



Uttoxeter & District u3a

UTTOXETER 3rd AGERS

BULLETIN: January 2024

CHAIR'S REPORT

As we reach the end of 2023, it is inevitable that we look back to the year [nearly] gone; to the highs and lows; the people we will miss; and the friendships we have gained.

So, perhaps, we should take this time to look forward to 2024: to an increasing and broader membership; to activities [old and new] that go from strength to strength; and to a sense of welcoming and well-being because of what the u3a offers.

We cannot effect much change, in our turbulent world, but we can make sure we look after each other: enjoying every activity we undertake; and offering friendship and support when it is needed.

There are too many people to thank, for what they have given us in 2023, and I'm not going to take the risk of missing anyone out!

So, to all of you ... a big 'thank You' for your membership, for your leadership and support; for the help [often unseen] you have given others; for the fun we have had; and - above all - for the camaraderie that we have been able to share.

Rob Hawkins

Open House

The tea/coffee/biscuit girls and boys wish everybody a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday coffee mornings in 2024.

Pam and the gang.

Cinema visits

Thank you for supporting the Cinebowl, who have supported our u3a for many years.

I hope you have enjoyed the selection of films chosen in 2023 and the cinema staff look forward to seeing you all at many more films in 2024.

Pamela Merrett

Table Tennis Group

The run up to Christmas was busy with players extending their skills, prowess and dexterity on the table tennis tables.

The last meeting before Christmas saw the annual Christmas challenges of "Multi Pong", and Ping Pong Bullseye. Prizes ranged from applause to chocolate coins.

Players were left exhausted and had to be revived with a cup of cheer at one of the town's hostelrys.

We reconvene on Wednesday 19th January at Wilfred House.

New players are always welcome. All abilities are catered for and the group is always caring social and friendly.

Come and give Table Tennis a try in the New Year and shake those post-Christmas blues away.

Judi & Chris Lewis: 07980041670

The Ukulele Group

The Misspent Ukes concluded their extremely successful series of Christmas performances at the Xmas Extravaganza on the 20th December. If you weren't able to attend and would like a taste of the event, videos of some of our performance are available to view on our Facebook page 'Uttoxeter U3a Ukulele Group Videos'.

We are now taking a short break until Thursday 11th January 2024, when we will begin to put together a new performance program. We already have confirmed dates in our diary for 2024, so if you fancy having a go at learning to play ukulele in the New Year please contact me.

Alan Wilkinson

Intermediate French Group

As a fairly new group we have established ourselves well. The members are friendly and enthusiastic and our French is coming on in leaps and bounds. We will start the New Year on January 11th at Waitrose community room at 2pm.

Hoping to see old members and maybe some new ones!
Happy New Year to everyone.

Pat Taylor

Ten Pin Bowling Group

Ten pin bowling continues on a monthly basis. Unfortunately there will be no meeting in January due to some maintenance work planned on upgrading the lanes.

Our next meeting will be Friday 23rd February. A text reminder will be sent to regular attendees.

Jane Fountain

History Group

The very popular History talks start again on 15th January at 10.00 at the Cinebowl. All are welcome.

Monday 15th January 2024 - A History of Paper – **Althea**

Monday 22nd January - Early Staffordshire Potters - **Chris Washington**

Monday 29th January - The Death of the Prince Imperial - **David Barnes**

Monday 5th February - History of River Pollution - **Patrick Robotham**

Andrew Lingham

Physics Group

Why not make “learning some physics” one of your New Year resolutions? What better way to do so than to come along to our u3a physics group? Our meetings will resume, after a break for Christmas, on 12th January 2024. If you would like to give it a try, you would be very welcome to join us. You don’t need to have any previous scientific knowledge in order to enjoy these sessions.

We meet at 10am on Friday mornings, at Wilfred House during school term time.

Email me for more information or if you have any questions at

Jenny_lingham@hotmail.com

Jenny Lingham

Country Dance

Country dance will begin on 9th January 2024 at Bramshall Village Hall at 2.00pm until 4.00 pm with a cup of tea half way through. If you are interested please get in touch with me on 01889564427 or 07763179886. Happy New Year.

Keith Lowson

Philosophy Group

The popular U3A philosophy group will start a further series of 8 meetings on Tuesday 23 January at 2-15 at the Heath Community Centre. If you are interested in coming along please email me at davetrener@gmail.com for further information.

Dave Trenery

Exercise for All, Rusty Voices, Soloists and next event.

Friday morning classes at Heath Community Centre start again on January 5th. Any new members are welcome to a free taster session to try Exercise for All or/ and Rusty Voices. If you are not already out and about on a Friday, come and join us.

Soloists will meet again in January. Just waiting for venue to confirm date and time. Come with suggestions of where you'd like to explore, what do you want to see, what do you need help with etc? I'll mail out the next meeting, as soon as I know it.

Next month's event on Wednesday 17 January is a talk on the Staffordshire Hoard by Jamie Hall, a Jeweller. He designs and makes his own jewellery but has a great interest in medieval jewellery. If you wish you can bring along pieces of your own that need repair. See you there.

