

This month join us at our  
Open Meeting  
on  
**Tuesday 6th February**  
**10.00 am at The Arena**  
**Ilkeston**

We will be welcoming our  
speaker:

**Maggie Slingsby**

With her talk on

**History of British Pottery**

Doors open at 9.45 am  
Refreshments available

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**Coming soon to our Open Meetings . . .**

5th March: Simon Cook speaking on  
US Presidents

2nd April: Bryan Naylor speaking on  
Heage Windmill

## Letter from the Chair



### Hello Members!

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest members: Keith, Margaret, Phil, Russell, Brian, Catherine and Suzanne. May your experiences at u3a be enjoyable and rewarding, and I look forward to meeting you all at our next New Members Get-Together.

This prompts me to also send a gentle reminder to any members who have not yet renewed their membership to do so please, so you may continue to enjoy the many enjoyable and friendly u3a activities without our Membership Secretary chasing you!

Secondly, you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter that Third Age Trust have launched a consultation as they wish to change their governance arrangements and need membership approval to do so. There is further information on our website, and in the members area of Third Age Trust website ([www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)). The consultation runs until April.

But before that we have our own governance to think about. February 6<sup>th</sup> (next Open Meeting date) is the deadline for receiving nominations for Committee Members prior to our AGM which will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Seven members of the existing Committee will be standing again, but we need more members to help us, please. Although seven is the minimum required, it is a lot to expect of a few people. Having ten to twelve members on the Committee makes it a lot easier for everyone. Can you help? You can read more about that further in, or just speak to any Committee Member (they sometimes wear yellow rosettes, or look extremely busy doing something, no doubt you will spot them).

Another Committee item snippet is that we are in need of a minute taker for our February meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>. So if you have minute taking skills and are free on the morning of February 13<sup>th</sup> we'd very much appreciate your help. Thank you!

Last, but certainly not least, I'd like to draw your attention to a day trip the Garden Group are arranging to see the ***Tulips in Bloom at Springfields Festival Gardens, Spalding, on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April.*** For £30 you get coach travel, a guided tour round the garden and a cuppa. It's sure to be a blooming lovely day!

Take care, everyone. See you at Open Meeting, 10am, 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**Christine Keighley,  
Chair**

## Renew your Membership

Dear Members,

Membership has to be renewed annually. If you haven't yet renewed please do so at the next Open Meeting on Tuesday 6 February. If you cannot attend that meeting renew as soon as possible by printing the form which is on the website. Visit:

<https://ilkestonu3a.org.uk/documents>

If possible please pay online using bank transfer and hand the form to your Group Leader who will get the form back to me. Please do this before the end of February.

If you have any problems ring the Ilkeston u3a number: **07760 966325**.

**Jacky Wilding**  
**Membership Secretary**

### What do you think of our new look?



*I felt it was time to give the newsletter a new vibe, so in this issue I have made a few small changes to the layout. There is scope for more, but I just wondered if you have any comments or suggestions.*

—oOo—

*I am always hoping for more input for the newsletter from our members and ask if you would like to share something for the next one. For instance: your photographs, thoughts, a short article about a great holiday, an event, or an unusual hobby. Perhaps some artwork or craft you enjoy doing, or a poem or short story. If you find it interesting, others will too. Give it a go!*

*Janis Henshaw*

# Your u3a Needs You!

**Dear Member,**

Do you know the answers to these questions?

- Who manages your u3a?
- Who sets policies and fees?
- Who organises speakers for your entertainment?
- Who decides on any outings?
- Who handles our finances?
- Who arranges for Third Age Matters to be posted to you?

The answer is . . . **You do!** Or at least you could if you were a member of the Committee.

A small voluntary group of members, called the Committee, manage your u3a. Without your Committee Ilkeston u3a would not be able to operate.

Ilkeston u3a will hold its Annual General Meeting soon and, although there are the minimum required seven members lined up and willing to stand, should you leave so much to so few? Could you help?

## **What would joining the Committee involve?**

To be a Committee member is a rewarding role as you can offer your skills, knowledge and time back to u3a, an organisation that gives so much to us all. All that is needed is your enthusiasm and a little of your time; your skills are the bonus! The Committee's function is one of management, overseeing the smooth running of u3a activities, according to its policies, constitution and membership rules, and organising the shared aspects of our activities such as the Open Meetings, and member events.

## **What do Committee Members do?**

Ilkeston u3a needs between 7 and 12 elected members who meet, usually on a monthly basis, with an agenda of items to discuss and vote on. Some Committee Members have certain responsibilities, for instance the Treasurer handles the finances, the Membership Secretary maintains the membership database. Committee Members without a defined role are equally important as they can help with everything! and that is where Ilkeston u3a is particularly likely to be thin on the ground.

