

Workshop and District u3a

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2024

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**Please send contributions for the
FEBRUARY Newsletter to:
sheilamassey123@btinternet.com
By 31st JANUARY**

Committee 2023-2024

CHAIR

Roger Hancocks

Vice-Chair

Peter Fillingham

Business Secretary

Claire Culpan

Treasurer

Liz Short

Membership Secretary

Shirley Parkin

Groups Co-ordinator

Christine Fillingham

Speaker Seeker

Sheila Massey

Members

Pauline Wass

Mary Beaumont

Alison Morton

Newly elected

Chris Coldwell

Sue Parkin



Here's your first glimpse of next year's Speaker Programme. From windmills to mausoleums; hot air ballooning to toastmastering; Korea to Gretna Green, hopefully there is something for everyone!

Speaker Programme 2024

January 18th

David Skillen: The Gretna Girls and the Devil's Porridge

Everyone has heard of Gretna Green yet few people have heard of HM Factory Gretna. In 1915 a huge and top-secret factory was constructed to provide ammunition for the war effort. It was designed and built in a matter of months and staffed by women and girls from all over the UK and beyond. Two new towns, Gretna and Eastriggs, were built to accommodate the workers. This amazing achievement was vital in helping the British Army to final victory in World War One.

In this fully illustrated talk we will look closely at the fascinating story of the people who lived and worked at Gretna making the very dangerous 'Devil's Porridge'

February 15th

Adrian Sumner: Modern Hot Air and Gas Ballooning

Adrian is a member of Retford u3a. He will be talking about his own experience of owning and flying a hot air balloon as well as revealing the secrets of this fascinating hobby.

March

No speaker

Groups/membership renewal

April 18th

Geoff Harris: A Toastmaster's Tales

Geoff came to speak to us in January last year about 'Folklore, Folk Tales and Funny Folk'. We are delighted to welcome him back with his talk entitled 'A Toastmaster's Tales'.

A light and amusing retelling of some of his experiences working as a Toastmaster at a wide variety of venues all over the UK.

May 16th

Paul Wyman: Tuxford Windmill

Many of you will have visited this local landmark as it has an excellent café!

Paul's talk will cover how windmills work; the business at Tuxford mill – how they got started and what they offer; different types of grains and flours; how to run a heritage business and much more, plus questions and audience interaction.

Paul will also bring some products with him to illustrate his talk, with the added bonus that they can be bought afterwards.

June 20th

Emma Sheardown (Motivational Speaker): There's No Such Word As Can't

"I will share my journey from proving the medics wrong after they told my parents that I would never walk or talk, going on to become world and European champion in the sport of para dressage, and facing and conquering the battle of depression when my career came to an end.

I will share the highs and lows, the triumphs and the challenges as I prove to you that whatever you want in life and whatever you go through...there really is 'No Such Word As Can't'."

July 18th

Rob Barron: North Korea – a personal insight

August 15th

Ali Watts: Something dog-related – details to follow

Ali came to talk to us last year with her rescue dog, Mabel. She gave us an account of the work of the Battersea Dogs and Cats home in London. Sadly, Mabel fell ill earlier this year and passed away. Ali will be making a welcome return to Worksop to share more of her canine expertise.

September 19th

Ruth Massey: The Life and Work of Southwell Minster

For more than 900 years Southwell Minster has been opening its doors to welcome visitors, pilgrims and worshippers. Ruth Massey is a member of the Minster staff and she will present an illustrated talk giving an insight into the life and work of this historic building.

October 17th

Gillian Squires: The Newcastle Mausoleum, Milton

The story and history (personal and social) of the building of the Milton Mausoleum.

Completed in 1833, this splendid classical building with its domed tower was designed by Sir Robert Smirke for the 4th Duke of Newcastle as a mausoleum for his wife who died shortly after giving birth to twins.

Gillian is Chair of the Friends of Milton Mausoleum, and she will tell us all about this amazing building right on our doorstep.

November 21st AGM

Sam Millard: The Rufford Park Poachers

The story of the Rufford Poachers and their mass brawl with gamekeepers in Nottinghamshire in 1851.

