



# Newsletter

December 2019

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

**CALVERTON AND DISTRICT**

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

### From the Chairman

Well, December has arrived, and didn't it seem to come around quickly - I suppose that's just another of those things that happens with age!

It only seems a few weeks since we (the committee) opened the first meeting with great trepidation - would anybody turn up? Of course, you did and here we are, half a year later, with a membership of 160 and lots of interest groups.

I often get feedback from members and it seems that the arrival of U3A in Calverton is appreciated by many. However, if you have any complaints, suggestions, ideas for further groups please let us know.

The committee is currently engaged in a great deal of boring (for me!) stuff such as policies on equal opportunities, Data protection etc, and we'll be publishing these on the website when they're ready (I'll keep you in the picture).

We're also looking into having a Calverton U3A banner printed, which can be displayed near the park entrance on meeting days. For strangers, the entrance is difficult to identify, and this should improve the situation.

We have also recently applied for a grant to cover the purchase of our own high definition video projector. I'm pleased to inform you that our application has been successful and we are now in receipt of £200 from Calverton Parish Council and £429 from Gedling Borough Council.

**Finally, my I take this opportunity, on behalf of myself and the committee to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy 2020.**

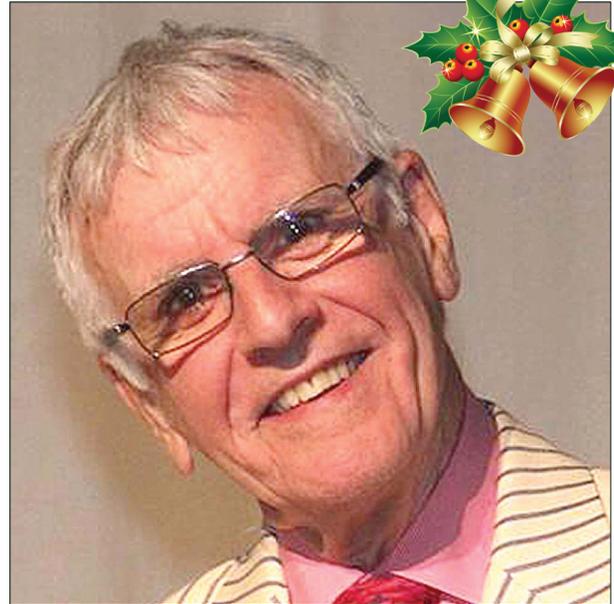
Michael Dobbs - Chairman



Dear Santa,

I'm writing to let you know that I've been naughty and it was worth it!

### Our Speakers for the December & January General Meetings



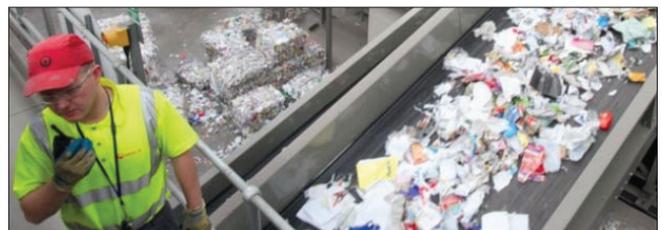
Our speaker for the December general meeting, **Mike Storr**, will be speaking on the subject "**Masters of Mirth**", covering some of the history of music hall - with the added attraction that he will be performing a few of the hilarious monologues from the big names such as Stanley Hollway, Robb Wilton and Bernard Miles.

**Be sure not to miss this - just the thing to set you up for the festive season.**

Our first meeting of the new decade on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 is entitled "**Lesley Taylor Talks a Load of Rubbish**".

Lesley works at the Veolia plant at Forest Town, where all of our recyclable rubbish ends up as valuable raw material for reuse.

Lesley makes a rubbish talk very entertaining, and includes an interactive quiz to find out just how much we know (or don't know) about this vital subject.



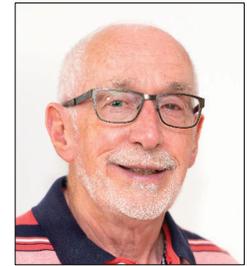


**Lynn Majewski**

Tel 0115 9655050

Are there any Special Interest Groups that you would be interested in that are not currently on our list of active groups? Some ideas mentioned to us recently are: table tennis; IT assistance; other card games (i.e. separate from Bridge).

Perhaps you have your own ideas? With this in mind, at the December 11th General Meeting we will have a table out just for 'new group ideas'. You can just add your name onto one of the sheets that will be there for signing. If you can't be at the meeting then you can email Lynn or Len about your idea. You DON'T have to commit to being a convenor - we are sure that, if there is enough interest, then a convenor will eventually emerge!



**Len Hand**

Tel 0115 9654611

### The Lunch Group

Our last meeting was at The World's End, Lowdham (we do get about a bit, don't we) and when we arrived it was raining.

