



# **Workshop and District u3a**

## ***NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024***

In this issue:

- Committee
- **Speaker Programme 2024**
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- Groups news
- Events –printable single-page reminder of upcoming events



**Please send contributions for the  
MARCH Newsletter to:  
[sheilamassey123@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilamassey123@btinternet.com)  
By 29<sup>th</sup> February**

## Committee 2023-2024

<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>Roger Hancocks</b>
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
	Alison Morton
<b>Newly elected</b>	Chris Coldwell
	Sue Parkin

## MEMBERSHIP FEES 2024-2025

As we approach the year end the Committee has undertaken a review of our membership fees. As a bit of history, we have looked at the fees over the last five or six years which were as follows

2018/19	£18
19/20	£15
20/21	£15
21/22	£0
22/23	£15
23/24	£15

You will note we actually paid less last year than in 2018/19, and in the middle of the pandemic we had also free year.

Part of our expenses is a capitation fee which we pay to the national body, the Third Age Trust. That has recently gone up from £3.50 to £4 per member and we had to pay that during the pandemic year when we collected no subs. And like everyone else we are seeing the effects of inflation hitting us, particularly with speaker fees and their travelling expenses.

Last year we collected less in subscriptions than our running costs and therefore have concluded, reluctantly, that we need to **increase annual subscription to £18. Associate member fees will increase to £14.**

Associate Local member (who pay their membership to another local u3a) will remain at zero, as agreed in our reciprocal arrangements.

I do hope you will agree that this is still very good value for money, particularly when coupled with the modest group fees too.

The window for paying your renewal will open shortly, and we will let you know when that is available.

**In the meantime, please don't do anything to renew your subscription. Do not send cash or cheques or make bank transfers we are not ready yet. You will receive a renewal email in due course.**

*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 19<sup>th</sup>**

**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.

## Monthly Speakers – please read

As you can see above, the Speaker Programme for 2024 is fully booked.

I am currently booking Speakers for NEXT year, 2025.

Before I start contacting outside speakers, I was wondering if we have any home-grown potential speakers amongst our 460+ membership?

Do you have a particular area of expertise, interesting anecdotes, fascinating hobby or unusual work experience? Can you do a stand-up routine, or perform magic tricks? Could you speak for 45 – 60 minutes to share your knowledge with, or entertain, your fellow u3a members?

Perhaps you have made a group presentation in the past?

Any topic is acceptable, as long as it will interest our members. It helps if it is illustrated with pictures or visual aids, but this is not essential. We can help you with the technical aspects of your presentation, and best of all you will be among friends!

We would love to hear from anybody who feels they can step up to the mic and take on a monthly meeting Speaker slot.

Please email me with any ideas you may have, and I will be happy to discuss them with you.

I have also approached all our performing groups with a similar idea, so hopefully we will have variety and a few familiar faces up front at our meetings next year.

**Sheila Massey**  
**Speaker Finder**  
**sheilamassey123@btinternet.com**

## **Your February meeting:**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1.45 – 4.00**

**Carlton Civic Centre**

**In the large hall**

***The talk will begin at 2.15***

# **Modern Hot Air and Gas Ballooning** by Wg Cdr (Retd) Adrian Sumner

The talk will start with a brief history of hot air and gas ballooning. Then how I got involved, owning a hot air balloon, and the various stages of inflation.

I will then cover some of the ballooning meetings I attended, not only in the UK, but also in Europe and even further afield in the USA and Sri Lanka!

Finally, I will end by covering the build-up of teams crossing, firstly, the Atlantic and then the Pacific Oceans, before achieving the 'ultimate' goal of flying a balloon around the world!



*Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

## **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.



**Quizzers Group**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Thievesdale Community Centre**  
**2.00 – 4.00**

**More quizzical FUN and GAMES for our Quizzers!**

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**

**TASTER SESSION: PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
**2.00 – 4.00**  
**Thievesdale Community Centre**

The Photography Group invites all members to a taster session this month. 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 contact **Linda Butterfield** by email [lindabut39@gmail.com](mailto:lindabut39@gmail.com)

Roger Hancocks  
Photography Group Co-ordinator

## FILM GROUP

### Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February The Color Purple

**Venue: Savoy Cinema Worksop**

**Cost : £4.50 (Cost of parking refunded)**

**Doors open: 13.30**

**Film Start: 14.00**

**Length: 2hrs 20 minutes**

**Not a remake of the 1985 movie but based more on the recent Broadway Musical adaptation of the award-winning novel by Alice Walker.**

**A woman faces hardships and abuse in her life, but ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope in the unbreakable bond of sisterhood. It has a lighter tone and presents a more positive and uplifting version of Celie's story than the original movie and is much closer to the book than the original movie. It is an American coming-of-age musical period drama**

**Directed by Blitz Bazawule**

**Starring:- Fantasia Barrino, Tariq P Henson, Danielle Brooks and Whoopi Goldberg as the Midwife**

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

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Workshop & District  
**Singing for Pleasure**

We welcome you to come and see  
what we get up to at our

**OPEN DAY**



**Monday 26th February**

**1:30pm - 4pm**

(Tea & Biscuits Available)

**Thievesdale Community Centre**  
**Workshop S81 0XS**

Are you retired or semi-retired?

Do you enjoy Singing?

Then why don't you come along  
to our fun and 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.

# TRAVEL GROUP

## Dates for your diary

These are the outings we are proposing (so far) for **2024** for all our U3A members.

If you are interested in any or all of the following, please put them in your diary.

### **Monday 15th April**

#### **Day trip to Trentham Gardens**

We will contact the membership shortly with all the details including costs.

Booking opens at the February meeting (15th Feb 2024).

**N.B. We will only be collecting payment in February for coach seats for the Trentham Gardens trip.**

We will let you know when booking will be open for each subsequent trip.

*For the following trips, details will be sent out ASAP both directly to the membership by email and will also be published in the Newsletter .*

- **Tuesday 21st May**

**Day trip to Saltaire Mill & Village (World Heritage Site)**

- **Wednesday 26th June**

**Day Trip to Scarborough Fair and Transport Museum**

- **Thursday 25th July 2024**

**Shibden Hall/ Piece Hall, Halifax**

*The Travel Group*

## 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](mailto:lindabut39@gmail.com)).

## 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 March Newsletter: 29<sup>th</sup> February

# 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.

# FEBRUARY 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.*

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