Around 40 poachers assembled at Rufford park as part of an action against what they saw as unfair control of game by wealthy landowners.

They were confronted by 10 gamekeepers and a mass brawl ensued, which led to the death of one man and serious injuries to others.

Your January meeting:

Thursday 18th January, 1.45 – 4.00

Carlton Civic Centre

In the large hall

The talk will begin at 2.15

David Skillen: The Gretna Girls and the Devil's Porridge

Everyone has heard of Gretna Green yet few people have heard of HM Factory Gretna. In 1915 a huge and top-secret factory was constructed to provide ammunition for the war effort. It was designed and built in a matter of months and staffed by women and girls from all over the UK and beyond. Two new towns, Gretna and Eastriggs, were built to accommodate the workers. This amazing achievement was vital in helping the British Army to final victory in World War One.

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Monthly raffle prizes

The raffle is a popular feature at the monthly meeting and raises useful funds for our social activities. A small number of prizes are purchased for the raffle, but the majority are donated by members on the day. Please support this by thinking of us as you do your supermarket shopping and slip in a tasty treat or a small gift to donate to the raffle.

Thank you.

Meeters & Greeters



Never been to a monthly meeting?

Used to come, but lapsed (boring speakers?)

Don't see the point when I've got my groups

WELCOME. Are you a member that requires help with the Monthly Meetings?

Are you thinking "will I be on my own, will I know anybody"?

Are you thinking "I would like to go to that meeting, the speaker sounds interesting but I may not know anyone".

If this is you please do come along. Our Meeters and Greeters are just the people to put you at your ease, we will find someone to make your visit enjoyable, who will also make sure you get your cup of tea/coffee/soft drink and biscuit, raffle ticket but most importantly that you are NOT on your own in a corner or at the back of the room. You may be surprised who you do know when you get there!

We get some very interesting speakers, some for fun, some for information and some just generally good at what they do. You can buy cards for all occasions, book a trip with the Travel Group etc. or just sit and catch up with people or make new acquaintances. This is the place to find out everything that is happening in YOUR u3a and how to make the most of your membership. You may even find a brand new interest and make lots more friends.

Brilliant, so we look forward to seeing you at Carlton Civic Centre on the third Thursday of the month.

I will be there to meet you, along with members of the team.

Best wishes
Christine.



GROUPS NEWS

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW GROUPS ALWAYS WELCOME

Do you have a special interest/hobby which you could share with others? We need some new groups to increase our offering to members and to keep our u3a fresh and vibrant.

A Group can be created around any subject, and can be run in any way that members wish. For instance, a History Group could run along the lines of members each taking a topic of particular interest to them, researching it, and presenting back to the Group during the monthly session. This way, the onus isn't on just one member to lead the Group every session. This could also work for Philosophy, Local History, Health and Wellbeing etc.

The first step is simply to put an idea out there, and to see if there is any interest. Help is available with finding venues and setting-up.

Some suggestions which have been mentioned recently are a revival of the Canasta Group, a Board Game Group and Golf. It would be wonderful to see some groups which cater for activities which might appeal particularly to men, as our gender balance has remained two-thirds in favour of female to male for a long time now. How can we attract more men?

Please put your thinking caps on and contact Christine Fillingham, Groups Coordinator, via the Website, or speak to a committee member.

Calling all you dancing kings and queens out there!

We have had a couple of requests for a Disco Dancing Group to meet monthly for a fun dancing session.

Do you think YOU could get together with some friends and organise this?

Do YOU have the necessary equipment to make this happen? (lights? sound equipment? suitable music?)

Are you a budding DJ?

If you think you could help get this idea up and running, please contact Christine or Sheila.

History group?

If you would be interested in setting up a History Group, please email your name to Barbara: barbarabaglee@gmail.com

Quiz Group

Wednesday 24th January

Thievesdale Community Centre

2.00 – 4.00

The first meeting of our newly-formed Quiz Group.

A light-hearted session of gentle brain exercises – lots of fun and only mildly competitive.

