



CALVERTON AND DISTRICT

Newsletter

January 2020

www.calvertonu3a.org.uk

Don't forget - it's YOUR U3A

From the Chairman

Here it is - 2020! The new years seem to come around faster and faster, and it seems that we only just get used to writing the new year on everything, when it's time to change to the next!

I've managed to avoid writing 2019 on anything yet in this new year, but I'm sure that it's only a matter of time (no pun intended)!

Can you believe that it's now 20 years since we all thought the world would end when the "Millennium Bug" would bring modern life to a halt?

New years are traditionally the time for taking stock of the previous 12 months and thinking about making some new year resolutions.

Perhaps you've got something you'd like to give up such as smoking, eating too much, or not getting enough exercise? Perhaps you feel that you should be getting out and enjoying yourself more?

The latter is definitely something that CaD U3A can help you with.

Since CaD U3A started last summer I've been extremely impressed by just how happy and friendly people are at our general and interest group meetings. Not only is everybody enjoying the subject matter whether it be walking or studying history, but they're enjoying the fun of the new friends they've made.

In the group that I'm involved with (ukulele) anyone listening outside the door would really wonder what was happening, hearing as much laughter as ukulele playing - and I think that that's great!

The message is clear. The more that you get involved, the more enjoyment you'll get - and that's ultimately what we all joined for.

Be brave - join an interest group that pushes your boundaries a little - and make 2020 a truly happy new year!

Michael Dobbs - Chairman

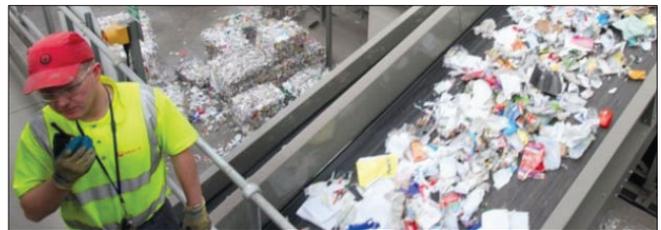
Our Speakers for the January & February General Meetings



The talk at our first meeting of the new decade on the 8th 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, and is transformed into valuable raw material for re-use by industry.

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.



Our speaker for February (12th) is **Ann Featherstone** who will talk about "**Fools & Horses - The Victorian Circus**".

The history of the Victorian circus is one of high success and dreadful failure, of fires, falls and fabulous feats. Of horses, equilibrists, aerial acts and clowns, and the men (and women) who rode, tumbled, swung and gagged...

...and of 'Lord' George Sanger whose circus was pitched at Windsor Castle to perform for Queen Victoria. And Charlie Keith who invented the first iron circus.

This talk comes very highly recommended, so make sure that you don't miss it!



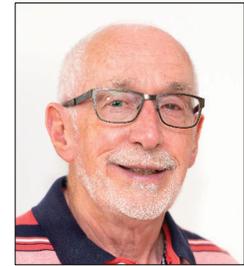
Lynn Majewski

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 had a table out just for 'new group ideas'.

We'll be doing the same at the January meeting - so get thinking about what you would like to see in 2020.



Len Hand

Tel 0115 9654611

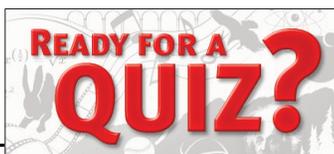
The Lunch Group



Another great outing in December with a Christmas lunch at Springwater Golf Club, with over 30 members getting into the festive mood.

Our first meeting of the new year is on Thursday January 9th 2020 at 12:30 and the venue is The Old Reindeer, Main Street, Edlington, NG22 8BE where we will be enjoying a 4 meat carvery and various other dishes on offer on the day.

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



Lunchtime Quiz Group

Great success with the quiz group, but 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 4th Monday of each month 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.

The International Dining Group



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 and **this event is now closed with 24 members booked in!**

If you have paid your deposit, please be sure to pay the balance to me on or before 8th January at the monthly meeting.

