

Burton Joyce & District u3a Newsline

Welcome to the November Edition of Newsline

From The Editor

HAVE YOU PUT YOUR HEATING ON YET?

As I type this, on a dark October evening, shivering as the only heat in the house is the log burner downstairs, I look forward to the warmth of the Village Hall tomorrow for the monthly meeting, and again on Wednesday when we generate our own during Aerobics.

But I am also basking in my new-found fame as Motorhome break in expert. There aren't many advantages in being small, especially since chimney sweeps now use much more sophisticated devices than small children, however it came in handy when the driver of said Motorhome lost the keys and I was able to break in through the storage compartment underneath the seats. That was, however, merely the first in a series of unfortunate (and probably expensive) events of our latest trip.



I am thinking of offering after dinner speeches as a way of paying for it all. It can be added to my previous reputation as a sky-jacker, the story of which went round The Minster School some years ago. You had to be there!

Keep warm.

Judith

NOVEMBER IS "BRING A FRIEND" MONTH

We're often told we're a very friendly u3a so we want to put that to the test by encouraging more people to join. Nationally and locally numbers have decreased because of the pandemic but we are pretty sure there are plenty of people out there who haven't heard of us. So why not bring someone along to November's monthly meeting on Tuesday 8th?

Stonebridge City Farm (the subject) is a local hidden gem and of course, Elaine's cakes are a draw in themselves. Alternatively, why not ask the co-ordinator of your group if you can bring a friend along to that. If the group is physically full, it may not be possible but you can always ask. Of course we'd like to be able to offer a cash incentive per new member introduced but the new Chancellor is looking very carefully at bribery and corruption, so you will just have to smile at Elaine and hope you get an extra cake!!



Chair's Chatter

It is very encouraging to see our membership steadily growing (372 at the time of writing) with some new members setting up new groups or joining in to support existing. So long it may continue!

Some more good news, the Committee at the last meeting decided not to increase membership fees for the coming year despite some pressure from central office. With so many other price increases affecting our members it was felt that this is the right approach.

I travelled recently to Israel to my late mum's memorial service, sadly she passed away last year and due to Covid restrictions at that time I was unable to get to the funeral. I know that many other people had similar sad experiences compounded by not being able to say their final good byes in person.

However, the trip ended on a positive and happy note. We attended a friend's daughter's wedding and to my surprise Stephen plucked the courage to ask me to the dance floor and show off our jiving skills. I'm very grateful to Chris our 'magician' Jive Group teacher for his dedication, patience and professionalism. Why not give it a go, you will find details of the group on our website.

Stay safe,

Anna Moore

chair@bju3a.co.uk



Wanted

In a former life, did you have any experience of PR, advertising or recruitment? If so, we would love to "borrow" your skills. We would like to boost the profile of our u3a locally and could do with some pointers. You will know that we have a Facebook page, and that we have a website (<https://bju3a.co.uk>) which is being currently upgraded but we also know that you have to tell people in several ways. So, if you have any contacts with local media, are any good at design and/or any background that is at all relevant, please contact me either by email (see above) or by phone, 07891 221840.

Anna



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS:

This time of the year is particularly busy for Membership with the renewal requests for annual subs being sent out.

IF - you haven't received a request for your annual subs - due December 1st - please contact me and I will arrange for the details to be sent to you.

IF - you are not intending to renew your subs please let me know as this will save me chasing you up with various emails/letters etc.etc.

NEW MEMBERS COFFEE MORNING:

We held another successful " drop in " meeting at the Wheatsheaf in Burton Joyce. It was well supported and hopefully those new members who attended went away with a bigger picture of U3A both locally and nationally. We even had one new member who has agreed to set up a new interest group [Much to the delight of Christine Shepherd - the groups co-ordinator]

GROWING MEMBERSHIP:

I am pleased to report that our group now has 370 members, and hopefully we won't lose too many during the renewal of subs period. Since the last Newslines we would like to give a big welcome to the following :

Dave Bott - Joan Collier - David Collins - Doreen Edwards - Kim & David Hoskins - Helen & Lee James - Amanda & Martin Maynes - Bob Oldham - Wendy Parsons - Marjorie Potter - Paul Smith - Joan Wild - Edda Williams

Rupert Williams - Membership Secretary

Spotlight on our New Members

Welcome to our recently-joined members, some of whom are mentioned below....

