

January 2020

The next meeting will be on
TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY
10.00 am at The Arena

Our Speaker will be Local Historian
STEPHEN FLINDERS

with

A TASTE OF TUDOR ILKESTON
Day to day life in a typical 16th century village

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

Nominations for the 2020/2021 Committee of Ilkeston U3A

It doesn't seem like a year since we welcomed in the New Year and I was reminding the Members of Ilkeston U3A that we needed more Members to join the Committee. It is and yet again, I'm asking the same questions now as I did then.

- Can you help the 2020/2021 Committee to carry on the business of the U3A?
- Do you have any skills you can bring to the Committee of Ilkeston U3A?
- Are you willing to help by joining the 2020/2021 Committee?

I feel sure that, amongst our Members, there are many of you who can say YES to some or all of those questions.

So, if you can say YES, then please think seriously about putting your name forward for nomination to the Committee at the main January meeting.

If you feel a little apprehensive and need to speak to either myself or a Member of the present Committee, please do. We are always willing to help and support you.

You have nothing to lose and Ilkeston U3A will have everything to gain.

There are six Members of the existing Committee who are willing to stand again this year for re-election to the 2020/2021 Committee. This includes the Chair, Treasurer, Business Secretary, Membership Secretary, Speaker Seeker and one other Committee Member. We are looking for at least three new Committee Members to fill the roles of Vice Chair, Minute Secretary, Publicity and Welfare.

Due to the rules of the Constitution, the Chair is not allowed to hold office for more than three consecutive years. Therefore, I cannot continue in this role on the Committee after 2020/2021. The Committee is now actively looking for a Member to take on the role of Vice Chair this year, to shadow the Chair on the 2020/2021 Committee and continue as Chair in 2021/2022. This will give Ilkeston U3A continuity and stability for the future. So please, Members, think seriously about coming forward and supporting the Committee of Ilkeston U3A.

Thank you,

Ann Riley,
Chair

Messages from The Chair

Christmas Festivities

Christmas Social Open Meeting

Thank you to all Members who helped to make the Christmas Social event at The Arena a success and I sincerely hope you enjoyed the Entertainer and the Christmas meeting.

I appreciate all of the comments I received after the Social Meeting. Good remarks are always nice to hear and I hope to learn from the comments of Members who do not always enjoy the event. I understand one or two members thought the piano music was too loud this year, something to bear in mind for the next Social Open Meeting.

I would like to say a personal thank you from me to everyone who helped with tables before the meeting. These events would not be possible without your support.

It is always awkward to name individuals because it is so easy to overlook and offend someone, but I would like to thank Wendy Wesley for making the delicious gluten free cakes and Dennis and Sue for their help in keeping the tea and coffee flowing during the meeting.

Christmas Lunch at the Erewash Golf Club

The setting for Christmas Lunch at the Erewash Golf Club was perfect. The tables and room were beautifully decorated. Most of the Members enjoyed their choice of menu. The food was freshly cooked and served, although the service at times was a little slow. I think the bar staff did extremely well to cope with 91 hungry Members. (I understand, the regular staff were still studying at college)

I had mixed comments about the Speaker, who, I hasten to add, filled in at the very last moment.

So once again, Thank you for your support and making the event an enjoyable experience.

Ann Riley



Welcome 2020



I wish all our Members a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year and I would like to say a sincere Thank You for your help and support in 2019.

As I look back on the year, I think Ilkeston U3A has had quite a successful year of meetings and social events and I hope you have all enjoyed the Programme and social events of 2019.

Thank you to all of the Group Leaders, who work so hard to keep the Groups interesting and running smoothly. The Interest Groups are the backbone of all U3A's.

Thank you to the Members who help at the monthly Open meetings, Sue and Janis on the registers, June and Dennis on refreshments, Angela, Lilian and Sylvia who look after the books, the Meeters and Greeters who warmly welcome us at the door, the Members who help at the Social events, Janis for the monthly newsletter.

This is the part I dread— 'Who have I missed?' Hopefully no-one, but please indulge me if I have.

I'd like to thank the Committee on your behalf and also add my sincere Thank You for their help and support during 2019.

So, as 2019 comes to an end, let us all look forward to a happy and successful 2020.

Thank you

Ann Riley

Messages from The Committee

Membership Renewal

A reminder that membership renewals were due by 31st December 2019. Valerie and I will be collecting membership fees at the beginning of the meeting on January 7th. It would help if you had the correct money or cheque ready.