If you missed out on this event, perhaps you'd like to join us at our future monthly events in 2020? We'd love to see you - so please get in touch.

Happ New Year to all!

Julie Thompson

Tel: 07811 844 734

Email: julie.tommo@gmail.com

Ukulele for Beginners



It was with great fear and trepidation that our strummers took to the stage at the December meeting to entertain the members by leading a short Christmas singalong.

The uke players only learned about their first ever public performance less than a week before the event, and arms had to be twisted.

Fortunately, everyone seemed to enjoy the experience (even the audience) - a great tribute to the players, most of whom had only picked up the uke for the first time 6 meetings earlier!

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 2.00pm - 4.00pm-ish (£2 per session) at The Institute, Roe Lane, Woodborough.

We'd love to see a few more members, experienced or absolute beginners, so if you're interested give Michael Dobbs a call on 0115 9652376.

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



Papercraft

The Papercraft group has now met three times and we've made a range of crackers and gift boxes for the Christmas season.

At our next meeting on January 6th we'll be moving on to making our own greetings cards.

If you'd like to talk about our group, please contact me, Helen Houlden, on 0115 9656132 or 07778 745903, or email me at helen@helenhouldencakes.co.uk



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 for a chat. We've already had interest from a number of members, and all will be receiving an email to arrange an initial get-together in the new year.



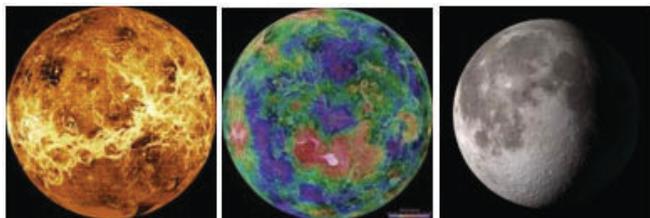
Introduction to Heraldry

We are well on to studying the "foreign" language used in BLAZONING (describing in Heraldic language) the design and appearance of heraldic coats of arms.

Words like GULES (actually red), BEND (actually a straight line), SINISTER (left) and MULLET (actually a star) to name just four! I think the members will agree that, not only is it absorbingly interesting, but that we have had a lot of laughs in the process. It is an extremely colourful subject in both literal and interest terms.

If you would more information about this popular group, please contact Freddie Davies on 0115 9204239 or email fjd8@btinternet.com

GEOLOGY 1: The magic of our Solar System



Mercury A Spectroscope of Venus Our Moon

We have `been` to the Sun, the Moon, Mercury, Venus and are now going to visit Mars. We have discovered some of the influence brought to bear on Mother Earth by its moon and the other planets, but there is much more to come.

We know where the highest volcano and the deepest canyons lie so far on our travels, but there is a lot of excitement awaiting us we voyage deeper into space.

We`ve discovered water out there and all the minerals we could ever need if only we could get to them! BUT we`ve only really just begun our journey. There are many light years to go as yet!!!

If you would like to join us on our interplanetary travels, please contact Freddie Davies on 0115 9204239 or email fjd8@btinternet.com

HISTORY

Having dealt with the pre-history Celtic regimes, the Roman era, and the Saxon 600 years rule all in England, together with a brief survey of what was going on in the rest of the world, we are now looking at the Norman conquest and the life and rule of William the Conqueror and the succession of his son, William Rufus.

The period 1066 through to 1100....including considering the contents and reasons behind the Domesday Book.

We have also looked at a little of the Norman architecture which was to dominate the lives of the conquered Saxon population for many years to come.

If you would more information about this popular group, please contact Freddie Davies on 0115 9204239 or email fjd8@btinternet.com

French Conversation Group



On 10th December, a few members of the French Conversation Group met at a member's house for refreshments with a French accent. We enjoyed creamy Brie with baguettes, hors d'œuvres, chocolate brioche buns and delicious coffee.

We played bingo to practise our knowledge of French numbers and we did a picture quiz, identifying photos of famous people and well known landmarks. We discussed methods we use at home to practise more regularly. Some listen to French broadcasts, others use the Duolingo website.

