



Cotgrave & District

Gazette No 19

Spring 2022 Edition



If you have any items for inclusion or comments, please send them to
The Editor at cotgraveu3a@hotmail.com

*This Gazette is produced by Cotgrave & District U3A.
Views expressed are not necessarily those of the U3A, the Committee or of the Editor*

Trials and Tribulations of the Editor.

May I introduce myself to the readers. My name is John Haskell and I have been the Editor of the Gazette since it started back in the Spring of 2016. But the story of my involvement with Cotgrave & District U3A starts well before then. Before living in Cotgrave we had a house in West Bridgford and moved to Cotgrave to find a quiet secluded property that we could leave unoccupied during the summer months to pursue our hobby of cruising the English canals in our narrow boats.



The plans eventually evolved to cruising the European waterways in a Dutch barge. This changed again because of my problem with deciphering the French language, so we decided to cruise the waterways of Ireland instead, but we still had problems understanding the natives but somehow managed. All this cruising was happening when the U3A was first starting up in Cotgrave, so I missed all the advertising and

inaugural meeting. We did eventually join the U3A and found it a very friendly group. It had the additional advantage that, whilst we were out walking our Dandie Dinmont, Danny, around the village and country park we would recognise people and not just nod as passing acquaintances.



One day, Michael O'Conner, who was then the Chairman of the U3A, suggested I went along to a committee meeting as an observer and looking back that was the beginning of my slippery slope of involvement in the U3A. Very soon I was co-opted onto the committee and as is the way with our committee they had to find a job for me.

This was still early days for the Cotgrave & District U3A and it was decided that to publicise our U3A we needed a website, this was well before the days of Facebook, Twitter etc. David Drakes, who was in charge of publicity, and I went to the expert of Keyworth U3A for some guidance. It soon became obvious that between David and me there was a clear division between online skills and the English language, so together we started the website for our U3A, with David as proof reader.

Later, another suggestion that some sort of information publication should be produced and the Gazette was born. Again, this was a joint effort between David and myself, the format being similar to that of latter publications, Group news with a look back at what had occurred over the last 3 months or so. It also contained news from the committee and updates of hopefully useful information. My main task was cajoling the Group leaders for reports and putting those into a readable publication whilst David corrected all the typos and Grammar. I am grateful to David for his patience in improving my grammar and Latin and most importantly insisting we had our meetings in the Manvers. Unfortunately, David has passed away and John Orton is now my roof reader but alas without visits to the Manvers

So that is a potted history of my involvement with Cotgrave & District U3A, looking after the website, the publication of the Gazette and serving on the Committee. We are only allowed to serve on the committee for 5 years so for me time is almost up and replacements will be needed on the committee to run the website and edit the Gazette.

Spotlight On The Vice Chairman.

My name is Paul Childs and I was recently elected Vice Chairman of the Cotgrave & District U3A.

My wife and I joined the Branch in its first year and have been active and supportive members ever since, both joining numerous groups.

Upon my retirement in 2010 I became very active in volunteering and immediately became the Vice-Chairman and then subsequently Chairman of Rushcliffe 50+ Forum, a position I held until the group's recent closure due to COVID and ageing membership. At the same time (2010) I also became a Trustee of Rushcliffe Community & Voluntary Service (RCVS), a position I held for 12 years until standing down this February (2022). In addition, I was also a volunteer driver until the pandemic struck.

The retirement from both groups has enabled me to offer my service to the U3A in a more formal way after 'helping out' in different ways and I am looking forward to assisting in the continued growth of our Branch as an officer of the Committee. How this will impact upon my active participation in the many U3A leisure activities and social groups that I belong to I do not know but I do enjoy a challenge.



Comedy Corner

I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory.

All I did was take a day off.

Two fish are in a tank.

One says, 'How do you drive this thing?'

Group News

Line Dancing

Group Leader – Sue Hillyard

A recent influx of new members has led to more enquiries about joining our Line Dancing group. Our current group is at capacity and so steps are being taken (get the pun?) to explore starting a second group. We do need a few (10 or so) more to start the second group so please do get in touch if you are interested.

If you have any questions either contact me or have a word with any of our LD members and we will answer any queries you might have. By the way, we do have quite a few gentlemen and would always welcome more.

