

December 2019

A decorative border surrounds the central text, featuring holly leaves and red berries in the corners. A small vertical watermark 'www.CreativeCertificates.com' is visible on the right side of the border.

The next meeting will be our

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

On

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER

10.00 am at The Arena

Entertainment by Roger Browne

Doors open at 9.45 am

*** CAR PARKING AT THE ARENA ***

Due to limited car parking spaces at The Arena and the surrounding area can we remind our Members we do have an arrangement with Dunelm, where our Members have unlimited free car parking on their car park.

Please note: Tesco Car parking is restricted to a maximum of 2 hours for customers only.

*** 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.

Messages from the Committee

*On behalf of the Committee of Ilkeston U3A,
I would like to:*

*Wish all our Members a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.*



*Ann Riley
Chair*

Renewal of Membership 2020

Membership fees are due by 31st December 2019. Renewal Forms are available on Ilkeston U3A website or at the meeting in the Arena on the 3rd December, where Val and I will be available to collect any payments, it would really help with this if you have the correct money or cheque .

<http://ilkestonu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Member-Application-renewal-form-2020-Issue-1-doc.pdf>

Marian Stopper
Membership Secretary

Ilkeston U3A Constitution

All Members of Ilkeston U3A, who have given the Membership Secretary an email address for correspondence purposes, will be receiving a copy of the revised Constitution. This complies with the regulations regarding Ilkeston U3A's Independent Charity status.

No new information has been added to the Constitution and because the changes are only cosmetic, it is not deemed necessary to have an EGM before distributing this copy to our Members.

The revised document, now includes the unique Charity Commission registration number and the redistribution of Section 19 Registered Charity Status. This information referred solely to the Independent Charity status of U3As and was not applicable to Ilkeston U3A until August of this year. This revision is purely a formality and requires no action from Members.

For the Members, who do not have or have not supplied an email address, a hard copy of the Constitution will be sent to your home address before 31st December 2019.

Please feel free to contact myself or any Committee Member if you have any questions, queries or comments on the above.

Kind Regards

Ann Riley
Chair Ilkeston U3A

Message from The Chair

It's Christmas . . .well almost!

I would like to inform all our members:

The next U3A meeting is the Christmas Social Meeting on Tuesday, 3rd December 2019 at The Ilkeston Arena.

Doors open as normal at 9.45am and the meeting will close at approximately 1.00pm.

There will be mince pies and nibbles. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the meeting.

The raffle prizes are as follows:

1st prize £40.00, 2nd prize £25.00, 3rd prize £10.00

Roger Browne will be our entertainer for the morning.

The first meeting of the New Year is on Tuesday, 7th January 2020, when the Speaker will be Stephen Flinders.

To all Ilkeston U3A Members, especially ones I will not see during the Christmas festivities;

May I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' for your support and to wish everyone

*A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy
and Prosperous New Year.*

Ann Riley Chair Ilkeston U3A 2019

Christmas Lunch

Ilkeston U3A Christmas Lunch

Erewash Valley Golf Club on Monday 16th December 2019

12.00 noon for 12.30pm



This is a reminder of the date and time of the Christmas Lunch and for Members who have not been to the Golf Club before, the entrance to the car park is on Golf Club Road, off Lows Lane/Ilkeston Road Stanton. DE7 4QR.

The car park is secured by an automatic barrier, please drive up to the barrier and it will open automatically.

To exit, if the barrier is not manned a token will be required, please ask for one at the bar just before leaving.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Ann

Groups Round Up

History 1—Tour of Trent College



On 30th October 2019 History Group 1 visited Trent College in Long Eaton. David Pinney, the school archivist and former Head of Biology (now retired) and member of Long Eaton U3A, gave us a very knowledgeable tour of the buildings and their history.

Set in 45 acres by the River Trent, building started in 1866 and the school opened in 1868. It was funded by many industries but particularly by the Butterley Company of Ripley. The aim was to give a good education and board to boys from homes where there was no money for education. The College motto is “Sapientia Fons Vitae,” which translates as “Wisdom is the Fountain of Life.”

The Senior School has 750 pupils and the Junior School (on a different site in the grounds and called “Elm”) can accommodate 350 pupils. Initially the school only took boy pupils, but since the late 1970’s it also includes girls. Nowadays the college is thought to be the biggest employer in Long Eaton (including teaching and admin. staff, groundsman, gardeners, cleaners, and maintenance staff). The College has no savings reserves and is run on the income from current fees.

