1400).

This month's subject/Speaker will be Melody Flying Forces Sweetheart **WW2**

## FEBUARY MEETING

Tales from Farmer Barnes' Wife.



Last month's speaker was Jane Barnes, the wife of dairy farmer Mark Barnes. Their farm is near Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire.

Jane told us that there used to be 76,000 dairy farmers in the country but now there are less than 7,600, a lot have reluctantly given up as their sons and daughters are leaving farming for other jobs now. Mark and Jane's son Harry now only 27 yrs. has taken on the milking from his dad Mark and will be in charge of the farm in the Future. Mark and Jane met at the young farmers group and luckily she had always wanted to be a farmer's wife.

The original farm was small and they had plans to replace it, but the cows came first so a large milking barn was built with room for 250 cubicles for the cows and also space for clean warm bedding for calving which Jane takes charge of. Milking takes place at 5.30am and 3.30pm every day. Mark has the job of getting the cows pregnant, Jane told us that the Bulls don't do the job properly, so Mark and a very long rubber glove do the job for them, as it's vital all the cows get pregnant to produce the milk. There are Friesian and rare Ayrshire cows on the farm that produce the milk for the long Clawson stilton cheese, some of which we were able to buy after the talk. There may be a visit to the farm organised if it is possible. It was a very Interesting and informative talk.

*Heather Flinders*



**FOR YOUR DIARY**

Next Monthly Meeting will be held on 3rd April  
2024.

The Subject will be Mary's Meals a food charity

## **MEMBERSHIP REMINDER**

We will be renewing membership from the 3rd April open meeting.

The price is the same £18 and you can pay by Card, B A C S, Cash and Cheque.

Forms are available to download on the website and at our meeting on the 6th March.

Thank you

*Hazel*

## **NEEDED**

Donations for items to Raffle, if you have anything that you think would make a nice raffle prize please bring along and pass to me, as we are getting very short of items. Your help would be greatly appreciated! Thank you.

*The Chair*

## **GROUP NEWS**



### **Family History**

Well we're well into 2024 now and if you are thinking of taking up a new hobby (possible obsession) our Family History Group may be for you. So why not give us a try? All we ask is that you have some basic computer skills and a laptop or tablet to bring with you to the group.

Please contact me if you wish to join us so we can discuss what we do and what you are hoping to get from the group. Also look out for notices before attending any meeting. If you would like more information about our group please speak to me at the next U3A Monthly Meeting or email via the Bird Icon on the Stapleford & District U3A website.

Dates for the beginning of 2024 are as follows:

Monday February 26th, 2pm, Stapleford Library

Monday March 11th, 2pm, Stapleford Library

Monday March 25th, 2pm, Stapleford Library

<https://u3asites.org.uk/stapleford/home-->

*Sharon Bosworth*



## LOCAL HISTORY

### February 2024 Report

The talk this month was 'Trowell, past, present and future. Trowell was mentioned in the Domesday Book as Torwalle'. There was a workhouse built on Trowell Moor and it was closed in 1840. The building is now a private dwelling.



St Helen's church – There are 6 bells in the tower that were cast in 1790 and they were replaced in 1930. In 1878 a Derbyshire family gave Trowell Burial Board extra land to extend the burial ground. The road on either side of the church was very narrow and was widened in 1929.

The Rectory Farmhouse opposite the church was built in the 17c. It is now derelict

There was coal mining in Trowell as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> century when the Willoughby's of Wollaton Hall were selling coal in exchange for stone to build the hall. There was a coal mine sunk in 1879 near the Stapleford border known as Trowell Moor colliery. In the 1950's land between Trowell Grove and the boundary with Stapleford was opencast. This site had now been developed for housing.

In 1847 the Erewash Valley Railway Line was opened. This was important as it was cheaper than using the canals to transport coal. In 1883 a station at Trowell was opened and passenger trains ran to and from Nottingham and South Yorkshire. Trowell Forge was built in 1873 as well as 24 workers cottages and two managers houses. The forge and furnaces were connected to the railway line by a loop of sidings. The works closed in 1921 and demolished in 1929.

1937 saw the first big housing development when the Trowell Grove estate was built between the entrance to Trowell garden centre and Pit Lane. They were sold for £250 each.

