

Cotgrave & District



Quarterly Gazette

No 3

Autumn 2016



Welcome to the latest edition of the Quarterly Gazette of Cotgrave & District U3A. We cover news from the Groups, forthcoming events and other interesting items happening in our U3A. If you want any items included in future issues please let the Editor know.



Christmas is coming

A date for your diaries

The Cotgrave and District U3A Christmas Party

will take place on

Saturday 10th December

More details nearer the time.



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

Any items for inclusion or comments please send them to the Editor at cotgraveu3a@hotmail.com

Secretary's Ramblings



Heather first heard that Cotgrave were setting up a U3A in January 2014 and we attended an open meeting at the Welfare in January of that year. At that meeting volunteers were called for to fill outstanding roles one of which was described as Minutes Secretary. I volunteered to carry out that task as I had written many minutes of building site meetings in my professional capacity.

In those early days we were receiving help and encouragement from U3A locally and nationally. I was given a copy of an earlier meeting's minutes and asked to produce something similar for the next and subsequent meetings. My first attempt was vetted and constructively criticised and then I have been left to carry on. The Secretary also becomes one of the Officers of the U3A.

Our Constitution lays down rules concerning the length of Office Executive Committee members may serve. Simplified, a member of the Committee may only serve three years in one particular role. Your Executive Committee is now facing a dilemma, in that all of us will have been in our roles for three years at the next AGM. Clearly it would be folly for a mass resignation of the Committee. We are allowed to rotate offices amongst ourselves but the rules are written for a purpose. In my opinion the Committee should receive one new member per year to bring fresh ideas and renewed interest to our U3A. Both Chris Soar and I were Round Tablers in our younger years, an organisation that operated under very similar rules and in our experience benefited from the introduction of new blood.

I wish to encourage you all to bring the considerable wealth of experience gained in your second age, when you were working, to join the Executive Committee. We meet once a month on the fourth Thursday in the Welfare at 10.00am in the morning and the finish on, or often before 12noon.

The Committee consists of 10 individuals all well known to you and discussion is lively and intelligent. Membership is very important to us and we are making every endeavour to bring the activities of Cotgrave U3A to all qualified persons living in our Town. It is important that an active drive for members is maintained as we usually lose 15 members a year all for legitimate reasons i.e. moving out of Cotgrave.

Returning to the work involved in being a Committee member, no one role is particularly onerous and of course you always "get out what you put in". In my case, I receive correspondence from the National body TAT, and our Area organisations. I keep the Constitution and make sure our Chairman stays in line with its rules. I take minutes once a month, issue an agenda for meetings, arrange for the magazine to be sent to you and prepare any correspondence. Others act as Treasurer, keep the membership list up to date, look after the organisation of Groups, run the website and organise publicity.

We take this opportunity to invite you to consider joining us to help with the running of our U3A in any of the above roles, or just to bring fresh ideas to our Committee. It is essential that we try to meet the demands of our Constitution and re-energise our Club now that the first three years is approaching completion.

I shall be actively seeking a replacement for my role as Secretary over the next few months so please volunteer early so that we can introduce you gently to the Executive Committee workings by co-opting you on.

Group News - Bird Watching (1)

Visit to Bempton Cliffs in North Yorkshire on 20th July 2016

The day dawned bright and sunny with a light breeze, ideal for our visit. Unfortunately only five of us were able to make the trip.

Having stopped en route for our mid morning coffee, we arrived at the reserve just before midday. The reserve shop was quite thronged but since there are several viewing stations along the cliffs there was plenty of room for us to see the birds.

Although our visit was fairly late in the month, to our delight, there were several late breeding Puffins still around the cliffs. Also, several hundred Guillemot and Herring Gull, several thousand Kittiwake with good numbers of young also thronged the cliffs.



Kittiwake adult and Young

The UK's largest seabird, the splendid Gannet was present in large numbers with many young in various stages of development. The adults were wheeling around the cliffs, displaying their 6 foot wingspan as they attended and fed the young, a splendid sight.

Most of the Razorbills had taken to the sea and formed large groups just offshore.

The young were closely attended by the male birds, with the females taking a well earned rest from parenting duties. We did, however, manage to find one photogenic female resting up on a cliff ledge.

Also seen was one Fulmar still sitting tightly on eggs or small chicks whilst a lone Shag flew low over the sea to the southern edge of the reserve where they breed.

