ILKESTON U3A NEWS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

March 2019

The next meeting will be held on

Tuesday 5th March at 10.00 am at The Arena

Our speaker will be

ALAN CLEMENTS

"FROM JUNGLE TO PARADISE"

The landscaping of Cascade Gardens, Bonsall

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.

New Committee

I would like to thank the retiring members of the 2018/2019 Committee for their help and support during the past year and welcome the new 2019/2020 Committee listed below.

2019/2020 Committee Members and their Roles

Chair	Ann Riley
Vice Chair	Malcolm Muckle
Treasurer	Val Buxton
Secondary Account Treasurer	Ann Riley
Joint Business Secretary	John Bell
Joint Business Secretary	John Stocks
Membership Secretary	Marian Stopper
Joint Interest Group Coordinator	Ann Riley
Joint Interest Group Coordinator	Andrew Wright
Speaker Seeker	Sharran Aldred
Joint Minute Secretary	June Barnes
Joint Minute Secretary	Sylvia Farmer
Committee Member	Jean Henderson

Thank you

Ann Riley
Chair

Groups

NEW GROUP

U3A Discussion Group

- What should happen to returning ISIS supporters?
- Isn't sex equality already here?
- Erewash Council should…..
- Should the C of E still have a voice in parliament?
- Is the split in The Labour party good/ unwise/treachery/irrelevant?
- Why not have a second referendum?
- Young people today are……
- Ilkeston needs …….

What Do You Think?

What do Other People Think?

Join The Discussion Group:

When: 10:30 to 12:30 on the 4th Monday of the month – starting 25th March (except April when it clashes with Easter so we will meet on the 29th and May when it clashes with Whit Monday so we will meet on the 20th.)

Where: Church of Christ, Adam St, off Nottingham Road, Ilkeston DE7 5BE

Any queries? Contact Robin Short on r_short2@sky.com

GROUPS ROUND UP

Gardening

The February meeting of the Garden Group had fallen during the half term holiday when many of our members had other commitments. As a result the speaker for the meeting, Jeff Bates, very obligingly postponed his talk, *'Historic Gardens of Derbyshire'* until our May meeting.

We still held a meeting, attended by twelve members, at the Fire Station where we were able to get around the table and discuss ideas and plans for our future meetings and enjoy Barbara Bailey's excellent scones.

Here are the dates for the next three meetings.

Friday 29th March: at the Fire Station. Speaker, Emerson Buckingham, Wildlife Crime officer, *'Combating wildlife crime'.*

Friday 26th April: Visit to N.T. Clumber Park, to take a behind-the-scenes look at the kitchen garden.

Friday 31st May: Speaker Jeff Bates, *'Historic Gardens of Derbyshire'.*

Anne Wood

Rambling

One cannot go far in our area without coming up against our industrial past, and our February walk was no exception. Despite a few absent friends, we had a good turnout and we started from the Mundy Arms in Heanor for a 6.5 mile walk, led by Janis and myself.

The route took us along some pathways that were once railway tracks, including the Ilkeston to Heanor Gate line, which skirted what we now call Shipley Country Park. We passed Osborne's Pond, which was a feeder reservoir for the Nutbrook Canal. Passing the Piper Headstocks, that once served Woodside Colliery, we went through Waterloo Cutting, which still bears the evidence of coal on its surface, then up to cross the Ilkeston Road for the next leg of the walk. We continued through woodland, Bentley's Plantation, and the route of a horse-drawn tramway which carried coal from the Shipley pits to the Erewash Canal. There we headed back in the Heanor direction. The canals themselves were built to carry coal to Leicester. We left the canal to head up towards Langley Mill and then by a series of footpaths back to the Mundy Arms for victuals. Another great walk, which will be followed next month on 20th March, and will be led by Colin and Alan.