We all had very nice meals, met new people and did lots of chatting. When we finished it was still raining quite well (think cats and dogs) - You see, it was the day of the big floods.

After the lunch, my wife Kate and I optimistically set out for Sainsburys in Arnold via Lambley.

After previous floods, I should have known better, and we finished up u-turning on a road with no visible edges - not to be recommended.

After surviving that and with the Sainsburys visit abandoned, we set out for home in Woodborough, only to be met with "Road Closed Due to Flooding" signs at The Nag's Head pub.

After a charm offensive on the flood warden, he allowed us through and we gratefully made it home. Fortunately we live at the top of a hill so we're safe from the water on Main Street.

Quite an adventure when we thought that we were only going out for a relaxed lunch!



The next meeting of the lunch club is our Christmas meeting at Springwater Golf Club, and if you haven't already booked, I'm afraid you're too late. **Over 30 members will be enjoying a great seasonal event, so congratulations to Barbara Taylor on setting up such a popular group.**

If you would like to join us in 2020 (second Thursday lunchtime of each month), please contact Barbara on 07779 791367.

**Michael Dobbs**

### The International Dining Group



**There will be no meeting of the International Dining group in December so our next get-together will be Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 7.00pm at the Springwater Cantonese Restaurant in Calverton.**

This slightly later date is in order for us to coincide with the Chinese New Year celebrations. There is a set menu costing £20.50 per person for food, and in order to secure your place, please ensure you pay £10 deposit at the monthly meeting on 11th December.

If you can't come to the meeting, please pay your deposit before 20th December directly to the group Convenor. The balance will then need to be paid on or before 8th January at the monthly meeting.

Of course if you wish, you can pay the full amount in one go! Thank you to those people who have already paid deposits for this event.

**Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year to all!**

**Julie Thompson**

## Ukulele for Beginners



With Christmas getting closer, why not drop a few hints about getting a ukulele for Christmas? They're quite cheap (decent ones start around £30) and if you need a little buying advice, please get in touch.

Most of our members started just a couple of months ago, with no ukulele or music knowledge at all. You should hear them all now(!?).

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month, 2.00pm - 4.00pm-ish (£2 per session) at The Institute, Roe Lane, Woodborough. Please note that we won't be meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December, but will restart in the new year on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**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, we can arrange a private first lesson to get you started before joining the main group.



## Interested in MOVIE MAKING?

Are you interested in getting involved in a film-making group?

Perhaps you have an interest in lighting, sound recording, video editing? Maybe you already have (or would like to develop) skills as a director, actor, cameraman, or writer?

At this stage we're still deciding what we might want to produce - drama, documentary or whatever!

If so, contact Michael Dobbs on 9652376 or email [mhdkad@gmail.com](mailto:mhdkad@gmail.com) for a chat. We've already had interest from a number of members, and during December all will be receiving an email to arrange an initial get-together in January

I NO LONGER KEEP A NAUGHTY OR NICE LIST. I'M ONLY CONCERNED WITH WHO FRIENDS ME.



## Having a Whale of a Time

Not an everyday sight in NG14 - so what's it all about?

One of our walking groups had a bit of a surprise when out and about.

Read all about it on page 4

## READY FOR A QUIZ?

### Lunchtime Quiz Group

Great success with the quiz group - 19 members arrived for the second meeting in November.

There's plenty of room for anyone else to come along, excellent food is available and hopefully a good time with not too serious questions and lots of time to be sociable over lunch and meet new people.

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month (except December) so the next quiz is on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of January at 12.15 at the Gleaners Inn, Calverton. Teams of up to 4, help given finding a team. £1 per person.

**Please email me (Cindy) on  
lucinda.rossiter@gmail.com if interested.**



### Need More Information About Calverton & District U3A?

If ever you find that you need to know what's happening at the next meeting, or how to contact a committee member just look at the website at

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

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

You can also find past and current copies of the newsletter.

### French Conversation Group



The French Conversation Group's fifth meeting at 10.00am on the 26th November was attended by eight members, who once more enjoyed the pleasant atmosphere of the Gleaners Inn, with tea and coffee thanks to landlady Marie.

It is very much a mixed ability group with one or two members vaguely remembering words which were learnt half a century or more ago in GCE lessons, others who have often visited France, but do not perhaps use the language as much as they could when there, and one or two complete beginners, anxious to get themselves into the swing of things.

We usually begin by talking about what we have been doing since our last meeting, and when we are lost for words we try and help each other out. This time our conversation turned to winter maladies, and so we learnt about 'mal à la tête', 'mal à la gorge', 'la saison de la grippe' etc!

Something we try to do each time, is to use little word games to teach ourselves the language. This time notable dates from history were read out and we translated them and tried to determine the event with which they were associated ... We began with an easy one, 'mille soixante-six', and decided that this meant 1066 and linked it in French as 'la bataille d'Hastings'.