It was apparent from looking around the reserve that it has been an excellent breeding season for Tree Sparrow, with large numbers of immature seen.

Altogether an excellent day out crowned by Malcolm and Pat B's choice of Fish and Chip establishment on the way home.



Puffin on Bempton



Gannets on Bempton Cliffs



Two rare birds, so far unidentified!

Group News - Bird Watching (2)

Visit to Rutland Water on 15th June

Eight Members of the Bird Watching group visited Rutland Water with the objective of seeing the Breeding Ospreys and their nest. The nest is under constant survey by the wardens of the reserve to prevent disturbance of the birds and to provide a video link back to the nearest hide and the visitor centres at Egleton and Lyndon.

Having looked at the video pictures we made our way to the hide where we were rewarded by excellent views of the parent birds and three youngsters. During our watch the male parent bird returned with a fish, a pike according to the warden present in the hide, which it commenced to devour adjacent to the nest. No doubt



maintaining his strength for the business of keeping his partner and offspring well fed.

Our members were thrilled to see these magnificent birds so clearly and to learn about their remarkable breeding and migratory habits and the risks they face on passage to and from their Western African wintering area.

Visit to Skylarks Reserve ~ Blotts Pitt on 31st August

Six members and two family guests enjoyed a very pleasant walk on a bright, sunny morning.

We enjoyed excellent views of a family of Green Woodpeckers feeding in the grassland within the reserve together with an array of Heron and Little Egret patrolling the banks of the lake.

Other birds seen were common geese, ducks, great crested grebe, lapwings in a lovely setting so close to the city and 10 minutes from Cotgrave.

Additional things of note were an abundance of flying insects, butterflies and dragon flies including Common Darter.



The Real Ale Group goes from strength to strength. Did you know, for instance, that some beers contain as much as ten percent alcohol? That's as much as some German table wines. Indeed, if it were not for the exploratory virtues of our learned members such erudite discoveries might remain for ever unmade! We are, of course, a small and select collection of would-be experts - but how does one become an expert in any subject unless one makes an effort to imbibe its deeper subtleties? Let it be said that this particular discipline can only be fully appreciated by a (seriously underfunded!) research programme into the distribution of local hostelries offering a minimum range of different real ales running into double figures. How else is one to make an academically acceptable selection from which to assess the complex and subtle varieties of nose, clarity, viscosity, colour and flavour of the outcome of brewer's art? And, let us be absolutely clear (even if some of the beers are not) that our highly intelligent group, after appropriate consideration, scores and meticulously records each and every offering out of a maximum count of 'ten'. The average score tends to lie somewhere in the region of six-to-seven but we have recorded a low of 'two' and, though we have not yet had a 'ten', there is always the chance (about that of Leicester City winning the Premiership) that we shall one day meet our 'tenesis' (it's a real ale equivalent of 'nemesis').

And, while we may be a select group, there is certainly room for one or two new innovative members - please come and join us. You might find the experiensh really worhthwhoile.



Group News - History (1)

The group has continued to flourish, regularly getting 15 or so at meetings. Our work on Cotgrave has been pushed forward by the hard work of Malcolm Baxter and Paul Childs. There is so much material available to catalogue that we should be able to provide resources for all to benefit from. We could do with help from anybody who has the time and patience!



We had a guest Speaker in July who was a leading light on the Drummond Murders in Nottingham. It was very entertaining and informative, although the answer to the puzzle was not forthcoming and may not be for another 20 years! August saw our trip to Cresswell Crag. This was a great experience and well worth the effort of the 15 who went. There is a full report of this elsewhere. The September meeting will involve another guest Speaker talking on

Woollaton Hall. Should be entertaining!

We have a programme that stretches into next year at the Manvers on the second Monday of the month. We always welcome new members. We are still pursuing a visit to Bketchley Park code breaking centre after the Summer and I am encouraged to say that this will happen. So, if you have an interest in local and national history and want to share or increase your knowledge, come and join us!!!