Lesley Law

The Photography Group

The Photography Group will be starting again on the last Wednesday of January the 31st in the Bankhouse at 2pm. The Challenge is "Weather" but if you have any interesting photo bring them along as well.

New comers will be welcome.

Keith Jones

Craft Group

Craft Group finished the year off with a rousing party and a secret Santa. All handmade of course! Such a talented bunch and what imagination. Food and drink enjoyed by all.

Bit of a break now for Christmas. We need to rest our nimble fingers and craft brains... We will be back on Monday January 8th 2024.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

(I'm off to have some Baileys now!)

Caroline Derry

Genealogy Group

The Genealogy Group hopes to meet on either Friday 5th or 12th January via Zoom. I can be contacted for an update.

Peter Copley

Concert Trips

Two concerts remain to be booked for the first half of 2024.

29th May 2024 (Pay by 13th March 2024)

Frolya	Adagio
Tchaikovsky	Violin Concerto
Dvorak	Symphony No 7

June 19th June 2024 (Pay by 3rd April 2024)

Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony

Ferrenc	Overture no. 2
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Mozart	Piano Concerto no. 25
Schubert	Overture in the Italian Style
Mendelssohn	Symphony no. 4 (Italian)

I have set these dates to give us plenty of time to pay B:Music by the stipulated date. If you want to come please make sure you let us have a cheque for **£40** per person by the date specified above for each concert.

For each concert, I have booked the Choir seats that we like, but also some seats in the stalls for those who find the Choir uncomfortable. All seats are in the lowest price bracket of £26. If we can fill at least 20 seats we shall get 25% discount on this price.

Depending on the cost of coach hire at the time of each concert, and on how many people wish to attend each concert, the price of £40 may have to be changed later on.

Brenda Welch

Trips and Visits

New Vic Theatre

Nine of us went to the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle to listen to a Welsh Male Voice choir. There were about forty of them and they made a beautiful sound and all seemed to really enjoy the evening.

Simon Haas

Kedleston Hall

On Monday 4th December, after a deluge of snow during the weekend 39 of us set off for a visit to Kedleston Hall.

Several members had visited the Hall previously but as with all properties of the National Trust there so always something to see that we hadn't noticed before and this was true of Kedleston, which is an 18th.century House designed by Robert Adam. The furniture and carpets are superb and each room was decorated especially for Christmas with garlands and a tree in each

room. We were fascinated by the many tree “ornaments” made by their volunteers from old newspapers etc. We were most impressed.

Inside the hall is a museum full of items collected during the Curzen’s time in India.....a vast collection, and we marvelled at the vast amount and size of items which had been transported to England.

Refreshments in the cafe included mince pies, mulled wine and hot spicy apple juice...very welcome on such a cold wet day.

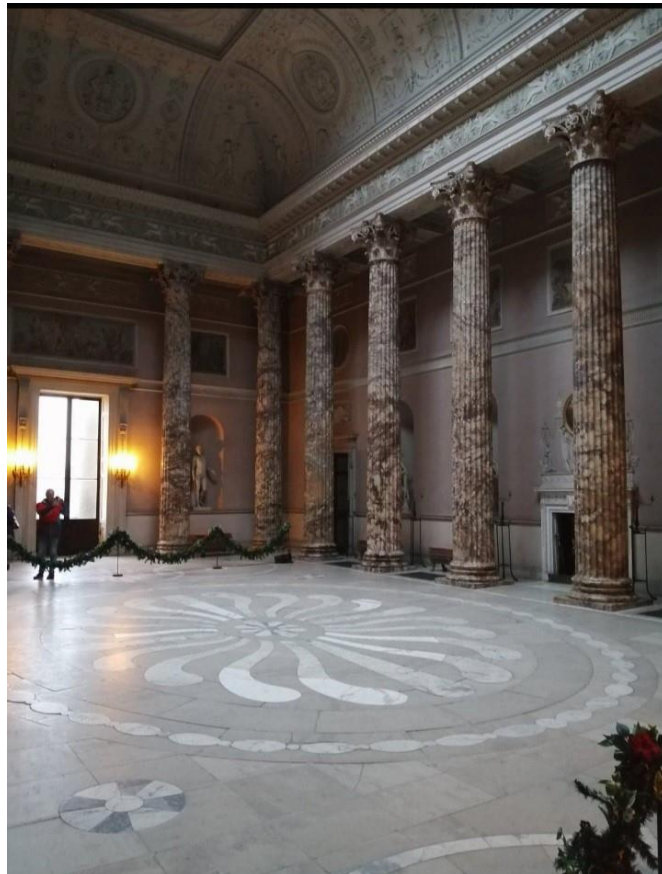
We arrived back in Uttoxeter mid-afternoon, before dark, expressed our appreciation to Trevor our driver for his patience in driving the whole day in pouring rain!

Hoping for better weather on our next venture.....so watch this space!!

Hazel Glover Carol Hogan









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