

May 2019

The next meeting will be held on

Tuesday 7th May at 10.00 am at The Arena

Our speaker will be

ROY SMART

on

**DAVID BEATTY, THE 'LAST NAVAL HERO' and
HIS WIFE, ETHEL, COUNTESS BEATTY**

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 Lunch



At the March Open Meeting Members were asked if they were interested in a Christmas Lunch at an outside venue. We had a positive response from over 40 members and so set about looking for a suitable local venue.

My earlier suggestion was Seven Oaks Restaurant but on further enquiries no bookings were being taken for any Christmas activities. Based on the recommendations from some of our members, I approached Erewash Valley Golf Club and as a result of these enquires, have made on your behalf, a provisional booking for a Christmas Lunch on **Monday December 16th 2019 12.00 noon for 12.30pm.**

The maximum number that can be accommodated is 100 persons and to secure a place a £5.00 non-refundable deposit per person is required. The collection of the £5.00 non-refundable deposits will start at the May Open meeting, and close once we have reached the maximum number of 100 persons.

Please ensure you keep your receipt as proof of your place at the Lunch.

The menu options should be finalised and I am hoping will be available for the May Open Meeting. There will be a choice of:

- * A Traditional Christmas dinner, with a Fish or Vegetarian option.
- * The choice of sweet includes Christmas Pudding served with a Brandy Sauce or Strawberry Swirl Cheesecake with Vanilla Ice cream.
- * Coffee or Tea and Mince Pies will finish the meal.

I can only give an approximate costing of £20.00 per head until the details of the menu have been finalised.

Please remember, this is **NOT** a replacement for the in-house Christmas Social Open Meeting on December 3rd, it is an additional Christmas celebration for all Members who would like to go out for an Ilkeston U3A Christmas Lunch.

Ann Riley



Groups Roundup

Science for All—March 2019

We started the meeting with a Powerpoint Presentation, courtesy of the U3A resources library, entitled Natural Hazards.

Natural hazards are extreme natural events that can cause loss of life, extreme damage to property and disrupt human activities.

Other natural hazards, such as tornadoes, can only happen in specific areas and some hazards need climatic or tectonic conditions to occur, for example tropical storms or volcanic eruptions.

If human lives were not threatened or endangered then the event would not be classed as a “hazard” and it would not be so vital that we understand the processes involved.

Volcanoes, storms, (including cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons) earthquakes and tsunamis were explained in detail.

Hazards can have economic, social and environmental consequences. For each hazardous event the risks, or probability of a particular consequence happening can vary greatly and scientists are working in many areas to both predict the occurrence and to mitigate the disastrous after-effects

Many examples of such disasters were shown such as the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami in Asia and the San Francisco earthquake in 1906.



A short video was shown relating to the Pythagoras cup, which looks like a normal drinking cup, except that the bowl has a central column in it.

It is a practical joke device in the form of a drinking cup, credited to Pythagoras of Samos. When it is filled beyond a certain point, a siphoning effect causes the cup to drain its entire contents through the base.

Pythagoras is said to have called it the “greedy cup” to illustrate how his students tried to get a good filling of wine.

Groups Round Up continued

Science continued—A member of the group then brought us up to date with the real problems behind the grounding of Boeing's 737 Max line of jets.

Officially they will not be flying passengers again for at least a few weeks as the company continues working on software and hardware updates deemed necessary after two air disasters.

We were given an insight as to the background of the aeroplane and the real reasons why the problems occurred.

This was followed by a talk, given at high speed, by an inventor of a system designed to limit the spreading of germs in an aeroplane by redirecting the airflow in the cabin so that each passenger and their germs are isolated from their fellow travellers. This idea, if taken up, would cost very little extra to the airlines.

And finally . . . We ended up with a talk entitled "What if everything you know is wrong"

The speaker gave a talk which entreated us to be smart and to take care of what we have by looking after our planet as that is all we have and we should work hard to preserve it.

Instead of short term gains making lots of money digging up fossil fuels we should be striving to capture energy from natural sources such as the sun.

Although there may be other suitable planets they are far away so we were implored to think "This is it—Earth is our planet to preserve—and we can do it!"

Janet Joy

Discussion Group

The first meeting of the Discussion Group went very well. Ten of us met at the Church of Christ on Adam Street. We had a good conversation about a number of topics:

- ISIS Brides
- Transgender issues
- Do Theresa May's Christian beliefs affect her politics?

- Free TV Licenses
- Should older people still be getting concessions?

Our next meeting will be on Monday 20th May at 10.30 am. You will be welcome to join us then.

Robin Short

History 2

Lady Horsemen of the Road: the story of female highwaymen and footpads

Bob Massey is a historian and retired Theatre Consultant who has planned many theatres and performance spaces throughout the world. He was, for 30 years, technical manager of a Nottingham theatre organising shows and events for visiting artists. As a lighting designer for over 40 years he lit all types of shows from drama to musicals.

