

NEWSBITES!

JUNE 2022

Sharing ideas across 34 u3as in Nottinghamshire

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE NETWORK

I do hope everyone enjoyed the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and that, if your u3a was involved in activities, they all went very well. The next project is to work towards the 40th Anniversary and u3a Day/Week event during the week of the 18th to 24th September. We are finalising the venue for the Saturday at present and then plan to hold a zoom meeting to talk with everyone about details. Look out for an email invite.

Our next Network meeting is to be held in person at St Peter's, Ravenshead on July 27th at 10 am. This will provide an opportunity for members to raise topics for discussion so please do forward them to me.

Paul Martinez, our Network Support Officer, has decided to stand down from his Network role as he has taken on the Chair of Carlton & Gedling. He is not leaving us in the lurch immediately, but we do need someone to come forward to join the Network Officers. Our Network is vibrant and useful and there are many new ideas coming forward of things to do in the future. If you would like to join the team of Officers who help to initiate new developments, please contact me for further discussions. rosieallen21@outlook.com

Enjoy the summer and everything your u3a offers you. Learn, laugh and live.

Rosie Allen

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

Fifteen Things Money Can't Buy:

Time. Happiness. Inner Peace. Integrity. Love. Character. Manners. Health. Respect. Morals. Trust. Patience. Class. Common sense. Dignity.

— Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

The deadline for articles and photographs for the next issue of Newsbites! is

15th July 2022

Any u3a member can send in items, not just committee members. Can we all hear about the history of your u3a or any special anniversary your u3a is celebrating this year. Tell us why you joined the u3a, what you have been involved with and what u3a means to you.

Quotations? Jokes? Letters?

This is your Newsletter, so please let's hear from you.

Articles/photos please to jane.newsbits@gmail.com

NEWS FROM u3as IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

ASHFIELD u3a

We have been having a busy and enjoyable time here at Ashfield u3a.

A coach full of our members were thrilled to visit Wentworth Woodhouse in May. This is the largest country house in Europe. We were booked onto the Black Diamond guided tour, which lasted an hour and a half. The guides were very informative about the house and the people who owned and lived in this magnificent building. Wentworth Woodhouse has recently opened its doors to the public after being neglected for a good number of years and then used exclusively as a film set. *Gentleman Jack*, *Mr Turner*, *The Darkest Hour*, *Billionaire Boy*, *The Irregulars* and *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell* were all filmed there. The gardens were a delight too and, to top the day off, we visited Wentworth Garden Centre which is now up and running in the old kitchen garden area.

Ashfield had a visit from Martin Fish who is a renowned RHS judge, TV presenter, author and gardener who delighted members with a very entertaining and informative evening.

We also thoroughly enjoyed Paula Cornwell's talk 'Minding Your Motoring Manners' at our May meeting. Paula gives this talk in the character of the Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce who was a 1920's racing driver. She was very funny and acquainted us with the driving etiquette of the day. Paula is an excellent actress.

We have had a number of new and varied interest groups start recently which gives even more variety and choice for our members to enjoy.

Our Afternoon Tea to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, was enjoyed by a lot of our members who dressed for the occasion and were royally entertained by a string quartet from the Nottingham Youth Orchestra.

Val Scott

Nottinghamshire Network Rep



ANOTHER QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

“There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate.”

— Linda Grayson

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT u3a

At our Members Meeting on Tuesday 17 May 2022, we had a very amusing update on 'A Toastmaster's Tales' by Geoffrey Harris. In his very smart red jacket, Geoffrey provided anecdotes from events where he had been a Toastmaster.



The Garden Group meeting in May had a very interesting talk on 'Planting to attract Wildlife' by Steve Lovell. His talk was so inspirational it has motivated our members to plant more to encourage wildlife.



The Pathfinders Walking Group had a very enjoyable walk to the Nine Ladies Stones on Stanton Moor.

A new Card Crafting Group started in May. It was very well attended and a variety of excellent cards were produced.

We are going to Floral Media at Norwell for an afternoon tea and tour of the gardens to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee Garden Party on Friday 24 June.

Carole Harrison, Business Secretary

SOUTHWELL u3a

Indian chef shares expertise with Southwell u3a



Members of Southwell u3a's 'Come Dine with Us' group have historically taken it in turns to host and cook a two course meal in their own kitchens each month. Meetings have had to be held on Zoom throughout the pandemic, with all members cooking separately but simultaneously. This has been a great success and so the group are now moving to alternating Zoom and face-to-face meetings.

This informal group has great fun picking up cooking tips from each other and enjoying recipes they maybe would not have come across before.

Rama, landlord of Southwell's 18th century Reindeer Inn for the past 11 years, agreed to join the group as 'guest chef' for May's Zoom meeting. Originally from India, Rama learned his cooking skills travelling widely in both India and Europe. During the pandemic, he expanded his culinary hobby by launching a takeaway curry service, which quickly became popular with locals.

