

February 2020

The next meeting will be on

TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

10.00 am at The Arena

Our Speaker will be

SHELAGH HIND

with a talk about

THE GUIDE DOGS ASSOCIATION

Doors open at 9.40 am

***** CAR PARKING AT THE ARENA *****

Due to limited car parking spaces at The Arena and the surrounding area, can we remind our Members that 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 Chair

ILKESTON U3A NEEDS YOU.

This is my final appeal to the Membership of Ilkeston U3A for a minimum of two or preferably more members to join the 2020/2021 Committee of Ilkeston U3A.

We are, once again, in the same position as last year, desperately needing Members to join the 2020/2021 Committee of Ilkeston U3A. I cannot stress strongly enough of the need to recruit Members to join the Committee.

At this moment, the Committee cannot fill the vacant roles of Vice-Chair, Minute Secretary, Welfare and Publicity and Joint Group Leader Co-Ordinator, or even legally run the 2020/2021 Committee.

So, as you can see, I cannot stress strongly enough the urgency of recruiting Members to the new Committee.

What does it cost to be a Committee Member?

A few hours of your time at the monthly Committee meetings and as much energy as you can give as a volunteer to help to keep Ilkeston U3A running smoothly and efficiently on behalf of the membership..

What roles are vacant on Ilkeston U3A Committee?

Vice-Chair, Minute Secretary, Welfare and Publicity and Joint Group Leader Co-Ordinator..

What do I get out of it?

The opportunity to help promote and guide Ilkeston U3A's future. Knowing, with your help, forward thinking and guidance, it will survive and continue to be a successful thriving U3A, with its reputation for a warm welcome and friendliness.

On the Committee we are all volunteer Members, we work on behalf of the Members for the Members, so why not join the 2020/2021 Ilkeston U3A Committee this year.

Can I leave you with this sobering thought, because we all need each other to survive:- Without the Members there is no Ilkeston U3A, but without a Committee there can be no U3A.

Sincerely,

Ann Riley Chair 2019/2020 Committee

Committee Nomination Forms

Please ask any member of the current Committee, who are always happy to help.

Alternatively visit the website:

<http://ilkestonu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Committee-Nomination-Form.pdf>

Message from the Webmaster

ILKESTON U3A WEBSITE

To all Interest Group Leaders

Details of Interest Groups on our website, ilkestonu3a.org.uk, aren't up to date and any website is only as good as its content!

I would therefore ask **all** Interest Group Leaders to inform me of any changes to their group(s), as and when such changes are implemented. For example, your group's hours may have been extended; you've changed the day or the location; or maybe you've had a change of Group Leader.

Some up to date pictures of your group's activities would also enhance our website, so if you have something interesting to share with the rest of the members, please send it to me.

Can we please work together to ensure that our website is as current and vibrant as our U3A is?

I can be contacted either via the 'Contact Us' section on the website or directly via:

webmaster@ilkestonu3a.org.uk

Many thanks for your cooperation,

Ann Shoebridge
Webmaster

Groups Round Up

Science for All

At our January meeting, we were fortunate enough to obtain the services of an excellent outside speaker who both educated and entertained us with a talk entitled “The Far Side of the Moon, is it full of Aliens?”

Billions of years ago, our Moon was formed when a Mars-sized object smashed into the Earth, spinning out a ring of debris. This debris collected into the Moon we know today. It started out rotating from our perspective, but the Earth’s gravity slowed it down until its rotation became locked with the Earth’s, keeping one half forever hidden from our view.

Because we cannot see it, the far side of the Moon is for many a place of dark mystery. Why can we never see it? What’s there? Rumours in certain circles speculate that it’s the perfect place for an alien base. There have been many conspiracy theories

When we look up at the Moon, we always see the same side. This peculiarity results because the Moon rotates just once for every orbit it makes around the Earth.

Tidal forces between the moon and Earth have affected the moon’s rotation such that the satellite now only presents one side of itself to us, which scientists call the near side. The “far side”—sometimes incorrectly referred to as the “dark side”—remained hidden from human eyes until 1959, when the Soviet Luna 3 spacecraft first took photos of it. Since then, scientists have learned that the far side of the moon is a very different place than the near side. These first photographs were crude and grainy, but seemed to show a land as bleak and lifeless as the near side.