A recent influx of new members has led to more enquiries about joining the Line Dancing group. Our current group is at capacity and so **A SECOND GROUP WILL START IN APRIL**. We do need a few more members so please get in touch if you are interested.

Card and Board Games

Group Leader – Sue Hillyard

We now hold Card and Board Games three Thursday evenings each month. We are at maximum capacity with a few patient people waiting to join.

It may be necessary for those on the waiting list to consider starting a second group - perhaps in the daytime rather than in the evening. It might be a very small number of members at first but would at least take the waiting list forward into a fully functioning second C&BG group. Indeed, our C&BG group actually started life as a Scrabble Group several years ago - we have dropped Scrabble but now enjoy a wide range of other games. Perhaps the new group could be Mahjong or Scrabble or Canasta or Cribbage or, like we are now, a variety of games? I would be very happy to help facilitate a new start-up group to set the wheels in motion. Please contact me if you would like to explore this. And remember, there is the potential to be granted a start-up sum of up to £50. Having said that, I have found charity shops to be a most excellent source of pre-used games.

On 24th March we will all be meeting at The Scout Hut from 1.30 - 4.30. This will be our postponed Christmas Special which is a once-a-year extravaganza of weird, wacky and unique games. I simply cannot wait!!!

Group News

Lunch Club

Group Leaders - John & Desna Haskell



Our Christmas venue was The Royal Oak at Car Colston. All went well, with 16 of us enjoying meals

of Fish & Chips, Chicken, Lasagne, etc, accompanied by various starters and puddings. All was served by Richard the landlord and his trusty team and cooked by his wife with their usual professional style. Service was excellent apart from John's name being missed off the list (very brave of them).

We original had 30 members coming to the lunch but numbers were diminished due to concern about the Omicron variant outbreak. With those concerns, there was no meeting in January.

P.S. John & Desna would like to thank you for our surprise bottle of wine from which we will raise a glass to all of those present with a toast to 2022



February saw us meeting up at The Rancliffe Arms, Bunny. Members must have missed meeting up as

34 of us sat down to very good meals, plenty of choice and no complaints from anyone - apart from comments that the fish was too big! The venue catered well with our large party with tables seating 6 – 8, service was quick, food very good, only two names were forgotten, one was John – again. Glad to say looking around there were plenty of clean plates.

Welcome to those who have recently joined the lunch club, hope to see you again.

Ukulele

Group Leader – Sue Hillyard

Our little band (!) continues to go from strength to strength. We might be a small group but we do enjoy our strum alongs. We start off with chord practice and later sing along to a wide range of songs (although the singing is optional and certainly not the main focus of our meetings). It is all very relaxed and friendly. We are hoping that we might attract a few more members - if that were the case we would happily move to a venue large enough to accommodate us all. In the meantime, we will continue to play twice a month at the leader's home. We do have an instrument you can borrow to give it a try...why not come along?

Theatre Group

Group Leader – Liz Manning

This has now re started and our first trip is to see Matthew Bourne's Ballet "The Nutcracker" on April 16th. There will be more outings to come in the future with a range of performances, venues and prices. Most outings take place on a Saturday afternoon to avoid clashing with groups taking place during the week. Anyone is welcome to come along although if you want to be kept informed, please sign up to the Theatre group.

Group News

Walking Group

Group Leader – Peter Shreyhane

We walk on the third Friday morning of the month.

Our aim is to have two simultaneous walks, whereby one will cover around 4 miles but with the opportunity for those who prefer a shorter walk of 1 ½ or so miles.

We always try to end at a venue for coffee or, in my case, tea!



Since the Gazette was last published, we had a 4 mile walk in December around Cotgrave Country Park.

Due to the wet weather and field paths being very muddy, our January walk, on a cold but sunny day, was along the Embankment from Trent Bridge to Wilford and back.

Our planned walk for February around Gedling Country Park was cancelled due to Storm Eunice.

Walks are planned for Strelley Hall, Screveton, Attenborough Country Park (the area not visited on our last walk there) and Gedling Country Park.

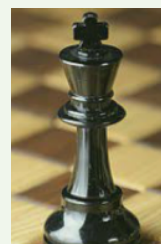
Did you hear about the man who took advantage of Storm Eunice and threw all his rubbish over his neighbour's fence! The old ones are the best.

