

Burton Joyce & District u3a Newsline



Welcome to the February Edition of Newsline

From The Editor

FEBRUARY BLUES

It's that time of year when we've all got colds or are just recovering and warmer weather seems a long way off. Christmas spending is now hitting our bank balances and Christmas eating is hitting our waistlines. One Christmas gathering posed an interesting question: my twenty something nephew, back from Australia after a 5 year absence, seemed shocked that Trevor and I had retired (I know. It's the Oil of Olay) and asked how we spent our time.

I found myself explaining what u3a was and how much we do, Trevor more than me. And how it refreshes all parts (like Heineken): Speed walking raises my heart rate, Aerobics stretches all sorts, Book group challenges my brain and Committee and monthly meetings provide cake, sometimes frustration, but always friendship and camaraderie.

I rang a member of my Book group this week to enquire how she and her husband were doing and her response summed up what u3a meant to her: "People have been so kind. I really don't know what I would have done without u3a when I moved here knowing no-one."

So, forget the blues, try a new group and join in the friendship.

Judith

Chair's Chatter

My favourite experience over the Xmas period was taking my grandsons to see the lights at Wollaton Park. It was absolutely magical - including the obligatory hot chocolate with marshmallow topping.



Personally I am not one for making New Year's resolutions but as the Chair of this wonderful u3a I am resolved to continuously enhance and improve our offering to all of our members.



In addition to supporting the varied groups, enjoying social events and outings it is important that we focus on recruiting new members who bring new energy and ideas to the mix. We all have a role to play in this and publicise who we are & what we do to friends and acquaintances.

Before the Xmas break the committee has met to discuss specifically the issue of Gift Aid and our position on this matter in the future. As required by the Third Age Trust, BJ&D u3a has charity status and as such is eligible to make a claim for Gift Aid. The money raised can be used in many ways e.g. to minimise any future increases in membership fees as well as provide support to groups. Further communication and details will be sent out to all members in due course.

All is left for me to say is have a great new year; push yourself a bit outside your comfort zone, its amazing what you might learn about yourself; meet new people and make new friends and most of all don't forget to laugh!

Stay safe,

Anna Moore

chair@bju3a.co.uk

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chair@bju3a.co.uk

Membership News

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our current membership stands at 347, although we still have some outstanding renewals.

7 members have joined since November and have been invited to the Coffee Morning held in January.

At our recent committee meeting, it was decided to stop issuing annual membership cards as each year the majority of said cards are not collected. So please use your existing card (with expiry date crossed out) when you need to wear a name badge (ie at monthly meetings). New members will be issued with a name badge and all renewals will be acknowledged with an email.

Rupert Williams (Membership Secretary)

Spotlight on our New Members

We have several new members who've joined us since the last issue of Newslines.

David Bott

David moved here 2 and a half years ago and is Beeston born where he lived until the death of his wife 10 years ago. He was in the building trade with his sons and though retired he still actively helps out as needed.

Of course, moving when he did, whilst Covid was at its height, disrupted plans to make links with the community so David is making up for lost time! He enjoys playing table tennis and was prompted to join the U3A when seeking out a local group. He's now a regular with the group and has also discovered the beer and cider group.

David's other passion is dancing, especially jive, which he does several times a week, including the ceroc style. I've learnt something...never having heard of this before. So, not surprisingly, David has joined the U3A jive group and is looking forward to plenty more dancing.

Gwen McCormack

Gwen has lived in Burton Joyce since last September, having moved here from Allington, a village near Grantham. She is very familiar with U3As, having been a member of the Vale of Belvoir group along with her late husband, both as a committee member and then as Chair for 3 years.

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She has moved into a flat in the village, in Lendrum Court, to be closer to her family. Size-wise this is taking some adjusting to, having moved from the family home with its large garden.

Gwen has already joined the luncheon group and is interested in other groups. She is looking forward to attending the monthly meetings too. At present she's restricted due to a health issue but hoping to be more mobile very soon and able to fully embrace all that our U3A has to offer.

Cathy McKenna

Cathy lives in Burton Joyce and is recently retired. Home life remains very busy but given she is no longer working, she wanted to pick up her interest in bridge again, having last played some 30 years ago. Local enquiries led her to the U3A bridge group run by Dorothy Burton, where she has begun in the beginners group. She is not looking beyond this activity at the moment but she too plans to be at the next new members coffee morning.

Nigel Jackson

Nigel has lived in Burton Joyce for almost 20 years. His impetus for joining U3A was, he says, partly based on guilt!....as he's already enjoyed some of the activities that the U3A offers, accompanying his wife, Karen McClean, on trips to the university and to Bromley House library which he thoroughly enjoyed. So, he reckoned it was about time he joined in his own right!

