



newsletter

Walking Baton Relay
Celebrating the u3a 40th Year

Visit to the Southwest
Hearing from the Outings Group

Dates for your Diary
2023 Events at a Glance

Winter 2022

Issue 3

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Book Exchange

Sue Rivers

Welcome

from Sue Rivers



Hello Members

A year has passed since I took over as Chair of the New Mills and District u3a, and November saw me presiding over my first Annual General Meeting.

Unfortunately, the weather that day was atrocious, but we still had about thirty members attending, so thank you all. And our thanks must go to Sue Colston for the delicious selection of cakes enjoyed by everyone.

We had three Committee members standing down as their terms of office have come to an end. I know you will join me in applauding Sue Colston, Kath Garside and Marian Parker for the time and effort they have put in over the past years.

We currently have a vacancy on the Committee and if you feel you could become a member, we would love you to join us. Just speak to me or any of the current Committee.

I am looking forward to 2023

with a full year of speakers lined up. All details are on the website and also displayed on the information table at the monthly meetings (third Tuesday in the month).

And don't forget the Coffee Mornings on the last Tuesday of the month. It's always good to see you, and it is a chance to have an informal chat with us. We always welcome new members and ideas.

I have found the last year very enjoyable and have even got used to speaking on the mike at the meetings!!

I wish you all well for 2023.

Sue

Meet & Greet the Committee

This year everyone on the current Committee was re-elected at the AGM so, in the words of Chair Sue Rivers at our first meeting, no need for introductions! However, for members new to u3a a look at who we are together with a brief synopsis of the Treasurer's Report. We still have a vacancy on the Committee so do get in touch if you would like to join us. We are an informal and friendly group and give a promise that you will find you are having a real input without too great a commitment!

Margaret Weaver
Treasurer



Treasurer Margaret Weaver continues to keep a hold on the purse strings.

Presenting the financial statement to the AGM she reported a healthy balance was maintained, but the group was in a different financial situation from last year.

There had been an increase in room hire costs as more activity groups were booking venues and, in the current economic climate, venues were having to raise prices.

The capitation fee had gone up from £2.50 to £4 but the Third Age Trust resolution to index link to the state pension had been rejected.

A substantial sum had been donated through the Riviera gift aid scheme and Margaret reminded members if they were planning a cruise with the company there was the option of choosing this u3a as the nominated charity.

Margaret is happy to respond to any queries. Just email her or catch her at meetings.

Ann Apps
Vice Chair/Webmaster



Pat Stanway
Business Secretary



Wendy Cheshire
Membership Secretary



Pam Baker
Committee Member



Clem Taylor
Committee Member



Jean Windsor
Groups Coordinator



Catherine Ager
Newsletter Editor



Additionally, not on the Committee but of inestimable help are Carol Wright (Speaker Organiser), Hazel Perry (Almoner), Eileen Gilligan & Hilary Harmer (Website) and Lesley Mason (Refreshments). Thank you so much all!

A Note from Almoner Hazel Perry

The Almoner post has been operative for some time now and I thought you might like to have an update. This position was created so that any u3a members who are sick or have an accident or are bereaved can be contacted by phone or more usually by post. The Committee feel that in times of sickness etc just knowing that someone cares and is thinking of you can be of help.

During the past few months I have sent many Get Well cards and sadly, one or two Cards of Condolence. I understand from feedback that these have been well received and helpful to those people receiving them.

If you know of anyone to whom you think we should send a card, please contact me or any Committee member.



Philip Kendall leader of the Play Reading Group sadly passed away recently and thank you Barbara Garland for this affectionate tribute given on behalf of his Play Reading friends. Also, for agreeing to step into Philip's creative shoes as the new Group Leader.

Covid Roulette

Round and round the virus goes,
Where she's stopping, no-one knows;
Is it red or is it black?
"Faites vos jeux," 'cause Covid's back!

Test all children in the schools?
But schools are empty – Boris rules;
National Lockdown? Work at home?
Vaccinations. Let's get done!

Round and round the Covid goes
When it mutates no-one knows,
The roulette wheel, it never stops,
"Faites vos jeux!" and off it hops!

Our chips are down, the die is cast,
Will vaccination win at last?
The stakes are high, we've made our stand:
It's Covid against our weak hand....
.....Who will be the winner?
"..... Faites vos jeux!"

© Philip Kendall
January 2021

A Tribute from Play Reading Group

It was with great sadness that we in the Play Reading Group learned of the death of Founder and Coordinator Philip Kendall. His knowledge and sense of fun held the Group together as a lively troupe . . . we will miss him very much.

Philip had been involved in amateur dramatics for most of his life and brought significant expertise and passion for the theatre.

He was able to make suggestions for so many enjoyable plays that we read over the years and gave insight into the characterization of the roles that we read. His casting was always fair and he was always encouraging and supportive, showing kindness and good humour.

Linda contributed also with her warm welcomes and hospitality, thank you, and our thoughts and best wishes are with you and the family.

