



CALVERTON AND DISTRICT

Newsletter

March 2020

www.calvertonu3a.org.uk

From the Chairman



Calverton & District U3A receives the group's certificate of membership from Jean Hogg, U3A trustee.
Photo by Ken Jones

Well, until the last meeting, I can't say that the circus was very high up on my list of favourite subjects. But our speaker for February, Dr Anne Featherstone was a most exceptional speaker and really brought to life those early days of this field of entertainment.

Did you know, for instance, that the early circus operators would build a wooden hall to perform in, often adjoining a pub? What's more, the owner would then have the structure dismantled and sell the wood – only to build a new one in the next location!

Of course, health and safety rules were non-existent and horrific performance accidents were a frequent occurrence – and valuable publicity for the circus. Audiences were also at risk. Wooden, hastily built structures, crowds, naked flame lighting and smokers – a dangerous mix!

The meeting was also special because we were presented with our certificate of membership from the national Third Age Trust, 7 months after our initial meeting in July 2019.

Our speaker for our next meeting (11th March at 10.30am) is Tony Brewer. Tony has been a photographer for 40 years, and this is a fun talk where he shows images 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. Hope to see you there!

Finally a word about enabling all of our members to get the most from both our monthly general meetings and the group meetings.

If you have any difficulties with access to the various venues, or have health issues which mean that you need a seat at the front (for instance), please don't be afraid to mention it to a committee member or group convenor. We'll do our best to help.

Michael Dobbs - Chairman



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

If you are making a booking with Riviera soon, please mention to the person who takes your booking that you're a member of Calverton & District U3A - **and do the same when you pay the final bill.**





International Dining Group

The International Dining group enjoyed a fabulous spread of tapas food this month as we dined at Bar Esca on Byard Lane in Nottingham. We had a large selection of starters presented to us that would have been enough food for many people, but we then had main courses which were again, generous portions.

The food was delicious though a little spicy for some, but the quantity just defeated us in the end! But great value for money and an easy place to get to via The Calverton Connection then a couple of stops to the Lace Market by tram. A good night was had by all.

The next date will be Tuesday 24th March and we will be dining at Ginza Japanese Teppan-Yaki restaurant on Mansfield Road in Sherwood at 7.00pm. Looking forward to seeing people for this entertaining evening.

Check out the menu on their website as it is not all fish and sushi! www.ginza-nottingham.com

Julie Thompson

Tel: 07811 844 734

Email: julie.tommo@gmail.com



Lunch Club

The February Lunch Club at Ye Olde Bridge, Oxtun was very enjoyable. Around 30 members attended and saw a very varied menu.

The next meeting will take place at the Springfield Inn, Epperstone Road, Lowdham (it's nearer Woodborough, actually!) NG14 7BZ at 12.15pm.

If you are interested in joining this very popular group, please get in touch with Barbara on 07779 791367 or you can email her at barbara9449@hotmail.com



Grumpy Old Men

The Grumpy Old Men met on 4th Feb in the Gleaners Inn. Seven of us had a lively meeting, mainly discussing local issues. We appear to need more zebra crossings while traffic around Calverton was a big issue with the present building work causing many grumbles.

Following on we discussed building regulations. We nearly all learned something new.

One member, Paul has proved to be a mine of local historical information and he will be bringing maps of Calverton mining to the next meeting by popular request! Maybe we are turning into a Historical group?

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

New Craft Group

We held the first meeting of the Craft Group on Thursday 5th March and we all spent a very happy couple of hours stitching and chatting together.

There were eight members present - of varying skill levels - and our first "project" was a fabric brooch made from scraps of fabric, ribbon and buttons. As you can see we produced a wide variety of colourful and unique items and are looking forward to our next meeting which will be on Thursday 2nd April.

Interested? Get in touch with Freda Watson on 0115 931 3197 or freda@flwatson.co.uk



Veolia Trips

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 (**THIS VISIT MAY HAVE ONE VACANCY**) details will be sent to those who have signed up.

Thursday 23rd April - morning - leaving Calverton at 9.15am, returning around 2pm (**WE HAVE A FEW PLACES LEFT ON THIS VISIT - PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE MARCH 11TH MEETING**)

For both visits we will meet at the Village Hall car park in order to share transport if possible.

For more information contact Lynn

07738 171698



Photo by Ken Jones

Photography Group

In the absence of our intrepid leader, it was decided to spend this February's Photo Group meeting at Gedling Country Park rambling around in our present still-wintery-weather.

Organised by Brian's glamorous assistant Martin, a yomp around the park for an hour or so was speeded up by the inclement weather and me trying to keep my camera dry. A warm up in the cafe after, to compare photos, was well received, although with my family in tow, I was over-ruled by a vote to retreat home.

This is what the U3A is really about – not only clubs or groups, but a friendly meeting of like-minded souls over coffee & chat. New friends made.

Ken Jones

Geology 1: The Magic of our Solar System

Our "voyage to the stars" has taken us so far to visit Saturn and its most important moon, Titan. Already, a look back to Earth from this distant planet shows Earth as a tiny bright dot and it makes us understand how isolated we are in the vastness of the Solar System which itself is tiny in terms of the galaxy (the Milky Way) that we inhabit. And yet, our solar system has a marked effect on our planet in both spatial and GEOLOGICAL terms, hence the title of our U3A group is Geology 1 – **Freddie Davies**

Introduction to Heraldry

We have worked our way through the basics of “blazoning” heraldic arms and have come to grips with the “foreign” language frequently met in carrying out the task.