In 1968, astronauts aboard Apollo 8, which circled the Moon in preparation for the Apollo 11 landing, saw the far side of the Moon with human eyes for the first time.

The US Apollo 11 astronauts landed on the near side of the Moon so they could communicate with NASA here on Earth. All of the samples from the Apollo missions are from the near side.

Astronomers have even more ambitious plans of setting up a radio telescope on the far side of the Moon, where it would be protected from radio emissions from the Earth.

In a spaceflight first, China’s Chang’e-4 has landed where no spacecraft has touched down in one piece before: the far side of the moon.

Many countries are now interested in moon exploration – Russia, America, China India and Israel.

Finally although the far side of the Moon isn’t visible from our vantage point and, with all due respect to Pink Floyd, it is not accurate to call it the dark side of the Moon, all sides of the moon experience night and day just like we do here on Earth. All sides have equal amounts of day and night over the course of a single month. A lunar day lasts about two Earth weeks.



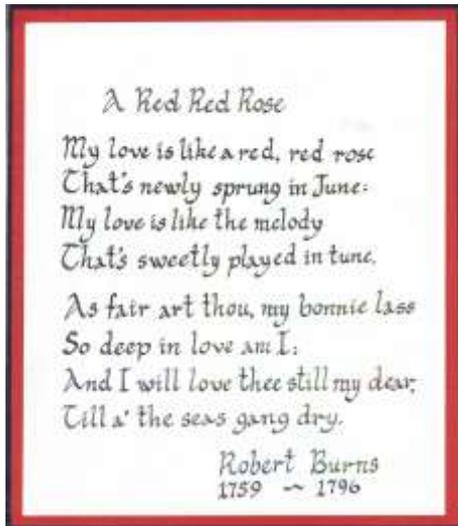
The speaker had brought along a Lego model of both the NASA Apollo Saturn V rocket and its Lunar Module, which were avidly examined, by members of the group, a fitting climax to an excellent talk.

Janet Joy

Groups Round Up continued

Calligraphy

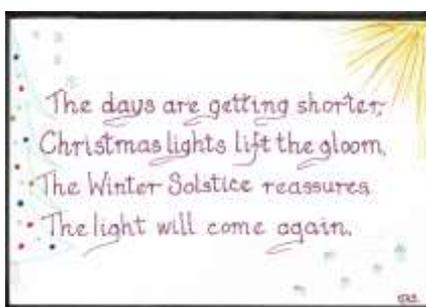
Roses don't grow in January but Burns' night, on 25th January, prompted this famous Robbie Burns' poem.



The Celtic Wild Red Rose is also to celebrate St. Valentine's Day, 14th February. I have based it on a design by Kerry Richardson, a talented Celtic artist and calligrapher, who is known for her original Celtic knotwork designs. A rose-y January to cheer us up.

Both by Linda

The long dark nights and the relaxing time over Christmas and New Year have motivated the calligraphers to produce an attractive and relevant collection of projects:



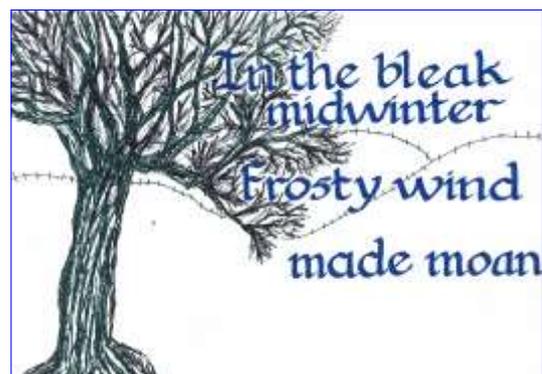
Winter Solstice by Joyce



Auld Sang Syne by Val



February by Wendy



In the Bleak Midwinter

Linda McKay

Groups Round Up continued

History 1

Our **December** meeting was of the usual Christmas standard, in that there was a seasonal fuddle. This was combined with a presentation from our own Joyce Lewis, who had gone to great efforts to provide us with a talk on “*Christmas from around the World*”. This provided information on the Christmas traditions from a number of different countries, in contrast to those of our own. She then challenged us to pronounce some of the words she produced, including *Globos*— the Argentinian version of Chinese lanterns (that was an easy one). *Knecht Ruprecht*—a character who accompanies St. Nicholas on 6th December in parts of Germany. Or try *Gleoileg Jol* in Iceland for happy/merry Christmas, *Svyatki*, which is Russian Christmastide. How about *Bu’orit Juovllat*, merry Christmas in Northern Sweden. In Sweden, Santa is apparently known as *Jultomten*, who is helped by female elves, called *Nissor*, and male elves called *Nissar*.