Michael

Creswell Crags

The August meeting of the Local History Group took the form of a visit to Creswell Crags, with its attractively designed, modern visitor centre, near Worksop, a matter of about an hour's drive from Cotgrave. Some fifteen members took part and enjoyed a stimulating day out. The Crags provide one of very few examples of Ice-Age art in the British Isles – carved some 13,000 years ago, this cave art forms (as the visitor's leaflet points out) “the oldest art gallery in Britain”. Our visit began, as any well-organised visit should, with lunch in the Crags Edge Café, which

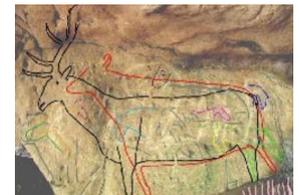


served an appetising selection of snacks and (Real Ale Group members might note) non-alcoholic drinks. We were then issued with hard hats and taken in hand by our tour guide who was to show us round the Church Hole Cave on the Nottingham side of the gorge, the side which faces north – a significant factor whose precise relevance has, alas, been forgotten by your scribe! The cave was first excavated in Victorian times but no artistic



relics were then recognised – it was only in 2003 and somewhat by chance that some twenty or so ‘scratchings’ were discovered by a small group of archaeologists who were scanning the country in search of Ice-Age art. Our guide gave us an entertaining account of a small selection of these early artistic efforts and made an heroic effort to induce us to ‘see’ them with the help of a red laser beam

and an LED torch! No doubt, practice is a vital constituent of the cave archaeologist's armoury but, even without it, we managed to persuade ourselves to appreciate the representation of the odd ibis, ibex or bison but the highlight came with the revelation of an early (if somewhat indistinct) example of Ice-Age porn! Our guide's explanation was masterly and perfectly tuned to the possible susceptibilities of a senior U3A party!



Thus stimulated, we repaired to the Visitors Centre, where Tony took a significant photograph of a carefully selected group of us, together with a local hyena. I leave it to the viewer to decide which might be awarded the beauty prize. We were also able to enjoy the exhibition room and a well-stocked bookshop, bringing the afternoon to a thoroughly satisfactory conclusion.



Group News – Walking Group & Luncheon Group

Walks in the last 3 months have included an exploration of Lowdham and Epperstone, an interesting walk around West Bridgford including a part of the River Trent with views of the new development opposite, another Nottingham walk which linked nicely with the Real Ale Group, and a rather wet walk in August around the ancient lanes and woods near Owthorpe (including “new” footpaths post A46 dualling). For the latter we managed to pick one of the few days of bad weather we had this August – never mind. September will bring a second chance to look at the excellent Colwick Park, and a walk from Hoby in Leicestershire taking in Ragdale and Shoby.



The Luncheon Group continues to be popular with attendances normally between 15 and 20, over the last 3 months we have visited The Keyworth Tavern, The Embankment and The Lady Bay.



The Keyworth Tavern is a “Pub People” establishment with a fairly extensive menu at reasonable prices especially for their offers of 2 meals for £10. Normally for a large party the establishment appreciates a pre order to help the kitchen and also to ensure they have what the customers want. The quality of the food was good and the service was very pleasant.



The Embankment is a newish addition to The Castle Rock Brewery chain; a lot will remember it as the social club for Boots. The building has been extensively refurbished and we dined as a group in the conservatory. Slightly unusually the tables were for 4 or 6 people as opposed to the long tables that we have had in other establishments. The menu was mainly on chalkboards and the options were different from the normal ‘pub fayre’ but reasonably well received.



The Lady Bay is another ‘chain’ pub, this one is part of the Greene King group. Although we had pre-ordered the service was a bit slow to get started but once started the food arrived very promptly and was more than acceptable. The Lady Bay had a very extensive menu with many offers, fortunately for a large group it is often possible to pair up singles with 2 for 1 offers. As usual the conversation ranged through many topics with differing viewpoints. It was nice also to see two new members, Christine and Peter joining the luncheon group.

Group News - Quiz

Our quiz night has been reasonably well supported over the late spring and early summer period, culminating in the very satisfying participation of 25 members on the evening of 30th June, the last quiz before our



summer recess. Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable evening with three teams separated by only a couple of points vying for the winners spot going into the last round. Ultimately the winning team of Sue Tattam, John and Desna Haskell and Barry Wells triumphed by one point. Well done and thanks to all our participants.

Don't despair though, your turn for accolades will come. We will be back to tickle those brain cells again through the autumn and winter months. Our next dates are Thursday October 6th and Thursday December 1st. so please put these dates in your diary. Come along and have some fun.

To keep you on your toes try the following Gazette quiz.