## **How can You help?**

**Please** consider joining the Committee and becoming more involved. Ilkeston u3a is YOUR u3a and it has always been the high level of member involvement that has helped to make it so special. Everyone has something to give, so please feel encouraged and fill in a Nomination Form, or if you want to know more please speak to any Committee Member.

Many members who are not on the Committee are already heavily involved, such as leading interest groups, and to those members we all give our heartfelt thanks. Equally, without you, Ilkeston u3a would not be what it is today.

## Fit for the Future Consultation

### Fit for the Future Consultation begins



On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January Liz Thackray, Chair of Third Age Trust, launched a consultation period about proposed Governance changes which Third Age Trust (TAT) wish to bring in if there is deemed sufficient support from the movement.

Since then there has been a flurry of interest around the networks and online forums about this – it is a big deal, and all u3a members are being asked for their feedback. You can send questions, which we are told will be answered, or you can give comments or suggestions which we are told will be collated for the analysis at the end of the consultation period. If you have any questions you can email [governance@u3a.org.uk](mailto:governance@u3a.org.uk) Comments and suggestions go to the same email address.

Ilkeston u3a Committee will be considering the impact this change may have on our organisation and will be feeding back our agreed response. If you wish your comments and suggestions to be included in our response you may send them to [chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk) Please note that we cannot answer questions though!

So what's it all about? In a nutshell TAT Trustees say they can't do everything that is expected of them within the current set-up, and that they feel local u3as are missing out on the support, and input, that we expect. Trustees are basically overwhelmed with the principle work of Trusteeship which is looking after the interests of the Trust itself and have insufficient time and resources left to spend on issues that matter to u3as. They want to change their organisational structure so that a slimmer Board of Trustees can stick to managing and governing TAT and the more nuts and bolts stuff, including servicing the movement, is devolved to a new 'u3a Council', which is likely to have at least 3 working groups under it. These 3 working groups may focus on: 1) next generation membership, 2) learning and enjoyment, 3) collaborations and promotion.

This is a huge organisational change and will have an impact on us, whether it goes ahead or not. You can read the Explanation Document plus a Q&A paper on our website (under Latest News) <https://ilkestonu3a.org.uk/latest-news/>

**Christine Keighley,  
Chair**

## February u3a Online Learning Events

There are some fantastic online talks that u3a members can attend this month. Here are some of them. You can find more information about the events and book a place at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-event>

Ilkeston u3a members can join this wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free with their membership!

Wednesday 7th	<b>Mindfulness and Meditation Series</b> A repeat of the six week course of Mindfulness and Meditation returns, led by members of Sheffield u3a Mindful Ageing Group, John, Mike and Ruth
Thursday 8th	<b>Introduction to the Air Fryer, with simple recipes</b> Join Beverley Jarvis, Ashford Wye and District u3a and Third Age Matters columnist, for this live demo.
Wednesday 14th	<b>'Safe bind, safe find' : locks and keys</b> An account of locks and keys from Sumer to Silicon Valley, by Richard of Penicuik u3a.
Thursday 15th	<b>Cryptic Crosswords in Context</b> Their history, how they work, who does them and why—a talk by u3a Cryptic Crosswords subject adviser Henry Howarth.
Friday 23rd	<b>David Hockney and the Theatre</b> Through sound and video, art historian Peter Webb brings Hockney's theatre to life.
Tuesday 27th	<b>Science Network Event</b> Join our Science Network meeting to hear talks on Pathogenics and Botany.
Wednesday 28th	<b>Advances in Public Health Talk 1 of 5: The Role and Tragedy of Semmelweis</b> Please wash your hands it can save lives—the role and tragedy of Dr Ignaz Semmelweis. Talk 1 of 5 by Mike Trevethick of Thanet u3a.
Thursday 29th	<b>More Number Fun with Dr Knott</b> Join Dr Ron Knott for a talk on what the ancient Egyptians can teach us about Maths.

## Interest Groups Round-up

**Garden Group** Please note that the **February meeting** in the Community Room at the Fire Station **will commence at 1.00 p.m. until 3.30p.m.** and not the usual time of 10.00a.m.

We are hoping to arrange a visit to the **Springfields Festival Gardens in Spalding** on Friday 26th April. This is of course, dependent upon getting enough interest to make it viable. If you are interested please contact Barbara Bailey on 0115 9323599 or [barbarabailey2023@gmail.com](mailto:barbarabailey2023@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

**Barbara Bailey**

**Golf and Table Tennis** Golf is still suspended at the moment. A few of us played on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Wellingtons would have been the better option for footwear. Hopefully the ground will improve soon

Table Tennis has now reached its limit of players, so we will have to have a waiting list. Perhaps the Tennis Centre would like to purchase another table ? We can only hope.

**Peter Winfield**

**DNRS** **Definitely not Rocket Science** **[The DNRS - Definitely Not Rocket Science - group meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12.00, at the Fire Station]**



### Lost in translation?

So, how's your Latin?