Nigel is recently retired, just 18 months ago. His background is in further education and he worked at the Learning Skills Council for some years. His last post was with the City Council within Economic Development. In joining U3A, he is looking to further his interests and take up opportunities that appeal to him. He is still considering what group(s) to join but plans to be at the next coffee morning for new members.

Nigel's current interests include beekeeping. Could that be a group?

Joan Wild

Joan lives in Mapperley. She is familiar with U3As as she has been a member of a couple previously and remains a member of Mapperley u3A. She got to know Burton Joyce originally when her mother-in-law lived in the village and is looking forward to getting to know our group better as time goes on. She has been pleased to see so many groups available and that there has been space to join those that appealed to her. She is now part of the table tennis group and craft group and very much enjoying these. She is also attending the monthly meetings.

Joan's background is teaching and she has always enjoyed academic challenges, such as she encountered during her OU degree. Her intent in joining our U3A was to embark on more practical, hands-on interests.

Other new members are Paul Barker, Gemma Gill. Welcome all!

Hilary McCallum

New Members' Lunch

A welcome lunch for new members was held on 26 January with cakes supplied by Elaine Bass. Pictured below are Cathy McKenna, Kim and Dave Hoskins, Gwen McCormack and Nigel Jackson. The Hoskins are, in fact, both called Kim! Husband Kim had to become Dave when a school teacher said there couldn't be a male and female Kim. Not sure this would happen today!



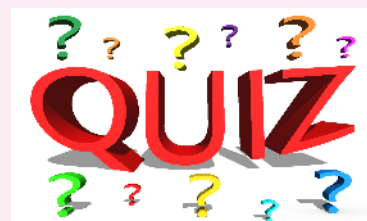
Future Social Events

We have 2 to look forward to:

Friday 19th May a Quiz Evening with questions posed by our very own Rupert Williams

Friday 6th October a Ceilidh, so get your dancing shoes at the ready.

More details to follow.



Monthly Speaker Meetings

Monthly speaker meetings are held at Burton Joyce and Bulcote Village Hall, Trent Lane, Burton Joyce, Nottingham NG14 5EY. They are followed by refreshments, tea/coffee and biscuits. It's an ideal opportunity to socialise, sign up for Groups and chat to friends. The meetings start at 1.45 p.m. prompt and members are asked to be seated in good time as late arrivals make it difficult for those sitting near the entrance to hear the announcements.

Our next three Speaker Meetings

TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY – MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS



Medical Alert Assistance Dogs support individuals with complex health conditions who have limited awareness of an impending life-threatening medical event. Using their amazing sense of smell, dogs can be trained to identify minute odour changes emitted prior to an emergency and alert the person to take preventative action. A representative of the organisation will explain what a fantastic service these animals perform.

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH - OLIVER HILL, CO-OP ESTATE PLANNING - TAX, CARE, & TOY BOYS

This talk has been highly recommended by several local U3As. For example, Ravenshead U3A's Speaker Finder said, "We had an excellent talk from Oliver Hill from Co-op Estate Planning. His presentation was clear, informative and updated. Oliver covered important issues....There are many potential pitfalls to be aware of!" The subjects covered are; Protecting your Family's Nest Egg, Inheritance Tax, Stopping "sideways disinheritance", and Lasting Power of Attorney. Whilst the message is serious, the delivery is informal, humorous and delivered in plain English. The talk will last half an hour, after which there is an opportunity for generic questions and if anyone would like to request a free consultation they can leave their details following the meeting.

TUESDAY 11TH APRIL - ANDREW SMART - "BYGONES"

Andrew Smart delivered this talk to us via Zoom in January 2021, when February 2021's Newsline reported "This Zoom meeting was our best one yet! Retired Nottingham Post journalist Andrew Smart took members on a fascinating stroll down memory lane for our January meeting, flicking through the pages of the Post's popular Bygones magazine he edited during his days with the newspaper."



Illustrated by a colourful display of slides, Andrew looks at subjects ranging from Royal visits to Nottingham, the winter of 1947, the blitz of 1941, and the impact of the American soldiers who came to Wollaton Park in 1944. He also recalls some of the city's lost buildings including the iconic Black Boy Hotel (pictured), Victoria Station, and the demise of Drury Hill; and he remembers some of the stars that appeared at the old Empire Theatre including Laurel and Hardy, with rare photographs to illustrate a particular local connection.