'Mille trois cents quarante-neuf' was the Black Death or 'la Peste Noire', and our last important date was as recent as 'mille neuf cent quatre-vingt-neuf' which was when 'le World Wide Web' or 'le Réseau Mondial' was created in 1989!

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 10.00am and finish around 12 noon, when the landlady opens the pub doors for business!

**Call convenor Terri on 0115 8457694 for more information about the Group.**



## Whale Watching in Lambley



The long walking group went whale watching on an extremely muddy walk through Lambley. Amidst plenty of slipping and sliding in ankle (and for some of us knee) height mud of the stickiest type and wading through numerous feet deep puddles we were refreshed at the renowned 'Automobile Annex' cafe (thanks to host Richard for the award-winning food and drink).

The next long walk will be on Wednesday 22nd January when we hope to spot elephants in Epperstone?

**If you'd like to join in, contact Pat Barton on 07584 317372 or email [patriciabarton54@gmail.com](mailto:patriciabarton54@gmail.com)**



## PROPOSED NEW CRAFT GROUP

Do you like making things from fabric or yarn (often using recycled materials)?

Exchange ideas, share materials and learn new skills and make new friends!

All abilities are welcome - Day and time to be organised to suit. Probably a monthly meeting, but we'll see what members want.

Bring along your own projects or work together on something new - Exchange ideas, share materials and learn new skills.

All abilities are welcome

**Like the sound of this proposed new group? If so please get in touch with Freda Watson at [freda@flwatson.co.uk](mailto:freda@flwatson.co.uk) or by phone on 0115 931 3197.**



### 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 a post like this, please be assured that every assistance would be given to get you started.

If you feel that you might be able to do this, please get in touch with the chairman, Michael Dobbs (0115 9652376), or any other committee member.



Learn Laugh Live

## East Midlands Regional Conference

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**Eastwood Hall Conference Centre  
Mansfield Rd Eastwood  
NG16 3SS**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020**

### Speakers:

**Prof Chris French: The psychology of False memory**

**Sam Mauger: CEO of the Third Age Trust**

**+ break out groups**



## Xmas Quiz by Len Hand

(Answers in the January Edition)

**1 Why is kissing under the mistletoe a tradition of many xmases?**

- A Mistletoe is seen as a fertility symbol
- B It was as a result of Prince Albert's German traditions
- C No one really knows – it is lost in the mists of time

**2 When was the 1<sup>st</sup> xmas card printed?**

- A 1830
- B 1843
- C 1862

**3 Who was the first British Royal to make a Xmas broadcast?**

- A George V
- B George VI
- C Elizabeth II

**4 Which country donates the Xmas Tree in Trafalgar square?**

- A Norway
- B Sweden
- C Finland

**5 What was the traditional Xmas meal in Victorian times?**

- A Pig's head
- B Goose
- C Lamb

**6 Shakespeare wrote a play for Elizabeth I as a Christmas present – which one?**

- A Merry Wives of Windsor
- B Loves Labours Lost
- C Much Ado About Nothing

**7 What is the Yule Log said to symbolise?**

- A Battle between good and evil
- B Looking forward to return of Spring
- C Death of winter

**8 The traditional English Father Xmas was dressed in:**

- A Red
- B Green
- C Gold

**9 Name 2 other of Santa's reindeers apart from Rudolph (half mark each)**

**10 When was the film White Christmas made?**

- A 1952
- B 1954
- C 1955



Combining both interests in two of the groups I've joined - Photography & Ukulele - here is a ukulele photo I've just taken.

Enjoying both groups by the way, (as well as the eating groups obviously!) **Ken Jones**

Having attended the U3A meeting this morning, I realise how many new people I have already met, conversed with and whose company I have enjoyed since joining Calverton and District U3A.

I want to thank in particular the Committee members and the group coordinators - if you hadn't volunteered, we would not have been able to start our U3A - and what a sad loss that would have been.

I retired 7 years ago and had not realised how lethargic I was becoming until I joined a Walking group, Reading Group, Song and Story Group and the 10 week Heraldry Course. (I have also just put my name down for the next Quiz).

I cannot over-emphasise the side effects that joining the U3A has brought me - more energy and motivation to undertake unrelated tasks about the home and garden which lethargy had lead me to neglect. So, once again THANK YOU ALL.

**Glynis Crooks**

I would like to thank Barbara and her helpers for arranging the U3A Lunch Club outings. Every one of them has been really enjoyable, good food and very good company.

It is very nice to meet up with people who have joined the Calverton & District U3A this year and I hope we continue to enjoy our monthly lunches together.

**Kate Dobbs**

## Send Something for the CaD Newsletter

If you have a news item, comment, complaint 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 at least 10 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.