The members of the group have been “tested” in drawing heraldic shields from a verbal “blazoned” description given, using coloured pens and blank shield drawings provided, and its been a lot of fun with a laugh a minute.

Actually, the results have been amazingly good and some of the group have displayed hitherto hidden artistic ability. It is great for the Convenor to see the growing understanding and appreciation of the artistic skills involved together with the meaning of the heraldic symbolism and the importance that heraldry still holds today.....although the original purpose has changed radically over time.

Freddie Davies

Papercraft Group

If you'd like to know more about the Papercraft Group, please contact me, Helen, on 0115 9656132 or 07778 745903, or email me at helen@helenhouldencakes.co.uk



History Group

We have looked at our island's history as far as the reign of the “usurper” Henry I, and we are about to discuss the state of the nation (and what was going on in Europe) as we approach our first civil war during the unsettled reigns of Steven and Matilda, and what the effect was on the `ordinary` peasant and yeoman population. Its a fascinating story in a period of great unrest in a country with a population of just 3 million

Freddie Davies

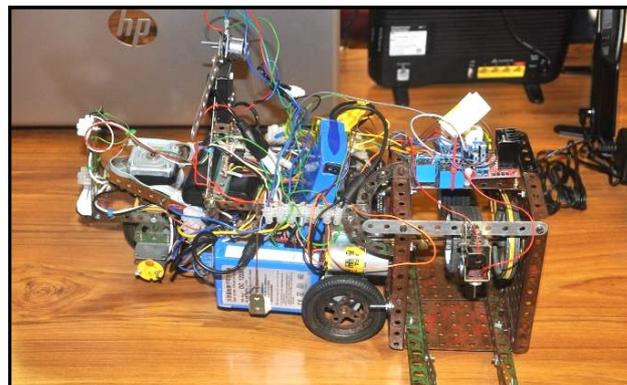
Spanish for Fun



The group meets 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

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/cannockchase/home> (click the “Robots” button). **Two members of Calverton U3A have already expressed interest in entering this competition!**

Ukulele for Fun



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.

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 a downloadable membership form on the "Join / Renew" page of the website.

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

Coronavirus

We are currently seeing lots on the news about the outbreak of Coronavirus. There have been very few infections in this area up to present, but we must expect it eventually.

The advice from U3A National Office is that if a member has returned from one of the areas identified by the government and has any of the symptoms identified on the government website, they should not hold interest groups in their own homes, or attend interest groups or attend monthly meetings until they have followed the NHS advice provided after calling 111.

The members of interest groups that any member with Coronavirus has attended should call 111 for advice, and the group or meeting should be cancelled for a month or longer until the spread of the virus has been assessed.

Of course, **at the time of writing, there is no local infection, and meetings will take place as normal.** We will keep you informed of any developments.

Membership Renewals

Don't forget that all memberships expire at the end of this month.

The renewal fee for the period 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021 is £20 can be paid to the Membership Secretaries at the monthly meetings by cash or cheque.

Alternatively, you can post your renewal form and cheque (with a stamped self-addressed envelope for your new membership card). **Full details are shown on the renewal form which can be downloaded from the website (www.calvertonu3a.org.uk) on the "Join / Renew" page.**

Changes to Membership Numbers

Due to the adoption of the "Beacon" software system to manage membership details, your membership number will be changing from 1st April.

Membership numbers 1—9 will now become 1001, 1002, 1003, etc.

Membership numbers 10 - 99 will become 1010 - 1099.

And membership numbers 100 onwards will become 1100, 1101, 1102 etc.

Still confused? Don't worry, the new numbers will appear on your new membership cards after renewal.

Gardeners' Group Visit to Hodsock Priory



A group of gardeners braved the after effects of Ciara and the expected Storm Dennis and travelled north to Hodsock Priory.

We were lucky and arrived to intermittent sunshine so strolled through the gorgeous snowdrop woodland before warming ourselves with a hot drink by the log fire.

There were lots of other bulbs emerging and it was clear that there would be a wonderful display of bluebells later in the year. The gardens beckoned and rewarded our visit with early spring flowers to admire and some very effective blocks of colour round the lake area from dogwood, yellow stemmed bamboo and cyclamen. Not being experts there were some plants we couldn't identify but photos were taken to help us to do so later. Altogether a very enjoyable visit - **Sue Arkwright**

Strollers Group

Walks will recommence on the third Tuesday in March. The start time will be 10.30. A little later than the previous start time.

We will meet outside the The Bridge Pub (Oxton) for a walk of just under a mile and half. The walk will be a short getting to know you walk around Oxton.

I will be sending an email to members with a rough map of the route.

If you are not a member of the group yet but want to come along just contact me, Anne Boyle, on 07954401836 or email anne.boyle1959@gmail.com

Quiz Group

This month's quiz winners were "Four in a Corner" who won the quiz by just one mark.

It was a close run contest as two other teams tied for second place.

Next month the quiz will take place at the Gleaners from 12.20 pm on Monday 23 March.

Want to know more? Email Cindy at lucinda.rossiter@gmail.com

Table Tennis Group



The new table tennis group meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening, 6.00pm - 8.00pm (next meeting on 19th March).

The group meets at Calverton Leisure Centre, in one of the squash courts.

If you want to know more get in touch with Sue Arkwright (sue_arkwright@yahoo.co.uk).