

March 2020

TUESDAY 3RD MARCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10.00 am at The Arena

Followed by our speaker

BOB MASSEY

with “The Cup That Cheers”

A talk about Tea—the nation’s favourite drink

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.

Agenda for Ilkeston U3A Open Meeting and AGM

10.15am, Tuesday 3rd March 2020

held at The Arena Church, 1 Rutland Street, Ilkeston, DE7 8DG

9.40am Doors open

10.15am Welcome and notices followed by
The 8th AGM of Ilkeston U3A

Apologies for Absence
Minutes of the previous AGM held 5th February 2019
Matters arising from the 2019 Minutes
Chairs Annual Report
Treasurers Annual Report
Vote of Thanks for Retiring Committee Members
Appeal for a Vice Chair and Minute Secretary
Election of Nominees - Chair
Treasurer
Business Secretary
Other Committee Members
Appointment of the Independent Examiner for the Accounts
Any other business
Date of next meeting - proposed Tuesday 2nd March 2021

10.45am approx. Close AGM

10.45am approx. Short coffee break

11.00am **Speaker – Bob Massey ‘The Cup that Cheers’
Tea, the nation’s favourite drink**

12.15-12.30pm Close meeting

An Appeal from the Chair



Who wants the honour of being the Chair of Ilkeston U3A 2021/2022?

The Committee are seeking a Vice Chair for the 2020/2021 Committee, who, as a part of the Committee's succession planning, would be the Chair of Ilkeston U3A 2021/2022 Committee.

As the current Chair, and if re-elected at the forthcoming March AGM, under the current rules of the Constitution, sadly I cannot stand for this role in 12 months' time.

Therefore, having a Vice Chair in place on the 2020/2021 Committee, is a huge benefit for Ilkeston U3A going forward.

Please give serious consideration to how you could help fill this role, ensuring the future of Ilkeston U3A and be assured of every assistance by myself and the Committee.

Alternatively, if you know of another Member who you think would make a really great Chairperson in the future, why not have a word with them to suggest that they put their name forward?

If you can help please contact either myself or any Member of the current Committee.

Ann Riley
Chair 2019/2020

An Appeal from the Chair



Ilkeston U3A Committee 2020/2021

To date, the nominations for the 2020/2021 Committee of Ilkeston U3A have only just reached the minimum number of 7 volunteer Members. This means, although a working Committee can be formed, we will have insufficient people on the Committee to fulfil all of the roles necessary to operate efficiently.

There is an urgent need for a Minute Secretary, so if you have any admin experience of note taking, why not consider volunteering for this role?

The main role of Minute Secretary on the Committee consists of note taking during the meeting and production of the draft minutes, using a Word document. Contribution on the various issues raised during the Committee meeting is always appreciated.

Committee meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday morning of the month, normally held at Ilkeston Fire Station Community Room.

Although, it is preferable to be a member of the Committee, as a Minute Secretary it is not mandatory, so in that case, your commitment would only be to attend the monthly Committee Meetings to take notes and produce the draft minutes.

As your Chair, I am asking all Members who have any past experience of this type of admin role to seriously consider if you can help by volunteering for the Minute Secretary vacancy.

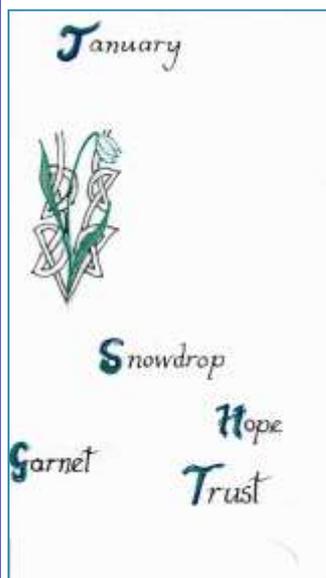
Please contact either myself or any Member of the current Committee if you can help.