Barbara Garland

Philip's poetic musings and observations on life were always much appreciated. Included here are the two pieces he sent to us earlier in the year for this issue.

At Last

Over two years of conscientious avoidance,
Careful isolation, shielding, vaccinations –
And there it is:
A faint red line!
It had me fooled to start with.
All clear. Solid confirmation.
But then this ghost
Of a line appears!
"Ha-ha! You've got it!
Another one bites the dust!!"
All manageable so far.
Just a cough and lethargy.
Treat with rest and paracetamol;
Neutral gear for five days.
Oh, well, it's bound to happen.
There's even a sense of relief.
Living with Covid 19

© Philip Kendall
June 2022

Activity Groups



Currently we offer thirty three activity groups across a broad range of interests. The latest list is on the website or can be requested from Jean Windsor our Groups Coordinator.

To find out if there is space in an existing group, please check with the appropriate Leader. And to find out how you go about introducing a new one, do not hesitate to get in touch with Jean who will be very happy to help. Many thanks to Leaders for sharing details of what members have

been enjoying recently in their respective groups.

First Jan Smith of Leader of the Longer Walking Group tells us about members' participation in a recent event.

Jan says "Derbyshire u3as were invited to join an epic Walking Baton Relay to celebrate the organisation's 40th anniversary. Starting on 7th September in Derby the walk finished back in Derby on the 23rd having visited all of the county's seventeen u3a branches in between".

Epic u3a 40th Anniversary Walking Baton Relay

The Relay was ceremonially started by **John Merrill**, a major celebrity in the walking community and a man who loves walking in Derbyshire. He is an author of more than 500 walking guides and a record-breaking marathon walker who has so far covered 227,527 miles, wearing out 151 pairs of boots!

The Leaders of the **New Mills and District u3a Longer and Medium Walking Groups** organised our leg of the event scheduled for 14th September. A few of our members met Buxton u3a at Whaley Bridge canal basin the day before and walked the final part of their walk with them along the canal to New Mills. Once at New Mills the baton was formally handed over to us.

The next morning, members of New Mills and District u3a gathered at the Torrs and proceeded to walk the 10 miles to Edale. Our route took us via the Sett Valley Trail to Hayfield, up to Bowden Bridge and over to Edale Cross. We enjoyed stunning views of the Hope Valley and the Great Ridge as we dropped down into the Edale Valley via Jacob's Ladder. We arrived in Edale in good time and took the opportunity to quench our thirst at The Rambler Inn where we had arranged to hand the baton over



to the Hope Valley u3a for the onward journey. We returned to New Mills by train.

We enjoyed a fabulous walk in beautiful conditions and felt a real sense of achievement in completing the walk and enabling the baton to continue its journey. It was great to share our walk with regular members of the medium and longer walking groups as well as a few members of other activity groups.

Jan Smith
Longer Walks Group Leader



You can see more photos of the relay walk by visiting <http://www.facebook.com/u3aDerbyshireNetwork>

Outings Group

Goes Southwest



Coordinators
Barbara Matthews
and
Pat Cooper

Our 2023 holiday this year was to Somerset, based in Bridgwater but ideally placed to branch out in all directions and constantly crossing the border into Devon. Although not planned the itinerary turned out to be transport themed with a ride on the West Somerset steam railway from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead. A sail on the river Exe taking in the scenery and wildlife and a tram journey from Seaton along the river Axe. Also included in our travels was Forde Abbey with its beautiful gardens, quirky Glastonbury and the Cathedral city of Wells. It was a very enjoyable time with good company and glorious weather. More can be heard about our holiday in my illustrated talk in January.

Barbara Matthews
Outings Coordinator



(left)
Coffee in
the sun at
Glastonbury



(right)
Taking
the ferry
at Exeter
Quays



With those warm summer days in mind some suggestions from Chris Bond of local beauty spots to explore or perhaps revisit

Amid all the current gloom and doom, if people are thinking about next summer, they may well be thinking of a staycation. In this context we are probably in one of the best areas of the country, with a wide choice of general things to do within thirty to forty miles.

Armchair planning for next summer, or even for this weekend, can help cheer you up! I am sure your readers have plenty of other favourite ideas. So just to remind ourselves

If you like water

Tittesworth, Rudyard, Coombs Ladybower/Derwent/Howden, Goyt Valley, Carsington Water, canals galore including the Manchester Ring

A National Trust member?

Lyme, Gawsworth, Biddulph, plus Haddon, Thornbridge Hall etc

Enjoy the countryside?

Teggs Nose, Solomon's Temple, Dove Dale, Alderley Edge, Etherow, Kinder, Lathkill Dale, Wye Valley . . .

Interested in stone?

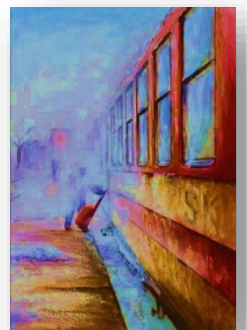
Castleton and caves, National Stone Centre, Poole's Cavern . . .