The College comprises of a number of separate buildings. As well as the main building there is the John Sketchley Sports Hall (1979), the Biology Centre (1989), an Arts Centre and also a Cadet Hut (for Air and Army Cadets and Beavers and Cubs). A swimming pool was opened in 1941. The oldest building on the site was used as a military hospital during World War One.



The original library was built by the boys themselves in 1929. It’s an attractive, well built, building, now used for advanced computer classes.

The new well-stocked library is a very fine example of traditional woodwork, with a staircase leading up to the new balcony which is on three sides of the library on the second level. Over the main door is an original wooden propeller from a plane presented to the school by the RAF. This was in honour of a former pupil Albert Ball who was an Air Ace Pilot during the WWI. The teachers are



encouraged to put a notice on their classroom doors showing which book they themselves are reading.



The first chapel was constructed from iron, probably using corrugated sheets. The current chapel was styled on St Luke’s Church in Derby and is eighty feet by sixty feet,

with a curved chancel wall. It was opened by the Bishop of Litchfield in 1875. It is a beautiful building with many stained-glass windows, including a modern one showing school activities to commemorate the 150th Anniversary. There is a commemorative wall remembering the old boys who died during

WWII and in the chancel are wooden panels, listing those who died in WWI. The beautiful reredos was



carved by Italian artist Barbetti, and depicts a range of buildings and creatures.

Joyce Lewis, Keithley & Teresa Branson

Craft

Well folks it’s that time of year and the crafters are busy making Christmas decorations. Again, it’s going to be a 2-session project, so we only have an example to show you. We will be finishing these lovely trees in our last session . . . alongside a mini fuddle!

We are hoping to go out for a meal in early January then resume our normal sessions.

Let me take this moment to wish all our fellow U3A members a Happy Christmas. May 2020 see us all happy and healthy and ready to take on the challenges and opportunities that Ilkeston U3A provides.

Deb Bond

P.S. So sorry . . . no photograph! I have a new phone and new laptop . . . those of you who know me will know that’s just too much for my little brain to cope with! Take my word for it the trees are super.

Groups Round Up continued

Discussion Group

We had a very pleasant conversation, covering, as usual, a wide range of topics.

1. Climate Change and the Extinction Rebellion campaign
2. Is technology ruining childhood?
3. When can a lie be better than honesty?
4. Anne Seceulis(?) and diplomatic immunity
5. Should the Charter Fair be extended for another day?
6. Should the Royals maintain a "stiff upper lip"?

Next meetings: 25th November, 27th January.

Robin Short

History 2 November meeting

Our original plan was to complete the viewing of the last episode of "The Vikings" DVD. Due to a technical problem we were unable to proceed at this time so we followed a less formal programme.

Most of the group had seen or read the story of "War Horse". At the outbreak of World War One, Joey, young Albert's beloved horse, is sold to the Cavalry and shipped to France. He's soon caught up in enemy fire, and fate takes him on an extraordinary journey, serving on both sides before finding himself alone in no man's land. Albert, who remained on his parents' Devon farm, cannot forget Joey. Though still not old enough to enlist he embarks on a treacherous mission to find him and bring him home.

Following 8 record-breaking years in London's West End and having played in 11 countries around the world to 8 million people, the National Theatre's acclaimed play WAR HORSE is now touring the UK and internationally.



We looked at the company that produced the horses needed for this stage production. The Handspring Puppetry brings galloping, full-scale horses to life on

stage — their flanks, hides and sinews built of steel, leather and aircraft cables.

One of our group also had personal knowledge as one of the family is currently involved in the touring production.

Handspring Puppet Company, founded in 1981, is based in Cape Town, South Africa and their artistry brings WW1 history alive to everyone.



We followed up with a look at a presentation of the evolutionary history of life on earth tracing the processes by which living and fossil organisms

evolved, from the earliest emergence of life to the present.

We deviated from pure history for our final video about an animal from which we could all learn a lesson. They get to eat, sleep, and hang out in trees all day, going about their business without a care in the world. Or at least that's how it looks. As it turns out, there are plenty of good reasons why sloths are so sluggish—and laziness isn't one of them. This was an entertaining presentation and made a light hearted end to our session.

Janet Joy

Dining out

Our November venue for the Dining Out group was at the Coach and Horses at Horsley. For most of the members it was their first visit and we all enjoyed a delicious lunch of very generous proportions in the delightful surroundings of the conservatory.



