



CALVERTON AND DISTRICT

Newsletter

February 2020

www.calvertonu3a.org.uk

Don't forget - it's YOUR U3A

From the Chairman

With Christmas and New Year out of the way we can concentrate on 2020 and forthcoming events.

First of all let me say something about our upcoming AGM.

The date is yet to be finalised (I'll keep you informed) but it's probably going to be in June.

This is when you get to hear reports from your officers on what we've achieved in the new CaD U3A, including the finances and organisation.

There'll also be elections where members are able to vote on who should represent them on the committee, and whilst the existing committee members may wish to remain, all posts will be available for nominations and voting.

More information about the AGM and committee posts will follow, so keep an eye out for future newsletters.

Also coming up soon (at the beginning of April) is subscription renewal, and we'll be sending out renewal forms by email soon. If you aren't on email, forms will be available at the monthly meetings.

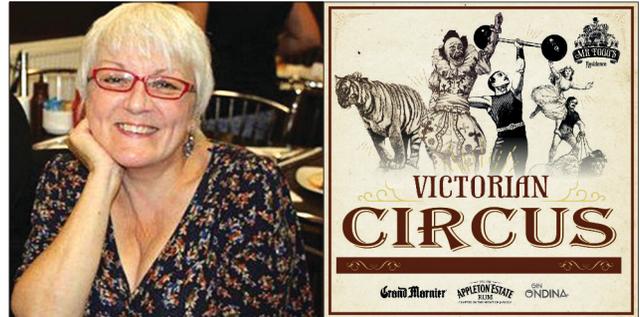
The subscription for the initial 9 months (July 2019 to March 2020) was £18 with reductions for members of other U3As - equivalent to £2 per month.

For the next membership period (12 months - April 2020 to March 2021) the subscription will be £20 (with reductions for members of other U3As) - equivalent to just £1.66 per month!

It would be appreciated if you don't leave your renewal to the last minute, as this could create a few difficulties for the membership secretaries who have to handle all of the paperwork and new membership cards.

Michael Dobbs - Chairman

Our Speakers for the February and March



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

The history of the Victorian 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. 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 provides a fascinating insight into this little known aspect of Victorian entertainment and comes very highly recommended, **so make sure that you don't miss it!**



Our speaker for the March 11th meeting is **Tony Brewer**. Tony has been a photographer for 40 years, and this is a fun talk where he shows an image and the audience has to decide if the picture is real or false. You do not have to be a photographer to enjoy this talk, although he will explain how he took some of the images and why.



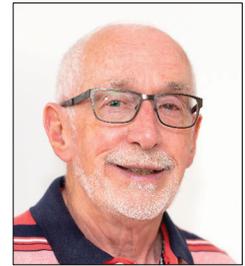
Lynn Majewski

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 and January General Meetings we had a table out just for 'new group ideas'.

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



Len Hand

Tel 0115 9654611

Ukulele for Beginners



Even if you've never played a musical instrument before, join us and you'll soon be able to learn enough to accompany a few songs. Most of our members only started in September but were able to put on a short performance at the Christmas meeting.

Playing the uke is also great for making you happy - it's a cheeky little instrument, and all of our members end each session with a smile.

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 couple of start-up lessons to get you going before joining the main group - just get in touch!*

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.

The Lunch Group



We all had a very enjoyable post Christmas lunch at The Old Reindeer, Edingley. The carvery was excellent and the accompanying dishes, different and very tasty...as were the desserts.

Our next lunch is on Thursday 13th February at Ye Olde Bridge, Oxtun ...could be a pre Valentines lunch for you romantics..!!! It is at 1.00pm, a bit later than usual, to allow those members going on The Snowdrop Walk to call in for lunch on their way back.

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me with their menu choices and I look forward to seeing you all at The Bridge.

The lunch in March will be at The Springfield Inn in Lowdham on Thursday March 12th...details to follow in February.

New members are always welcome, just sign up at the next main meeting or give me a ring. Barbara 07779 791367)



Papercraft

If you'd like to know more about our group, please contact me, Helen Houlden, on

0115 9656132 or 07778 745903, or email me at helen@helenhoudencakes.co.uk

The International Dining Group



A group of 24 people from Calverton U3A celebrating the Chinese New Year of the Rat in January at the Springwater Chinese Restaurant in Calverton.

It was a fabulous evening and a really great selection of good quality food with the whole menu available to us, and such great value for money.

We were entertained with traditional Lion Dancing and a fabulous firework display.