We learnt that a horseman is a term used for riding a horse, a highwayman is a robber on a horse

A Footpad or Padder is also a highwayman but robs on foot and is lower on the social ladder than a highwayman.

There were no credit cards in the middle ages so people had to carry cash. With the increase in better roads came greater travel and with long distances without habitation it was impossible to police.

If you travel through Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, there is a pub with the name "Wicked Lady", and you may hear the legend of the female highwayman who terrorised the area 400 years ago.



According to legend, the Wicked Lady was a local noblewoman named Katherine Ferrers who, under the cover of night, dressed as a man and robbed and terrorised locals. Katherine was born in 1634 to a family of fervent Protestants who had profited from the favour of Henry VIII and Edward VI. The family

Groups Round Up continued

was granted extensive properties in Hertfordshire but all was confiscated during the Civil War.

Katherine decided to take up the mantle of highway robber – perhaps as a way to rebuild her family's lost fortune, or as a way to regain some autonomy after years of being passed around for her wealth.

There were some confirmed female highway robbers during the seventeenth century, and many who worked as ordinary robbers – often paired with a man, the woman would lure men into alleys with the promise of sex, where their male partner would knock out the man and they would rob him. This was known as 'buttock-and-file'

Moll Cutpurse (1714) is recorded in a fashion that constantly highlights her lack of feminine qualities – she "would fight with boys and courageously beat them"

Other women who appear in ballads include one featured in "The Female Frolick". She would rob members of unpopular groups, such as Quakers, thus satirising these men's lack of masculinity and symbolic impotence against a woman. Ultimately, though, the female highway robber comes up against a 'real' man, when she accidentally attempts to rob a fellow highwayman; he overpowers her and rapes her, and thus she is brought back to her station as submissive woman.

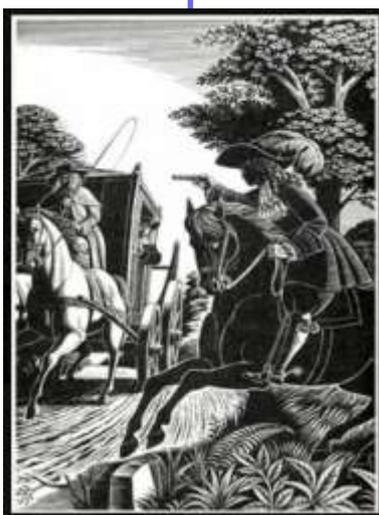
One case of a female highwayman who did meet a grisly end in the seventeenth century was a woman named Joan Bracey.

Joan was the daughter of a wealthy farmer in Northamptonshire who met a man named Edward Bracey around 1680. Edward's initial plan was to seduce Joan and then extract a large sum of money from her father for a marriage portion (as marriage was a common consequence of sex outside of wedlock during this time) before abandoning both Joan and her father. However, Joan was wily herself, and she agreed to rob her own father with Edward. The

pair then travelled together, passing as husband and wife, and frequently robbed together on the highway. Joan was caught and sent to Nottingham Jail. In 1685 she was executed at the age of 29

Archival material shows that Robin Hood did exist in Sherwood Forest but Maid Marian did not appear until two centuries after the era of her so called lover.

We were informed of the misdeeds of many other Lady Horsemen of the road and often details of the grisly end that befell them when caught.



History paints a romantic portrait of these robbers, with Dick Turpin being the most famous but, in reality, there was nothing romantic about them at all. On the loneliest stretches of road they would ride up to block the passage of a coach and, brandishing a pistol – sometimes one in each hand, they would shout to the coachman, "Halt, or I shall surely shoot!" For fear of his life, the coachman would reign in the horses and the carriage would come to a stop. The Highwayman might then fire a warning or a wounding shot. Next, he might actually demand, "Stand and deliver! Your money or your life!" This phrase was in common use on England's coaching roads from the 17th century.

All we have now, in popular mythology, are tales of glamorous, masked, cloaked, 'gentlemen thieves of the road' when, actually, these were dangerous, unscrupulous, violent thugs and murderers.

"The Wicked Lady" film starring Margaret Lockwood was the most popular movie at the British box office in 1946

We all learnt a great deal of information from this talk and it put into perspective the magnitude of their crimes.

Janet Joy

Groups Round Up continued

History 1

Being Good Friday the group's joint leader, Mike Stone, gave a short presentation on the history, symbolism and traditions of Easter Eggs. This was followed by a historical quiz prepared by Christine Stone. Members said it was very hard but most achieved more than 30 out of a possible 40. The eventual winning team was Colin and Maureen Lee and Barbara Green, the prize being mini Easter eggs, although everyone else also received mini eggs.