Introducing brand new QUIZ BLOCKBUSTERS! First team across the board of hexagons is the winner!

Groups of 4 to be arranged on the day.

DO COME ALONG AND JOIN US

£2 including refreshments
Bring a mug and a pencil/pen

SEWING GROUP

Would you like to join the Sewing Group?

We have a couple of spaces on Thursday afternoon if you are interested.

We meet on the first and second Thursday in the month 1-4pm at Thievesdale Community Centre.

We knit, crochet, embroider, cross-stitch, dressmake and lots more.

We are happy to share our expertise.

Contact Linda Butterfield (lindabut39@gmail.com)

TASTER SESSION: PHOTOGRAPHY

Wednesday 21st February

2.00 – 4.00

Thievesdale Community Centre

The Photography Group invites all members to a taster session in the New Year.

There will be a £2 charge to cover the cost of the room.

The idea is to show you the sort of things the group does, provide some advice about how to use your cameras, compose your photographs and maybe a bit of manipulation on a computer, telephone or tablet.

If you are interested please see **Linda Butterfield** at the next monthly meeting or **contact her by email** lindabut39@gmail.com

Roger Hancocks
Photography Group Co-ordinator

FILM GROUP

Thursday, 11th January One Life

Venue: Savoy Cinema Worksop

Cost : £4.50 (Cost of parking refunded)

Doors open: 13.30

Film Start: 14.00

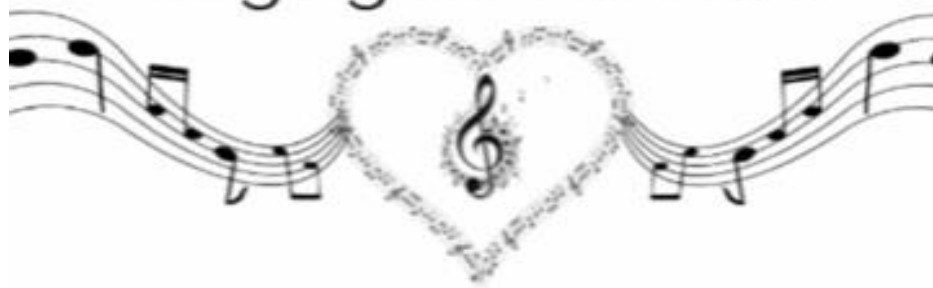
Length: 1hr 50 mins

ONE LIFE tells the true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker played by Johnny Flynn, who, along with Trevor Chadwick (played by Alex Sharp) and Doreen Warinner (played by Romola Garai) of the British Committee for Refugees in Czechoslovakia, rescued 669 children from the Nazis in the months leading up to World War II,. Nicky visited Prague in December 1938 and found families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria, living in desperate conditions with little or no shelter and food, and under threat of Nazi invasion. He immediately realised it was a race against time. How many children could he and the team rescue before the borders closed?

Fifty years later, it's 1988 and Nicky (played by Anthony Hopkins) lives haunted by the fate of the children he wasn't able to bring to safety in England; always blaming himself for not doing more. It's not until a live BBC television show, 'That's Life!', surprises him by introducing him to some surviving children – now adults – that he finally begins to come to terms with the guilt and grief he had carried for five decades

Please bring your u3a membership card with you as you may be asked to show it

u 3 a
Workshop & District
Singing for Pleasure



"The Group That Loves To Sing"

EVERY MONDAY

(Excluding Bank Holidays)

1:30pm - 4pm

Thievesdale Community Centre

Thievesdale Close

Workshop S81 0XS

Are you retired or semi-retired?

Do you enjoy Singing?

Then why don't you come along

to our fun and very friendly

Singing for Pleasure Group

We sing songs from all eras with a break

halfway to enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Don't worry if you are alone as there is always

a member of the group willing to assist.

Give us a call on 0300 0309960

ONE-OFF AFTERNOONS

We started our one-off afternoons in June 2023 after deciding that some activities needed to be trialled before we started a formal group and other activities only lent themselves to one meeting.