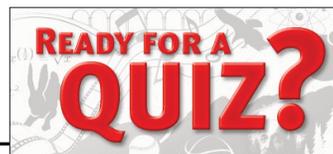
All the staff were very helpful and attentive during the evening and, from comments I have received, everyone had a fantastic evening.

Our next night out will be Tuesday 25th February at Bar Esca on Byard Lane. This is a Spanish tapas restaurant and has limited space for a large group. If anyone else wants to join us and has not yet notified me, please do so as soon as possible.

Julie Thompson

Tel: 07811 844 734

Email: julie.tommo@gmail.com

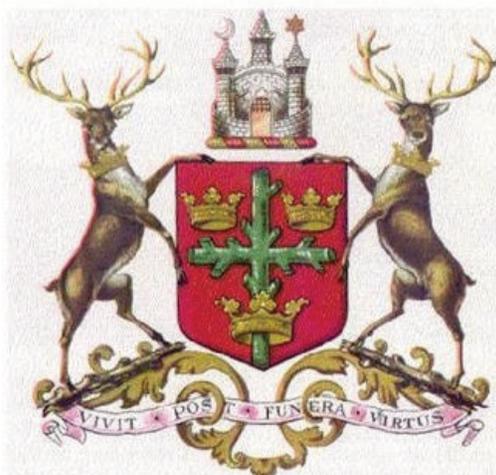


Lunchtime Quiz Group

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.



Gules issuant from the base a ragged cross
couped vert between two Ducal coronets in chief
or the lower limb of the cross enfiled with a
like coronet (1898)

The arms of NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

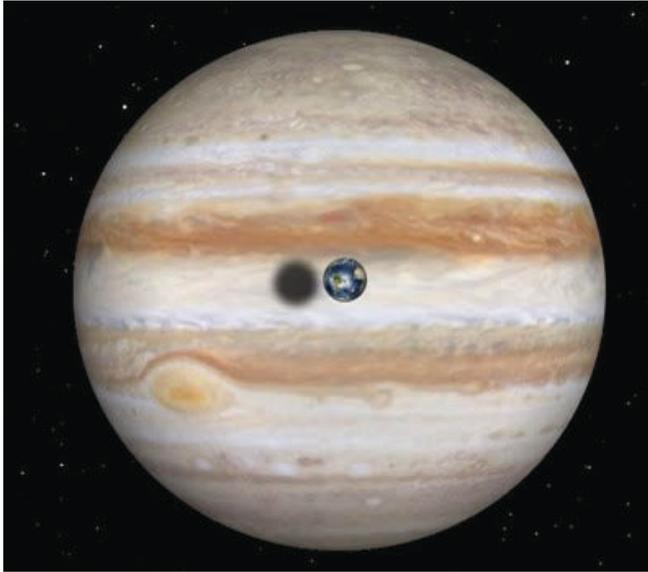
Introduction to Heraldry

This has been a laugh a minute as I am sure the members will agree!!! We've examined the basic structures of Heraldic Coats of Arms and we've had a go at drawing them...to much amusement!

We've learned the skill of "blazoning" – which is the heraldic language used in describing the appearance of a heraldic shield and the pictorial and colour display on it. we have described the coats of arms of Nottingham City Council, Laon, France, Notts County Council and Gedling Borough Council.

If you would more information about this popular group, please contact Freddie Davies on 0115

GEOLOGY 1: The magic of our Solar System



Jupiter (and Earth by comparison) – a gas giant

We are working our way outwards in the Solar System and we have discovered where the highest mountain, the biggest volcano, the deepest and longest canyon and the `ever erupting` volcano all are and very surprising location they all have – none of which are on Earth and where Earth`s contribution to them is minnow sized in comparison.

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

HISTORY



By the time this is read William the Conqueror and William II (Rufus) will have passed “under the hammer” and we will be dealing with the reign of Henry I. In these reigns so much happened to establish the nation we know as England and is a fascinating story. We are also passing a more than casual glance at what was happening in the world at large and particularly in developing Europe at the time. The poor old conquered Saxons, who were the vast majority of the population at that time, were now being overawed by these examples of the massive new (to the Saxons at least) buildings that were being erected.....

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

Grumpy Old Men



The latest meeting of the Grumpy Old Men took place on 7th January 1.00 - 2:30 pm at the Gleaners pub in Calverton.

An enjoyable, lively and humorous debate took place mainly concerning the new housing, parking and possible traffic congestion in Calverton. The group also discussed possible changes to the Calverton bus route in the light of new housing. We were able to co-opt the Chair of the Parish Council to join our discussion and clarify some of the proposals while she ate her pub dinner!