Janet Lumsden

Groups Round Up continued

Rambling

After the recent extremely wet weather and floods, for our November outing it was a sensible choice to walk some of the many footpaths around Calke Abbey. We set out from Staunton Harold Reservoir, led by John and Ron, who had modified the route to avoid the waterlogged fields. Miraculously, over the six miles, we encountered very little mud! Fortunately, the weather had improved greatly and we enjoyed being outside in the sunshine on quite a chilly day.

The next walk will be on Wednesday 18th December.



Dennis Henshaw

Science

Everybody in the UK frequently talks about the weather so this presentation by a member of the group was particularly relevant.

Meteorology

The world's weather is perpetually on the move, pushed and shaped by air currents in the atmosphere.

We heard about the Coriolis effect and how it affects weather over the UK. This deflects the direction of the wind to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere. This is why the wind-flow around low and high-pressure systems circulates in opposing directions in each hemisphere.

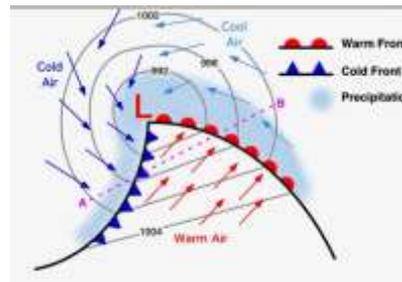
The seasons are a result of the 23.5 degrees of tilt of Earth's rotational axis in relation to its orbit around the Sun. This tilt means that throughout

Earth's orbit around the Sun (our calendar year) certain areas of the globe are tilted towards the Sun, while other areas are tilted away from it. This creates a difference in the amount of sunlight that reaches different parts of the Earth, therefore creating the global cycle of fluctuations that we know as the seasons.

Temperatures seen in the UK are also influenced by latitude, with northern parts of the UK such as Scotland seeing cooler temperatures compared to the lower latitudes and the southern UK experiencing warmer temperatures.

In meteorology, winds are often referred to according to their strength, and the direction from which the wind is blowing. Short bursts of high-speed wind are termed gusts. Long-duration winds have various names associated with their average strength, such as breeze, gale, storm, and hurricane

Warm, cold and occluded fronts mark the boundary between different masses. They are almost always associated with an area of low pressure and bring cloud, rain, and changes in temperature.



In an average depression, a warm front arrives first followed by a cold front. As the cold front moves through, we see clearing skies; the temperature drops and then showers follow later.

As the land heats up, it warms the air above it. The warmer air becomes less dense than surrounding cooler air and begins to rise. The rising air leads to lower pressure over the land. The air over the sea remains cooler and denser, so pressure is higher than inland.

So we now have a pressure difference set up, and air moves inland from the sea to try and equalise this difference - this is our sea breeze. It explains why beaches are often much cooler than inland areas on a hot, sunny day.

Precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapour that falls

Groups Round Up continued

under gravity. Included are drizzle, rain, sleet, snow and hail. Precipitation occurs when a portion of the atmosphere becomes saturated with water vapour,

A rain shadow is a dry area on the leeward side of a mountainous area. The mountains block the passage of rain producing weather systems and cast a "shadow" of dryness behind them. Wind and moist air is drawn by the prevailing winds towards the top of the mountains, where it condenses and precipitates before it crosses the top. The air, without much moisture left, advances across the mountains creating a drier side called the "rain shadow".

A place where rain never falls is in the Atacama Desert in southern Peru.

Records show that Libya is one of the hottest places on earth with Siberia experiencing the lowest temperatures.

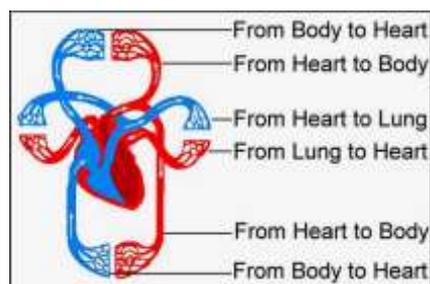
Experimentation

Our next talk by a member concerned the way that scientists were able to advance knowledge of science in historical times. It is only recently that scientists have had the finance and equipment to facilitate research. It was left to experimentation, observation, and improvisation to carry out research.

In Galileo's day (late 1500s), there were no devices that measured time accurately or consistently. This presented a problem when he wanted to quantify the behaviour of falling objects. He avoided this difficulty by placing a rolling object on a plank that was wrapped with lute strings at certain intervals. Using his acute musician's ear, he was able to find the spacing that gave equal amounts of time between each bump on the plank. In examining the distances, he was able to come up with a good approximation for gravitational acceleration.