1951 was the Festival of Britain and Trowell was chosen from 1600 villages to appear on the Festival of Britain programme. The Festival Inn was built and opened in 1956. An Assembly room was added in 1958 and was used for private hire and as a dance hall with resident band and vocalist.

Trowell Hall was built in 1846 as Trowell Rectory and used as a rectory until 1927. In the 1960's was used as a hostel for employees working on the new M1. It is now privately owned as is listed on the air b and b website for rental. There are 5 bedrooms and can accommodate up to 9 guests. It is listed as a Victorian Country House and has an outside swimming pool.

There are two halls, the Church Hall and Parish Hall. The church hall was previously a school from 1843 – 1967. The Parish Hall was originally a temporary building of two old army huts and the new building opened in 1968.

Trowell Garden Centre is a family business opened in 1980's. Business continued to grow and expand. In 2014 a new café was opened. A further extension was applied for in 2020 and initially turned down but planning has since been granted. Work has now started to extend the coffee shop and retail outlet.

In 2022 Planning permission has also been submitted, by Reece Oliver of Strelley, to build a new animal sanctuary with a spa, a restaurant and 27 lodges on land west and south of Station House, The Forge. It would be called The Broxtowe Retreat. The population of Trowell was 414 in 1891 rising to 1153 in 1945 and in the census of 2011 was 2378.

*Janet cross*



## QUIZ GROUP

It was great to see some new faces at our last Quiz Group meeting and there is still room for more so why not come and join us. We encourage members to bring along a quiz to share but don't worry if you can't. You don't have to make the quiz up yourself, it can be something from a book or magazine or something you have found online. This helps ensure variety rather than the same person bringing questions each time. We are a very friendly group and not at all competitive. There are no winners or losers in this quiz. There is a charge of £1 to cover room hire and refreshments. Did I mention tea and biscuits?

Here are the dates for our next 3 meetings.

Tues Mar 12th, 2pm, Church of Christ, Eatons Rd, Stapleford  
Tues Apr 9th, 2pm, Church of Christ, Eatons Rd, Stapleford  
Tues May 7th, 2pm, Church of Christ, Eatons Rd, Stapleford

If you would like more information please come and speak to me at the next U3A Monthly Meeting or email via the Bird Icon on the Stapleford & District U3A website. A list of dates for future group meetings can also be found on the Stapleford & District U3A website.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/stapleford/home>

*Sharon Bosworth*



## GARDENING GROUP

Greetings from the garden.

I was asked at the last main meeting why I never gave any information about the garden group, so before I commence my monthly meander, let me explain. Although I am a member of the garden group, this epistle is completely independent of the group. I was asked some time ago if I would write a piece each month for the newsletter, I said I would and continue to do so. The Garden group is run by Ann Wilson. If you want information about the where's and when's, visit the groups table at the main meeting where you will find everything you need to know.

Well here we are, already in the third month of the year and the gardens are an absolute picture. I can't remember a year when there have been so many different types of flower this early. Although it's a joy to see, it is a bit of a worry because it shows how we are being affected by global warming. I have ten different types of plant in flower. Some should be flowering, like hyacinth, crocus, snowdrop, daffodil and Bergenia, but others like my apricot tree should not. I doubt I'll get any fruit this year even though I have tried to pollinate with a sable paint brush. Polyanthus, tend to flower on and off throughout the year but again, I have never had quite such a beautiful show. Early iris have now finished. It's the first time I have grown them and I would highly recommend them. Grown from small bulbs, they are ideal for front of border, rockeries and pots. They only grow to 4" but the flowers are lovely and come in several colours. It's one to look out for in late summer to plant for next winter. They were in flower even before the snowdrops.

Now is the time to split the snowdrops. As soon as the flowers die down, dig up the clumps and split into small groups. Replant immediately. Result next year, lots more flowers. Please never throw plants out, there is always someone who would be very grateful for some free plants. If neighbours don't want them, bring them to put on the garden table at the main meeting.

Check all of your seed packets and sow as instructed on the packets. It's not too late to sow salad stuff, in fact most salad can be sown year round indoors. Tomatoes need to be planted now. I prefer to grow cherry tomatoes and always go for Sun gold, a delicious sweet yellow tomato. Don't sow outdoors, keep them in a frost free place. My kitchen looks more like a greenhouse at the moment.

