



## **Uttoxeter & District u3a**

### **UTTOXETER 3<sup>rd</sup> AGERS BULLETIN: March 2024**

#### **Intermediate French Group**

Intermediate French on Thursday afternoons is a small but fun group. No experts but everyone holds their own and if we don't know something, someone (or the dictionary!) always knows the answer. General chat about what we've been up to then moving on to exercises, listening/reading/translating and occasional grammar when needed!

Very informal and relaxed.

**Pat Taylor**

#### **Ten Pin Bowling Group**

Tenpin bowling has re-commenced following the refurbishment of cine bowl. It was enjoyed by all.

New dates for the future 22nd March, 12th & 26th April, 10th & 24th May, 7th & 21st June, 5th & 19th July.

If anyone is interested in joining this group, please turn up at 13.45 or contact me at [c.j.fountain@btinternet.com](mailto:c.j.fountain@btinternet.com)

**Jane Fountain**

## History Group

History Talks for March are as follows:-

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March - The Spanish Civil War by **David Barnes**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Amy Johnson by **Derek Green**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March - A History of Black Holes by **Jenny Lingham**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> April - no History Talks because of school holidays.

Next Talk Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April - The American Cowboy Part 1 - The King of the Cowboys by **Lee Timmins**

**Andrew Lingham**

## Genealogy Group

The next Genealogy meeting is on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March via Zoom.

**Peter Copley**

## Trips and Visits

At the end of the year (2023) a group of members had a very enjoyable evening at the New Vic Theatre where they were entertained by the Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir. Members travelled by "car share" and it transpired to be a very successful evening.

No activities were organised in January...I think we were all exhausted after Christmas Turkey and mince pies! although the three of us were busy discussing ideas and making plans for 2024 and supporting Brenda and Rob by taking payments at OH for the coming visit to Birmingham Symphony Concert.

However we got back into gear on 15th February when fifteen members opted to support the Denstone Players with a visit to their annual Pantomime, which this year was Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates. We were met at the door by a

member of the Drama Group who directed us to our specially reserved seats...so we felt very welcome...and particularly because we were mentioned several times by actors during the performance. It was a wonderful evening, action-packed with a cast of 40, and great acting with modern music we all recognised that had us clapping and tapping our feet!

The costumes were superb...a credit to the villagers of Denstone who spend many months creating these innovative outfits. It truly is an event which appears to involve the whole community.

A few of our members have taken up the invitation from Cheadle u3a to join them on holiday during 2024

We are now advertising a visit to the JCB Factory (8th April) which we are sure will appeal to many of our members, and several other ideas for the coming months are circulating in our minds!

**Hazel Glover. Simon Haas. Carol Hogan**

### **Exercise4All (Every Monday 10:00 – 11:00 at Wilfred House)**

We meet at Wilfred House on Mondays at 10:00. New members always welcome. We perform a range of stretches, resistance and tai chi all of which help us to stay supple & help with our balance and muscle tone. This is not aerobic but exercise that anybody can do. Please contact **Bill Hilton** if you are interested in joining [bill.hilton365@outlook.com](mailto:bill.hilton365@outlook.com)

### **Bread Baking Group (WhatsApp)**

I manage this group via WhatsApp. It doesn't matter if you are experienced or a beginner at baking bread. I provide the recipe & method, take photos, and short videos whilst I bake at home and send it all to everyone in the group. You can then choose to bake it whenever you have time. There is no limit on joining this group and no time slot to fit into your diary. Please contact **Bill Hilton** with your mobile number, [bill.hilton365@outlook.com](mailto:bill.hilton365@outlook.com) if you are interested in joining.

## **Bread baking for beginners**

I am also starting a beginner's baker's course on Tuesday 16th April for 5 consecutive Tuesdays at Bramshall Village Hall, starting at 9 o'clock to noon. The fee is £20 for the whole course, including attendance fees, payable on sign up. There is still **one place** available. See me at Open House on Wednesdays.  
[Bill.hilton365@outlook.com](mailto:Bill.hilton365@outlook.com)

### **Programme**

16<sup>th</sup> Apr Loaves & Boules  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr Buns & Rolls  
 30<sup>th</sup> May Naans & Pittas  
 7<sup>th</sup> May Batters & Crumpets  
 14<sup>th</sup> May Fougasse

## **Wine Appreciation Group (3rd Wednesday evening of the month)**

We meet at Wilfred House on each 3rd Wednesday of the month at 16:30 – 18:30. The evening is both social and informative. Our format is for each couple or paired members to host an evening per year. This involves providing 6 wines which you like and presenting them to the group, so that we learn about new wines. We provide a buffet to accompany the wines. There is the usual fee for U3A attendance of £2 and a small contribution of £2 for the food. The wines are provided free of any charge as described. Anyone interested in joining the group, please contact [bill.hilton365@outlook.com](mailto:bill.hilton365@outlook.com)

## **Guitar Group (every Friday 12:00-13:30 at Wilfred House)**

To all guitar players out there. Have you thought about playing again but just haven't found the time? Well, here's your chance. We are guitar players of all levels of expertise. Bring your guitar along on Fridays to Wilfred House at 12:30 and join us. From The Beatles to Paul Simon, learn a few new songs and maybe even a riff! Contact [email@simonandpat.plus.com](mailto:email@simonandpat.plus.com)

**Simon Haas**

## **Friday's Exercise for All, Rusty Voices and Solos**

These Groups are going from strength to strength and we have quite a few new members who have slotted in with ease. I hope that they are enjoying our active mornings.

You will have read that I launched the new group Solos in December, basically for those who live alone. We met again in January and will be meeting this week, the 22nd February as I write these notes. January saw 14 of us go for Sunday lunch at the Saracen's Head in Weston, car sharing to make the journey a social one, and we did enjoy ourselves. It's likely that a monthly Sunday lunch will be on the cards. Several of us met for coffee on a couple of Saturday mornings, causing havoc in Bear one Saturday and having a leisurely time in 'Time' the following week.

Our HELP system has started with two members sharing their skills and helping each other out, I am sure that more will follow. This could stem from simple things like changing a light bulb, helping with gardening, footing a step ladder or even doing some wallpapering!

We would be a very large group, 50 plus, if everyone attended a meeting, but the idea is that everyone can be flexible and just attend the things that they fancy. The group have lots of ideas and I am looking for some members to take a bit of a lead. Lesley Rowley has volunteered to organise the lunches, perhaps a member or two could get together a programme for morning coffees or visits out.

Some of our group are going to Hopton Hall on Saturday to see and walk the Snowdrop walk, just hoping that it has not been too bashed by all the heavy rain. Solos is open for any additional u3a members to join us, just drop me an email if you are interested. I am on the Bluebird system on the website and can be contacted at [lesleylaw146@gmail.com](mailto:lesleylaw146@gmail.com)

**Lesley Law**

## Concert Trips

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

### **29th May 2024 (Pay by 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024)**

Frolya	Adagio
Tchaikovsky	Violin Concerto
Dvorak	Symphony No 7

### **June 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (Pay by 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024)**

Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony

Ferrenc	Overture no. 2
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**