"Ne sursum emungas. De ipsa lingua tamquam mortuus?"

Thought so.

Or to put it in slightly more modern terms, "Not up to snuff. About as dead as the language itself?" Though the memoria linger on.

But truly, for real (almost), verily (maybe) . . . this is important (perhaps).

Recently it has been realised/discovered/rethought that the venerable Isaac Newton's words concerning inertia have been mistranslated.

[OK. Take a deep-ish breath] In Latin, Newton outlined three universal principles that explain the governing dynamics of an object's motion in our Universe: forget all the other universes - they're spelled with a small 'u'. These principles have undergone extensive translation, transcription, discussion, and debate.

Philosopher-mathematician Daniel Hoek\* suggests a long-standing misinterpretation of Newton's first law due to a "clumsy mistranslation" in the 1729 English version of Newton's Latin Principia. The misinterpretation in the usual paraphrasing of Newton's first law went unnoticed until 1999. The translation error involved the Latin word "quatenus," meaning "insofar," not "unless." Hoek argues that this distinction is crucial. Instead of implying how an object maintains momentum without external forces, Newton intended to convey that every change in a body's momentum - every jolt, dip, and swerve - is attributable to external forces.



## Interest Groups Round-up

**DNRS** unless acted upon by an external force, highlighting the *continuous impact of continued external forces* in Newton's intended meaning. In 1999, scholars identified a crucial translation error involving the term "quatenus," revealing Newton's emphasis on external forces influencing a body's momentum. Hoek contends that restoring this overlooked term in 1999 clarified a fundamental physics principle, and that this re-evaluation aligns with Newton's original writings, emphasizing the purpose of the first law in deducing the existence of forces, challenging the notion of bodies unaffected by external forces in a universe with omnipresent factors like gravity and friction.

So, that's cleared that up then. Insofar as I can tell, unless . . . ? Hmm.

And why is this so important, to me personally? Well if Newton's words on "inertia" can be mistranslated, what happens if we find the Law/s of "Gravity" can be mistranslated, or even rewritten?! What then?

I am a serious student of "inertia". Through long practice I am now proudly able to watch television for, yes, a whole hour . . . without getting up to put on the kettle. I don't want to find myself full of "ertia" after these long hours of study. If they also unmistranslate or rewrite the laws of gravity then "Ego sum in gravibus tribulationis" - I'm in serious trouble. Better keep my feet firmly velcroed to this earth. Terra firmly.

\* See <https://danielhoek.com/>

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And . . . Two thoughts for the day, just to help keep you awake at night.

1: Old news updated. The Greenland ice cap is losing an average of 30m tonnes of ice an hour due to the climate crisis, a study has revealed, which is 20% more than was previously thought. Er . . . that's a 262 with nine noughts after it, in one year! Scientists are concerned that this additional source of freshwater pouring into the north Atlantic might mean that a collapse of the ocean currents called AMOC (the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation) (Amoc) is closer to being triggered, with severe consequences for humanity . . . and the BBC weather forecast. Waterwings anyone?

2: By the end of 2024, Ukraine will have a military force where the number of drones surpasses the count of soldiers. One million. This is a transformative shift in warfare as aerial vehicles and their controlling artificial intelligences redefine the nature of conflict. Not a Terminator or Arnie Schwarzenegger in sight.

**Malcolm Muckle**

**History One** For our January meeting we welcomed our u3a Deputy Chair, Steven Schmit, as speaker with his presentation on 'Hudson's Bay, Canada'. This was a fascinating and very detailed subject.

Hudson's Bay, we learned is a large body of water in Northeastern Canada, with a surface area of 1,230,000 km. The bay is named after Henry Hudson, an Englishman sailing for the Dutch East India company, and after whom the river that he explored in 1609 is also named.

The search for a western route to Cathay and the Indies, which had been pursued since the days of Columbus and the Cabots, in the latter part of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, resulted in the first



# Interest Groups Round-up


sighting of Hudson Bay by Europeans and was named after Sir Henry Hudson who explored the bay beginning Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1610 on his ship, Discovery. Discovery was trapped in the ice over the winter, and the crew survived onshore at the southern tip of James Bay. When the Ice cleared in the spring, Hudson wanted to explore further, but the crew mutinied on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1611. They left Hudson and others adrift in a small boat and their fate remains unknown to this day.

In May 1612 Sir Thomas Button sailed from England with two ships to search for Sir Henry and continue the search for the Northwest passage to Asia. In 1668 the Nonsuch reached the bay and traded for beaver pelts, leading to the creation of the Hudson's Bay Company which still bears the historic name.

There was obviously far, far more to this presentation, including Stephen's connection to this part of the world, to enclose in this report, and is well worth listening to, given the opportunity.