I'm sure the group will have more to say about Calverton developments in future meetings.

Contact Terry Beale on 07881 816465 or 0115 8457694 or email twoterris@yahoo.co.uk

Spanish for Fun



The Basic Spanish fun group met for the first time on Monday 27th January with 5 prospective members.

We discussed what we wanted from this new group and watched a few Spanish language videos - and, as usual with U3A groups, had a nice chat!

The group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at the Gleaners pub in Calverton.

If you want to know more please get in touch with Paul at pwps2012@gmail.com

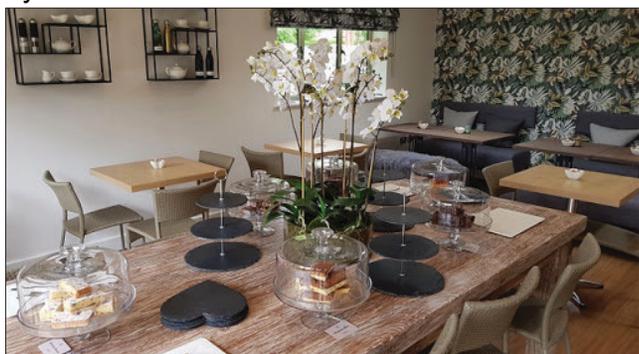
Medium Walking Group

Our next medium walk will be on Friday 7th February, meeting at Southwell Trail Farnsfield car park (off Station Lane - Crockett Lane end).

It is a short one of only 5m - flat, but with a few stiles and a VERY muddy field! Additionally, when I went on a trial walk, there were some highland cattle along the way - only two who took no notice of us, but wanted to make you aware!

There will be a break half way at the Hexgeave Estate coffee shop or you can bring your own refreshments as there is an outside patio area.

Thanks to Glynis and Roger who led a very good turnout for January's walk (**if you would like to volunteer to lead a walk it would be much appreciated!**) - hope to see you all in February-Lynn - Tel 0115 9655050



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 started 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.



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

Do You 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



Photography for Beginners

We were pleased to welcome Michael Dobbs (Calverton U3A chairman) as guest presenter to our January meeting. As a former professional photographer, Michael spent many years mastering the techniques to quickly and efficiently compose and execute shots. So, the theme for this session was "How to photograph groups of people". Here are some great tips to help you improve those shots of family and friends.

Keep talking to the subjects (even if you have to talk rubbish) to keep their attention.

Arrange the group tightly together (eg turning people sideways towards the centre of the group and touching / overlapping each other). Get close, excluding unnecessary empty space around the group.

Sounds basic, but put the taller ones at the back and the smaller one in front!

When photographing a couple, tilt the heads in to each other to avoid the stiff & formal look.

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



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.

NEW INTEREST GROUPS

We would like to offer more interest groups in 2020 and there will be another chance at the February 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 next meeting you can email your ideas to either len.hand@gmail.com or lynmajewski@hotmail.com



Did you know that if you book your holiday with Riviera Travel, there is a scheme whereby they will send a donation to our Calverton 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.**

Visits to Veolia

Following the talk that we had in January from Lesley Taylor at Veolia (the materials recycling centre, near Mansfield) we have arranged two visits to the centre on the following dates:

Friday 13th March - afternoon - leaving Calverton at 12.45pm, returning about 5pm

Thursday 23rd April - morning - leaving Calverton at 9.15am, returning around 2pm

We are restricted to a maximum of 20 people per visit. Therefore if you would like to come would you please sign up for one of the dates at our February 12th monthly meeting.

We will be going in cars so could you also indicate on the sign up sheet whether (a) you can offer a lift to someone or (b) you would require a lift.

When we know who is coming we will let you have details of meeting times etc.

The U3A Robot Constructor's Challenge 2020



Cannock Chase U3A are organising a day of challenges open to any U3A, where moving robot type constructions capable of being remotely or autonomously controlled are subjected to a series of challenges. The use of programmable devices such as Raspberry Pi or Arduino would be ideal, but not essential.

We are hoping to hold the challenge day in the Midlands during September or October, so we need individuals or teams to register their interest now to give time for their build. This would be of interest to those probably in Science groups and enjoy constructional projects.

To register your interest for competing, please contact: Barry James or Ernie Prevost at cannockchaseu3a@gmail.com stating the U3A to which you belong, preferred email or contact number. The rules are available on the Cannock Chase website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/cannock-chase/home> (click the "Robots" button)