1. What creates Pumice Stone?
2. The source of the Amazon is in which country?
3. Ethel le Neve was the mistress of which murderer?
4. What does the prefix 'Aber' in British place names mean?
5. How many US States border Alaska?
6. In which country is the world's largest pyramid?
7. Who was the first US President to have been divorced?
8. When was Joan of Arc canonized: 1720, 1820 or 1920?
9. St Patrick is the patron saint of which West African country?
10. Who plays Bridget Jones' father on screen?

Answers on page 12

“Sample the best wines on the High Street, all at affordable prices”

Yes, that’s the premise behind our bi-monthly Wine Appreciation evenings . . . all the wines sampled are from Majestic Wine Warehouses, just awarded the IWC High Street Chain of the Year 2016.

You get to “blind taste” 5 of their wines, all selected (and tasted beforehand by your Group Leader) and all priced, affordably, at between £5 and £10 a bottle, so if a particular wine takes your fancy you can purchase directly either from Majestic online or from their outlet on Castle Boulevard.

Importantly it’s an evening of wine fun as you rate the wines and intersperse the tasting with an easy Wine Quiz (the winning group is awarded one of the evening’s wines as a prize). All of this is accompanied by delicious cheese platters served by the helpful staff of The Manvers Garden Bar.

After the summer break the Wine Club resumes in November . . . do come along for an evening of fun and entertainment . . . it’s a snip at just £12 per head and, who knows, you might just come away with a deeper understanding of just what makes those Kiwi Sauvignons and Pinots so delicious!

“Is your Smartphone becoming smarter than you?”

Well, come along to one of our Computer Club workshops and Michael Bridges, our computer guru from EmbraceIT, will enlighten you (it was one of the topics covered in our July session).

Happily, we’re still ahead of the game but if you’re to stay that way you should really attend Michael’s monthly sessions on this and a range of computing issues.

Also, are you aware of what Forums are and how you can benefit from belonging to one of them?

Likewise, social media . . . a surprising majority of our July session saw no point in them . . . why not join in the debate?

Are you thinking of replacing your desktop/laptop? . . . one of the computing conundrums you are or will be facing . . . which operating system? . . . laptop or tablet or a hybrid? . . . so many conundrums . . .so many decisions!

Then, finally, at a more basic level . . . Excel or Word for those family and friends listings with Christmas on the horizon?

So, if you’re needing guidance on how to deal with these and other techy issues brought up by that pesky laptop, tablet or Smartphone then Michael’s monthly workshop could be just the tonic you’ve been looking for.

Group News – Coffee & Chat, & Singing for Pleasure

The Coffee & Chat group is now up and running meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

We have met at three different venues over the past three months: The Manvers Arms, The Bradmore Garden Centre (Wellingtons Cafe) and The East Bridgford Garden Centre with attendance ranging between 15 and 24 members, both ladies and gentlemen.



The Group has continued as agreed with no organised discussion or agenda, thus allowing the members to meet in a relaxed and informal manner to simply chat and enjoy coffee and a cake together. Browsing the Garden Centre nick-nacks has proved to be another popular attraction.

We plan to continue to rotate the venues over the coming months.

The Singing for Pleasure group continues to meet weekly from 7.00pm to 8.30pm each Wednesday and we now have 19 highly valued and talented members. Not bad at all to say that it equates to almost a fifth of the membership! At the end of September, we are due to perform at another Memory Cafe – this time in Tollerton, and we have been very busy rehearsing a little programme of appropriate songs for the last two to three weeks. Not all 19 members will be able to support the event but we hope to have a good turnout and we are looking forward to providing entertainment to the service users.

Once that's completed we will then start to prepare our Christmas repertoire! Plans are already afoot to introduce one or two things that are a little different at this year's Cotgrave U3A Christmas Party but we will, of course, have lots of old favourite carols and Christmas songs for everyone to sing along to.

Our list of songs continues to grow (I think the members must sometimes dread the email coming from me saying.....'here's a new sheet of songs!'), with some of the most recently added songs being Wooden Heart, The day we went to Bangor, Don't cry for me Argentina, When I'm 64, All around my hat, Get me to the church on time – to name but a few!

If you would like to know more about our Group, please don't hesitate to make contact. We are very friendly, there is no audition and all we ask is that you come with a love of singing. Oh yes, and a sense of humour too!