Plant of the month. It was difficult this month because there were several plants I wanted to showcase. In the end it was between Bergenia, aka Elephants ears and Hellebore aka Christmas or Lenten rose. They are both glorious at the moment. In the end, I went for Hellebore.

When I was a child, my grandfather grew them and the only colour was a creamy white. Now, they come in many colours and in single and double. Most of them start to flower in January and continue through into March. The flowers don't drop their petals so they seem to flower for even longer than that. The leaves remain green and healthy throughout the year so they can fill a difficult space. They love full shade which is another plus. My garden faces south, but I still have shady spots under trees where many things would not grow well. If you have a north facing garden, this plant is a must. I bought one a couple of weeks ago with silver marbled leaves and



pink flowers, a bonus for a shady spot as the leaves are quite bright. My favourite is the one pictured. An exquisite deep purple, it still manages to look so fragile even though it flowers through the harshest months of the year. They are in garden centre now, or if you know someone who grows them, you may be lucky enough to get a root when they are splitting them up.

It's a bit early to think about splitting herbaceous plants, but as soon as it warms up a bit you will need to consider splitting plants like Hosta and Day lilies. Mine are already showing new growth. Also check any ornamental grasses. Give last year's growth a tug and pull away all the tatty leaves taking care to avoid damage to new growth.

Finally, don't forget the wild life. My blackbirds are as confused as the plants, which is worrying. Every year, I carefully cultivate moss for my bonsai trees and every spring the blackbird steals it for her nest. It's already disappearing far too early. Make sure there is liquid water for the birds and if you feed them keep it up.

Honey bees will be looking for early sources of pollen so if you're thinking of planting a shrub, contorted hazel is a good one. You have interesting branches to add to a flower arrangement and the bees get the catkins. Catkins and pussywillow are the earliest sources of pollen for the bees. The queen started laying eggs mid-January so the bees need pollen for the grubs.

Look out for bumble bees. Queen bumble bees emerge from hibernation during March to set up a new colony. Say hello and hope she will find a home in your garden. She and her sisters are gentle creatures and rarely sting as it results in their death. A garden is much richer with a colony of these lovely creatures.

I have been in the garden several times during February tidying up and provided you're moving around, it's warm enough. I only got cold when I was pruning bonsai as I was standing about.

Stay warm and enjoy your garden space no matter the size. Remember, you can grow a garden in a pot.

PS. It is now 25<sup>th</sup> of February. I was in the front garden admiring the beautiful Bergenia flowers when I noticed my first bumble bee of the year. She is a big queen bee working the flowers on a sunny but very chilly day.



Rather cold for her but she will need to feed after her hibernation. I said, Welcome to my garden, and left her to get her fill. I'm always thrilled to see my first bumble bee. A bit early but hopefully, she'll be fine.

**The Beautiful Christmas rose**

***Sandra Heart***

## Gardening Group news

For more information on this activity contact Anne Wilson at the open meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.



### IT

As you know we now meet at the Church Of Christ every 2 weeks.

We have expert help to sort out problems with your laptop, from emails, to adding pictures. You can come along with your laptop to our group explain what you need to know and we will do our best to help.

This can be a one off visit or for a few weeks.

Dates of our next meeting March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

More dates are on the website

For more Information on this group Please speak to Hazel at the open meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Hazel Stenson**



## Singing



Although our numbers has increased slightly we need more voices. Members, old and New would be most welcomed why not gives us a try. Singing is most therapeutic and is great for stress relief plus no extra equipment is needed and they are songs for every Taste. We will be practicing a few new and some traditional songs during 2024. And as you well know anyone can sing. We'd love to see you again and would welcome more new voices. We meet each month at Church of Christ on second and fourth Wednesday of each month 2.30-3.30. We next meet 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024. All are welcome, as long as you like to sing in a group. We are not a choir but just enjoy getting together to sing songs old and new. We are practicing a few London songs and even trying to perfect the Lambeth walk as taught by our Keyboardist Godfrey (pictured left). Why not give it a try. You may like it, Contact Hazel anytime for more information.

**ANYONE CAN SING EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU CAN'T COME ALONG AND GIVE SINGING A TRY**



## WALKING GROUP

Fifteen members of the walking group met on an unseasonable warm and sunny day, some travelling by bus from Stapleford and others meeting at the starting point.



“A Very Good Place to Start”

Walking through Bramcote Park exiting between the schools.