Helen and Lee James

Helen and Lee moved to Burton Joyce a couple of years ago but already had many friends in the village so were aware of the U3A. Lee is still working for part of the week but has joined the beer and cider group and is looking forward to future trips.

Helen is still looking at her options. As a wheelchair user she is reliant upon Lee for transport and recognises she'll need to check about venue accessibility when she does decide which group she'd like to join.

Bob Oldham

Bob lives in Gunthorpe and since retiring 3 years ago has always been meaning to join BJU3a. He's aware of the u3a as his cousin is a member and he has a friend who runs the beer and wine group at Radcliffe on Trent. Bob is keen to keep his mind active and is considering joining a language group amongst other possibilities. He's already joined the county walks group, run by Elaine Bass, and enjoyed his first trip out. His other interests include fishing, cycling and classic cars. He is looking forward to attending the monthly meetings and seeing what they're about.

Spotlight on our New Members (continued)

Dave and Kim Hoskins

Dave and Kim have lived in Lowdham for about 15 years. Dave is still working part time, running his own business, but looking towards full retirement in the near future. He has already joined the wine tasting group and is interested in the table tennis group. Kim is a regular walker and is also looking at the craft and patchwork group – she enjoys crocheting and quilting. They are both keen gardeners so maybe one of the gardening groups may appeal?

Welcome all!

Hilary MacCallum

Monthly Meetings

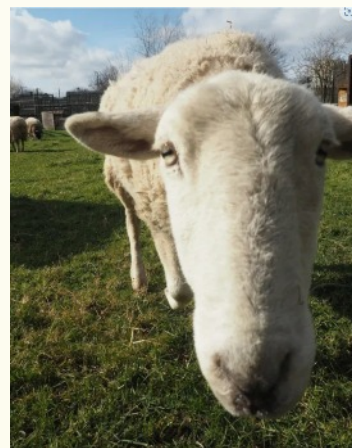
Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and start promptly at 1:45pm.

Please be seated in good time as late arrivals make it difficult for those sitting near the entrance to hear the announcements, and latecomers disrupt proceedings whilst taking their seats.

Speakers from November 2022

TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER: PETER ARMITAGE - STONEBRIDGE CITY FARM

Stonebridge City Farm is “a small slice of the countryside in the heart of the city” and if you’ve never been, Peter’s talk might persuade you to. It’s an urban farm, offering a safe space for families and the community to enjoy themselves. Established 35 years ago with and for disadvantaged people, it provides support, training and therapeutic interaction with the animals and gardens for the community and visitors. There are multiple volunteering opportunities on the farm providing meaningful work for over 150 volunteers on site each week, many of whom have a mental health challenge or a learning disability. If you have grandchildren there is a wide range of animals to visit, a great play area and a cafe and shop. In the gardens are seasonal plants, produce and herbs, some of which can be purchased from their shop.



TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS PARTY - MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW SEPARATELY

TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY: ROGER BROWNE - THE GREAT AMERICAN SONG BOOK



Raconteur, humourist, pianist, singer, director, actor, and writer Roger recounts how Jazz, Minstrel Music, Blues, Opera, Operetta, Musical Theatre, The Two World Wars, The Financial Rollercoasters of the first half of the 20th century and The Golden Age of Radio, were all influencers of, and inspirations for, the great composers of the years between the two wars. Composers such as: George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Harry Warren, Hoagy Carmichael, and many others, who, between them, wrote thousands of richly melodic masterpieces, with equally memorable lyrics. The output of this period became known as “The Great American Songbook”. In this talk, Roger traces the history and music of this genre, so prepare to get your feet tapping.

