



## Workshop and District u3a

# ***NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2024***

In this issue:

- Speaker Programme 2024
- Membership renewals
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- Groups news
- Events –printable single-page reminder of upcoming events



**Please send contributions for the  
APRIL Newsletter to:**

**[sheilamassey123@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilamassey123@btinternet.com)**

**By 31<sup>st</sup> March**



**TO  
ALL  
OUR**

**MEMBERS**



## 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.

## It's time to renew your membership

Whilst we would encourage members to renew on line, we know that it is not for everyone and some people like to do it in person. Normally our Open meeting in March is the chance to do that, but given the overwhelming success of the open meeting last year we have added an extra opportunity separate from the regular meeting

### Wednesday 20th March

2pm - 3:30pm

Thievesdale Community Centre, Worksop

This is a pop-in session *just to renew your membership*, or if you have already paid, to collect your new membership card.

Tea, Coffee and biscuit will be available.

Please remember there is limited parking so please don't all come at once

### Thursday 21st March

1:45pm - 4pm

Civic Centre, Carlton in Lindrick

This is our regular monthly meeting which is an Open meeting where Groups will be displaying their activities, so it's a chance for you to see what the groups have to offer.

You will also be able to renew your membership, or if you have already paid, to collect your new membership card

*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.

# **Your MARCH meeting: OPEN DAY**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1.45 – 4.00**  
**Carlton Civic Centre**  
**In the large hall**

## **Do Something Brilliant Today**

We will have various group leaders displaying their activities.  
Come along and see what's on offer and try something new.

This meeting is open to anyone thinking of joining our u3a, and is an opportunity to ask questions and chat to existing members. Please make everyone feel welcome and encourage any strangers you come across.

Spread the word about the u3a and please bring a friend/friends if you wish.

PS

You will also be able to renew your membership, or if you have already paid, to collect your new membership card

## **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.

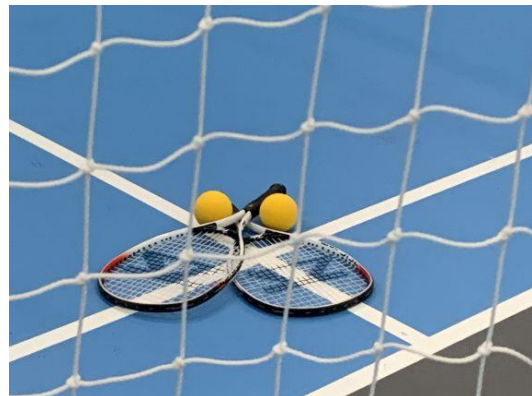
The first step is simply to put an idea out there, and to see if there is any interest. Help is available with finding venues and setting-up.

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.

## *Anyone for tennis?*

Short Tennis, that is.



To explain a little more, the game is played on a badminton court using a racquet but a softer, foam ball. We also play doubles, so there is not too much running around and it's not as fast as badminton.

We are currently looking for new players to join the group, so if you are interested, or would like to attend a trial session, please get in touch. We play every Thursday at 3pm-4pm at North Notts. Arena on Eastgate.

Yvonne Dobson,

Group Co-ordinator,

07910 888649 or contact me via the Groups page on the Worksop U3A website.

**Wednesday Quizzers**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
**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 pencil/pen**

## **GARDENING GROUP**

The February talk was from Don Witton titled A Calendar of Colour. This was about plants giving our gardens good colour in each month of the year. The inspiration coming from an article he had been asked to write for the RHS about Euphorbias, as he holds a National Collection of them on his allotment. Don had chosen a garden to visit each month, a tree or shrub, bulb, 2 herbaceous plants and obviously a euphorbia, showing their best colours for every month of the year. The photographs were beautiful and the information on each plant was clear and concise. This along with his good sense of humour meant that everyone who managed to attend had an enjoyable time. There were also plants for sale that he had shown in his talk. Too difficult to resist purchasing.

Next month's talk will be from Steve Lovell, *Our Friends Outside, Encouraging Wildlife*, on 6th March.

This will be the final session for the Gardening Group. If any members are interested in taking over as Co-ordinators for the Group, please come forward.

## FILM GROUP

### Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March Wicked Little Letters

Venue: Savoy Cinema Worksop

Cost : £4.50 (Cost of parking refunded)

Doors open: 13.30

Film Start: 14.00

Length: 1hr 40 minutes

A 1920s English seaside town bears witness to a dark and absurd scandal in this riotous mystery comedy. Based on a stranger than fiction true story, **WICKED LITTLE LETTERS** follows two neighbours: deeply conservative local Edith Swan (Olivia Colman) and rowdy Irish migrant Rose Gooding (Jessie Buckley). When Edith and fellow residents begin to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. The anonymous letters prompt a national uproar, and a trial ensues. However, as the town's women - led by Police Officer Gladys Moss (Anjana Vasan) - begin to investigate the crime themselves, they suspect that something is amiss, and Rose may not be the culprit after all.

*(Contains strong language)*



**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**

# 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**

**Bookings are NOW being taken for this trip.**

**We have secured a larger coach (there are 41 people on this trip already) so there are still 12 seats available for anyone interested.**

*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 .*

- **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

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

**Please NOTE the date for this trip has changed to Wednesday, 22nd May 2024**

**We will shortly be advertising this trip and bookings will be taken from the 14th March (at the next monthly meeting)**

- **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/TASTER SESSIONS

20<sup>th</sup> MARCH

Come to Thievesdale and pay your 2024/25 membership. Call in any time between 1.30 and 3.30.

17<sup>th</sup> APRIL

New members meeting. If you have joined the u3a in the last year you will get an invitation to this meeting.

15<sup>th</sup> MAY

Folk Dancing afternoon with Eileen and Julian. Spaces are limited for this session so please make sure you pay your £2 fee when you sign up to secure your place.

19<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Will be a Chess session. We previously had a chess group, and we are hopeful, if there is enough interest for this taster session, we will be able to restart it. The cost of this session is £2.

17<sup>th</sup> JULY

We are holding a slow stitching afternoon. Slow stitching is about slowing down, relaxing, not worrying about the end product but enjoying the process. We have arranged for someone to lead this session. All materials will be provided. The cost will be £16.



## 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 April Newsletter: 31<sup>st</sup> March All contributions welcome

Thank you to all contributors to this month's 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.



# MARCH 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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*(Contains strong language)*

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

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