## Alwyn Holmes

**Family History** We welcomed in the New Year at our first meeting of 2024 with an online recorded talk by the knowledgeable Toni Neobard of Hawksley u3a. Her talk was about analysing our DNA results and as several of us have recently received or sent off our DNA for analysis this seemed a great start to the year.

 The analysis of one's DNA for genealogy is an interesting topic, one that is increasing in popularity, and it certainly can produce the unexpected. We've all heard horror stories about people who have found out things they were oblivious to, so one needs to at least consider the 'what ifs' before sending off for the kit, but it can also be the catalyst to open up new lines for research, connect with distant relatives, or provide you with insights into your past.

I, for one, was pleased in a way with my 'surprise'. It turns out I have 26% Scottish heritage – news to me, and I've only been researching for over 25 years! That's added a few more years of research to my to-do list! But it did confirm what I expected with my 61% English, and 8% Welsh heritage. It also provided me with nearly 400 4<sup>th</sup> cousins or closer – far too many for me to even think about but the closer matches are proving interesting to add to my existing family tree where I can identify our common ancestors.

Toni's talk (well, the first half of it, as we didn't get further than that) explained a colour-coded system called the Leeds Method which groups people with the most shared DNA. It seemed complicated but when I set to I found it quite easy to do, and it was extremely useful to see which matches were linked somehow to each of my grandparents.

At our next meeting we'll be sharing what has happened this month, and listening to the rest of Toni's talk. Can't wait for the next instalment.

**Christine Keighley, on behalf of the Family History Group**

Ellen Collins	Henry Sumner	Lilian Miller	George Brown
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## Interest Groups Round-up

**Patchwork & Quilting** As mentioned previously the Patchwork group is following a block of the month pattern which appears in Today's Quilter magazine. These are our latest blocks



Made by Jenny Whittaker



Made by Anne Wood



Made by Val Buxton



Made by Elaine Barrett



Made by Christine Keighley



Made by Wanda Labuda



Made by Marion Stopper

The ninth block was made by our newest member, Marion Stopper, hasn't she done well! The colours and structure are fantastic, I can't wait to see it made up into a cushion or better still, with more of the same into a quilt.

I think we have all done really well considering that all these blocks have been made in the last month or so when we have been busy with Christmas, illness and our grandparenting duties!

I cannot tell you how proud I am of you all.

**Jenny Whittaker**

# Gilbert & Sullivan Festival, Buxton

Hi everyone

For the second year running Philip Barton of Buxton u3a has negotiated a great deal for u3a members at the Buxton International G&S festival.

A group booking has been made for u3a members for the performance of The Pirates of Penzance at the Buxton Opera House on Sunday 28 July at 19:30. There will also be a free pre-performance talk for u3a members from a G&S expert.

The cost per ticket is a reduced rate of £30.00 \*down from £37.00.

If you are interested, please email Philip Barton at: [Philip.barton@btinternet.com](mailto:Philip.barton@btinternet.com) or text him on 07980 660202 and leave your name, address, contact details, u3a membership number and tell him how many tickets you'd like. Those registering an interest will be contacted in March with details about how to pay.

Last year we sold more than 90 tickets. Let's see what we can do this year!

Please tell your members about this great offer.

Please see the flyer for full details.

Regards,

**Keith Gregory**  
Chair Buxton and District  
u3a

**The 30<sup>th</sup> International  
Gilbert &  
Sullivan  
Festival**

Buxton & District U3a welcomes the  
30th International Gilbert & Sullivan  
Festival back to Buxton from Saturday  
27 July to Saturday 10 August 2023

We are pleased to advise that a U3a group booking has been  
made in Buxton Opera House for the performance of  
**The Pirates of Penzance** on Sunday, 28 July 2024 at 7.30 pm

The full festival programme may be  
downloaded from [www.gsfestivals.org](http://www.gsfestivals.org) or call  
01422 323252 for a copy of the newsletter.  
One of the festival highlights will be a hilarious  
production all-time favourite The Pirates of  
Penzance, performed by the professional  
National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company,  
directed by and starring Simon Butteriss.

Follow the adventures of Frederic, in love with  
the Major General's daughter. Frederic finds  
himself torn between his sense of duty and his  
love for Mabel. Can he find a way to live happily  
ever after?

There will be a pre-performance talk by a G&S  
expert especially for U3a members.

The cost per ticket is a special price of £30 (centre stalls)  
Please register your interest by emailing Philip Barton (group leader Adventures in Good Music) at  
[philip.barton@btinternet.com](mailto:philip.barton@btinternet.com) with your name, email address, telephone number and number of  
tickets required. Alternatively, text details or leave a message on 07980 660202 or 01295 214571.  
You will be contacted in early March with details of how to make payment.

Gilbert & Sullivan Festivals | U3a | Buxton Opera House & District U3a Group

**u3a** Mean, laugh, live