****SPOTLIGHT ON****

GROUPS FACILITATOR CHRISTINE SHEPHERD

Chris joined our u3a 11 years ago and threw herself in with enthusiasm. She is still the leader of Garden Group 3, has been our Speaker Finder and is now the co-ordinator of all our groups. She belongs to Country Walks, Craft, Jive, University Interest and Italian. She is also an enthusiastic member of Burton Joyce Local History Society, still volunteers for the charity TOFS (Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula), which affected her son Tom, and should she and husband, Gren, have any spare time, they are keen caravanners!

She is very keen to inject some enthusiasm into her new role to overcome any post-Covid apathy. She wants to help revamp the website and check it for accuracy and also make personal contact with all the group co-ordinators. She has had several suggestions for new groups including: fishing, cycling and classic cars but is very keen to listen to any new ideas. When I asked her what she got out of u3a membership, she said that she loved meeting people, finding out what makes them tick, thoroughly enjoys the variety of the monthly meetings and above all is never bored. We are lucky to have her!!

GROUP NEWS

New Groups

Italian Self Help – This new group, proposed by Mary Simm, got off to a good start at the initial meeting with thirteen members signing up. Meetings will be held on Friday afternoons from 3.30 to 5.00.

Fishing – Four members have signed up to this group. Are there are more fisher-folk interested? Meetings in the Wheatsheaf will be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 11.15 with a view to fishing in ponds from April to September. Group Co-ordinator is Bob Oldham.

Cycling – A small group of three have expressed an interest in road-free cycling. Contact Christine Shepherd, Groups Facilitator, if you are interested in joining the group.

Country Walks – This is proving a very popular group and has awarded itself a nickname: SWANS (short walk and no styles). The picture below shows them enjoying a sunny walk from Gunthorpe. The convivial lunch at the end of each walk is a big draw. Contact leaders Mary Russell or Elaine Bass if you are interested.

Finally, a request for members interested in **photography** as this group is currently suspended because of a lack of members; **Garden Group 1** would like to attract someone who would be willing to lead the group.



What about starting a group for people interested in:- Classic Cars - Motor Cycling - Recorders - Please contact Christine Shepherd if interested.

Click [here](#) for an up to date list of all our Groups

GROUP NEWS

University Interest Group

There are still some places available on the next visit:-

Revolutionising the Semiconductor industry on Monday 14th November at 10.30 at The University of Nottingham main campus, Physics building.

Don't worry if you're not sure what the semiconductor industry is, you are already beholden to it via your computer, mobile phone, car, washing machine etc, etc, etc! Whether you like it or not you are surrounded by it.

Things have got smaller and smaller, and this "miniaturization" has facilitated blue-sky research and important discoveries in the semiconductor industry. The more you can squeeze onto a chip the cheaper and more amazing things you can do. Professor Patane and her team have just received a £2.9m research award to further their work in this area including the development of a new generation of 2 dimensional semiconductors.

So come and hear how this will affect us all and put us at the forefront of these exciting developments and give the UK a unique capability. Expect your brain to be challenged and your mind to be blown a little.

If Physics worries you, even more reason to come! Their job is to explain this to us in understandable terms

The visit will feature a presentation on the above followed by a tour of the facilities.

To sign up please reply to Trevor Wright on tgawright@icloud.com . If you have any queries, please ring on 0115 931 2805.

GROUP NEWS

University Interest Group



Around 30 members of the u3a University Interest Group attended a fascinating presentation on robots and artificial intelligence at Nottingham University's Jubilee campus.

We learnt that robots have gone from science fiction to everyday fact and have enormous potential to enhance human experience. There are currently around 3 million industrial robots that have transformed quality and productivity in the workplace. They are also used in surgery, transport and areas dangerous or difficult for humans to enter, such as nuclear facilities. They are also increasingly used to enhance the lives of those with disabilities - aiding speech and movement and enhancing independence. Indeed everyone is increasingly exposed to such interactions. And, if you don't believe it just ask Alexa or Siri!