Chess Group

Group Leader – Bernie Besnard



The Chess group managed to keep going during the pandemic, albeit with reduced numbers, but we restarted face to face meetings at the Welfare on 9th July. Since then we have been meeting every Friday at 10.00 a.m. at the Welfare and will continue to do so. Numbers are now up to five. We would very much like to attract new members, both experienced and inexperienced. If you know of any chess



players from other U3As they are welcome to join us. Chess is a fascinating game and our group is there purely for the enjoyment of playing. We also provide tuition so please give it a try even if you are a complete novice – we all started out in that position!

Group News

Book Club

Group Leader - Judith Mundie

The Book Club meets at Cotgrave Library on the 4th. Tuesday monthly, at 2p.m.

We re-started on Feb 22nd after a long break and then had two small volume books to review.



The first one was the highly popular book by Elizabeth Strout, Olive Again. This book was a part 2 and navigated the second half of her life as an 80+ retired headteacher. Life, she discovers is an ever-changing challenge both mentally and physically. Her path crosses with many old pupils with a variety of results, there are a few tears, emotions but some laughs and surprises thrown in.

A book we felt was suited to the mature reader. This scored 6/7.



The second one The Greatcoat by Helen Dunmore, was set in the winter 1952 in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The main characters are a G.P. newly qualified with his first placement and his wife. They move into a flat with the old landlady upstairs and the villagers and shop keepers don't really want to know them. The wife feels isolated and depressed spending most of her time alone. She finds an old grey R.A.F. overcoat and puts it on for warm and outside an officer appears knocking on her window. A strange relationship starts with a story set in WW1, this is a ghost story based on night time war missions flying from the north East of the UK.

We felt this could have been expanded and the story rounded off with a lot more character details this would have improved this book

The score was 6-3

The book Club has always been very popular and has had a waiting list for the last 3 years, so arrangements are in hand to start another club very soon which is exciting.

The same arrangements as the first one but meeting monthly at the library but a different day of the week as some may not be able to meet on a Tuesday.

Watch this space!! as they say.

Group News

Table Tennis

Group Leader - Paul Childs

Fancy some light exercise with a dash of competitiveness added to the mix then 'Ping-Pong' is the game for you.

We are currently a small group that enjoy the friendliness and banter that goes with our games which usually results in a 'win-win' for all attendees.

Come along and give it a try releasing all those pent-up frustrations with the Bat upon Ball and even against the opposition if needs be.

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoons each month from 3.30-4.30pm and the cost is £1.

The small Activity room in Cotgrave Leisure Centre is the venue.

Hope to see you there.

Creative Writing

Group Leader - Chris Tomblin

The creative writing group has continued to meet monthly despite Omicron and we've completed some interesting assignments.

December 2021 was an essay on character perspectives which was three different characters take on the same incident which was decided on by each individual writer. Eg critical person positive person etc.

January 2021 was titled 'A gamble too many'. It's amazing the different ideas that members have.

February 2021 Soubriquets which as you may know is a nickname usually for a city, for example Oxford is also called 'The city of dreaming spires' This brought some interesting interpretations.

March 2021 is 'Your bag is heavier than when you left it under your desk' This line to be included anywhere in the text and will be read aloud at our March meeting.

We take it in turns to meet in each other's homes and as there are six in the group it works well and we meet usually the third Wednesday morning of the month at 10am.

We still have room for more though so if anybody is interested in just coming for a taster session you can email me at christomblin@aol.com or ring 07765140472. You would be most welcome.

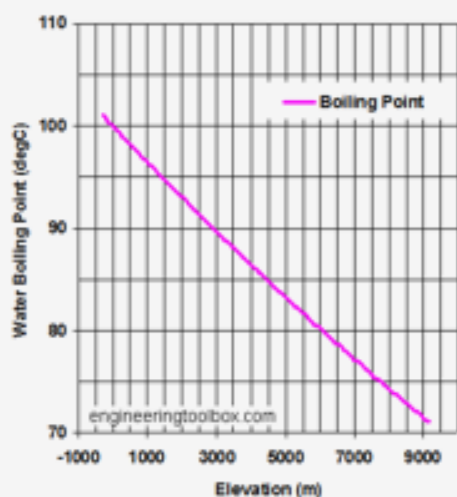
There is never any pressure to write.