Ann Riley
Chair 2019/2020

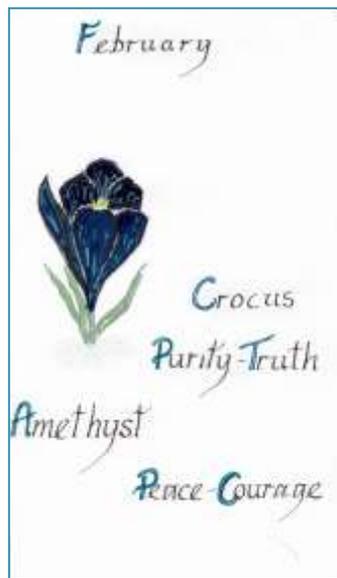
Groups Round Up

Calligraphy

The Calligraphers were busy celebrating Wintertime, with the flower and gemstone meanings accorded to the month. Although rain is more appropriate this year, they have been thinking of animals and birds in the snowy weather, particularly robins and March hares. Sport has also been at the forefront with the Annual Six Nations Rugby Tournament. Roll on Springtime with lighter nights and April showers!



January by Sandra



February by Sandra



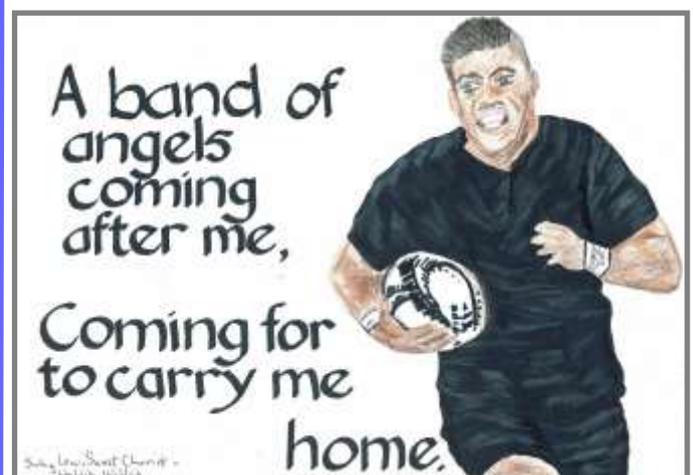
Winter by Ann



Winter Robin



March Hare



Rugby Player by Viv

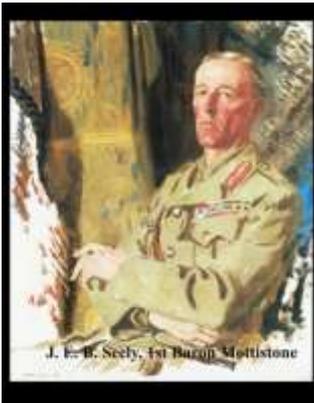
Linda McKay

Groups Round Up continued

History 2

Our programme this month was in the true spirit of the U3A where members of a group draw upon their knowledge and experience to teach and learn from each other. Our theme was to present anything historical, present or past, that had a connection with Ilkeston or the county of Derbyshire. We had 3 presentations, with more to come at our March meeting.

Jack Seely, CB CMG DSO TD PC JP DL



John Edward Bernard Seely, was born in 1868 at Brookhill Hall in Derbyshire. He was educated at Harrow School, where he met Winston Churchill, who became a lifelong friend. He then studied at Trinity College, Cambridge 1887-90.

Later to become the 1st Baron Mottistone, he was a British Army general and politician. He was a Conservative Member of Parliament from 1900 to 1904 and a Liberal MP from 1904 to 1922 and from 1923 to 1924. He was Secretary of State for War for the two years prior to the First World War, before being forced to resign as a result of the Curragh Incident. He was first elected as a Liberal Member of Parliament for Ilkeston in 1910.

As General Jack Seely, he led one of the last great cavalry charges in history, at the Battle of Moreuil Woodon, with his war horse, Warrior, in March 1918. He was the only former cabinet minister to go to the front in 1914 and still be there four years later.

The family had homes in Nottinghamshire and the Isle of Wight as well as extensive property in London. Seely's horse, Warrior was born and bred on the Mottistone Hall estate on the Isle of Wight. He also survived the war, dying in 1941 at the age of 33

A long lost family member found

One of our members presented a social history of the relatively recent past. It came about after

an unexpected phone call from her second cousin, requesting information about the family members she remembered from childhood, to help with her family history research. There was a lengthy discussion and an exchange of photographs, including one of a woman and a little boy.

Many interesting facts about the family's history emerged. We heard about her father's dysfunctional family, lowly beginnings, illegitimacy, a gossipy lady and her 8 siblings and an abusive stepfather. The key to unravelling all of this was the photo. The little boy is now a man in his seventies. He had lost touch with all the family after his mother died when he was 15. In 2018 his daughter-in-law was searching family history websites, hoping to find his family and she eventually found something of interest, including the photo. Contact was made with the family history researcher and soon the man and his wife met our group member and her brother for the first time. Several more meetings took place and a joyous family reunion with many more cousins followed in July last year. Some interesting documents and photographs were presented, which had given our member a lot more insight into her father's family history.

