

## **April 2019**

**The next meeting will be held on**

**Tuesday 2nd April at 10.00 am at The Arena**

**Our speaker will be**

**MIKE KELLEY**

**on**

**YEMEN—A SADLY WAR-TORN BUT BEAUTIFUL PLACE**

**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.

# Christmas Social Events



## The Choice is Yours

At last month's Open meeting I spoke very briefly about the Christmas Social event(s).

Although last year's Christmas function in the Arena was considered a success by many members, there were almost half of the members who would have preferred to go out to a local venue for a Christmas meal.

Therefore, this year, the Committee is willing to organise two separate celebrations.

On the day of the Open Meeting, Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> we would have a social meeting with a small buffet and Christmas festivities. Then, on the following week, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, we would have Christmas lunch at a local venue.

The choice of venue would depend on the number of members who would like to attend the Christmas lunch:

- The Seven Oaks is the only local venue that can provide a reasonably priced menu, at approx. £15.00 per head for a party of 70+.
- The Hogs Head, Awsworth, and other local venues can only cater for parties of up to 60 for a Christmas lunch at a similar price.

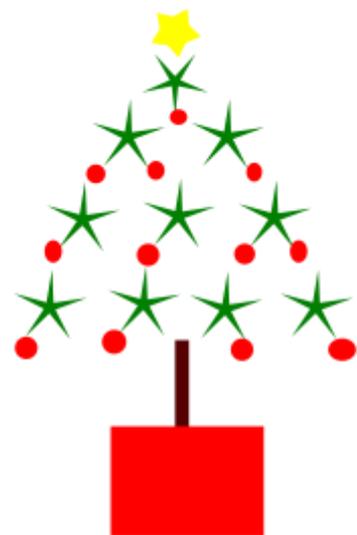
At the next two Open Meetings, i.e. April and May, there will be a list for members to show their interest in participating in the Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019. If we exceed 60 members on the list, then the function will go ahead at the Seven Oaks, Stanton.

It may seem rather early to be thinking about booking Christmas meals but the Committee will have to make a provisional booking, as soon as possible, to reserve a place at the venue.

I hope this will cater towards everyone's enjoyment of your U3A Christmas celebrations.

Thank you,

**Ann Riley**



# Groups

## Craft

The 2 groups have made waterfall cards this month. We decided to treat ourselves and buy kits and I did wonder if they would all look the same. However if you look carefully none of them are exactly the same as we all arranged the parts differently and decorated them in our own way. Unfortunately the kit didn't provide envelopes with the cards.....and how ridiculous is that!!! However PDA crafts at Langley Mill have very kindly given us a box of goodies and when I investigated the contents I found . . . lots of envelopes cut out, ready to be folded and stuck!! So our picture shows individual cards with various envelopes and all looking very professional. It seemed to be an activity we all enjoyed, which is lovely, as well as learning new skills...hits the U3A nail on the head.



**Deb Bond**

## Bowls

It's that time of year again!

The bowls season runs from May to September. We play flat green bowls at The Stute (Ilkeston Rugby grounds) on Hallam Fields Road. We are having a slight change and will play the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month from 1 pm to 3 pm. We hope this means we get more sessions as we avoid the Bank Holidays, and also avoid clashing with golf! Fees have gone up so we can arrange how much we pay when we know how many people are joining us. The group is open to anyone. Equipment is provided you just need to wear flat shoes or trainers. We have beginners join us each season and we are very

lucky that we have such wonderful coaches who spend time with newcomers.

If anyone wants more information see Deb Bond at the next open meeting or give me a call on 01773 741401.

**Deb Bond**

## Golf

On 4th March seven members played the last ever round at Maywood Golf Course. Kevin the Bandit was back with us and, true to form, came in with the best score, closely followed by Greg and Andrew. There were also good scores from everybody else, except me (Note to self: must do better!). The day started a little windy but it did improve as the round went on. It is a shame that Maywood is now closed. It was such a nice course with many challenging holes.

**Peter Winfield**

## Scrabble

The Scrabble group met as usual for our March meeting at the Rutland Cottage on Heanor Road. Much verbal badinage took place as always, in a very friendly manner between ten ladies and one gentleman, which is around our usual number.

We would welcome new members to our very enthusiastic throng. You could be an experienced player or novice, for we are all learning together. It keeps the grey matter turning, which we are all being encouraged to do these days, whilst enjoying a very happy and pleasurable afternoon once a month. We meet on the second Monday of the month from 2 pm to 4 pm. This is a completely free group. All the Rutland Cottage asks is that we each purchase a drink, which can be anything from a soft drink such as an orange juice or tea/coffee, or a drop of the hard stuff if you prefer. However you may find the latter slows down the workings of those little grey cells. We would love to welcome you, with or without your own Scrabble board.

**Dawn Holmes**

## Groups Round Up continued

### Science for All

Andrew entitled his talk *“Rainbows – more questions than answers”*.

We were warned that rainbows are hard to study as we do not really know what happens. Sunlight looks white (at least to human eyes). In reality, it's composed of many different colours of light including all of the “rainbow” shades—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. This is the visible spectrum of light for humans. The actual number of colours is not 7 as most people believe, but an infinite number of colours as the main colours merge into each other. We do not have names for every colour of which light is composed. Newton decided on seven colours. He named seven colours to go with the seven musical notes, seven objects in the known solar system, and seven days of the week, a connection made by ancient Greek sophists. In other words, it was an arbitrary choice made on the basis of mystical superstition.