The afternoons have proved to be very successful. Three of the sessions, Scrabble, Tabletop Games and Quirky Quiz, were trials for new groups and they were so successful that 3 new groups were formed. We were very fortunate to find members who were happy to coordinate these groups.

We have also run two sessions that were complete one-offs, Patchwork and Quilting and Scrappy Christmas Wreath. These were really enjoyable afternoons.

We are now looking forward to 2024 and have already arranged some of the sessions.

JANUARY will be a repeat of the Patchwork and Quilting afternoon.

FEBRUARY will be a Photography session – more details are in this newsletter.

MARCH will be a chance for you to find out how to pay your membership on-line – more details to follow.

Other afternoons we are planning are chess, dancing and Bridge

If you have any ideas for activities that could be part of our one-offs please contact Linda Butterfield (lindabut39@gmail.com).

Singing for Pleasure Victorian-themed Christmas Party

Monday 11th December was our 2023 Christmas Party which ended in style with a Victorian themed Christmas Market. Group members dressed to play the part in full costume as they paraded along the market stalls. Stalls were full of handmade crafts (all made by our group members) and just perfect for that special little Christmas gift (who knew we had so many talented crafters?). Pauline was also in attendance with her fabulous selection of hand-crafted card designs which she very kindly donates to the group. There was also a Bottle Bag stall which was very popular indeed and sold out very quickly. And, of course, we had our annual Christmas Raffle which always goes down very well.



Everyone enjoyed the wonderful buffet spread along with the mulled wine which as we suspected flowed very well indeed. A quiz then followed before a surprise visit from Santa himself (courtesy of Chris Lodge) who handed out gifts to all members on the nice list. A very big thank you goes out to all those who volunteered in helping to make the day go so smoothly from setting up to clearing away. We would not be able to do this without your hard work.

We wish all our Singing for Pleasure group members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will of course advise you of a start date for our return in January.

Love from Gloria, Jane & Liz xxx



U3a CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

We had over 140 members and their guests attend our Christmas Social this year, which was again held at the North Notts Arena

We were thoroughly entertained by our own u3a Swing Band, *Simply Swing*, under the Baton of John Richardson. They played a mixture of Christmas music and dance music in their own unique style, and I think members particularly enjoyed the Christmas Carols to sing along to. We were even treated to Annette, who runs the band, in full Christmas jumper mode, tap dancing. Quite a sight!

A special thanks to Lyndsey who came out from the audience to conduct the band, and to Steven too, who sang along with the band's vocalist, Ross.

A good time was had by all, and it was a great opportunity to meet up with old friends

This year we had a special raffle, with the three top prizes being highly desirable M&S hampers.

1st Prize was claimed by Maureen Baguley

2nd Prize Dave Scaife

3rd Prize Sue Parkin

That is still one prize outstanding - **Green 12**.

If you have this ticket, please contact Liz Short, Treasurer, as soon as possible. Otherwise, if it is not claimed it will be added to the January Monthly meeting raffle.

Thanks to everyone who helped organise the event. A real success again.







Facebook Page

Workshop and District u3a have embraced Social Media with our very own Facebook page. It differs from the Members Group page, which is a private group where members can converse with each other, whereas the Facebook Page is there for us as a Group to communicate with the wider community. The idea is that we will advertise ourselves across the District and reach more potential new members.

Are you following us in *Workshop Life* and other local publications?

Check us out on Facebook.
Search for Workshop & District u3a



Deadline for February Newsletter: 31st January **All contributions welcome**

Thank you to all contributors to this month's bumper Newsletter.
What have YOU been doing with the u3a? Why not write a couple of sentences about it, along with photo(s) if you have them? Hearing stories of what is going on not only makes for a more interesting, vibrant Newsletter, but may also inspire others to give new things a try.

JANUARY EVENTS

If you know of a u3a member who doesn't have access to the Internet/no email address and so misses out on receiving the Newsletter, PLEASE print this page and let them have a copy so that they can keep up with events. Thank you.

If you or your Group has something coming up which may be of interest to other Members, please let me have the details for inclusion on this page. Thank you.

FILM GROUP

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