This is only a brief sample of Joyce’s excellent presentation, which was greeted with great hilarity by our members and very much appreciated. This ended a year when for the first time we had tried a joint leadership of the group. From January, we shall be moving forward in the capable hands of our own, well loved Mike Stone.

Our **January** meeting subject was of “Catherine Crompton’s Diaries” and our speaker was Stephen Flinders. He is always a welcome speaker, and so full of exuberance and joy, that you know that he is completely on top of his subject, which is fully researched, and that he loves sharing his knowledge.

Stephen told us that just a few years ago he was approached, out of the blue, by someone who had found a collection of diaries. They covered the years from 1867 to 1897 and were written by a Catherine Crompton. He soon realised that these were very important items for Ilkeston historians. Catherine’s husband was George Crompton (1823-1897). George came from an important banking family in Chesterfield, which had banks all over Derbyshire, including Ilkeston.

Crompton’s bank later became the Nat West Bank. The family also had a large interest in Stanton Ironworks, Ilkeston. George married Catherine Mee in Chelsea in 1865. They lived in various properties in the London area, producing eleven children, of which several died of consumption. They later moved to Stanton Hall, Stanton-by-Dale in 1881. Catherine’s diaries cover various historical events which she witnessed in London.

The Crompton’s helped to develop the ironworks, bringing in many workers from the Black Country and other areas, to fill the huge number of vacancies. The Company built houses, shops and churches to accommodate them, creating Hallam Fields and Crompton Street/Road. George even laid the foundation stone for St. Bartholomew’s Church in 1895.

George died in 1897, leaving Catherine very well provided for. He is buried in St. Michael’s churchyard, Stanton-by-Dale. After George’s death, Catherine returned to London to live. She died in 1919 and is buried with George.

This is only a very brief outline of Stephen’s talk. He covered the records of many of the family in great detail, with photographs and amusing anecdotes, and stresses that his research is still ongoing. He is in contact with a family relative in Canada, who apparently has many more photographs and details of the Crompton family. It does make one wonder just what is lying in dusty attics.

It was a fantastic insight into a family who had so much input into the development of Ilkeston and its history. If you get a chance to hear Stephen’s talk on this subject, I suggest you take it.

Alwyn Holmes

History 2

Some members of the group had researched the history of different forms of transport. These were as follows:

The Horse

Humans bred horses selectively for characteristics like speed, gentleness, strength

Groups Round Up continued

and their ability to be easily trained. They could live for up to 25 years so it was a good investment.

Humans also figured out how to use horses in warfare. The Mongols in the 13th century were famous for their horse-mounted archers.

Mare's milk was also a valuable commodity.

Oxen were used at that time for agricultural purposes.

The animals were used extensively in World War 2 and a fine photograph was seen of the member's great grandfather in uniform, mounted on a fine horse.

Nowadays sport and leisure are the main uses.

We heard about the dangers posed by horses resulting in personal family disasters.

The Stagecoach

Originating in England in the 13th century, the stagecoach, as we know it, first appeared on England's roads in the early 16th century. A stagecoach was so called because it travelled in segments or "stages" of 10 to 15 miles. At a stage stop, usually a coaching inn, horses would be changed and travellers would have a meal or a drink, or stay overnight.



The first coaches were fairly crude and little better than covered wagons, generally drawn by four horses. Without

suspension, these coaches could only travel at around 5 miles an hour on the rutted tracks and unmade roads of the time. During cold or wet weather, travel was often impossible.

Coaching inns sprang up along these routes to service the coaches and their passengers. Many of these inns are still trading today. They can be recognised by the archways which allowed the coaches to pass through into the stable yard behind the inn.

Early coach travel was slow. In 1673, it took eight days to travel by coach from London to Exeter. Later in 1750 it took around two days to travel from Cambridge to London but by 1820 the

journey time had been slashed to under seven hours.

The development of the stagecoach also had a big impact on the postal service. Introduced in 1635, riders carrying the mail rode between 'posts' where the postmaster would take the local letters and then hand the remaining letters and any new ones to the next rider

Farriers were needed to tend to the horses on the route. Being a farrier involved some skills of a veterinarian, in caring for the horses' feet, and some of a blacksmith in making, applying and adjusting horseshoes

The development of the railways in the 1830s had a huge impact on the stagecoach.