William Harvey focused much of his research on the mechanics of blood flow in the human body.

Most physicians of the time felt that the lungs were responsible for moving the blood around throughout the body. Harvey, observing the motion of the heart in living animals, was able to see that systole was the active phase of the



heart's movement, pumping out the blood by its muscular contraction.

Having perceived that the quantity of

blood issuing from the heart in any given time was too much to be absorbed by the tissues, he was able to show that the valves in the veins permit the blood to flow only in the direction of the heart.

Harvey studied the hearts not only of various fishes, amphibian, reptiles, birds, and mammals, but also those of various other animal species. But most important, he not only compared these, he manipulated them in living as well as dead animals. When Harvey removed the beating heart from a living animal, it continued to beat, thus acting as a pump, not a sucking organ.

Galvani

By pressing a copper hook into a frog's spinal cord and hanging the hook on an iron railing. Although twitching could occur during a lightning storm or with the aid of an electrostatic machine, it also occurred with only a metallic contact between leg muscles and nerves leading to them. A metallic arc connecting the two tissues could therefore be a substitute for the electrostatic machine.

He also caused a muscle to contract by touching the exposed muscle of one frog with a nerve of another and thus established for the first time that bioelectric forces exist within living tissue.

Newton

The core of Newton's contribution to optics had to do with colours. He concluded that rays refract at distinct angles—hence, the prismatic spectrum of a beam of light directed on to one face of a prism, was separated by the refraction into its component parts—and that phenomena such as the rainbow was produced by refractive analysis.

Groups Round Up continued

Charles Darwin the life of the world's slowest mammal. The theory of evolution says that all living things on Earth, including plants, animals and microbes come from a common ancestor by slowly changing throughout the generations. Darwin suggested that the way living things changed over time is through natural selection. This is the better survival and reproduction of those that best fit their environment.

Perhaps the best known of Darwin's species he collected while on the Galapagos Islands was what are now called "Darwin's Finches". Their beaks varied according to which island they inhabited.



We then watched videos as follows:- "*We are probably headed for an agricultural revolution*".

Discussion included, "If you are not a vegetarian could you cut down or even omit meat from your diet? Are you prepared to accept meat that does not involve cattle?"

"This is an age of genetic wonder. How do we redesign humans and should we?" We discussed the pros and cons of this contentious subject.

Finally we had a light hearted look at "*The life of the world's slowest mammal*"

We can learn, especially those of us who never find enough time in the day, from the life of the sloth.

Janet Joy

Calligraphy

This year the Calligraphers have been very active, learning new calligraphy hands, including Italic, Modern Calligraphy and revising Gothic. Projects covered were several poems, inspirational quotes, especially by Helen Keller,

and illuminated Lettering, when each of them made their own name plate using the decorative capitals and various design styles, including the ever popular Celtic. The name plates were displayed at the Groups Fair in October. Other challenges produced quotes and poems on bookmarks, inside decorated frames and different shapes from hearts to zebras. Halloween brought out the witches and pumpkins and we finished with wintery November poems and Christmas card designs. The year will end with a Christmas fuddle. We send our Calligraphy Christmas greetings to all members of Ilkeston U3A.



Linda McKay

What's happening in December?

Erewash Museum and Victoria Park

Winter Solstice

Saturday 21st December

12.00—6.30

Celebrate the shortest day of the year and look forward to the Spring.

There will be lantern making at the Museum 12.00—5.00 pm and at Victoria Park 3.00 –5.00 pm. Then a parade from the Museum at 5.15 pm through Ilkeston to Victoria Park. Enjoy lanterns, poetry, story telling and Morris Dancing.

Lantern making cost: £1.60 per lantern



Erewash Borough Council

CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 24th December

7.00 pm, Ilkeston Market Place



Erewash Borough Council's

FREE TREE GIVE-AWAY

Thursday 5th December, 10.00 am, Ilkeston Market

One free apple or pear tree per household

For further information on events at Erewash Museum visit:

www.erewashmuseum.co.uk

For Erewash Borough Council events visit: www.erewash.gov.uk

For information on Christmas events in Derby go to www.visitderby.co.uk

Many activities will be taking place in the market place, Cathedral Quarter and St Peter's Quarter

For information on Nottingham Christmas events, including Winter Wonderland, go to www.visit-nottingham.co.uk