We will have membership forms available for you to complete but you can now access the Renewal Form from the Ilkeston U3A website by clicking on the following link:

<http://ilkestonu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Membership-Renewal-2019.pdf>

Please note that on the reverse of the form you are asked to complete a Privacy Statement, to say how you wish your data to be used.

Marian Stopper
Membership Secretary

New proposals for Tea and Coffee arrangements

At the December Committee meeting we discussed the arrangements for tea and coffee. We have always been aware that some members are not happy having the refreshments so early, before the start of the meeting. In order to try to resolve this problem the Committee discussed possible alternative arrangements and one workable solution is to keep the refreshments at the beginning of the meeting, and also have a short 10-minute break during the meeting before the main speaker.

- The doors will open as normal at 9.40am and refreshments will be available.
- The meeting will start at 10.30am with a welcome, raffle and any business, notices etc.
- The Information Speaker will start at approximately 10.40am
- We will then have a 10-minute refreshment break, giving Members the opportunity to get a drink and return to their seats before continuing with our main programme and the Speaker of the Month.
- The meeting will then close at approximately 12.15pm - 12.30pm.
- As Members leave the meeting, the cups can be returned to the refreshment area.

Please note: The refreshments are now situated permanently on the far side of the room to avoid congestion at the entrance doors.

Ann Riley
Committee

Groups Round Up

Gardening

Our final meeting for 2019 was held at Trowell Garden Centre, where 18 members of the group met for a demonstration on assembling a Christmas table decoration. The demonstration was given by Nicky, a member of staff at the centre, and was well presented and instructive. Fresh foliage, flowers and candles were used and, even if some of the group had previous knowledge of flower arranging, I am quite sure that a few new tips were picked up. Nicky also gift wrapped a potted plant and showed two methods for making decorative bows. The table decoration was raffled off and Heather was the lucky recipient. It was a most enjoyable morning and appreciated by those present.



We have a couple of months' break before meeting again in February, when we hope to visit Felley Priory.

Best wishes for Christmas and 2020.

Barbara Bailey

History 2

We watched a DVD, courtesy of U3A Resource Centre, entitled 'Christmas Markets'. Every year, as Advent arrives and people's thoughts turn to the joy of Christmas, Europe repeats a tradition that is more than 500 years old. In countries from Sweden to Spain and in cities from Paris to Prague, Christmas Markets are set up in town squares. The markets have become a co-mingling of commerce and community, selling holiday ornaments and gifts as well as food and the omnipresent Gluhwein, a hot, spiced red wine that cheers shoppers on a cold night.



We saw several markets, beginning in Vienna and Salzburg in Austria, and then going on to towns including Passau, Regensburg and Nuremberg. Favourite food items included sausages, zimtsterne and glazed gingerbread cookies called Lebkuchen. We were able to sample the last item during the refreshment period.



After a good spread of Christmas fare a Christmas Quiz was completed. Although it was a bit Americanised everyone did very well, with the added enjoyment of not taking it too seriously and freely joining in the discussion.

Janet Joy

Poetry for Pleasure

The group has had a successful and enjoyable year and we have explored a series of topics, including 'people', 'love', 'song lyrics', 'seasons', and 'reflections'.

From these one word suggestions comes a wide range of choices, from both modern and traditional poets. Miraculously, members never clash with the same choices . . . or maybe it's ESP at work!

We look forward to meeting in the New Year, at the end of January, with a 'free choice' topic, so as not to ask too much of the brain after the Christmas and New Year Festivities!

Patricia Potter

Groups Round Up continued

Science

We started off our December programme explaining why rechargeable batteries often took a long time to fully recharge.

A DVD had been obtained from the U3A Resource centre entitled "Whatever became of X-Rays?"

Part 1 looked at the current practice in X-rays, computer tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and ultrasound.



Part 2 explored the way that images are stored on computer and looked at some of the problems of creating 3-D images from 2-D data sets.

Part 3 illustrated ways in which current research is tackling these problems.

Part 4 demonstrated two virtual reality computer programmes designed to teach surgical techniques.

This DVD turned out to be relevant to a typical U3A group, as many members had experienced one or more of these procedures.

We were relieved to see that current practice will allow junior surgical staff to practice surgical techniques before actually performing on an actual patient.

This was followed by a science quiz to determine which questions were true or false.

Apparently a shark produces live offspring but has no mammary glands and so is classed as a fish.

