

System and District



Vitality!

April
2019

Official newsletter of the System and District University of the Third Age

A NEW U3A YEAR

We do not want to lose you. As you know, the new U3A year begins on 1st April and it is hoped that all current members will renew membership for the year to 31st March 2020.

New (blue) Membership Cards have been produced and you will need to show your card at Main Meetings, now that we no longer "tick" your attendance, and to the Group Leader of any Group you attend.

If you have already renewed, and you have not yet received your new Membership Card, we would be grateful if you would send a stamped, addressed, envelope for receipt of your card to:

Christine Ringrose
45 Broad Street
System
Leicester LE7 1GH.

Or, if you intend to renew soon by cheque or bank transfer, we would ask you to do the same. Doing so will save second-class postage, which increased by 3p to 61p on 29th March. Of course, alternatively, you may join the queue and pick up your new card at the next Main Meeting, on Wednesday, 10 April, in the Conservative Club.

Norma Grimes

Membership Secretary

Note from The Editor

The new programme for 2019/2020 is out now, starting with "Canal life and traditions" in May, exploring "Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies" in August and "My Suffragette Grandmother" in October. Mosaics as an art form will be presented by Julie Vernon (pictured right) in March 2020.

Collect your programme at the time of renewal or at the monthly general meeting.



News from March

At the March Meeting Roy Smart told us about the life of Amy Johnson.

Amy Johnson – a record setting pilot and ground-breaking pioneer



Born in Hull in 1903, Amy Johnson was the eldest of 4 daughters. “Bright but bored” at school, strong minded and independent. The flying bug bit in 1926 when Surrey Flying Club visited Hull offering joy rides. “Going up was fun and safe” said a pilot from his plane which was wedged in a tree at the time. Coming down not so, as Amy would discover.

After university she moved to London and worked for a firm of solicitors. In 1928 she joined the London Aeroplane Club and after her first lesson was told she was no good. She had problems landing – “more like arriving than landing” they joked.

Amy was awarded her pilot’s licence after only 15 hours of lessons. “I’ve never been so happy... I’ll fly till I die, and hope to die flying” she’s reported to have said. A wish that later came true.

After a short courtship Amy married Scottish pilot Jim Mollison in 1932. Later that year she set a solo record from London to Cape Town and in 1933 she and her husband crossed the Atlantic – a journey made dangerous by the need to carry large amounts of fuel and for most of the journey they were out of reach of land. Although they crashed in Connecticut, they set a world record and America took them to their hearts. They were given a ticker tape parade in New York and entertained by President Roosevelt. Jim lived life to the full, much of it allegedly out of a bottle, and their marriage lasted 3 years.

Her last major flight was in May 1936 when she regained her England to South Africa record.

Amy Johnson lived a full and, some would say, exciting life, she set many records and achieved much in an era when successful ground-breaking women were the exception.

Brian King

News from the Groups

Come and Join The Syston Happy Ukulele Band

The U3A Syston Happy Ukulele Band started over 12 months ago. Presently we have 49 members. The overwhelming majority had never played any musical instruments before they joined the band.

The band meets every Friday at The Brookside Club, next to the Brookside Café, near the blue bridge, otherwise known as the Millennium Bridge, Syston, at 1.45pm to commence at 2pm and finish at 3.30.

Over the last year we performed at numerous local venues, the most recent being the Friendship Club at St. Hilda's Church, East Goscote on 13th March. The audience were fantastic and heartily joined in the singing. They said that it was a really nice way to spend an afternoon and commented that the band had very much improved since their first performance last year. The organiser is now in the process of booking the band for their Harvest Festival Supper in September.



Len, or Dave, offer personal one to one tuition in a member's home or elsewhere to enable brand new members to catch up.

If you would like to have an enjoyable weekly sing-along and lots of laughs why not pop in on a Friday afternoon. Any existing Syston U3A member is more than welcome to attend before they purchase a ukulele, as well as those that are considering becoming U3A members. No prior musical knowledge or prior musical ability whatsoever is required due to the innovative teaching methods used.

Kurling

Thanks to the East Midlands Airport Community fund the Kurling group has purchased their equipment so can now play regularly. Thank you EMA and thank you Derek Burden for making it happen.

The new Kurling group got off to a good start in March using our own (SADU3A) equipment. At the moment we are feeling our way establishing rules such that everybody plays to the same rule book. To keep the scoring sheets as simple as possible but still recording each game and end we have fixed team names and they are "Try Our Best", "Kurly Wurly's", "Star Burst" and "Dream Team". Allocation to each team is by lottery at each meeting. It's competitive (well a little bit) but above all fun and suitable for everybody whatever their physical capabilities. The Kurlers meet on Monday mornings.

Dave Steadman

British History Group

From last month:

On a travel theme, we now know that Waverley Station in Edinburgh is the only one called after a book, and George 4th had a portrait done wearing full tartan (but with pink tights on to keep out the cold..) Passenger transport began in 1825, broke down a bit, had no timetables, and no signals – plus ca change? Robert Peel set up the Metropolitan police, to deal with an unruly, one and a half million people flooding into the Capital City – eventually adding two detectives.

Darwin almost didn't go on the Beagle, because the captain, Fitzroy thought he had the 'wrong nose' Well!

Next month we'll be looking on April 8th at;
The Great Reform Act of 1832 – Pat
Slave Trade and the death of Wilberforce – Cynthia
Babbage and the Counting Machine – John
The Tolpuddle Martyrs transportation to Australia – Lena
Establishment of the Workhouses in 1834 – Julie

Another good mix of political and social reform, colonisation, and scientific advance.

Pat Wherton

Crochet and Parchment Craft

These two groups have proved to be very popular and regrettably cannot accept new members for the time being. If anyone is interested in joining these groups, please contact the group organiser (Jane Coulson for crochet - jane.coulson@talktalk.net , Lyn Palmer for Parchment Craft - lynpalmer192@btinternet.com), who will add your name to a waiting list and let you know as soon as a place becomes available.

Crochet - a real variety of items continue to be produced within the group including baby clothes, toys, bags and adult clothing. Some of the patterns used have become progressively advanced and many of the participants have really developed their crochet skills, mastering a wide variety of stitches.



Parchment Craft –

Easter was the focus of our latest session with a variety of Easter cards being created in March. Small decorative boxes, suitable for mini eggs or small gifts, will be made



COMING UP

April Monthly Meeting

This month's topic is Gardening to attract Wildlife by Steve Lovell.
Refreshments are available from 10.00, the meeting starts at 10.30a.m
10th April, Syston Conservative Club.

Age UK Family Carer Workshops

Age UK have held a series of Family Carer Workshops over the last 18 months to support those with the challenging job of looking after

loved ones at home without much support or guidance.

The last session on Thursday 11 April at Cedar Mews Care Home in Birstall between 2pm & 4pm will focus on giving carers a chance to experience ways to take time for themselves in their busy role; why it matters to do so and the benefits to their health as a result.

You will also be able to speak to professionals about support and network with other carers. Please book by either calling Age UK on 01509 260327 or Cedar Mews Care Home on 0116 267 4835.

Jeanette Silver

From The Chairman

A Medical View of Brexit – (don't be put off by the B word Ed.)

Physicians were unable to reach a consensus: Should Brexit take place? The Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the Brexiters had a lot of nerve.

Meanwhile, Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while the Ophthalmologists considered the idea shortsighted.

Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Pediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!" The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and the Chemists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow. The Plastic Surgeons opined that May's proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter."

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea. Anesthesiologists though it was all a gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the a**holes in Parliament.