Science Group

Group Leader – John Orton

The Science Group met once again in the Methodist Hall to hear a most entertaining talk by Karen Attwood of Beeston U3A on the subject of 'The Chemistry of Cooking'. Not only were we given a fascinating account of just why certain unanticipated happenings have a habit of taking the 'guilt' off the gingerbread, as it were, but were treated to superior quality examples which well-illustrated the truth of the maxim that the proof of the pudding lies in the eating.

Eggs figured large in Karen's presentation and we learned to respect both their physical and chemical peculiarities. Did we know, for example, whether it is possible to boil an egg on the



top of Mount Everest? It is – but only just. The boiling point of water drops as altitude increases to the point that at the top of Everest it has fallen to 71°C. However, it turns out that an egg will still boil at temperatures as low as 67°C, thus, as it were, saving the climber's bacon. Of somewhat more practical value to the majority of our members was this unfailing method of boiling an egg in one's own kitchen: 1. Raise the water to boiling point. 2. Drop in the egg. 3. Turn off the heat. 4. Wait six minutes. 7. Remove the egg from the water and attack it with teaspoon or other suitable weapon. I have yet to test this formula, having been restricted thus far to making fried egg but I hope to be in a position to inform

readers of its veracity long before the next issue of The Gazette.

In more serious vein, it was good that the Group was able to welcome one new member and to be made aware that two others plan to attend our next meeting on 17th March when they are likely to be regaled with a much-delayed account of progress on 'Fusion Power'. This has been stimulated by a recent announcement that the Ratcliffe Power Station may yet be the site of the first UK experimental reactor – Nottingham thus stands a 20% chance of achieving fusion fame – perhaps a future U3A Science Group will be privileged to pay an educational visit?

For those quizzers among you, we have two to exercise your grey matter, one by Peter Shreyhane, the other by Sue Hillyard.

Anagrams of Groups in our U3A

1. TAR
2. ENABLES TINT
3. LANK WIG
4. RIG BED
5. SHY TRIO
6. TREE HAT
7. COOK BULB
8. FETCH ACNED OAF
9. I GLANCED IN
10. CUTE ROMP
11. A ONE LEGGY

Can you work out the British towns /Cities from these cryptic clues

1. Make a chain
2. Always at the front
3. Modern boat for couples
4. No-one is ever home
5. Under the thumb
6. 2-4-8-16-32
7. Laundryville
8. Not the old place of trade
9. Secure safely
10. Searching for Senor Quixote
11. Either short William or Little Richard
12. Hirsute torso
13. The place for outdoor cattle
14. Jacket for a newborn
15. Melt the carrier's metal

Answers on Page 13

Unfortunately, in this issue we only have one Speaker report and that's from the February meeting.

The meeting for December was cancelled at short notice due to the concern over the rising number of cases of the Omicron variant. It was also thought prudent to cancel the January meeting.

But the talk by Steve Dimmer was well worth waiting for; his talk was titled -

Richard III Hero or Villain?

This was a very interesting talk about the much-maligned King Richard III. We heard about Shakespeare's depiction of the king as a disabled, hunchback despot who'd murdered his two princes in order that he could take the throne. However, there are multiple inaccuracies in Shakespeare's play possibly because he was writing for the Tudor monarchy.



Steve took us through the very complicated family tree for Richard and pointed out many reasons why he had been so castigated and showed us some evidence that Richard was not necessarily the tyrant he was portrayed as.

Steve also showed us how the remains of the king were discovered recently, buried under a Leicester council car park. The true reason for the disappearance of the princes in the tower will probably never be known. It remains a medieval murder mystery.



New Members Meeting.

Our first ever New Members' Meeting was held at The Manvers on 14th February. 25 people attended which included most of the members who had joined our U3A since the beginning of 2021. Others present were Peter Shreyhane (Chairman), Chris Tomblin (Group Leader), Susan Hillyard (Committee Member) and Liz Manning (Membership Secretary).