Andrew also remembers his days at the Minster Grammar School, Southwell, revealing a remarkable link to the Titanic disaster; and the story of an ex-pupil who became a chart-topping pop star. Performing first as Shane Fenton in the 1960s, he had a moderately successful career, hitting the UK top 40 with four singles in 1961–62, but later achieving massive success with his first recording under a different persona.

Group News

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

It's so good to be able to report on new groups starting whilst others go from strength to strength. Don't forget, if you have an idea for a group, we would love to help you get it started, and if a group you fancy is marked as full, contact us and we will see if we can get a second one started. Fishing is now up and running and there may be a Classic Car group and Flower Arranging in the near future. You read it here first!

IS YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION TO GET FITTER?

Well how about considering joining in any of our more active groups? Most days of the week, there is something to get those legs moving: Speed Walking, Aerobics, Petanque, Boccia, Kurling, Table Tennis, not to mention all the various walking groups. Spaces available at all of them, so just contact the individual co-ordinator or Chris Shepherd.

KURLING

This formerly very successful group has not re-started since Covid and we would very much like to get it back up and running; we have the equipment and former co-ordinator, Paul Geeson, would be happy to restart it in the summer.

If you are interested, please contact Chris Shepherd

GARDEN GROUP 1

Brenda Draper has resigned after many years as co-ordinator for the group but thankfully Christine Sheath and Hilary Caldwell will be take the role on jointly.

Brenda is now joint co-ordinator (with Keith Stafford) of the Thursday Table Tennis Group. Just shows how team work makes dream work!!

GROUP COORDINATORS MEETING – THANK YOU AND NETWORKING

Please note the new date of Tuesday 28 March 2023, beginning with lunch at 12.30 pm. This will again be at St Helen's Church Room. BYO if you feel the need for a glass of wine! It might make the networking afterwards more convivial. We aim to finish the meeting at 2.00 pm so no need to miss any of your usual u3a commitments.

NEW GROUPS

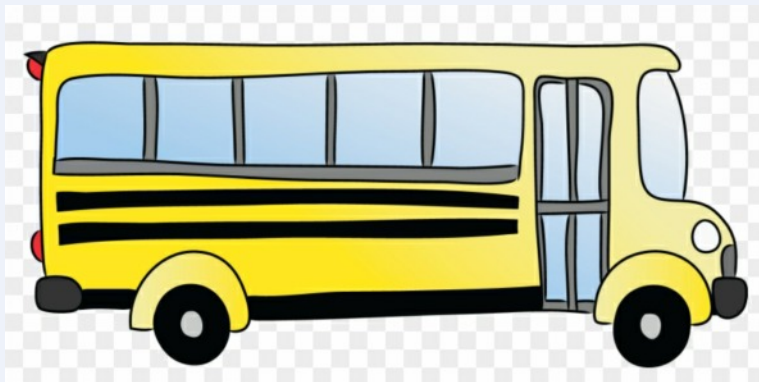
We are delighted that the Fishing group has convened (see separate article) and are also pleased to announce a Seasonal Flower Arranging Group with relatively new member, Lesley Lacovitti -please contact Chris Shepherd if you want to join this group. After the trip to the Museum at Ambergate, we hope to get a Classic Car group going. Armchair Travel was another successful group several years ago and we wonder if there is sufficient interest to re-instate it?

MINI BUS AVAILABLE

This can be hired from Nottingham Community Transport and is a cheap form of transport, particularly for any of our interest groups. We have used them on many occasions in the past and can do so either with a driver provided, which makes the hire more expensive, or alternatively by using one of our members. We had several named u3a drivers and because the requirement to be under aged 70 is no longer valid, we are hoping some of you will come forward. Training is provided.

Please contact Chris Shepherd for any information about this or any of the potential new groups .

Chris Shepherdchristineshepherd1950@gmail.com 077731568



Group News

Boccia

Similar to Petanque or Boules, Boccia was first developed for people with disabilities but is increasingly played by older people and the bonus is that it is played indoors, so no standing around getting cold. The aim of the game is to throw leather balls — coloured red or blue as close to a white target ball, or jack as possible.

Our own Boccia group meet 1st and 3rd Thursday every month in the Village Hall, 10 am to 12 noon and are very much in need of more members.

Please ring Vic Wightman for more details on 07767752963



Group News

Information Exchange

If you are wondering what Information Exchange means, read on.....

.....the group was started by Maggie Gaborak who was aware of a similar information exchange where she used to live. The premise is that if you want to borrow something, need some advice, have spare tickets etc you ask the Group Co-ordinator, said Maggie, to put out a request to the group members. There are countless examples of successful requests, but speaking personally, Trevor and I have benefited from 2 beautiful glass swans for a cake topping when I was quite desperate, and we have just loaned a drill for some DIY. We all have gadgets, tools, items of jewellery etc that sit on shelves or in cupboards and this is a way of sharing them to save expense (and possibly the planet!)