There was much debate as to whether egg-laying individuals with mammary glands were mammals or not. The duck billed platypus produces eggs but feeds the offspring milk.

We will be following this in more detail at the next meeting. In addition we will be looking at a 2000

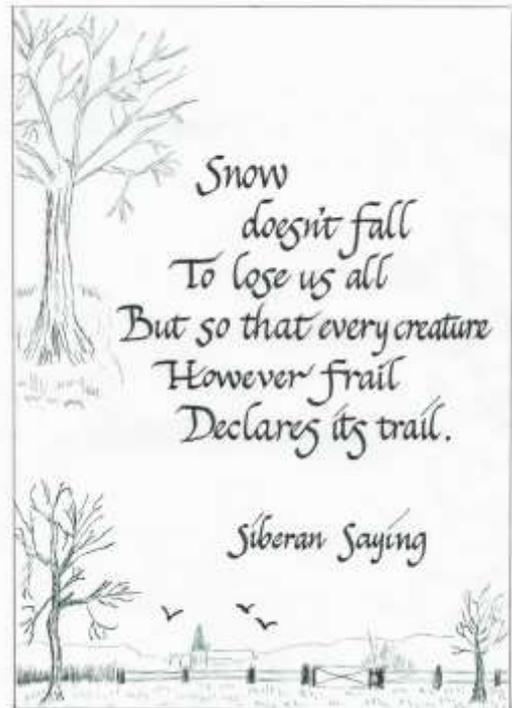
year old computer and the latest news about cyborgs.

Janet Joy

Calligraphy

We herald the New Year with a wintery scene, 'Siberian Quote', by June.

Happy 2020 to everyone from all the Calligraphers.



Linda McKay

Crafts

Happy New Year!

I hope you have all had a super Christmas and I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, healthy 2020.

The last sessions for each craft group were spent finishing our Christmas trees and having a fuddle . . . a thoroughly enjoyable time! We look forward to a new year with new challenges but also revisiting old ideas. Hopefully there will be something to please everyone.

Remember crafters, if you have any ideas Barbara, Val and Deb are always eager to hear

Groups Round Up continued

from you. That doesn't mean you have to lead the activity (though you are always welcome to do this). It would be a great help if you could prepare materials for your idea (claiming expenses from Barbara) and have an example to show the rest of the group. We have planned for 2020 (more or less!) so you have plenty of time to get organised.

We are starting 2020 with a meal at The Mallard on Wednesday 15th January at 12.00 for 12.30. Usual meetings then continue. I need to inform The Mallard of definite numbers so please contact Barbara, if you haven't already put your name down, or see her (or me) at the general meeting on Tuesday 7th January.

Deb Bond 07795 191347

MOTO Plus

MOTO plus hold their monthly meeting on the second Friday of the month in Hogarth's, South Street (the old Post Office building) Ilkeston at 10.30am.

We often meet up locally during the month for either lunch, morning coffee or afternoon tea and this month on Thursday January 16th at 10.30 am 2020 we are meeting at Morley Hayes for breakfast.

We try to find common interests in Theatre and Cinema visits, occasional bus outings etc and go in smaller groups, arranged at the monthly meeting.

We welcome new members, so if you are on your own, or have a Partner who is unable or doesn't want to go out, feel free to come and join us.

Please contact Ann Riley if you want more information or join us at Hogarth's on Friday 10th January at 10.30am.

Ann Riley

Dancing

Just a reminder that Dancing starts again on Tuesday 21st January, 2.00—3.00 pm, at Trefoil House.

Glenys Donson

Rambling

We had a great turnout of fifteen members for our December walk, which was organised by Colin and Alan. After so much inclement weather, it was agreed that a local walk would be best and so a 6.5 mile circular route around Shipley Country Park had been arranged. To our delight it was a dry day, a little cold and misty, but very refreshing to be outside in the fresh air. We started our walk at Straw's Bridge Nature Reserve and followed the Nutbrook Trail for a time, before branching off towards Mapperley, heading into the Country Park via Mapperley Reservoir. We are very fortunate to have Shipley



Park on our doorstep as there are numerous footpaths and routes to follow, which make a pleasant walk, as long or short as you want to make it. We returned via the two lodges to re-join the Nutbrook Trail. We concluded the ramble in our usual fashion, with victuals and banter at the pub, on this occasion, the Newdigate.

Thank you to all the Ramblers for another great year of superb walks and pub lunches, and especially to those who have arranged them. Janis and I will be leading the next walk on Wednesday, 15th January and we look forward to seeing you all then. Happy New Year!

