



**CALVERTON AND DISTRICT**

# Newsletter

October 2019

[www.calvertonu3a.org.uk](http://www.calvertonu3a.org.uk)

## Don't forget - it's YOUR U3A



Calverton & District U3A now has over 135 members – more than we ever thought possible in just three months or so. We also have 18 active groups with several more in the pipeline.

Feedback from members is also good, with favourable comments filtering through to committee members and group convenors.

**However, we mustn't forget that the U3A movement is about self help – not just leaders and followers.** During our short time of existence, a lot of work has fallen on the shoulders of the committee members and group convenors, and some help would be appreciated.

It may seem daunting to take on some of these responsibilities, but you'll receive help – and perhaps you could share a task with someone else to make it easier.

Some of the areas in which you might be able to help are:

**Publicity Officer:** We need someone to send out email press releases to local publications, and supply posters to local shops, libraries, etc. Contact Michael Dobbs ([mhdkad@gmail.com](mailto:mhdkad@gmail.com) Tel 0115 9652376). The publicity material will be provided if required.

We now have a **Meetings Manager**, Colin Robertson, but I'm sure he'd be grateful for help in setting out and putting away chairs and tables at the monthly meetings. If you can assist, please arrive around 9.30am.

**Group Convenors:** If you would like a particular new group to start, why not put your name forward as the convenor. Without convenors, there would be no interest groups at all. If you're a bit worried about taking on a group by yourself, why don't you share the job with a friend? Contact Lynn Majewski ([lynnmajewski@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnmajewski@hotmail.com) Tel 0115 9655050) or Len Hand ([len.hand@gmail.com](mailto:len.hand@gmail.com) Tel 0115 9654611).

If you're a member of a group but don't fancy being a convenor, you can still help. For instance, if the convenor is on holiday, you could offer to lead the group just for those odd occasions – or perhaps you could get involved with the convenor in planning future activities (eg subjects to study in the photography group, or suggesting new routes in the walking groups).

Finally, please send in **material for the monthly newsletter**. An item on a group activity (future or past) is always welcome. If you can send a photo, it's even better (please get publication permission from the people appearing).

Alternatively, why not send in a **letter for publication** – it could be about anything that other U3A members would find interesting. Maybe you liked a particular speaker, had a specially good group meeting and want to recommend it to others, or you might like/dislike something about C&D U3A – just write in.

**Please remember, it's your U3A!**

*Michael Dobbs - Chairman*

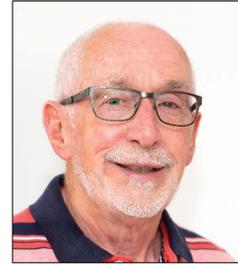


**Lynn Majewski**

Tel 0115 9655050

**Interested in setting up an interest group? Your Group Coordinators Lynn and Len will tell you how to do it.**

**Everyone is a little nervous about becoming a group convenor - but if you (or you and a friend) want to give it a go, you'll get all the help you'll need**



**Len Hand**

Tel 0115 9654611

### How to Join Groups



Signing up forms (and convenors) are normally in the Committee Room (off the main hall) at every general meeting. Alternatively, contact the convenors at the phone numbers and email addresses on the "Groups" page on the website.

### Papercraft Group

We meet on the first Monday in the month, 2.00-4.00pm and are meeting at the moment at 170 Main St, Calverton.

We will be making a wide variety of things over time - cards, gift boxes, crackers for Christmas, home decor items such as a wreath and many other things.

It's fun, absorbing, very restful and soothing for the soul, so if you get stressed easily, please try it for a few weeks to see how you get on.

For more information contact Helen Houlden on [helen@helenhouldencakes.co.uk](mailto:helen@helenhouldencakes.co.uk) or phone 0115 965 6132.

### The International Dining Group



The next event will be held at Rakki Rakkas in Mansfield Road, Sherwood at 6.30pm on Tuesday 22nd October.

Deposits of £5 per person payable at the next monthly meeting (9th Oct) or to me directly at least one week before the event.

Julie Thompson ([julie.tommo@gmail.com](mailto:julie.tommo@gmail.com) or phone 07811 844734).

### The Lunch Group



After a successful initial meeting of the Lunch Club, our second meeting is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of October at The Nag's Head, Woodborough at 12.15pm.

**Please note** that our meeting dates have changed to the second Thursday of each month.

More details from Barbara Taylor on 07779 791367.

## Ukulele for Beginners



We've now had three meetings and we've covered a number of songs, with the number of chords getting up to 6 or 7! Not bad when you consider that most members of the group had never even held a ukulele a month ago!

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 2.00pm - 4.00pm-ish (£2 per session) at The Institute, Row Lane, Woodborough.

**We'd love to see a few more members, experienced or not, so if you're interested give Michael Dobbs a call on 0115 9652376.**

If you're a complete beginner, I can arrange a private first lesson to get you started before joining the main group.

## The Song and the Story



To mark Nottingham Goose Fair, at this month's 'Song and Story' group we focused on songs and stories about fairs and wakes and other fun events. Did you know that fairs were once seen as dens of vice and riotous behaviour (has anything changed?!).