Balloons

The first balloons were tethered.

In 1783, the Montgolfier brothers sent a sheep, a duck and a chicken on an eight-minute flight over France and they all survived.



Other hot air balloon designs and ambitious flights followed, but by 1800 the hot air balloon had been largely overshadowed by gas balloons. One factor in this popularity decline was a death in an attempted flight over the English Channel. The balloon used included a smaller hydrogen balloon in addition to the hot air balloon envelope. The fire ignited the hydrogen early in the flight, and the entire balloon burst into flames.

Balloons developed steering and were known as Zeppelins. The Hindenburg was a 245-metre long airship of conventional Zeppelin design, that was launched in Germany in 1936. Though it was designed to be filled with helium gas, the airship was filled with highly flammable hydrogen and it burst into flames on landing.

The 1970s and 80s saw the development of new synthetic materials and lighter burners, creating a popular modern sport.

In 2002 Steve Fossett became the first balloonist to travel around the world by himself in a hot air balloon.

Groups Round Up continued

Boats



The Erewash Canal was taken as the basis of the use of boats as transport.

The Erewash Canal runs from the River Trent and the Soar

Navigation at Trent Lock to Langley Mill where it joins the now derelict Nottingham Canal and Cromford Canal (under restoration). The Erewash Canal is 11.5 miles (18.5 km) long and has 14 locks. The restored lock at Langley Mill, which allows entrance to Langley Mill Basin, is the first lock on the Cromford Canal. The Derby Canal (under restoration) joined the Erewash Canal at Sandiacre Junction (just above Sandiacre Lock). The Nutbrook Canal (derelict and mostly filled in) joined the Erewash Canal just below Hallam Fields Lock.

The Erewash canal was built largely to bring coal out of the Erewash Valley pits and down to the river Trent for onward trade to Nottingham and Leicester. It initially served the many 'bell' pits between Ilkeston and Langley Mill, with horse-tramways bringing coal to waterside wharves at several points that are now rural areas. From Ilkeston downwards, there were major iron works at Cotmanhay, Stanton and Trent Lock. During the Second World War iron and munitions were loaded from Stanton Ironworks and coal was still carried by boat from Shipley and Langley Mill.

We were treated to a description of the journey between the Gallows Inn lock and Langley Mill Basin

It was noted that facilities for taking a barge in to a dry dock for repair is also available.

Janet Joy

Craft

Our new year started with a meal at The Mallard. It was lovely that both groups had the chance to get together and catch up.

We started the first of our new activities and had a giggle as we kept going wrong! Pictures in the next newsletter (I hope).

This is advanced warning for both groups:- In the next session we are embossing metal. Those of you with the embossing pens we used with Pergarmano (I hope that's spelt right) please bring them with you. Don't worry if you don't have one we will have some we can share. Please bring a pencil and biro too.

Even further advanced warning:- Please be aware we need small blue/clear/crystal beads to represent raindrops for our session in May/June. Don't throw away any old necklaces that could be useful.

Deb Bond

French Conversation

The French Conversation group celebrated the New Year together at French Living, a French restaurant in Nottingham.



We have managed to keep the group going since the sad loss of John Considine. So much so, that we have reached full capacity with 12 of us now. I have had to start a waiting list.

I am sorry I had to do this, but there would not be enough time for all of us to actually practise our French if we took on more people.

Glen Pickering

Dining Out

A Happy New Year to you all from the Dining Out group. We had our first lunch of the year at Eaton Farm, Long Eaton. Twelve of us attended and everyone said they had enjoyed it. I am busy looking for another local venue in case the weather takes a turn for the worst.

I'm informed that I'm missing some members off my email list. If so if that applies to you, please let me know so that I can amend it.

Janet Lumsden

IMPORTANT



Ilkeston U3A needs your **HELP**

The Committee is having difficulty recruiting members for the 2020/2021 Committee.

The 2020/2021 Committee is short of nominees for the following roles

Vice Chair

Minute Secretary

Welfare and Publicity

Joint Group Leader Coordinator

Please put your name forward to join the Committee if you can assist in any way to help Ilkeston U3A.

Please contact any Member of the Committee for further information