We felt it was very brave of our group member to expose dark moments of her family's past history and are pleased that she has emerged unscathed by this knowledge.

Dame Ellen MacArthur DBE

Dame Ellen MacArthur first hit the headlines in 2001 when she raced single-handedly non-stop around the world in the Vendée Globe when only 24 years old. Ellen turned her attention to the multihull circuit, leading to her departure from



Groups Round Up continued

Falmouth, UK in 2004 on board the 75ft trimaran B&Q/Castorama. She returned 71 days, 14 hours, 18 minutes, 33 seconds later, having sailed over 26,000 miles to become the fastest person to circumnavigate the globe single-handed. She was knighted by the Queen in 2005 and has received the Légion d'Honneur from French President, Nicolas Sarkozy.

She is a founder of the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, a charity, set up in 2003, which works with hospitals across the UK, to take young people aged between 8-24 sailing, helping them regain their confidence after treatment for cancer and leukaemia.

Ellen's current and unexpected direction was a result of her competitions at sea, which gave her a very real understanding of what it means to rely on a finite supply of resources, as on the boat food, water and fuel were inescapably linked to success or failure.

In September 2010 she launched the Ellen MacArthur Foundation with the goal of "accelerating the transition to a regenerative, circular economy". Ellen is a Patron of The Big Bang Fair - the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people in the UK.

Janet Joy

Science for All

In 1900 AD sponge-divers discovered a Roman shipwreck (circa 60 BC) that contained amazingly preserved pieces of the almost intact 'Antikythera Mechanism', reputed to be the world's first analogue computer. For decades after divers retrieved these scraps from the Antikythera wreck from 1900 to 1901, scholars were unable to make sense of them. X-ray imaging in the 1970s and 1990s revealed that the device must have replicated the motions of the heavens. The mechanism tracked the lunar calendar, predicted eclipses, and charted the position and phase of the Moon. It also tracked the seasons and ancient festivals like the Olympics.

The calendar is based on the time from one full moon to the next and a special dial allowed the user to also visualise the seasons, which would have been useful for agriculture.



The largest of the 82 pieces of the mechanism found so far. Fragment A has four spokes that would have rotated once per year, tracking the Sun relative to background stars (Brett Seymour/WHOI)

Since the ancient Babylonians figured out the cycle of eclipses, the inventor of the Antikythera mechanism included two dials that rotate to show both lunar and solar eclipses. But the most sophisticated thing the mechanism did was lunar calculations—it could figure out the Moon's period at a given time and model its elliptical orbit. It has become known as the 2,000 year old computer.



Reconstruction Antikythera mechanism

Janet Joy

Groups Round Up continued

Golf

3rd February saw 8 players tackle the mud wrestling at Morley Hayes. Despite the ground, there were good scores all round on the day. Our new lady came in with a good score also. On 2nd March we will all take on the front 9 on the main course at Morley Hayes, weather permitting.

Peter Winfield

Table Tennis

On 11th February 17 players arrived for a 2 hour session at Rutland Tennis Centre. We only have 2 tables at the moment but a 3rd table is on the way for the next session. Not everyone stays for 2 hours. We split the time and make it 1 hour sessions. The next date is on 10th March. I have been informed that the session on 12th May is cancelled, as the hall is booked for an election.

I am also considering running a second session on the 4th Tuesday in the month, 10.00-12.00. Please let me know if you are interested.

Peter Winfield

History 1

For our February meeting we were joined by Kieran Lee, of the Bennerley Viaduct project, and his colleague, Paul Miller, Chairman of the Ilkeston History Society. Our last visit from Kieran was in June 2017 and a lot has taken place on this project since then, not least the devastating news that Sustrans, who were originally managing this project in the hopes of including it in the National Cycle Network, pulled out in 2018 after raising so many hopes. This could have ended all hopes of preserving this fantastic structure. This floating structure was built in 1878. It stretches over a quarter of a mile of flood plain between Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. It survived Zeppelin bombing raids during WW1 and numerous attempts to have it demolished, following closure of the railway as part of the Beeching cuts. Now with Sustrans pulling out it appeared doomed. However, the 'Friends of Bennerley Viaduct' were not going to give up with a struggle. They set to, not only raising the profile of this magnificent structure, but working on it to clear