Group News - Theatre

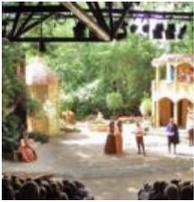
What did the grape say when someone stepped on it? Nothing, it just gave a little wine.

MACBETH IN THE OPEN AIR

Every summer Tolethorpe Hall, about 50 minutes from Cotgrave, presents a theatre season in the grounds, usually two Shakespeares and one other play. It is a spectacular setting. The audience sits in a large marquee, looking down at the stage which is open to the air and filled with trees and shrubs. The actors may get wet, but the viewers don't. We look down at the lush performance space, over which the sun gradually sets. Productions always exploit the setting to the full.



If it had been fine we should have met beforehand for a picnic. However, it was a damp evening when we went to see *Macbeth* - one of the actors slipped in the wet on stage, though fortunately was not hurt. As it was, we came armed with rugs and umbrellas, and all thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Imagine the dark rising as Macbeth's fortunes decline. Imagine it being quite dark as he met his end at the hands of Macduff. Wonderful!



CAUSE CELEBRE by Terence Rattigan at the Lace Market Theatre



This play was about the notorious case of Alma Rattenbury, married to a much older man and in a relationship with their chauffeur. When Lord Rattenbury was found murdered, a famous trial ensued, at the end of which the chauffeur was convicted and Alma acquitted - or was she? An interesting play, which we felt was well handled by the Lace Market.

MINDGAME by Anthony Horowitz

This is the last of the famous Thriller Season at the Theatre Royal. At the time of writing we haven't seen it yet, but we expect a good afternoon's entertainment.



IN THE AUTUMN

We have already booked a number of shows:

The Glenn Miller Story starring Tommy Steele, Theatre Royal, Wednesday September 14th 2 pm.

Sleuth by Anthony Schaffer at Nottingham Playhouse, Thursday September 22nd 7.45 pm.

Beauty and the Beast (Northern Ballet) Friday November 4th, 7.30 pm

Comfort and Joy by Mike Harding at the Lace Market Theatre, Saturday December 17th 2.30 pm. Anna Franks will need to know numbers for this by the November meeting.

Quiz Answers

1. Volcanic activity
2. Peru
3. Dr Crippen
4. Mouth of river
5. None
6. Mexico
7. Ronald Regan
8. 1920
9. Nigeria
10. Jim Broadbent

The Silver Screen at the Broadway Cinema showed 13 films during this 3 month period. The films were a mixture of foreign language, animation, comedy and drama presentations. There were a couple of films from the 1970's with BARRY LYNDON, starring Ryan O'Neal, running some 184 minutes.



There were two animated films, one being the BFG, based on the Roald Dahl story, with the voice of the elderly giant being provided by actor Mark Rylance, who won the

2016 OSCAR for the Best Supporting Actor in the film Bridge of Spies. The drama films included 'RACE', the story of coloured athlete Jessie Owens who won the Gold Medal in 1936 at the Olympic Games held in Germany and OUR KIND OF TRAITOR based on the novel by John Le Carre.



Comedy was provided by big screen versions of popular TV series, ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS – THE MOVIE, continuing the tale of Edina and Patsy in the fashion world and



DAVID BRENT'S LIFE ON THE ROAD with the famous middle manager trying to pursue a life of a rock star touring the country.

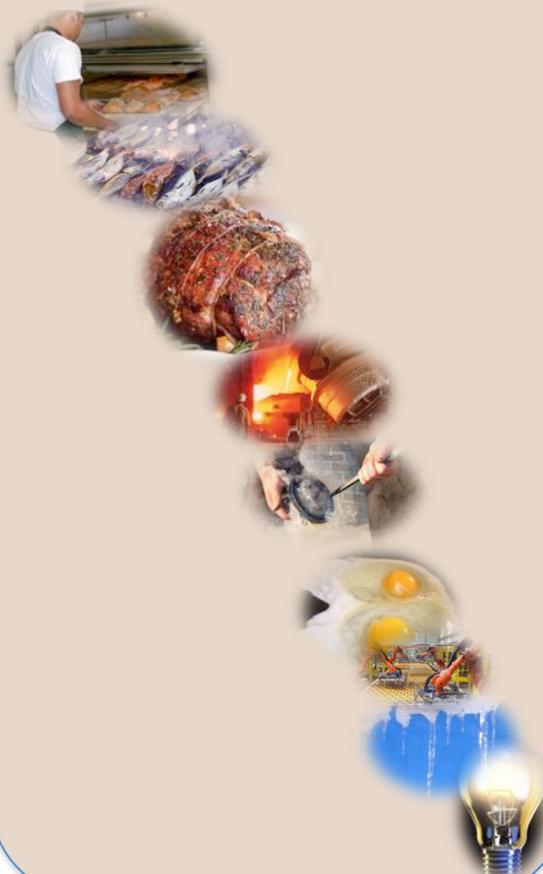
The Long Clawson presentations followed the pattern of showing popular films some 4 to 6 months after their general release. We were treated to SPOTLIGHT, a true story of The Boston Globe newspaper reporters' investigation into child sexual exploitation by the Archbishop of Boston and DADS ARMY, the popular TV series, and a story transferred to the big screen.