Sandstone cutting at the top of Moor Lane, believed to have been a Waggon Way for the transportation of coal. We then crossed Coventry Lane, to walk along the old Nottingham canal, to take refreshments at Trowell Garden Centre.

The walk was muddy in places, but everyone looked out for each other and ensures



traverse the worst bits. I measured the walk as 5 and a half miles, from the pub to my home. There are often options at the end of the walk, some taking the bus, some walking one route to Stapleford, others walking towards Bramcote.

Parting of the ways

Next walk dates: 15 March, 19 April & 17 May 2024.

*Elaine Morris*

Are you interested in **FLAT GREEN BOWLS?**

Long Eaton Town Bowls Club have offered to run a few taster sessions at their ground on Devonshire Avenue if we wish to start a new activity.

If you are interested in this activity please let Anne Linsdell know at the next meeting (On Walking Group table)





## UKULELE GROUP

The Ukulele group meets every Wednesday except for the first Wednesday which is reserved for the open meeting, if you would like to join us get in touch with Gillian Taylor or Hazel Stenson at the open meeting. Practice takes place at Church of Christ every Wednesday 10.00-12.00 hrs. **Quote: 5 minutes a day practice is good for the brain and good for the soul.** *Unquote:* Cynthia Lyn music teacher YouTube. This group is now closed to new members, although a new beginners group have started. Interested Speak to Gillian or Hazel at the open meeting.



## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

**Do you have a camera of any description? Do you know how to use it? No! We can help WE NEED NEW MEMBERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE TAKING PICTURES WITH A CAMERA and/or smartphone.**

We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each Month at Church of Christ 14.00-16.00. For more information Please contact David Jones at the open meeting. Normally in the right corner of the Hall at the open meeting.

## DAVEY JONES



## ART GROUP



The art group meets at Sheila Hart's home every other week, one group in the morning at 10-12am and the other group in the afternoon at 1-3pm. Sessions are back in full operation for 2024. Early December 2023 part of the group was filmed for a u3a presentation which is now live on YouTube. To see this presentation go to the u3a website and follow the link for Stapleford and district u3a, or follow the any of the links below.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/stapleford/home>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wbe6XqnwhEo>.

In the meantime enjoy Jane who have a passion for painting birds (left) see more paintings and find out more about this group,

Please speak with Sheila at the open meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**Sheila Hart**



### TRIVIAL PURSUIT

This group meets fortnightly at Church of Christ Eaton road at 1-3pm every 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. For more information Look out for and Contact Peter Wright at the open meeting, in the left corner of the hall at each open meeting, next open meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.



### Scrabble And Rummikub Games Club

#### 3rd Wednesday every month 1pm-3.30pm

The games and Scrabble club is now meeting regularly and we are having a lot of fun. We have taught a few new members how to play Rummikub and they are now hooked and playing well , we will always give time to anyone getting to know how to play any of the games they are new to, or to refresh their memory on.

At the moment we only play these two games but anyone wishing to bring any others can bring them, but please check with me first so we can allocate an afternoon to it. Please come and speak to me if you need any more information. The next 3 games afternoon are all on the 3rd. Wednesdays in the month, March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>. Do come when you can  
We meet at the Church of Christ, behind Larry's Bar from 1pm. \_\_ 3.30pm (tea and coffee provided).

**Heather Flinders.**

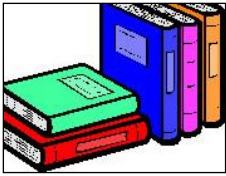


### Cooking

Hello from the cookery group.

It is not often that we get to report on the cookery group as we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month which is rather late to meet the deadline.

For more information on this group please speak to Dodie White/Sandra Hart  
At any open meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.



## BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets at 2pm on the second Monday of each month at Stapleford Library. Many thanks to Karen at Toton Library who has supplied us with some interesting books which we have enjoyed discussing over tea and biscuits. From crime fiction by Lucinda Riley and John Harvey, to historical fiction by Alison Weir. Our latest novel is a New York Times Bestseller, A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towel's. Book Club has helped me discover excellent authors whose books I would never have picked up. If you enjoy reading it's a good group to be part of. For more information look us up at the open meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

***Daphne Ball***



## CRAFTY NATTER GROUP.

The next date of this group will be 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

This is more of a social and sharing group rather than a teaching one as such, but there will be opportunity to learn from each other as the group gets more interested members. Refreshments and lots of chatter is guaranteed but please bring your own crafts to work on

We meet at 10am at the Church of Christ. Eaton's road, Stapleford behind Larry's Bar

Want to know more speak with Hazel at the open meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

***Hazel Stenson***



The Big Plastic Count / U3A: Join the UK's biggest investigation into plastic waste  
Hi there

I hope you're well.

