

## **February 2019**

### **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**will be held on Tuesday 5th February at 10.00 am  
at The Arena**

**followed by**

**LOCAL HISTORIAN, ANN FEATHERSTONE**

**who will be speaking on  
EXTRAORDINARY EATERS**

**Doors open at 9.40 am**

### **\*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\***

**Please note:** All those attending the monthly meetings must sign in at either of the two desks at the entrance to the meeting hall of The Arena. This is necessary so that we know how many have attended and, even more important, **it is required to comply with fire regulations**. If you arrive early, before the signing-in sheet is available, please make sure you return to the desk later to sign in.



# ILKESTON U3A

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on Tuesday 5th February 2019  
at the Arena, at 10.00 am

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on February 6th 2018
3. Chairman's report
4. Financial report
6. Approval of the continued appointment of the Examiner for the Accounts
7. Election of Committee

#### Nominations for the Committee

Valerie Buxton
Marian Stopper
Sylvia Farmer
John Stocks
Ann Riley
Andrew Wright
John Bell
June Barnes
Malcolm Muckle
Sharran Aldred
Jean Henderson

## Messages from the Committee

### Dear Members

Please collect your new membership badges from the registration desk near the window, and remember to complete the back.

Just a reminder, there are still some members who have not renewed their membership and who will therefore not be able to vote at the AGM. They can of course pay their membership at the beginning of the meeting to remedy this.

**Marian Stopper**  
**Membership Secretary**

### Return of Trefoil House Keys

The cupboard in Trefoil House is no longer used for the storage of equipment by Ilkeston U3A.

Keys to this cupboard may be retained by members who currently hire and use the rooms at Trefoil House, but it is possible some of our members may still have spare keys in their possession from previous group activities. Please return any spare keys, as soon as possible, to Joyce Lewis or myself.

Thank you,

**Ann Riley**  
**Chair**

## Thank You

### Dear U3A

I just wanted to say "Thank You" for your donation to the Ilkeston Winter Shelter—that was so kind.

The local community has been amazing in its support and donations. Every night the shelter has "guests" - we average between 9 and 11 people (3 women) and, of course, the two elderly dogs.

I thank you again.

With every blessing,

**Reverend Christine French**

# Groups Round Up

## Science for All



Following our last month's discussion on the Chinese Twins story we started our programme by watching a video entitled "Will

CRISPR gene editing technologies lead to designer babies?"

There followed a lively discussion regarding the pros and cons of gene editing—it may be of great benefit in diagnosing and eliminating serious disease but it was agreed that it could be a Pandora's box.



How soon would it be before parents were demanding their offspring to be highly intellectual, athletic, pretty or with whatever trait was deemed to be desirable?

The same techniques that can eliminate muscular dystrophy might also be used to enhance muscles to improve strength or speed.

The moral aspects had to be considered but now the door has been opened how can use of this technique be controlled?

Genetic research holds the promise to prevent, cure and even eliminate disease. But when it is used to create made-to-order "super children" we have crossed a moral line from which there may be no return.

The video that followed was entitled "What will humans look like in 100 years?"

The chances of our species being rendered extinct—it has happened five times before—was evaluated and it was discussed how science could preserve the human genome for posterity.

Maybe we would have to redesign ourselves to cope with life on a different planet which could have different gravitational forces and even intense radiation.

In the end the speaker said it could be unethical not to interfere with our genetic make up if it meant a continuation of the human race.

This led to further discussion as to whether we should try to preserve our species any more

than other ones and could we not start again on the evolutionary ladder as we did originally?

Our last video was quite different and showed us how scientists have the knowledge now to recreate extinct species such as the Woolly Mammoth.

We discussed which birds and animals we would prefer to recreate and which are better left extinct.

Obviously it would also be preferable to conserve those species that we are so rapidly placing in the endangered species category by our own actions.

We looked at the two latest photos of the dark side of the moon including the latest where China's Chang'e-4' lander has rolled out the rover called Yutu-2 on to the lunar surface.

The rover is exploring an area called the South Pole-Aitken basin, which many lunar scientists believe is an impact crater from a huge collision early in the moon's history. That impact may have unearthed rocks from deeper inside the moon, so Yutu-2 could help us learn about the moon's past and its deep composition.

**Janet Joy**

## Handbell Ringing

**Jingle Bells!** The Handbell Group were invited to play a selection of tunes from our Christmas repertoire at the Haddon Nursing Home just before Christmas. Our performance was enjoyed by residents, staff and visitors to the home, and we all joined in with a jolly good sing-song of festive Christmas Carols. Our visit was appreciated so much that we have been invited back again for 2019!

Please join us in sending our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to Brenda Straw, our valued Group Leader, who broke her upper arm in December. Get well soon, Brenda, and we look forward to seeing you back with us soon.

**Valerie Buxton**

# Groups Round Up continued

## History 2

In January members of History 2 visited the family home of Georgian architect Joseph Pickford. It was used as both his family home and as a professional showcase of his architectural skills, with the intention of securing new contacts.



Now a museum illustrating aspects of domestic life from the 18th to the 20th centuries, Pickford's House shows the contrast between the master and the servant, the grandeur of Georgian architecture and the changes that occurred in the house over its 250-year life.

A member of the team administrating the museum was in traditional 18th century costume to make the experience extra special.

There was also an opportunity to go beyond the velvet rope and examine the beautiful rooms up close.