The Creative Writing's group meeting in August had a topic of 'Friendly Fire'. One of the submissions is below.

Under Friendly Fire

- To bake the bread
- To smoke the fish
- To roast the meat
- To smelt the steel
- To warm the hand
- To shoe the horse
- To fry the egg
- To boil the water
- To clear the land
- To harden the clay
- To fire the brick
- To float the glass
- To melt the snow
- To dry the cloth



Speakers Corner (1)

A Way of Beeing



Our June meeting was favoured with a fascinating exposition on the life and times of honey bees by Alison Knox. Not only had Alison stepped in at the eleventh hour as substitute for the last-minute-unavailability of the advertised speaker but she did so on her previous-day's return from holiday. Complete with work-a-day bee-keeping dungarees, she not only talked the part but certainly looked it too – we were extremely fortunate in being able to hear her lively presentation. Alison's philosophy is well summed up by the following quotation which she used to introduce herself: "I am one. I cannot do everything, --- but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do. And what I should do, by the grace of God, I will do" (Edward Everett Hale 1822 – 1909). In Alison's case, that 'something' was keeping bees.

Bees have, of course, been around for eons, having only recently become domesticated in purpose-built hives (beespoke accommodation?) but it was sad to learn just how badly they suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous humans. Little did any of us know how badly Californian fruit growers treat their resident bee populations – dragged about by 'bee-brokers' on large tractors so as to be available at the right moment and optimum time to pollinate now oranges, then plums, then black currants and now grapefruits, they are denied any free time of their own to establish their natural habitats and social instincts. We are, of course, talking honey bees, a highly social breed and not to be confused with such outsiders as the solitary mason bees which live at the bottom of Scrimshire Lane in what may well be the oldest bit of wall in Cotgrave. As we frequently hear these days, honey bees are indeed suffering from human intervention but even worse are the deprivations of a certain Chinese mite which can infest a hive, live on its rightful inhabitants and reduce them to apian misery. It was estimated that the UK lost almost half of its honey bees during the last year, a frightening statistic for those of us who live on vegetable matter – and remember that farm animals too do just that!

Alison described graphically how she interacts with her two colonies of bees, wearing a pair of Marigold gloves, rather than anything more sting-resistant, in order to treat her charges as gently as possible. Another nice touch is her use of a goose feather to sweep the odd stray from her clothing before re-entering the house. Each hive has a single queen who lays as many as two thousand eggs per day, about 5% drones who fertilise queens, not within the confines of the hive but at some stratospheric height and only on days with appropriately warm and humid conditions. The work, of course, is done by the dominant females who may fly as much as three miles from the hive to find suitable supplies of



nectar - though Alison once won top prize in a local Nottingham honey contest as a result of her bees' choosing to pollinate lime flowers in her own garden. Such are the vicissitudes of bee-keeping! The depth of feeling she evinces for her bees was made clear by her sad description of the fate of drones at the end of the summer season, when they are evicted from the hive to die a lonely death, once their propagational usefulness has come to

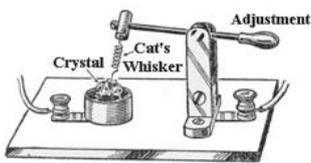
an end. I suspect that several of us men felt just a hint of fellow-feeling but bravely managed not to show it! However, the talk ended on a positive note, Alison pointing out that Nature will always out-think us, no matter how clever we may believe ourselves to be – it sounds as though bees will surely be with us for a while yet.