Just to introduce myself, I'm Julia and I work at an organisation called Everyday Plastic. We run campaigns to raise awareness about the single-use plastic problem, and aim to inspire people to reduce their own plastic consumption.

This March, we're teaming up with Greenpeace UK to run [The Big Plastic Count](#), the UK's largest investigation into household plastic waste. Our goal is to highlight the urgency and scale of the plastic problem, and empower individuals to play a part in helping solve the plastic crisis.

The Big Plastic Count brief is really simple: count your plastic waste for one week (from 11-17 March) and submit your results to us online. This will automatically generate your personalised household plastic footprint and will help us to reveal how much plastic we are throwing away as a nation, and what really happens to it afterwards. We'll use the results to convince UK ministers to lead the way at [global talks that could finally phase out plastic pollution for good](#).

Over 60,000 people across the UK have already signed up, but the more people we have taking part, the more powerful our collective voice will become.

We would love for the members of the Stapleford & District U3A to join us on our mission, and would be extremely grateful if you would be willing to help us achieve that by sharing on the registration link with your group members: [thebigplasticcount.com/U3A](https://thebigplasticcount.com/U3A)

We also have additional information especially for [community groups](#), as well as images and graphics to share with your wider network and community (e.g. on social media or in an email newsletter). You can download those at the following link: [TBPC assets](#)

If you have any questions, or would like more info, please do get in touch and I'll be happy to help you.

Thanks for your support. Let's get counting!

Best wishes,

*Julia*

**Julia Bell (she / her)**

Project Manager | Everyday Plastic

**EVERYDAY  
PLASTIC**

Email // [julia@everydayplastic.org](mailto:julia@everydayplastic.org)

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**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES** - To the Newsletter Editor via email by 25th of each month



## Stapleford and District u3a

**Early reminder of our AGM – Wednesday -3rd- JULY 2024 – 2.00pm.**

**All members will be invited to attend our Annual General Meeting which will take place on WEDNESDAY -3rd JULY at 2.00pm at the Methodist Church, Eatons Road, Stapleford.**

**At this meeting you will be asked to consider a change to our Constitution which needs updating to comply with all the latest Charity Commission requirements. The Committee is working through this and copies of their recommended form will be available shortly.**

**Please ask the Secretary, Marion Edwards, to send you a copy  
email: [mimsie19052017@gmail.com](mailto:mimsie19052017@gmail.com) or telephone 07977 818854**

### **Election of Trustees and Committee members will take place.**

**Anyone is free to stand for election to vacant Trustee and committee posts or simply to be a committee member.**

The following existing Trustees, who are currently also committee members, are willing to continue their term of office:

Position	Name
Chairman	Hazel Stenson
Vice Chair	Sandra Hart
Business Secretary	Marion Edwards
Treasurer	Janet Cross
Membership Secretary	Hazel Stenson
Assistant Treasurer	Anne Wilson
Groups Co-ordinator	Anne Linsdell
Speaker/Finder	Heather Flinders

**It is also an option to become a Trustee and to join the committee without taking on a particular role.**

Anyone already a Trustee or willing to become one must submit a Nomination Form, with a member of our Branch to propose them and another member of our Branch to second them. (No existing committee members may propose or second any nomination.)

Nomination forms will be available on our website and paper copies will be available from Membership Secretary, Hazel Stenson, or the current Secretary, Marion Edwards. Paper copies will be available at our monthly meeting in April. Committee meetings usually take place once per month at the Church of Christ building. Near-Stapleford traffic lights, presently - Tuesdays 1.30.

We are very fortunate to have Mac Cox working hard as our Newsletter Editor in a non-committee role, and we hope Mac is willing to continue in this role. Mac is also responsible for advertising the u3a in local venues and magazines.  
Hazel Stenson does an excellent job as our Webmaster.  
Both of these posts are essential.