>>>Continued >>>

We were able to visit the 'cobot' facility (as you will see from the photo on the previous page). A cobot, or collaborative robot, is one intended for direct human robot interaction within a shared space, or where humans and robots are in close proximity. We got up-close and personal with cobots which are being designed to interact with humans and met doglike, catlike and humanlike robots and saw how engaging and versatile they can be. We also gained an insight to the complex algorithms that are necessary for even the simplest of manual tasks and discussed some of the ethical issues that arise around equality, data ownership and privacy.

We all left with plenty of food for thought and a feeling that the title of our tour was right

- *The future is robots - get used to it!*

- *David Nelson*

N.B. Our u3a book group's latest book was "Klara and the Sun" by Kazuo Ishiguro which features the use of Artificial Friends which have been designed to display empathy to their human owners. We speculated if this was a solution to the care crisis?

Trevor Wright (tgawright@icloud.com - 0115 931 2805) -Group Coordinator

GROUP NEWS

Table Tennis Groups

Monday morning group

This group had been run by Tony Simpson for many years until just recently when the baton was passed to Betty and Tony Everington. The venue was originally at the community church hall, then the Poplars, and has now moved to the village hall. The large hall is used when the group meets each Monday between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 pm. The charge is £3 - £4 per session

Thursday evening group

This group has been run by Brenda Draper for many years now. She is currently being assisted by Keith Stafford. It has moved venue alongside the Monday group and now takes place in the small hall between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. on the first and second Thursday of the month. There is a charge of £3 per session



The set up with both these groups is informal – no competitive leagues or tournaments! Just the enjoyment of playing some table tennis with like-minded folk. Both groups are a friendly bunch and abilities are very much mixed.

Both groups have spaces at the moment so why not give it a go.....and if you don't have a bat of your own they will happily lend you one.

GROUP NEWS

Focus on - Bridge

One of our most successful groups, Bridge, has been offered by our u3a from the beginning and indeed, is the only reason some of our members have joined. With the level of commitment offered by the co-ordinator, Dorothy Burton, it's not hard to see why.

Dorothy joined our u3a in its inaugural year, offered to help with the existing group and soon found herself running it. Initially it was held in the evening in Burton Joyce Village Hall, but for many years it has run for two afternoons per week. Tuesday accommodates the more experienced players and is hosted each week by various members of the group. The beginners session on Thursdays meets at Dorothy's. Before Covid, as many as 12 people played per session with a break for refreshments, but this has now been reduced to 8 and the length of the session shortened.

I asked Dorothy what skills she thought were needed to play, seeing as my Beloved Husband has always said that I would be no good as I talk too much. Diplomatically, Dorothy thought that it was an interest in cards, especially whist, that was the driver, along with a preparedness to learn. I also know from aforementioned BH, that Dorothy puts hours of her time into preparing hands and notes for the sessions, so I asked her what her motivation was. "Well, I wouldn't do it if I didn't enjoy it" was her honest reply. She also enjoys the challenge and the social aspect.



Over the years many members have been involved in the group and several have gone on to successfully join Bridge clubs. What an achievement and in the true spirit of u3a! She is always open to taking on new people, so get in touch if you are interested. Beginners will find details on our website at <https://bju3a.co.uk/bridge-2-beginners/> and for the more experienced the website page is at <https://bju3a.co.uk/bridge-1/>

Judith Wright

GROUP NEWS

Beer and Cider Tasting



Thursday November 17th - The King William IV

The King Billy is widely regarded is one of the best real-ale pubs in Nottingham, with a choice of seven cask ales, as well as up to five ciders. They do nice pork pies too...

We will also drop into The Partizan Tavern, which serves a variety of real and craft ales and ciders, before finishing the evening at The Fox and Grapes. For more details, click on:-

<https://bju3a.co.uk/beer-cider-tasting/>

Honour for Former Chairman



If you watch the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph this year, you may just spot former BJu3a Chairman, Alwyn Foster in the March Past on Remembrance Sunday (13th November). This will be the fifth year he has been invited to attend as one of the 10,000 veterans.