Next month's meeting we have a talk by a well known historian, Robert Mee, on the subject of lost castles of Nottinghamshire.

Mike Stone

Rambling

In April the Rambling Group had a great walk in the beautiful Derbyshire Dales, organised by John and Ron. The weather was perfect, with plenty of sunshine, as we set off from the village of Winster, near Matlock. The route took us through some stunning countryside, visiting Birchover, a village which in the past was well known for the production of grindstones from the local millstone grit. We took a detour to Stanton Moor with its intriguing stone formations before resuming our walk through the main street of Birchover.



There it seems every home is a picturesque stone cottage with a quaint English country garden. The village stocks still serve a purpose too, as Alan and Wendy found out!



We live in an amazing county. Along one of our paths we came across this huge uprooted tree. We were standing in the shadow of its roots. Note the figure in



florescent green amidst the branches to the right! Amazingly, there were leaves beginning to sprout on the tree.

We had a steep climb back to Winster but the views made it all worthwhile. We concluded our outing with chip butties and lots of chatter at the Miners Standard.

Our next walk will be on Wednesday 15th May and will be led by Dennis and Janis.

Dennis Henshaw

Gardening

The Garden Group's March meeting was a presentation by PC Paul Russell, the Wild Life Crime Officer for South Derbyshire. We learned about the wider picture of wild life crimes, such as elephant and rhino poaching in Africa to things closer to home. The catapulting of squirrels in Elvaston Park, which can result in damaging windows of the castle, at great cost to public funds. The policing of badger culling protests. Prosecuting home owners who chop down trees and carry out building work, which results in bat species losing their protected sites. There have been problems with deer poaching in Wollaton and Locko Parks, poaching for trout in the local rivers and parks, Markeaton Park was mentioned, and illegal gambling activities, where large amounts of money are involved, connected to hare coursing and dog fighting.

This was a very comprehensive insight into the work of the Wild Life Crime police officers. It was suggested that if you see an ongoing crime phone 999. If this is to report an incident then phone 101.

Our Programme for the next three months:

Friday 31st May: Derbyshire's historic gardens, a talk by Jeff Bates at the Fire Station

Friday 28th June: visit to 334 Belper Road Garden, Stanley Common

Friday 26th July: Potato weigh-in at Geoff and Glen's house, West Hallam

Anne Wood

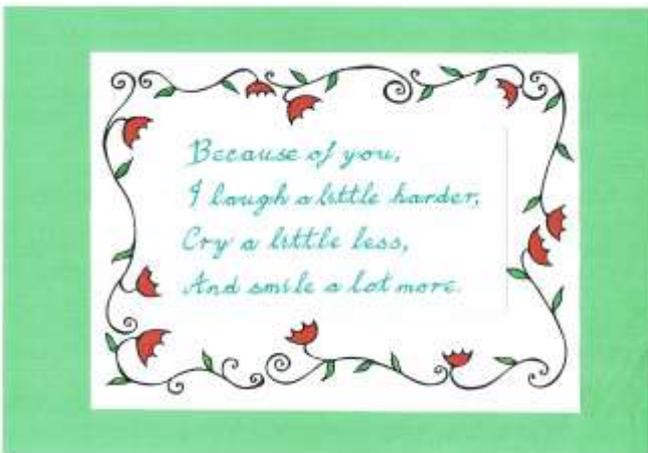
Groups Round Up Continued

Calligraphy



Beautiful World

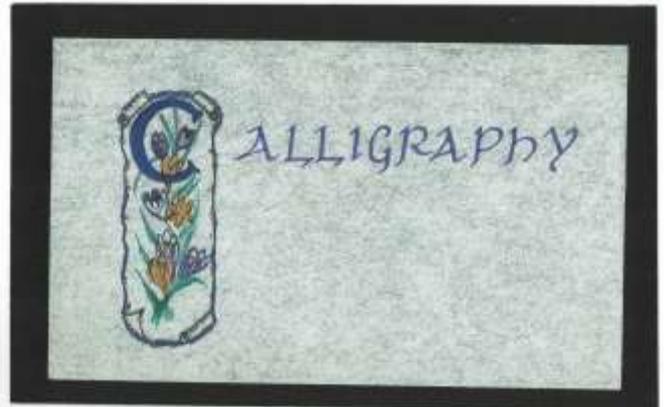
The calligraphy and beautiful original paintings are done by Val H. The lettering is in modern calligraphy, which is very 'in vogue' at the moment.