In earlier times there was a move to ban fairs because the people had so much fun at the weekend fair that they were unable/unwilling to get to work on the following Monday - but preferred to sleep it off! We also looked at other pastimes that were to be found around the fairgrounds - bull-baiting; cock-fighting; and even wife-selling!

This group is currently full, but if want to be added to the waiting list get in touch.

**Len Hand**

len.hand@gmail.com or 0115 965 4611.

## Grumpy Old Men

Grumpy Old Men met again on 1st October at The Gleaners. We now meet at the Gleaners at 1.00pm til 2:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

The last meeting was a small affair with holiday commitments and hospital appointments taking its toll on attendance, but a lively discussion took place on a variety of subjects.

New members are very welcome. Come along and tell us what's wrong with the world / kids / banks / TV / drivers and anything else!

**Terry Beale**

## History Group



We started the "story" of England's history with a look at pre-history, the ancient works of the Celtic settlers which are abundant on Orkney and in East Anglia and we saw some slides showing the work of underground and some above ground thatched dwellings they constructed.

We saw the development of ancient Celtic tribal "states" and how they became the beginnings of the "Barbaric Celtic way of life" that the Romans saw and experienced in their conquest. We also dealt briefly (surely not enough!) with the Roman occupation of 400 years, but as a preliminary to the REAL history of our nation it was perhaps sufficient, as long as we take into account the roads, towns, culture and industry that they founded built and which still affect our national geography today.

It would be possible to spend six months looking at the Roman period, but time does not permit!! We will now be looking, in our next meeting, at the Saxon era with a great deal of interesting detail and somewhat more comprehensively, leading up to the Norman conquest.

**Freddie Davies**

Email: fjd8@btinternet.com Tel: 0115 920 4239

## Photography for Fun

At our first photography group meeting, members indicated what they hoped to learn by attending the group. Many wished to explore the basics of improving the quality and creative elements of taking photos. Others wanted to explore the technical side, using the camera's manual settings and proceeding to the post production phase of editing, enhancing, storing and printing the resulting photographs.

After watching a video clip about positioning the subject in the viewfinder, the group headed for St Wilfrid's Square to photograph some scenes.

**Hint** - Why not try your hand at improving your photos using the **Rule of Thirds**.

Don't have your subject in the middle!  
Mentally divide your shot into vertical and horizontal thirds and arrange the visual elements around these lines, E.g. Horizons should lay across the top or bottom third.

On the iPhone go to settings, select camera and enable **grid**.

Give subjects  
room to see into  
and move into!



Ideally, place key parts  
of your image on an  
intersection of these  
third lines.

**Brian Hillary**

b.hillary@icloud.com 0115 8477988

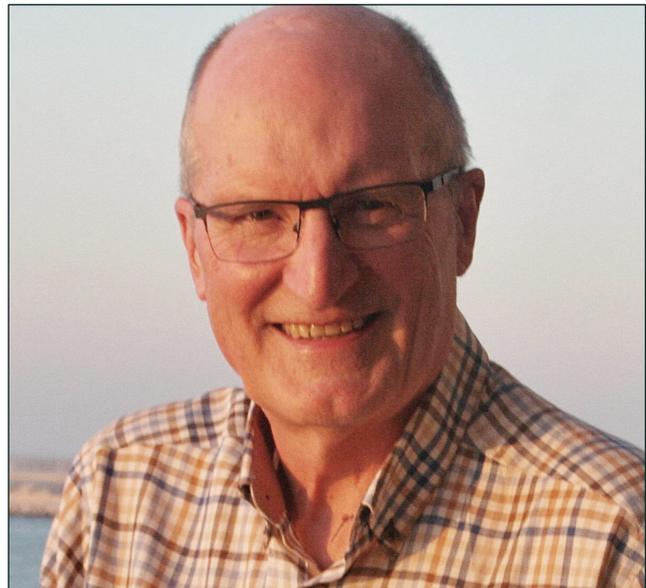
## Our Speaker for the October General Meeting

On Wed 9<sup>th</sup> October our speaker will be David Kimmins.

David will be giving us a fascinating potted history of the wonderful world of popular music publishing from 1900 onwards - including tales of the roguish publishers and their outrageous marketing methods, amusing anecdotes about the songwriters and the performers, and how some of the lovely songs we still hear today were written.

Our speaker for the November meeting will be Andy Smart - a local journalist of 40 years experience.

As befits the month of November, he will be telling us stories about local heroes.



## Help Needed!

Running a U3A requires lots of help and we still need a **Publicity Officer** to liaise with local publications and to generally promote Calverton & District U3A in the area.

If you're a little worried about taking on one of these posts, please be assured that every assistance would given to get you started.

If you feel that you might be able to do this, please get in touch with a committee member.

## Send Something for the Newsletter

**If you have a news item, comment or letter for the newsletter, or would like to promote your interest group**, please email the editor at [mhdkad@gmail.com](mailto:mhdkad@gmail.com) or phone 9652376 (if possible 5 days before the monthly meeting).

If you can send a photo as well, these are particularly welcome, but please get permission to publish from everyone in the picture.

**Michael Dobbs - Editor**

## Need More Information?

The website ([www.calvertonu3a.org.uk](http://www.calvertonu3a.org.uk)) contains lots of information such as committee contact details, interest groups and future speakers.

If you have a friend who would like to join, there is also a downloadable membership form on the "Join" page.