Speakers Corner (2)

The Information Revolution – How it all started

The July meeting of the U3A featured a somewhat ‘different’ talk, given by one of our own members, John Orton. John explained that he had almost taken up history as a career but had been seduced into science by the appointment of new science teachers at his school when he was in the fifth form. Having worked in scientific research for some thirty-five years, on retirement he had become interested in the history of science and it was such a topic that he proposed to describe, namely the origins of the ‘Information Revolution’.

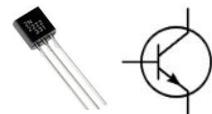
The key discovery was generally taken to be the invention of the transistor at Bell Telephone



Laboratories just before Christmas 1947 but its origins dated back to two earlier discoveries, those of the so-called ‘cat’s whisker’ rectifier in 1874 and the telephone in 1876. The need to extend telephone communications between far-flung US cities demanded a series of repeater stations each incorporating an amplifier – though such a device did not, at the time, exist.

This had to wait until 1908, when Lee de Forrest invented the triode valve and, being in financial difficulties, was happy to sell the patent rights to Bell. However, problems with reliability meant that Bell’s engineers nursed a hope that, one day, it would be possible to develop an amplifier device made from a piece of semiconductor material, such as silicon or germanium. There were, however, serious difficulties in controlling the behaviour of semiconductors which were only resolved during the Second World War as a result of efforts to develop microwave RADAR systems. Research into microwave detectors based on silicon or germanium led to American scientists realising that it was essential to purify these materials to a much higher degree than had previously been thought possible and this led to better understanding of semiconductor physics and to successful application of semiconductors to practical problems.

After the war, a team of scientists at Bell Telephone Laboratories was given the task of developing a ‘solid state’ amplifier and, after a number of false starts, succeeded brilliantly in making a so-called ‘point-contact’ transistor. There were, however, certain personality problems within the Group which led to an unfortunate split whereby the two scientists who were principally responsible for the original development, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain, became side-lined, whilst their Group leader, William Shockley took most of the credit while inventing an alternative device, known as a ‘junction transistor’ which proved both more reliable and easier to manufacture. The fact that all three shared the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1956 partially melted the ice between them but, nevertheless, their relationship remained, to say the least, a trifle cool. As our speaker pointed out, even scientists are human and subject to personal foibles, rather like the rest of human kind!



Comedy Corner

I removed the shell from my racing snail trying to make it faster, but it only made it more sluggish.

What’s the difference between a hippo and a Zippo?

One is really heavy, the other is a little lighter.

Speakers Corner (3)



The August meeting of our U3A Group was addressed by Garry Farnfield on the subject of “Rainbows”, a wonderful hospice for children and young people suffering with life-limiting illnesses. This Loughborough-based charity has been in existence for twenty-two years and has recently been extended. It offers help and friendship to no less than 360 children and their families, including sibling-care, its being felt important to include young brothers and sisters in the care process, for the good of both the poorly child and their young relatives. Garry took us through the impressive range of support facilities available, all of which are free to families.

These include arts and crafts, psychological support, a ‘reflection room’, special temperature-controlled baths, mobile beds which can be wheeled into activity rooms, a music room, a ‘multi-sensory room’, a cinema and a ‘soft playroom’ where invalid children can play safely, without fear of injury. There

is also a special gym and a hydro-therapy room to facilitate the kind of muscle-stimulus which healthy children would experience naturally. A nice feature of the building is the use of brightly coloured lines running along corridors, leading children to specific facilities which they may wish to enjoy.



description of such wonderful work was truly heart-warming, as could be sensed by the spontaneous burst of clapping from our members. Running the hospice costs five million pounds per annum, only ten per-cent of which comes from Government – fund-raising being another impressive part of the overall activity.

And Finally



Welcome to the new members who have joined since the Summer issue of the Gazette (or during the last quarter)

Joan Raine, Ann Adkin, Sue Willimsky-Smith,
Pauline Walsh, John Webster, Sally Williams,
Peter Shreyhane, Christine Shreyhane, Iris Hopkins.

Don't forget if you are booking a holiday with Riviera Travel to mention your membership of Cotgrave U3A at the time, as they kindly donate 10% of the cost of the holiday to your U3A.

(Please also let the Treasurer, Chris Soar, know so he can claim the money back.)

Don't forget, articles for inclusion in the next issue of the Gazette should be sent to the Editor by 1st December 2016