Inside the house was a ground floor dining room, drawing room and morning room as they might have been kept at the time.

A Georgian bedroom and dressing room have been recreated on the first floor, while on the top floor there is a servant's bedroom—a contrast to the finery on display downstairs.

This fascinating house also has a kitchen, laundry and scullery as it might have been in 1830. The old mangle and dolly tub brought back memories.



There was also a garden to explore and a basement air raid shelter, recreated in a 1940s style—not to mention a fully-working Edwardian bathroom which is one of the museum's toilet facilities for visitors, the other being in the style of the 1930's.

It was unusual that the working bathrooms, that were complete with the old Thomas Cramer type toilets, could be used by the public. This facility is

listed on the website as Thomas Cramer but I wonder if this could be a misprint for Thomas Crapper. Unfortunately I did not inspect the facility closely enough to confirm this!

There was also a collection of beautiful toy theatres and a temporary exhibition space—when we visited, the current exhibition was about Agatha Christie.

The whole tour took twice the time normally allowed for organised tours and we were left knowing there were even more things to discover.

Derby Museums are to be congratulated on maintaining their heritage and we can recommend a visit to this site by anyone who happens to be in Derby and has a couple of hours to spare—and it is free!

**Janet Joy**

## Classic Books

We didn't hold a meeting in December, so in spite of having things to do over the Christmas period, we had longer to read our January book, which was a good thing because it was a big book.

"South Riding" is a novel by Winifred Holtby, mother of Shirley Williams, the politician, and friend of Vera Brittain, author of "Testament to Youth". It was published after her death in 1936.

In 1930's Yorkshire a spirited new headmistress brings inspiration and modern ideas to an all-girls school, and shakes up the more conservative-minded residents of South Riding.

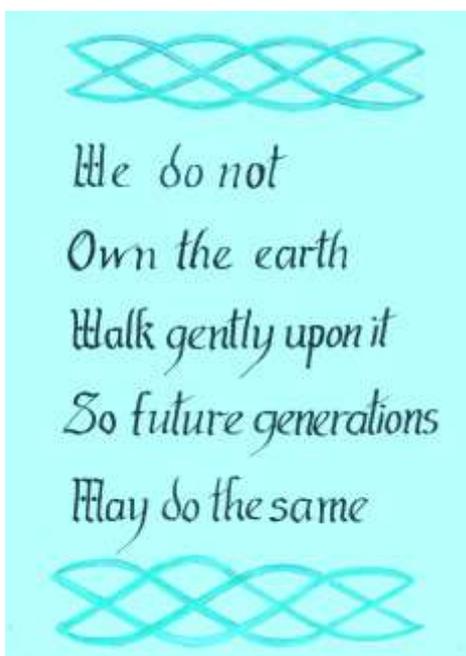
It was made into a serial in three parts by the BBC in 2011, starring Anna Maxwell-Martin and Penelope Wilton. There was a child birth, death, poverty, unrequited love, madness, politics, slums, horses and a rich widow, and all in a small corner of Yorkshire. Emmerdale has nothing on this! All in all, it was a cracking good read and well worth the time it took to read it.

**June Harrison**

# Groups Round Up continued

## Calligraphy

The art of Calligraphy is hundreds of years old, but the Calligraphers enjoy using the skill to bring attention to present day matters, as shown in this contribution by Sandra. It is written in Italic style with decorative header and footer, using Celtic knots.



Linda McKay

## Rambling

We had a great turn-out for our January walk when 13 of us set off from the Punchbowl in West Hallam once again, for a 6.5 mile walk, quite different to the one we did recently.

We were led by Bridget and Doreen who had planned a very interesting walk. From the village we took the path to Cock Orchard, emerging at the end of Cat and Fiddle Lane. Most of us were unaware that there had been a place called Baldocks Mill just up the lane. We thought there was just the lovely cottage with the same name. We were amazed to find that a public footpath goes straight through the grounds past the place where the monks from Dale Abbey came to the mill. There is still the remains of the mill pond, though the mill is long gone. Thank you to the owners of Baldock Cottage for putting up with 13 of us tramping through their grounds en masse!

We continued over the footpaths to Dale Abbey and circled round to cross the road again to The Flourish. It's all right on our doorstep but we are blessed with some very beautiful countryside and villages.

Our run of luck with the weather on our walks ran out this time, as we had some persistent drizzle for about half the route. But it didn't dampen our spirits and the toasty warmth at the Punchbowl was all the more welcome when we returned for a lunch of pies or chip butties.

Our next walk will be on Wednesday 20th February and will be led by Janis and myself. New members are welcome so do contact me if you would like more information.

Dennis Henshaw

## Gardening

The first Garden Group meeting of 2019 will be on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February at the Fire Station, 10.15am. There will be a talk on 'Derbyshire's Historic Gardens' by Jeff Bates.

Anne Wood

## Scrabble

Two of our players stand out as consistently scoring high scores: Margaret Cuttell and Marian Stopper. **Well done to both of you.** Marian Stopper is also the only player to have managed to play all the tiles on her board—not once but three times! If you've ever played scrabble before you'll know that this achievement gives the player an additional **50** points.

Whilst we continue to have a good turnout each month we can always accommodate more players—with or without your own scrabble board. We meet on the second Monday of each month at the Rutland Cottage public house which is on Heanor Road, Ilkeston. There are no fees involved but the landlady asks that you buy a drink at the bar—alcoholic or otherwise.

Ann Shoebridge