After a brief welcome and an introduction of the 'presenting' team, Chris Tomblin gave a short talk on the groups in our U3A and explained the activities and responsibilities associated with running a group.

Peter Shreyhane spoke about the Committee; regularity of meetings, who is involved, the variety of topics discussed and so on. He also circulated a copy of the previous month's minutes.

After tea and coffee, Sue Hillyard spoke briefly about what being part of our U3A, and the wider U3A movement, means for members; what their responsibilities are as individual members of the U3A and/or the groups in which they become involved. The members present gave their views on what being part of the U3A means to them in terms of individual commitment. Their findings included; being supportive to other members, getting involved and joining in, paying any fees promptly, being respectful and positive and, most of all, having good communication links.

The meeting lasted just over 1 hour with much general chat and excellent contributions from those present. Feedback from the meeting was very positive and it is intended that the event will be repeated in the future, perhaps on a twice yearly basis or when there are sufficient new members.

If anyone from the original meeting feels that they would like to be involved and/or give a talk from the perspective of a new member, then please contact Susan Hillyard within the next few weeks.

Other News

Cotgrave & District U3A goes to China, well almost

On the 31st of January a Network event took place at the Springwater Cantonese Restaurant in Calverton, Nottinghamshire. The event was to celebrate the start of 2022 Year of the Tiger. Two hundred and twenty six u3a members attended, representing 11 of the 33 u3as in Nottinghamshire. 12 members of Cotgrave & District U3A joined in with the celebration organised by Terry Hardman (Network Treasurer). Fireworks, a



spectacular Lion Dance, copious amounts of great food, fortune cookies, dancing and, of course, fun and laughter around our table made the evening a huge success. Our whole party had a tremendously good time and we are already looking forward to repeating the event next year.

Peter Smith (local organiser)

Answers to the quizzes on page 10

Peter's – name that group

1. ART
2. TABLE TENNIS
3. WALKING
4. BRIDGE
5. HISTORY
6. THEATRE
7. BOOK CLUB
8. COFFEE AND CHAT
9. LINE DANCING
10. COMPUTER
11. GENEALOGY

Sue's – name that town/city

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Make a chain. | LINCOLN |
| 2. Always at the front. | LEEDS |
| 3. Modern boat for couples. | NEWARK |
| 4. No-one is ever home. | NOTTINGHAM |
| 5. Under the thumb. | PRESTON |
| 6. 2-4-8-16-32. | DUBLIN |
| 7. Laundryville. | WASHINGTON |
| 8. Not the old place of trade. | NEWMARKET |
| 9. Secure safely. | BOLTON |
| 10. Searching for Senor Quixote. | HUNTINGDON |
| 11. Either short William or Little Richard. | BILLERICAY |
| 12. Hirsute torso. | MANCHESTER |
| 13. The place for outdoor cattle. | HUDDERSFIELD |
| 14. Jacket for a newborn. | SWADLINCOTE |
| 15. Melt the carrier's metal. | BARROW IN FURNESS! |

Finally.....

We would like to offer a warm welcome to all the new members who have joined since the last publication of The Gazette.



Margit Porter, Michael Robins, Linda Scott, Jim & June Benn, Mike Seymour, Anthony & Lyn Taylor, Pam Wood, Mo Jones, Clive & Sheena Watterson, Sylvia Bird, Lindsay Peters, Liz Thompson Jewitt, June Robinson, Kay Hand, Elaine Fell, June Brown, Elaine Parker, Julie Tranter, Jane & Owen Heath, Keith & Rosemary Heath, Sam Mitchell, David Duggan, PJ Trevena, Haze Lindson, Dot & Bob Chalmers, Jill Winstanley, Chris Scholey, Laura Gaunt, Gill Handcock, Julie & Jeremy Walker, Colleen & Mark Cave, Pam Bath, Jane Grey, Steve Gardener, Caroline Storey, Sally Bilzon, Chris Carmody.

The End

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Gazette.

If you would like to contribute any articles pictures or comments, please contact the Editor at Cotgraveu3a@hotmail.com

Also if you would like to help with putting together The Gazette or taking over as Editor please use the email address above.

The next edition of the gazette will be published mid-June; therefore deadline for any contributions, articles etc. to the Editor by May 31st.