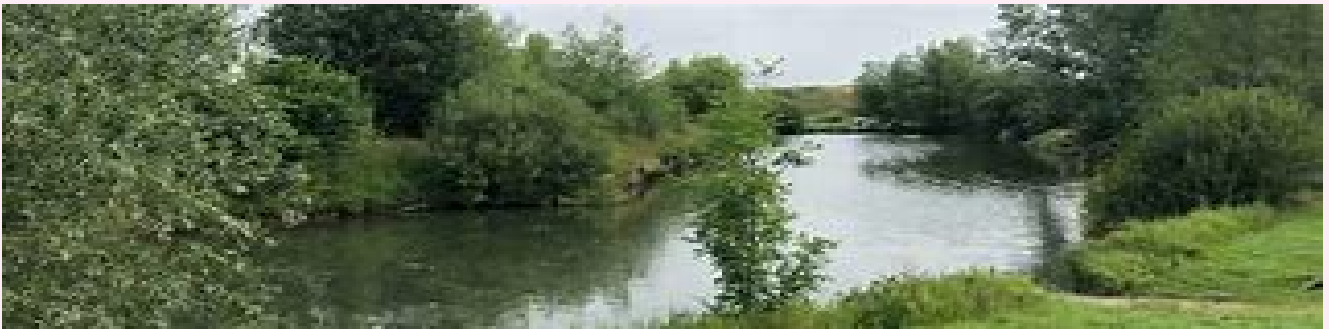
Contact Maggie if you want your name on the list. That's all you need to do.

Group News

Fishing

New member, Bob Oldham, only joined us in July but has already rolled up his sleeves, started one group and is planning another!

As a keen fisherman himself, he wondered if others might be interested and, lo and behold, he already has 4 members. That's the beauty of u3a, you can always find someone with similar interests. So far, they have only had one meeting at the Wheatsheaf, but are planning to get started properly in March. They intend to plan a variety of venues and then fix dates; outings may be to rivers or ponds and they are also happy to welcome anyone who just wants to come and watch. Bob assures me they are a non-competitive bunch who are happy to help anyone get started and even have spare equipment to lend.



Portland Fisheries near Newark: A favourite fishing spot the group are hoping to visit.

As a classic car enthusiast, Bob is also thinking about setting up a Classic Car group: perhaps after the outing to the museum in Ambergate this may become a reality.

Contact Bob on 07456227727

Group News

Theatre Group One.

It's so good to be back visiting the theatre. Here is a flavour of what we've seen in 2022:

'On The Rocks' at the Robin Hood Theatre by modern playwright Amy Rosenthal. It covered a Cornish holiday enjoyed by D.H.Lawrence, his lover and their friends; it was certainly tense and dramatic, revealing a misogynistic side of this famous Nottinghamian!



The enclosed photo shows a group of us at the Tolthorpe Open Air Theatre near Stamford, which we visited in the summer; the stage is covered by the tree canopy and the audience is under cover. The company's productions are excellent with brilliant sets, costumes and characters; we enjoyed Noel Coward's 'Hay Fever' this year there.

August saw us at Nottingham Playhouse to see 'Identical' about twin girls, separated at birth, whose story was told when they were re-united. The plot required suspended disbelief as the twins swapped roles and parents but the ending was enthralling and we left tearful and uplifted.

September provided an excellent 'Hunchback of Notre Dame', at the Theatre Royal by Carlton Operatic and 'Teechers' (not a spelling error), a play from the 80s by John Godber, again at the Robin Hood Theatre.

October we were back at the Playhouse for Alan Bennett's 'The Clothes They Stood Up In' - typically dry, witty and reflective of human nature.

Finally, in December, 14 of us went to the Lace Market Theatre for our 'Christmas Event', a topical play called 'The Flint Street Nativity' in which a lively group of children (played by adults) showed us the trials and tribulations of putting on a Nativity Play; an amusing, poignant and cleverly done production.

Theatre Group One is looking forward to more drama in 2023!

Christine Smith

Group News

Speedwalking



Speedwalking breakfast. "We'd like to report that we'd earned it after our brisk walk - but it was raining!"

Book Group

Our book group has been full for many years, but we have such enjoyable sessions and read such stimulating books, we thought we'd share a review of the latest one with you.