Dennis Henshaw

A Christmas Tale

NATIVITY PLAY

Mary and Joseph were young, and when the Angel of the Lord appeared to them they were sore afraid, but Angel **Richard** said that **young ones shouldn't be afraid**, and then fell off a **cliff**. It was a **perfect day** and Mary and Joseph had **only just begun** to set off for the Star Inn in Bethlehem. Mary was due to give birth, and was **so excited she just couldn't hide it**. Part of her was happy, but Joseph was **glad all over**. "I like your hair Mary, is it a **new wave**?" Joseph was walking with the donkey, but Mary **sat navigating** using God



Provided **Signs**, making sure that she was going in **one direction**, as the road was long, with many a **winding turn**. "Are you alright Joseph?" "Yes thanks, **these boots were made for walking**, but you be careful, **you can't hurry Love**." **By the river of Babylon, they sat down**. Angry waves lashed the shore at the sea of Mer, so they took **Brian's ferry across the Mer sea**, because there was no **bridge over the troubled waters**. They were wearing their Spanish high visibility **El Vis** jackets. Thank you very much! The same to **you too!** Mary wanted to stop to rest, but Joseph thought that **simply the best** thing to do was to carry on. "**Better than all the rest**," he thought. So **they travelled each and every highway, and did it his way**. *(Carry on was not a reference to a film. Please don't make up your own jokes it's bad enough as it is.)* Everyone in the next village was cutting their lawns, but as Joseph and Mary were **new romantics**, they showed little interest in **mow town folk**. They passed **Ed shearing** sheep, **donned in a clean mac**, in a field of **budding holly**, accompanied by a **track backing** onto a field. They didn't try to jump over the brook, because Joseph said "If I try to leap over, **I lands in the stream**." They walked on by many a poor **soul**, in a **country** that seemed like a **new world** full of roses and blossom. "Are we near the inn yet, is it far?" "**Every day, it's a getting closer Love, like in hours it will surely come our way**." "What was that noise behind us?" "**Don't look back, it's alright**." They thought they saw a milestone **in the wall**, but it was **just another brick**.

Mary and Joseph arrived at the inn, set in beautiful countryside with trees and shrubs. "Look at that **great bush running up that hill**," said Mary, and pointing at a tree said "Don't you just love that yew?" Joseph replied, "**I will always love yew**." Mary recognised every type of tree, and knew the palm like the back of her hand. A farmer was working in the field, he couldn't write so he **simply read**, and tended the wheat, **turning back the ears**.

The inn was next to **Amy's Winehouse**, and the inn keeper said "**Someone's knocking at the door**." He greeted them saying "**We are family**." It was just **Jack**. His **son Michael**, the **little one, Richard**, and his **sister** on the **sledge**. His wife was a **pretty woman, a lady in red**. Jack was a **smooth operator** but the inn was **sade**, (sorry, spelling mistake – shady), with last year's 1 BC calendar still on the wall, and the clocks had stopped. **The times they weren't a-changing**. The food was good but **the bevy was dry**, and **old boys were drinking whisky and rye**. "We need somewhere to stay but we had no way of contacting you before we arrived" said Joseph. "That's alright, we have contactless, although our accountant **Johnny** prefers **cash**. But we have to look out for counterfeit money. They can't fool us, we catch them and they go to **prison**, but it does **fool some**." "But we have no gold, do you have change." "No but **Brian may**, and we also take frankincense or myrrh." "But who travels with frankincense and myrrh?" "Well, it may be wise not to. Some **public enemies** were arrested, and were put in a **soft cell**. They were fined but they had **money for nothing** and were in **dire straits**, just **living on a prayer**. The **spice girls** got them off by giving the **sergeant pepper**." "Do wise men like pop music?" "They do. They worship **Madonna**. **They just can't get enough**. **They would walk five hundred miles** to see her." he **proclaimed**. "I wonder why?" said Mary curtly.

"Last week we hosted an event for the Scottish Oriental Tar Company, run by the three King-brother midgets, the **wee three Kings from Orient Tar**." "**The who?!**" "We also have people who do conjuring tricks." "What's that?" "**It's a kind of magic**." "And we have masseurs, who mould people like making **bread**." "What? **People who knead people!**" "Well, they're in luck, I could do with it after that journey." "Yes, **people who knead people, are the luckiest people in the world**." "I never could make bread." "I can help you." "Could you?! **I really think I could make it with you**." "Sundays we parcel up gifts for

A Christmas Tale (continued)

the poor.” “Don’t you have any music?” “No, just **wrapping**.” “I love to see my shelf full of gifts.” “Yes, **loving your shelf is the greatest love of all**.”