It was a very pleasant social occasion and our thanks go to Judy and her husband Barry for their excellent hospitality. U3A Members in the photo are; Tom, Jill, Margaret, Pauline, Judy, Barbara and Terri.

Our next meeting is on 14th January at 10am at the Gleaner's pub. Bienvenue à tout le monde.

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



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

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

Grumpy Old Men



A rather depleted group of Grumpy Old Men met on Tuesday 3rd December. As usual, we covered a variety of topics including long passed football players of our two Nottingham clubs, but our main area of concern was yet again when we will meet in the new year.

After much confusion and referrals to new diaries which we did not possess, we agreed to meet at The Gleaners on Tuesday 7th January at 1.00pm. Hopefully more of our group can make this meeting and bring topics to moan about (in a humorous way of course)! **Contact Terry Beale on 07881 816465 or 0115 8457694 or email twoterris@yahoo.co.uk**

The Song and the Story Group

From our first few meetings we have explored songs of our childhood, the movement of people for work, migration, the drift from the land to factories, traditions of fairs and wakes, Christmas traditions and carols and Cornish tin mining. So quite a mix!

In 2020 we will start by hearing songs and stories from coal mining which, of course, was an important part of Calverton life for many years.

Because this is a smallish group (about a dozen of us usually) which meets in houses we are limited to numbers. However if you are interested in joining at some stage (if, for example people drop out) then please let Len Hand know either len.hand@gmail.com or 0115 9654611 and we will let you know if spaces come available.



Gardeners Group

The Gardeners group meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Gleaners, Calverton from 10.00am to 11.30am approximately.

At our meeting in December, members presented their research on various topics, a question and answer session always proves popular, the early months of the 2020 calendar were planned and the meeting concluded with a lighthearted gardening quiz.

It was agreed to contribute £1 per meeting in order to build up a speaker fund.

Gardening is such a wide ranging topic and our calendar plans hopefully will reflect this.

Our January meeting will include:-

- Starting the development of a planting calendar.

- Presenting individual research on container gardening.

- Popular question and answer session.

- Confirming details of our plans for the following:-

- Visit to Hodsock Priory woodland snowdrops on 13th February.

- A speaker on composting.

- A visit to the Japanese Gardens in North Clifton.

The gardens at Hayward House at the City Hospital have for the last few years been transformed by two Rotary volunteers with some help from others. The summer months in particular create a great deal of work in developing and maintaining the gardens. The gardening group have agreed to spend a session in the spring and again in the autumn to help with the seasonal jobs required.

- Visit the bluebell woods in Calverton.

- Research possible future speakers.

If you are interested in joining us then we would be very pleased to see you in January.

Need Help at Calverton & District U3A Meetings?

Do you need help with access to the hall?

Perhaps you would like to sit near the front because of sight problems?

If you have any problems accessing our meetings, please speak to one of our meeters / greeters at the main entrance and they will do their utmost to help.

Did you know - If you have a professional carer he/she does not have to become a member to accompany you to meetings.



Learn Laugh Live

East Midlands Regional Conference

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Eastwood Hall Conference Centre
Mansfield Rd Eastwood
NG16 3SS

Tuesday 21st April 2020

Speakers:

Prof Chris French: The psychology of False memory

Sam Mauger: CEO of the Third Age Trust

+ break out groups

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.

Contribute to the 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 or phone 9652376 (if possible at least 10 days before the monthly meeting).

Photos are particularly welcome



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 or by phone on 0115 931 3197.

UPDATE

Just to let you know how things stand regarding the starting of the craft group. We had 11 people interested, which was very promising, but we still need to sort out days/times/venue etc.

We are probably now thinking of a start date of sometime in March, and that will give us time to finalise details etc. - Freda

NEW INTEREST GROUPS

We would like to offer some more interest groups in the New Year and there will be another chance at the January meeting to put down your own thoughts.

Among the ideas that came forward in December were: Movie Making, Crafts, Basic Spanish Conversation, Table Tennis, Badminton and Theatre.