"All the Light We Cannot See" is by Anthony Doerr and was a worthy winner of the Pulitzer Prize. It is a dual narrative following the young lives of 2 children, one French and one German in the years leading up to and then during the Second World War. The French girl is blind but brought up to be very independent by her father who constructs models of her surroundings so that she can learn her way around. The German boy is an orphan and is taken from his orphanage to a training school because of his outstanding technical ability.



As you read the novel, you feel that their lives are coming closer and closer together. The boy is trying to locate the whereabouts of radio transmitters, whilst the girl is passing on messages linked to her uncle's role in the French Resistance as a radio transmitter.

We had a wide-ranging discussion, fortified by cake, covering the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and how that contributed to the appalling poverty which some say produced Hitler's Nazi party.

If you are interested in joining a book group we would love to start a second one, so please get in touch with Chris Shepherd.

Judith

Group News

University Interest group

In November we had yet another University Interest Group visit to Nottingham University when 20 members met at the school of physics and astronomy.

We were shown how the university is developing new 2 dimensional semiconductor materials which will be used to improve the efficiency of integrated circuits.

We were also made aware of the importance of the work they do, which included the development of the MRI scanner. We saw how they recovered helium gas used to cool electronic equipment both to save expenses and preserve a finite resource.

Displayed in the room where we began our visit with a lecture detailing their research work was an original chalkboard. This dated back to 1930 when Albert Einstein visited Nottingham to give a lecture using this board which he then signed and dated.

Thanks to everyone for organising and presenting such an interesting event.

Sylvia Green

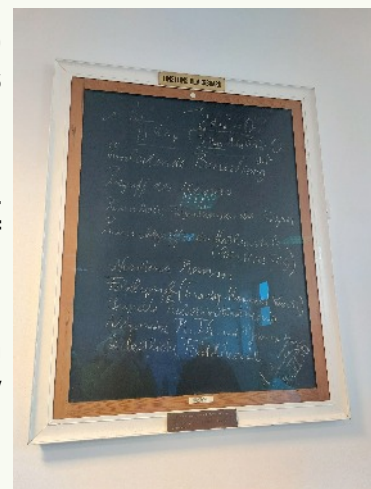
UNIVERSITY INTEREST GROUP NEXT TRIP IN EARLY MARCH

Date/Times/Numbers available to be confirmed

Did you know that skin is your body's largest organ? Hear about the work of the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, the clinical trials it does and the difference it makes for patients and carers living with skin conditions, including their ground-breaking citizen science work on eczema.

Based in the University of Nottingham, The Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology conducts research into the treatment and prevention of skin disease which is independent of industry influence. Currently they are investigating eczema, blistering diseases, vulval and genital conditions, alopecia and acne.

Contact Trevor Wright 0115 9312805 to join this group



OUTINGS

An Outing to the Great British Car museum, Ambergate

Our planned LAST trip of 2022 including a Xmas lunch turned out to be our FIRST of 2023! The trip was postponed from December due to water main burst at the venue. They say it's never too late to have a turkey dinner and just to get us into the mood we were 'greeted' by sleet and snow! The Prosecco upon arrival was much appreciated and the food was excellent ..but enough of that, we came to see the cars and were not disappointed.

Richard the owner led our private tour with a very interesting insight into British motoring history ... we all had a favourite, mine was the orange McLaren! ...some of us plan to go back in the summer to take a spin..

Anna Moore



FOCUS ONour Business Secretary



Sue Berridge joined our u3a in 2017 when she moved from Hucknall to Burton Joyce. She only knew one other person so resolved to say “yes” to everything so she would be asked again! (dangerous? Ed)

As she was still working part time then, she only got fully involved when she retired in August 2020. Having met Sally-Anne and Rob she joined the Darts group (now Trionimos), Beer and Cider (even though she drinks neither) and also International Dining. More recently she has joined the Water Colour Group and one of the Garden Groups.

Here she is in her own words: “until I was asked to join the committee, I had never given a thought as to how the u3a and all the lovely and varied groups came about. I can now tell you it's because people just like you (flattery will get you everywhere!) and me put themselves forward on the committee for the good of us all. They keep the finances in order making good use of the membership fees, cultivate ideas to form new groups and offer support to the group co-ordinators. The ethos of u3a is “for the members, by the members” so if we all put a little in, we can all get a lot out. Committee meetings are only every couple of months over coffee and cake and we'd love to welcome you. The more people we have the less the load. If, like me, you took it for granted without thinking how it all happens, then come and join us.”

Thanks Sue, we are delighted to have you.

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 May 2023 issue of Newsline as soon as you have them and at the latest by 21st April 2023. We particularly want items that are looking at what is going to happen in the Summer. 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.