“That waiter is very tall and slim.” “What? Joe? Oh yes, that’s why we call him **Joe lean**.” “He looks so gentle.” “Yes, I thought that **the first time ever I saw his face**, but don’t be fooled by his (Joe) **meek** looks, he’s a boxer, and can **take any man**. His girlfriend is a real **doll**, but temperamental, she’s part-off and **part-on**.” “Is he **heavyweight**?” “**No he ain’t, he’s my brother**. I fought him once and I nearly died. He was gentle, but I got tangled up in his costume. He was **killing me softly with his thong**. But **I will survive**, so **I guess it doesn’t matter anymore**. He’s **strong**, but **Louie** beats him at **arm wrestling**. He ran the best little store around. **His boutique was beyond compare**, but it caught fire and he got **all burnt hair**.” A brisk breeze rattled the armour of a fierce confused man. **It was a hard dazed knight**, who saw stars after being hit on the head. Yes, he was a **starry starry knight**. **And Sir was blowing in the wind**. In France, he had to lay **down his arms and surrender to mines**, but he fought and escaped using **Brittany spears**. He got his armour from the Welsh armour surplus store, **Jones Armour Trading**. His wife had married two other knights. **She was once, twice, three times a Lady**. The inn was a rough place. There was a **rave on**, and it was a **crazy feeling**. It was **twilight time** and **the platters** were being thrown in **the shadows**. They heard the clash of bottles being thrown, and didn’t **like the sound of broken glass**. It was definitely a **boys’ zone**. They didn’t have rotten tomatoes to throw so they **chucked berries**. It was a **Be Tough hotspot**, so the inn had a **Why Fight? Code**. But a fight broke out anyway, and they were disturbed by the terrible noise of **WHAM!** and **TAKE THAT!** Barman **Billy** was **furious**, and sent for **the police**, who performed well, **but didn’t like him standing so close to them**.

“You can stay in the stable, I will call my boy to show you the way. **Oh boy George!** Show these people to the stable! Hurry now!” “Alright, but I might fall like **Jennifer** if I **rush**. Do this, do that! Open **the doors, light my fire. Do you really want to hurt me?**” “**Don’t talk back. I’ll be watching you!**”

“Mary and Joseph were amazed to see a large building next to a **grey stone chapel** that had been made from the stone of the old prison, **jailhouse rock**. Passing the forge they saw the smith’s double headed axe that **cuts both ways**. The blacksmith who made her name for herself from **iron** was a young **maiden**. She beat it into **bangles** and **heavy metal bands**. *(No, there were no **beetles**, or **rolling stones**, it’s not that corny. But there were **animals**. What!?! No there weren’t any **monkeys** or **white snakes** or driving in **cars**. That’s **madness**.)*

“Is that a wolf” said Mary fearfully. “No, **he ain’t nothing but a hound dog**.” “Will he jump up and bite me?” “No he’s **lying all the time**. But he scares off the army of **cats**. **Steven’s cat** is the **major tom** that led the **pussy riot**. It was **manic on Monday**.”

Where Angels appeared at the stable they **feared to tread**. But like **fools** they **rushed in**. “Shall we get something to eat Mary?” “**Too late, my time has come, sends shivers down my spine, body’s aching all the time**.” Joseph yelled “**Help, I need somebody**”, but Mary simply replied, “**It’s now or never, just hold me tight**.” So baby Jesus was born, and just as Richard had foretold he was a **living doll**, well just a doll actually. They laid him in a low manger, because they thought that they might **miss higher** and they couldn’t **handle** it. *(Oh my dear Lord! Did I really say that?! This must end soon, it’s even making me cringe.)* “For God’s sake, will someone shut that **little drummer boy** up! We’re trying to get his son to sleep here.” They were visited by the three kings, **previously known as princes**. Jesus became a great healer and teacher despite being just a **poor boy from a poor family**. **He didn’t want to die and sometimes wished he’d never been born at all**. “**He spoke as if he knew me, changing my whole life with his word**.” His message was a breath of fresh air. “**All I need is the air that I breathe, and to love you!**”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

As for BREXIT - That’s obvious

Fool if you think it’s over, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Philip Francomb Dec 2019