We will obviously need a convenor at some stage but don't let that stop you suggesting groups (by writing down an idea you are NOT committing to organise the group!).

If you can't be at the January meeting you can email your ideas to either len.hand@gmail.com or lynnmajewski@hotmail.com

Projector fo CaD U3A



We are pleased to report that Calverton & District U3A is now the proud owner of a high definition video projector and accessories for use in both interest and general meetings.

The purchase was made possible by kind donations totalling £629 from **Calverton Parish Council, Pat Bosworth (Gedling Councillor and Chair of Calverton Parish Council) and Mike Hope (Gedling Borough Councillor and Calverton Parish Councillor)** - many thanks.

Last Minute Cancellations

Now that winter is truly with us, there is always the chance that a general meeting would have to be cancelled due to severe weather.

To avoid any confusion and wasted journeys, if a meeting is to be cancelled you will be sent an email telling you the situation.

Medium Walking Group



Photo by Brian Hillary taken in the winter sunshine at Gunthorpe on Friday 3rd January.



Did you know that if you book your holiday with Riviera Travel, there is a scheme whereby they will send a donation to our U3A funds?

This amounts to a fantastic 10% of the basic cost of your holiday, so is a very valuable addition to our U3A finances.

Your committee is looking into this at the moment, and will report in more detail shortly. However, if you are making a booking with Riviera soon, please mention to the person that takes your booking that you're a member of Calverton & District U3A - **and do the same when you pay the final bill.**

Hi Michael,

I'd just like to say on behalf of everyone here at Asthma UK a huge thank you for your fantastic donation of £100 following the Mike Storr talk to the Calverton & District U3A. We can't begin to describe how much this will mean to all those adults and children around the UK who are affected by asthma.

We want to convey the thanks expressed by some of those who are working hard to make breakthrough discoveries in asthma thanks to your group's donation, such as Chris Corrigan, a Professor of Asthma, Allergy and Respiratory Science at the Asthma UK Centre of the Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma:

"With your continued support, a revolutionary new asthma drug could now be developed within just a few years. Thank you."

Here are just a few examples of what we could be doing with your fantastic donation; of the total you've raised...

£50 could help fund vital work aimed at stopping asthma attacks caused by viruses & infections.

£120 could pay for a nurse for a day. Our nurses staff the only asthma helpline in the UK and answer around 8000 calls a year.

It's amazing how much of a difference your donation can make which is why, on behalf of Asthma UK, we'd like to thank you again for helping us stop asthma attacks and cure asthma. Thanks to you we are one step closer to a cure.

**Kind regards,
Latoya Busumbru - Asthma UK**



Len Hand gave us a Christmas quiz in the December edition (repeated below) and promised the answers this month (see opposite)

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 1st 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



Christmas Quiz Answers

Answers to the Christmas Quiz from December Newsletter

1 Kissing under the mistletoe is a tradition because mistletoe is seen as a fertility symbol (A)

2 The 1st xmas card was printed in 1843 (B)

3 The first British Royal to make a Xmas broadcast was King George VI (B)

4 Norway (A) donates the Xmas Tree in Trafalgar square.

5 Pig's head (A) was the traditional Xmas meal in Victorian times.

6 Shakespeare wrote 'The merry wives of Windsor' for Elizabeth I as a Christmas present (A)

7 The Yule Log symbolises (A) The Battle between good and evil

8 The traditional English Father Xmas was dressed in (B) Green

9 Santa's reindeers (apart from Rudolph) were: Dasher – Dancer – Prancer – Vixen – Comet – Cupid – Dunder (or Donner) – Blitzen (half mark each)

10 The film White Christmas was made in (B) 1954

What is your yuletide ranking – check below: Between 7 and 10 marks – very good - you are really into Christmas!

Between 4 to 6 marks – OK, but some important gaps!

Between 0 and 3 marks – mmmm, maybe Christmas is not your favourite time?!

Depending on when you read this – only another 350-ish days to go!!