Probably not that surprising, as he prepares all of his spices from scratch rather than purchasing 'ready ground' ones from a supermarket.

Under Rama's expert instruction, the Come Dine with Us group prepared Ghobi Pakoras and Khadai Chicken. Easy to cook and very tasty, they made a welcome change from traditional British food. Wonderful!

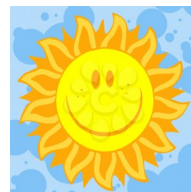
Tony Mellor, Come Dine with Us



A CHILDRENS' RHYME

In winter I get up at night
and go to bed by candlelight.

In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.



A RIGHT ROYAL PICNIC IN THE PARK WITH BINGHAM u3a!

On the 2nd June, Bingham u3a had a Picnic in the Park to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Picnickers were entertained to two full-on sets by the fabulous local Toot Hill Swing Band and its young vocalists plus 12 enchanting solos by local pupils of singing coach Beccy Burgess.

The picnics went down, the wine flowed, and yes - the sun shone all afternoon!

Chairman John commented:

"This is a celebration not just for u3a members, but also for the Band and the singers because this is the first time they've been able to perform in front of a live audience for two and a half years and many of the young singers had never sung in public before, let alone to 200 people.

"Needless to say, they all rose magnificently to the occasion with not a hint of nerves and no duff notes or fluffed lines.

"It's important to remember that events like this don't just happen overnight - they're the result of hundreds of hours of work by many people.

"I'd particularly like to thank Tony, the Band's director and leader, Beccy, Dave the sounds engineer, Chris who prepared the venue and put up the marquee, the army of members who set out the tables and decorated the site and helped run the event, Rowan the first-aider and James who drove the CT4N shuttle bus, and last but by no means least, the National Lottery Community Fund for their generous support for the event and for giving me the opportunity to do something positive for the benefit of the people of Bingham"

John Lewis, Chair



Note: Parental consent has been obtained to include these photographs

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

DUKERIES u3a

"Make the most of life by exploring new ideas, skills and interests with Dukeries u3a"

Dukeries u3a continue with their celebratory birthday and anniversary events this year. A once in a lifetime event was the street party in Jubilee Hall to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 4 June. This was organised by the All Sorts & Gardening Group who did a fantastic job providing entertainment and food inspired by the Coronation. The festivities were opened by the Town Mayor of Ollerton and Boughton, Ryan King. The group also welcomed County Councillor Mike Pringle and Mrs Pringle to the celebration. Later on, in September, Dukeries u3a will be taking part in the festival week running throughout the country to celebrate the 40th anniversary of u3a in the UK. The group maintains links with community partners, to give the members further opportunities to take part in local projects and workshops. Chair, Leslye, was pleased to represent Dukeries u3a as a guest of Lee Brazier, local councillor for Ollerton, Budby and Perlethorpe, at a Jubilee tea party. Here she was interested in learning about the regeneration planned for Ollerton and was able to share news about Dukeries u3a to the other guests.



Trip to Birmingham Botanical Garden

Some group news - In May, the All Sorts and Gardening Group had a lovely sunny trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens followed by a tasty fish and chip supper on the way back. June's trip was to Barnes Dairy Farm near Melton Mowbray where members learned how stilton cheese was made before enjoying a delightful afternoon tea. The Ramblers firstly walked to Conjure Alders via Boughton and secondly along the Northern End of The Five Pits Trail. The Whatsapp Walkers had a pleasant circular walk from Sherwood Forest to Archway House and back. The Photography group this month met to compare their photos on an abstract subject. In addition to

their regular meeting, the Tuesday lunch club met for an afternoon tea at Bella Vita in Ollerton to plan their next 6 month's visits. Dukeries u3a were happy to welcome new members at their AGM and they are planning to start further interest groups. Subjects suggested include a discussion group, history group and musical appreciation group. Enquiries are also being made to start a tai-chi group.

The monthly speaker programme resumed in June with Mike Ogden taking the members on 'The Slow Road', an illustrated narrowboat cruise on England's inland waterway system from the tidal Trent via London and Oxford to Birmingham's Gas Street Basin. Mike lived on a narrowboat for many years, and cruised the inland waterway system extensively. July's speaker will be Chris Vasper who will tell members about his adventures raising money for the charity 'Walking with the Wounded' by taking part in the Marathon Des Sables, across one of the most inhospitable places on the planet.

Dukeries u3a follow the u3a motto 'Learn, Laugh, Live' and believe that 'Now is the time to make the most of your life'.

Ann Street, Publicity Officer



Whatsapp Walkers at Archway House



Ramblers at Boughton