Like to visit museums?

Buxton, the Potteries, Cromford, Quarry Bank . . .

Or go shopping?

Bakewell, Broadstone Mill, Rowsley Caudwell Mill, garden centres . . .



Chris Bond

Photography Group 1

Promoting the Art of Observation



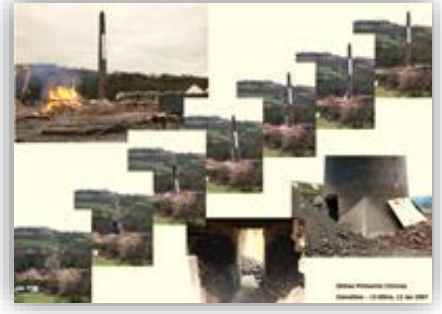
The inaugural meeting of Photography Group 1 was on 16th September 2004 and the group has met monthly since that date, with the exception of the Covid enforced break during 2020 and 2021.

The group was established with the aim of “increasing the effectiveness and enjoyment of taking photographs and sharing the resultant pictures”. This still remains the prime objective.



As then, we continue to have a theme for our monthly photographic assignments this year we have visited *abandoned, people at work, feisty* and *roadsides*.

We are fortunate to be able to view and discuss the results of our efforts digitally projected onto a large screen, with the use of appropriate editing program images can modify the images and view the results immediately.



The group successfully undertook a major project to photograph, print images and mount a display at the Heritage Centre of all bridges within the New Mills area.

Since our restart after Covid we would welcome anyone who would like to join our small friendly group where a wealth of experience is on hand for advice.

Regards Cliff Kemp
Photography Group 1

An Update from the Groups Coordinator

I took part in the Baton Relay on 14th September with twelve other members of our u3a, plus Marlow, Jan (Smith) and Ian's lovely dog. The weather was kind to us, and we handed the baton over as planned at Edale to one representative of the Hope Valley u3a.

The Groups Displays Coffee Morning was very well received with the room layout allowing people to walk around and look at the exhibits and sit in the centre of the room for refreshments.

Many thanks to all members who participated. As part of the continuing celebration of 40 years of u3a I have asked all group leaders to consider updating the image for their group on the activities page of the website (within the guidelines and not using a copyrighted image of course).

Jean Windsor



A Wonderful Selection of Finished Pieces
by the Needlecraft Group Members



An Example of the Range of Studies from
Members of the Art Appreciation Group

Dates for your 2023 Diary

17th January

Speaker Meeting
Barbara Matthews
Travelogue of the
Outings Activity
Group holiday in
Somerset

25th January

Annual Lunch
With Outings Group
Parish Hall
12.30pm for 1.00pm
£8 Payment in cash
when booking

20th February

Annual Shopping
With Outings Group
Boundary Mills, Colne
(list open so book
now)

21st February

Speaker Meeting
James Ellison
Five hours up,
Five hours down
- soloing the
Matterhorn

21st March

Speaker Meeting
Bill Worthington
Cave rescues in and
around the Peak
District – past and
present

18th April

Speaker Meeting
Gary Burkett
Time spent with the
Australian Aboriginals
mainly through the
sounds of the
Didgeridoo

11th May

Cambridge Holiday
3 nights in 4* hotel
£299 per person
sharing twin or
double/ £75 per
person single room
supplement
Deposit £75
by 21st March

16th May

Speaker Meeting
Danny Wells
The romance of the
Derbyshire Dales

20th June

Speaker Meeting
John Hope
Extra Time
- a tribute to the
people of Sri Lanka
who lost their lives in
the Tsunami. John and
his wife survived it!

18th July

Speaker Meeting
Ellen Outram
(Blue Badge
Tourist Guide)
Magnificent
Monuments and
Graves

6th August

Isle of Wight Holiday
6 nights - Deadline for
booking 1st September
(Note for fairness if the
demand for places
exceeds availability, those
who travel regularly with
the Outings Group will be
given first option)

15th August

Speaker Meeting
Bez Cooper
Tiller Girl History –
reflections of a
Dancing Life
and a couple of
minutes audience
participation. Should
be fun!

19th September

Groups Display
A display from the
Activity Groups,
Coordinated by
Jean Windsor

17th October

Speaker Meeting
James Ellison
The Long Road to
Publication
– about his debut
novel 'The Trail'

21st November

20th AGM

1st December

Thursford Holiday
2 nights for the
Christmas Spectacular

19th December

Christmas Party

NB: Monthly Speaker Meetings are held in the Town Hall starting at 10:30am. Refreshments available. Full details of these plus Outings and Holidays are given on the website or contact Pat Cooper or Barbara Matthews (Outings Coordinators) for more information.



Ford Abbey, Somerset
Holiday (January)



Ellen Outram, Magnificent
Monuments and Graves (July)



Danny Wells, Romance of
the Derbyshire Dales (May)