vegetation which threatened the stability of the brick piers, cleaning drainage channels and installing signage. They are also creating and developing a variety of ecological habitats. This area is part of a rich wildlife corridor, supporting several species of orchid, including the Bee Orchid, and also grass snakes, crested newts and water voles. Kingfishers dart up and down the river, lapwings and little ringed plovers use and nest upon the site. In the warmer months bats feed around the viaduct, over 20 species of butterfly have been seen and dragonflies and damselflies benefit from the wetland habitat. Therefore preserving this structure and bringing it back into public use has numerous benefits, not least of all, enabling the public to enjoy the nature.

It was announced in April 2019 that funds had been secured to start the restoration, with the aim of completing it by the end of 2020. Various planning applications for change of use, access, etc. have had to be submitted and it was revealed that additional funding from Historic England would enable work to commence. We were also told that the group had applied to the 'World Monument Trust Watch' for recognition. There was an inspection of the site by this organisation in May 2019 and this year the group received the news that Bennerley Viaduct was the only British project to be accepted on their 2020 list, which makes it a world treasure. This has all been achieved by a relatively small group, through hard work and dedication.

Paul Miller had contributed throughout the talk and video as a valued member of this group. He concluded with the story that he had been interviewed that morning on Radio Derby, as Chair of the History Society, regarding the news item that 'Trip Advisor' had published a list of visitor attractions in Ilkeston for 2020. Heading that list was not Erewash Museum, St Mary's Church, the Town Hall, Victoria Park, or even Bennerley Viaduct. No. 1 was the architectural small hole in the wall adjacent to the cash point on the outside of Nat West Bank on Bath Street. Paul's comment on that was "Well, I'm gob smacked", which brought the meeting to an end with a great deal of hilarity.

Alwyn Holmes

Thank you for your generosity!

After the very interesting visit from Guide Dogs at last month's open meeting and subsequent collection on behalf of the charity, we have received this certificate of thanks.



Leah's Diary (created with love by Nadia)

It's been three and a half years now since my guide dog Leah came into my life...

Year: 2014



Leah was born in 2014 – isn't she gorgeous?

Like all guide dog puppies, I know that Leah got off to a wonderful start in life. This is Leah when she was little more than two months old, playing with a toy given to her by her 'Auntie Ali' – one of the amazing volunteers who help look after the pups until they are ready to start puppy school.

The adventure is just beginning...

Leah had lots of love, cuddles and fun when she was little – here, she's drying off after jumping into a pond! She's now six weeks old and almost ready for her first day of puppy school.



Thanks to Leah's education, it's so impressive what she can do.

Leah's brilliant when she works. She knows when she has her harness on she has a job to do, and we have a great partnership. And when she's not working, she's bouncy, playful and loving. She communicates extremely well – it's almost like she's talking to me. I think she's very, very special.

Year: 2018

The first time I met Leah, she put her paw on my arm and her head in my lap.

I thought, 'my goodness, we were meant for each other.' I was so happy when we were matched. My sight had deteriorated suddenly when I was pregnant with my first child. I could see my 12 week scan, but by my 20 week scan I couldn't see. As you can imagine, losing my sight just as I was becoming a mum was a really big challenge. I needed help to achieve independence again, outside my home. Leah helped make that happen.



Doing the school run with Leah is the most phenomenal thing.

With Leah, I can do so many things – from going on the bus into town, to getting to a coffee shop to meet friends. But the thing for me that has been phenomenal is doing the school run, because it's a great way to spend time with my children and to meet other parents. The number of people I have met through having Leah is incredible. It has opened up my world.

The other day, walking along with Leah and my daughter, I forgot for a moment that I was blind.

I was taking my daughter to school, and we were talking and laughing. And with Leah by my side, for a moment I forgot I couldn't see. That is the best way I can describe the transformation that Leah has brought to my life outside of my home.



I really hope you'll give what you can to support Guide Dogs! You could help another puppy to become an amazing guide dog like Leah.

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Guide Dogs is a working name of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Registered Office: Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire RG7 3YG. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (291646) and a charity registered in England and Wales (209617) and Scotland (SC038979) Photography by Des Wilney photography