Certain materials, like water, refract the light and allow it to separate into distinct wavelengths. The wavelength of light determines its colour. Short waves wiggle back and forth really fast, whereas long waves meander. In the visible light spectrum, reds are longer while violets are shorter. All these different wavelengths combine to appear white to us, but if you can spread them out you can see the individual colours.

The sun always has to be behind you because the light gets refracted back in the general direction from which it came. You'll never see a rainbow when you're facing the sun—that is why you will not see one travelling from Ilkeston to London!

From wherever you're standing, it looks like the rainbow actually exists in some physical form. It is not actually wherever you think it is. If you saw a person facing away from you, seemingly standing beneath a rainbow, that person isn't seeing the rainbow above them—they're seeing it almost exactly the way you are, just farther off into the distance. There is unfortunately nothing at the end of the rainbow because it will always move with you.

All rainbows are circular—you just almost always are seeing one part of the arc, rather than the whole thing. To be able to see a full circle rainbow you need to be able to see water droplets below your observable horizon - if you are standing on top of a tall building or looking out of an aircraft then you may have water droplets and sun.



White LEDs do not produce a full spectrum, like an incandescent light bulb does. This has to do with the process that produces the light/photons.

This was another excellent talk by a member of the group and we all enjoyed being tested on some of our previous conceptions and realising that there really are more questions than answers!

The remaining part of the meeting was spent discussing climate change. It was interesting to recall how each of us viewed climate change when it was first introduced to the general public and to discover if our attitude had changed over the last few years.

It was widely regarded at first as a fact of nature that had regularly occurred over thousands of years. This was not helped by unreliable models used to measure climate change with no scientific consensus to provide guidance.

It was unanimously agreed that politicians in many situations and not just in the UK, but globally, were not willing to recognise the reality of human-caused climate change.

We ended up acknowledging that, based on the comparison of atmospheric samples contained in ice cores and more recent direct measurements, the evidence leads us to believe that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has increased. However we felt that individually we could only make small contributions but as was aptly stated – “Every little helps”!

**Janet Joy**

# Groups Round Up continued

## Table Tennis

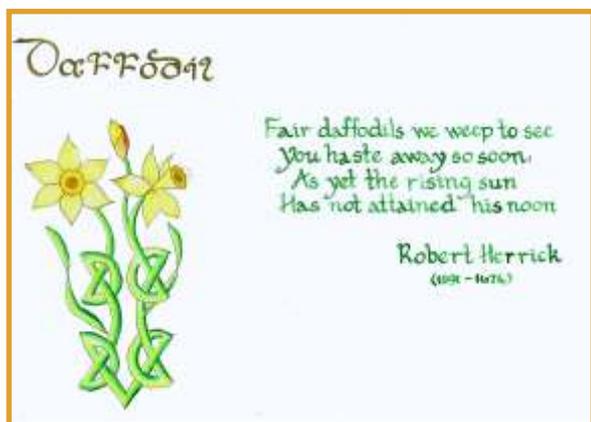
The Table Tennis group met on 12th March and the group is now growing. Eleven members turned up, which meant that some had to sit out for a while because we only have two tables at the moment. Hopefully a third table will soon become available. Everyone enjoyed the hour. There are no scores to report because it is all for fun and fitness.



**Peter Winfield**

## Calligraphy

Now it is April and with Easter on the horizon this Celtic style daffodil seems appropriate. The heading is in old Celtic calligraphy and the poem is in Foundational style.



### **Would you like to try Calligraphy?**

There is an opportunity for two members to join the new Calligraphy group, which started in January. We meet on the third Monday afternoon in the month, from 1.15—3.15 pm. The times are flexible to around 15 minutes, depending on the local bus times.

Anyone who wishes to know more details is welcome to approach me at the next U3A meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, or email me in the usual way via the website. You will be made welcome and will have the opportunity to try this exciting skill or expand and improve if you have had some experience.

**Linda McKay**

## History 1

We had a guest speaker, Mr Mike Astill, an expert on Roman Architecture, with a speciality of Roofs. His talk included details of archaeological digs and his input to leaders in the field of excavations and interpreting the findings for the furtherance of knowledge of how the Romans built their houses, using quarried stone and making hand-made tiles. He brought examples of roof tiles from about 2000 years ago. During the 400 years or so of occupation, the Romans built many villas and settlements, all built of block stone, with underfloor heating from hypocausts. Basically, these were open fires outside the building that allowed hot gases to spread throughout the underside of the floor. In many cases these were mosaic floors. The hot gases were vented through vertical flues to the open air. This method of venting, on occasions, set fire to the roof timbers.

After the Romans left England the practice of using stone for dwellings ceased and our ancient forefathers returned to building homes made from wattle and daub, with a combustible roof of branches and the like.

Mr Astill is not only enthusiastic but very passionate about Roman roofs, which he has studied for over 40 years, and he must be considered a leading specialist nationally. He advises eminent archaeologists on this very specialised subject.

Everyone enjoyed his talk, which was the very first time he had spoken in public.

**Mike Stone**

## Dining Out

We have enjoyed two lunches so far this year. Jenny took us to Oakfield Farm in January and then in February we ate at the Newdigate Arms. Both meals were well attended.

Gill and Roger have booked for us to go to the Mundy Arms on 27<sup>th</sup> March. The venues are usually local at the beginning of the year, in case of bad weather. Barbara is planning next month's lunch and then hopefully we'll be venturing further afield.

**Janet Lumsden**