Because of You

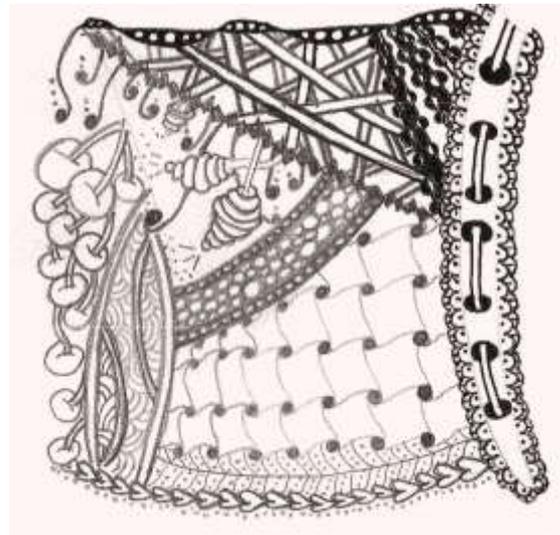
This decorative romantic quote is by Jenny

Occasionally we try penmanship other than calligraphy and in the next column are two examples.



Illuminated C

Illuminated letters are an advanced style of calligraphy and are sometimes decorated with gold leaf. Many of the historical manuscripts still in existence, such as *The Book of Kells*, are good examples of this beautiful calligraphy art. This illuminated C with additional calligraphy lettering is also by Jenny.



Zentangle Tile

A Zentangle Tile is a miniature abstract work of art and this one has been produced by Val B. Zentangling, a variation of Zen doodling, is a meditative art form using a fine black pen on a small tile card, about 9 cm square. Every tile is different as it doesn't follow a pre-determined design. It is an exercise in concentration, along the lines of 'mindfulness' and is therapeutic and relaxing.

Linda McKay

Items of Further Interest

Haddon Hall



One of the country's most beautiful and timeless stately homes, Haddon Hall is situated in Bakewell in the heart of the Peak District. It is one of the finest examples of a fortified medieval manor house, with Tudor and Elizabethan architecture. The Hall dates from the 12th century and was inhabited until the 17th century. It then lay uninhabited until the 1920's when the 9th Duke and Duchess of Rutland restored both the house and gardens. It is now the home of Lord and Lady Edward Manners.

Haddon Hall is now open once again to the general public until the end of October, and visitors can step back in time to marvel at the

rich tapestries, original furniture, Venetian glass, frescoes and carvings, which all tell the story of its past.

Haddon has been the location for many films and TV series, and host to some of the nation's best loved stars over the last few decades.

This year there will be many special events taking place at Haddon. For example, Artisan Markets, Archery, Garden Events, The 9th Duke's Exhibition, Sir John Savile's Household and the Beaufort Company, Plant Fair and the Oak Matters Exhibition.

For further information, telephone 01629 812855 or visit www.haddonhall.co.uk for details of all the special events and exhibitions or to purchase tickets online.

Beeston U3A Short Story Competition 2019

Once again Beeston U3A is running their story competition and Ilkeston members are encouraged to enter.

Stories have to be between 500-2,000 words; entry is free; work must be original and unpublished; entries are under nom de plumes; the winner is chosen by a local novelist; winner receives a gift voucher; closing date is 5/9/19.

The theme this year is "**The Seven Deadly Sins**".

I have full details and entry forms so please contact me if you would like the information forwarded to you.

Have a go—I did and won it twice!

Sue Daley
susandaley833@btinternet.com

Items of Further Interest

What's on in Ilkeston?

Erewash Borough Council has a calendar of events at both the Museum and Victoria Park over the next few months

Museum Events:

- Saturday 11th May Motorcycle Open Day 12.00—4.00 pm
- Tuesday 21st May Evening talk on "Lost Railways of Ilkeston" 7.00—8.30 pm
- Tuesday 28th—Friday 31st May Bugs Week 11.00 am—3.00 pm (for children)
- Saturday 15th June Steampunk Extravaganza 10.00 am—15.00 pm
A splendiferous emergence of time travelling Victorians!
- Saturday 29th June Swing Back to the 40's 10.30 am—15.30 pm Annual 1940's event
With vintage vehicles, displays, the Festival Swing Dance Society,
Johnny Victory and much more.

During July and August there are many activities for children. See Erewash Borough Council calendar.

Victoria Park Events:

- Saturday 18th May International Museum Day—Free 14.00—18.00 pm. Find out about
Victoria Park's Heritage and the changes that have taken place in the
restoration process. Play some Victorian and other types of outdoor
games. Meet at Bowls Pavilion.
- Sunday 28th July Summer Sounds 15.00—19.00 pm featuring 4 local bands

Rutland Recreation Ground

- Saturday 8th June Ilkeston Carnival 12.00—17.00 pm

**For more information visit www.erewash.gov.uk or
www.erewashmuseum.co.uk**

Time Swap

Swap time not money!

Could you give an hour of your time to receive an hour of someone else's time?

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To find out more:
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Email: timeswap@derbyshire.gov.uk
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As presented at
the last Open
Meeting