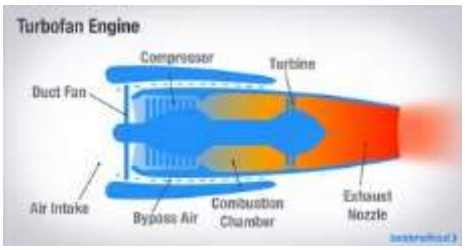
Dennis Henshaw

Groups Round Up continued

Science for All

Our opening talk from John was entitled 'How Does a Jet Engine Work, Grandma?'. As inferred by the title it represents a response to a question from an inquisitive grandchild and hence was kept as simple as possible. Children like a story so if you can include other interesting, relevant background information and turn the whole thing into a story it should be much better received and, more importantly, more likely to be remembered.

A balloon provides a simple example of how a jet engine works. Allow the air to escape and the balloon shoots off into the air. Why? You may not know it but what you have done is accelerate a mass of air which according to Newton's Third Law gives off a force, or in this case a thrust, which drives the shrinking balloon through the air. In broad terms a jet engine does what our balloon did.



We were patiently guided through illustrations of the air being sucked in through the fan, forced into an ever decreasing space by the compressor and ignited in the combustion chamber, whereupon there is a rapid expansion, through the turbine and out through the exhaust. The sole job of the turbine is to drive the fan and compressor. The bottom line is that stagnant air is drawn in at the front and high volumes of fast moving air are deposited out of the back, and Isaac Newton's Third Law has reared it's ugly head again.

We also learned how the process is kick-started on the ground via the external gear box. We were told of the importance of the FADEC (Full Authority Digital Control System) which is a computer having two main functions. It maximises the efficient operation of the engine and it also sends back all the relevant in-flight data to Derby to alert them of any potential malfunctions and if necessary inform the pilot. Finally we were told how the thrust-reverser worked.

In spite of being a difficult subject for some members it was satisfying to see everyone concentrating and eager to learn and most importantly, asking plenty of questions.

Our next talk by Malcolm explored a totally different aspect of science when we were introduced to the anatomy and physiology of the brain.

The largest part of the human brain is the cerebrum, which is divided into two hemispheres. Underneath lies the brainstem, and behind that sits the cerebellum. The outermost layer of the cerebrum is the cerebral cortex, which consists of four lobes, the frontal, parietal, temporal and occipital.

The primary functions of the brainstem include relaying information between the brain and the body, supplying some of the cranial nerves to the face and head, and performing critical functions in controlling the heart, breathing and consciousness.

Visual processing takes place in the occipital lobe, near the back of the skull. The temporal lobe processes sound and language, and includes the hippocampus and amygdala which play roles in memory and emotion, respectively. Humans have more neurons per unit volume than other animals, and the only way to do that with the brain's layered structure is to make folds in the outer layer, or cortex.

The human brain is divided into two hemispheres, the left and right. The left brain controls all the muscles on the right-hand side of the body and the right brain controls the left side.

All of this information was accompanied by spectacular illustrations that could have been an art form in themselves.

Another mind stretching subject that was enjoyed by the members and we realised that the brain is the body's most complex organ.

Janet Joy

Groups Round Up continued

Craft Groups

The two craft groups met in early January for a meal at The Hog's Head. It was a lovely start to the year and enjoyed by all. We said a fond au revoir to Chris who has led the original group. We aren't saying good-bye because we hope when she has recharged her batteries she will be back where she belongs. Until then we wish her well, and thank her for all her hard work and time.

Barbara, with Val and Deb helping, are going to run the two groups. Having explained all this to everyone a compilation of ideas has been talked through and we have the year's activities planned!

We began with Flannellimals (see photo) which proved trickier than we thought! An extra pair of hands was frequently helpful. The year continues with the pattern of cards one month and a different activity the following month. These include waterfall cards, pocket cards, Iris folding, quilling and marbling to name a few. We hope the variation appeals to everyone at some point. We have such a lovely time creating together that it's not an issue if we don't all like every activity.

Take 1 flannel!

Deb Bond

Photography

Over the coming months, the Photography Group will be producing video sequences from stills and movie clips. Having taken many photos, we then have to decide what to do with them. A video sequence is a good way to make use of lots of photographs and share them with friends and family. The sequence can be easily uploaded to YouTube and viewed either privately or publicly by anyone anywhere.