Alwyn, left, with two veteran colleagues at the 2021 Parade.



OUTINGS

Middleton Hall

Towards the end of July, more than 30 of our members paid a visit to this magnificent medieval manor house and estate. We were treated to a very entertaining talk and guided tour covering over 1000 years of history. Deservedly called "North Warwickshire's hidden gem", we are so grateful for Alwyn's formidable organising skills. He is now taking a well deserved break but we hope to persuade him to plan some more trips of us for next year.



The image features the beautifully restored Grand Hall. It is now used very successfully for wedding ceremonies and similar receptions.

- John Fletcher

OUTINGS

MONDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER, BLETCHLEY PARK, BLETCHLEY, MILTON KEYNES.

Another incredibly interesting trip, this time to Bletchley Park, brilliantly organised by Alwyn Foster. Our members were fascinated by the world of intrigue and intelligence which helped bring the allies victory. Thanks so much to Alwyn who even provided the sunshine too.

Bletchley Park became the principal centre of Allied code breaking during the Second World War, containing a history of the extraordinary achievements of the men and women who worked there.



UNSOLVED MURDER LEAVES GUESTS PERPLEXED!

Despite a sterling effort by a sell-out audience of suitably attired night club attendees, the grizzly murder of the proprietor was unsolved by the end of the evening and Burton Joyce Players had to reveal all. It was the Lawyer wot did it!

As you can see from the photos, u3a members went to a lot of trouble to dress up. The best female costume award was to Michelle Price Horne as the glamorous French boutique owner, whilst the male prize went to Gren Shepherd who looked rather more like a spivvy gangster! Is that what Chris sees in him!!

Thanks to Burton Joyce Players who put on the show and an especial thanks to Rob Johnson for organising and liaising, and Elaine Bass for the most appropriate table decorations. A great evening was had by all.



Committee Members

The minutes of the latest committee meeting can be found [here](#). At the date of publication of this edition, the members of the Committee are set out below.

Anna Moore	Chair	07891 221840	chair@bju3a.co.uk
Anne Hegarty	Treasurer	07981 705967	Treasurer@bju3a.co.uk
Sue Berridge	Business Secretary	07999 101354	Secretary@bju3a.co.uk
Christine Shepherd	Groups Facilitator	07773 156813	Groups@bju3a.co.uk
Rupert Williams	Membership Secretary	0115 931 3095	MembershipSecretary@bju3a.co.uk
Alan Comerie	Speaker Finder	07581 456253	speakers@bju3a.co.uk
Anna Moore	Beacon Coordinator	07891 221840	Beacon002@bju3a.co.uk
Judith Wright	Newsline Editor	0115 931 2805	bju3anewsline@outlook.com
Elaine Bass	Committee Member	0115 911 8756	
Rob Johnson	Committee Member	07762 706059	

Additional administrative contacts

Alwyn Foster	Outings Support	0115 931 2571	outings@bju3a.co.uk
Grenville Shepherd	Fire & VH Keyholder	0115 9618840	grenshepherd@yahoo.co.uk
Alan Comerie	Website Manager	07851 456253	
David Falkner	Welcomers' Coordinator		welcome@bju3a.co.uk

Please let us have any contributions for the February 2023 issue of Newsline as soon as you have them and at the latest by 24th January 2023. We particularly want items that are looking at what is going to happen in the Winter. If you would like a "focus" on your group please let the Editor know by emailing to bju3anewsline@outlook.com.

Would you like to promote or showcase your Group?

Any Group has the opportunity to publicise what it does in a brief slot before we introduce our monthly speaker. If you would like to address the BJU3a audience - usually 100 + members - please contact me via the e-mail address indicated in this Newsline.
- Alan ComerieSpeaker Finder.