Someone, who has lived in this area all his life, told me that he only recently discovered Lumsdale Falls and mill ruin near Matlock, and was surprised

that he hadn't known about this beauty spot on his doorstep, until now. Perhaps you know it, but if not, it's a place full of photo opportunities, and a chance to learn more about the history of Arkwright's Mills.

Philip Francomb

History 2

The origin of human speech is based on the concept of natural sounds. This theory suggests that first words (utterances) were imitations of natural sounds, which early men and women heard around them.

The origin of music likely stems from naturally occurring sounds and ancient cultures used symbols to represent melodies and rhythms.

Thomas Edison stumbled on one of his great inventions–the phonograph–while working on a way to record telephone communications His work led him to experiment with a stylus on a tinfoil cylinder, which, to his surprise, played back the short song he had recorded, "***Mary had a Little Lamb***".

The phonograph is a device for the mechanical recording and reproduction of sound. In its later forms, it was called a gramophone, the name in the UK since 1910 and, since the 1940s, a record player.

The speaker had brought along an actual phonograph for us to see as well as an early type of gramophone and a wax cylinder.

The early cylinders had two significant problems. The first was the short length of the cylinders, only 2 minutes. This necessarily narrowed the field of what could be recorded

Emile Berliner initiated the transition from phonograph cylinders to flat discs with a spiral groove running from the periphery to near the centre, coining the term *gramophone* for disc record players, which is predominantly used in many languages. Later improvements through the years included modifications to the turntable and its drive system, the stylus or needle.

Before the microphone was invented an orchestra had to place the quietest instruments

Groups Round Up continued

such as the violins closest to the horn with the loudest such as the drums at the back.

The first records were one sided and we heard a rendering of Edna Thornton without a microphone.

RCA acquired the western hemisphere rights to the famous "Nipper", His Master's Voice trademark

We were shown a film made by RCA with a very detailed explanation of how the first records were mass produced involving lots of dangerous chemicals

The above is just a fraction of the information we heard and I, for one, was left feeling that I had gained a lot of knowledge in a short time.

The presentation was excellent and we saw a vintage collection of instruments and heard sound recordings that were truly historical.

Janet Joy

History 1

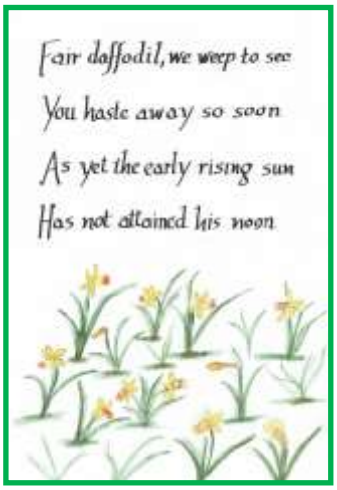
This month we had two videos from the U3A video library. The first was about the Englishman Edward Jenner who, despite many setbacks in the 17th century, developed a vaccine that eventually helped to eradicate smallpox world wide.

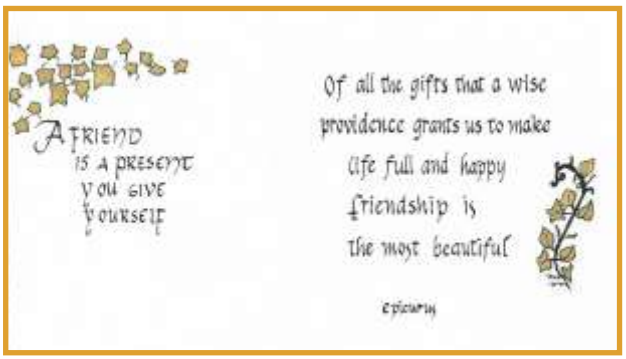
The second video was about the Lewis Chessmen. These early versions of chess pieces were discovered on the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides. They were discovered in 1831 in a drystone cave. They were carved from walrus tusks and whale teeth about 1150/1250 AD and were made in Norway. The Western Isles where they were found were then part of the Kingdom of Norway. They can be viewed at the British Museum. The game of chess originated in India around 500 BC. Would you believe it?

Mike Stone

Calligraphy

We have three beautiful pieces this month. Daffodil and Foxglove are by Val and Friendship is by June.





Linda McKay