

# Cotgrave & District



## Quarterly Gazette

No 9

Spring 2018



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.

It's AGM time soon.

Would you like to be active in the running of your U3A?  
If you are interested please speak to a Committee member.

Any items for inclusion or comments please send them to  
The Editor at [cotgraveu3a@hotmail.com](mailto: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*

## Reflection of the Link Coordinator



Having stepped down from chairman of the Cotgrave & District U3A this year after three great years of development, I wondered...What next?

I still wanted to be a part of what has been a tremendous development for the area and wondered if I could continue to be involved as a Link Coordinator. Over the years I have received a number of emails per week from the local, regional and national bodies. You may not know, but Cotgrave & District is part of a national pyramid of U3A associations. Local associations are the base of the pyramid; there are area committees, regional committees and finally a national organisation. I believe that it is essential that we keep and maintain our links with others. We benefit from advice and support if we need it, swapping ideas and helping other groups to develop, joint group work where possible, insurance and resource banks to draw from and a national committee and support staff now based firmly in London.

Over the years I have attended, as have other Committee members, a number of conferences, workshops and meetings covering a range of activities. Some of these have been very productive, others less so. We recently attended the annual conference at Nottingham University in August and had the opportunity to establish networks with loads of other associations. As a small association we have particular strengths and weaknesses. Some associations, it may surprise you to know, have between 1,000 and 2,000 members! Of course, that also presents unique problems and opportunities, not least in finance and number of groups. However, we believe that the smallness we have contributes to a great, friendly atmosphere that sets us apart. I have pointed this out at regional and national meetings, although recognising that we cannot stand still and become complacent. We need to be, I believe, a functioning, contributing part of the whole society.

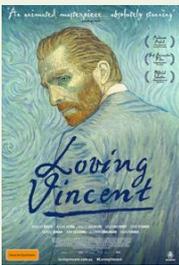
Your Committee have been encouraging in my pursuit of forging links. We have had serious discussions around the part, if any, we can play nationally. So, what am I doing? I still receive all the information and pass the relevant data on to your Committee. I am tasked to attend as many local, regional and national meetings, workshops and conferences as I can. Fortunately, our Committee is always willing to help out when I cannot attend. With the national database now set up, we have access to many resources which our group leaders could use to their advantage. Recently, there have been a number of meetings, some may say not before time, on the national and, therefore, our constitution.

Do I find the work interesting? Yes and no. It is always useful to speak from the basis of knowledge, but not all of the consultations produce results that have a significant effect on us. But the links should remain. So, I am still here and working for you. If you have any questions on the systems or advice on how you think we can use other associations, national bodies and resource bases, don't hesitate to contact me with your thoughts.

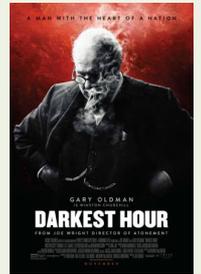
Michael O'Connor

## Film Club

The Silver Screen presentations during the winter quarter have included 5 films nominated for Oscar/BAFTA film awards.



'Loving Vincent' a tribute to the Dutch Master Vincent van Gogh filmed as a fully painted animated feature contained over 62000 individual painted frames, 'The Greatest Showman' the story of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century American impresario PT Barnham, 'Darkest Hour' the story of Winston Churchill's determination as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to resist the Nazis, 'The Post' telling of the unlikely partnership of Katherine Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, and the editor Ben Bradlee in the fight to expose a massive cover-up by the USA government and 'The Shape of Water' a tale set in 1960's Baltimore where the life of a female caretaker is changed forever when she discovers a lab's classified secret experiment.



Two films from the early days of cinema were also shown: 'North by Northwest' the 1959 Alfred Hitchcock classic telling the tale of an advertising man victim of mistaken identity and 'A Matter of Life and Death' where a celestial court must determine whether to give an injured wartime pilot a second chance at life.



'Journeys End' told the story of a group of British Officers contemplating their fate whilst in a dugout in Aisne on the eve of the 1918 Spring Offensive with 'Marjorie Prime' showing an ailing widow turning to holographic projection in an effort to stave off memory loss and the melancholy of old age.

A film, based with a background of the first non-stop single-handed round-the-world yacht race of 1968, 'The Mercy' tells the true story of amateur sailor Donald Crowhurst.



'The Man who Invented Christmas' follows author Charles Dickens as he brings the life of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the other classic characters to his masterpiece 'A Christmas Carol' whilst 'Downsizing' involves Norwegian scientists, having mastered a way of miniaturising people in a bid to save the planet, finding that their volunteers realise that their dollhouse sized life is not that different from the one they left behind.

The Long Clawson film nights showed 3 remakes of classic films. 'Beauty and the Beast' was a live action film of the animated classic with the addition of several new songs. 'Whiskey Galore', set in the Second World War when whiskey rationing was in effect, showed the efforts the locals made in plundering a cargo of whiskey from a ship stranded on rocks just offshore and 'My Cousin Rachel' based on the novel by Daphne du Maurier.

## Card and Board Games

When I wrote the last article for our Gazette we were preparing for our pre-Christmas games evening, so I thought it appropriate to briefly look back at the event. We had many different activities going on simultaneously which kept everyone busy. There was a skill game where you could win *real* money (5p - but no-one won it!), cards, bagatelle, guessing games, a form of Bingo and (get us getting all down with the kids!) even one on the iPad! We played both in teams and as individuals, and finished the evening with our usual, and invariably raucous, everyone-round-the-table board game. The mince pies were popular and the mulled wine helped everyone settle into a friendly but still competitive (you know who you are!) evening. The February C&BG evening included the members playing Yahtzee, Tri-ominoes, Newmarket and Alice in Wonderland (don't ask), before we ended the evening all round the table again. I love the whole evening but get particular pleasure from seeing everyone joining in all together at the end. Such fun!

And finally.... yesterday I started to think about what I could write in this article. There isn't anything really 'newsy' so, instead, I thought I'd be a bit creative - this is what I came up with:

- I really like a game of Bridge, but the more I play the trickier it gets.
- The other day, in the toy shop, I knocked a game off the shelf and then they all fell off! I think that's called the domino effect.
- I used to study general knowledge but found it quite a trivial pursuit.
- I don't have the patience to play cards by myself.
- I'd like to do cryptic crosswords but haven't a clue how to start.

On a last little note, because of space limitations, our Group is actually at maximum capacity. We do, however, have a 'waiting/reserves list' and try to include everyone as much as possible.

## Science Group

The Science Group has experienced a very minor hiccup in that its leader has taken time off to have a second new hip joint but such is our strength in depth that it was hardly noticed. Keith Lindsell gave an excellent talk to the last meeting on Earth Science. We also plan to invite a couple of contacts from the Beeston Science Group to talk to us on Michael Faraday at the Royal Institution and how new drugs are developed from naturally-occurring remedies.

Prior to all this, though, we spent a happy hour learning about the weird behaviour of ice and water. You (the reader) may think of water as a 'typical' and commonplace liquid but, believe me, you would be wrong - water is truly anomalous and it all depends on a little thing called a 'hydrogen bond'. If, then, you would like to belong to a select Cotgrave minority who understand such unusual phenomena, all you have to do is come and join us. I assure you that this is a Science Group for non-scientists - please don't feel afraid.

## COFFEE AND CHAT

### Every 4th Wednesday of the Month

This Group does what it says in the Title.

Visit local Garden Centres or the Manvers Arms at 10.30 on alternative months to enjoy a coffee or tea and maybe a piece of cake with convivial company.

All are welcome especially new members both male and female.

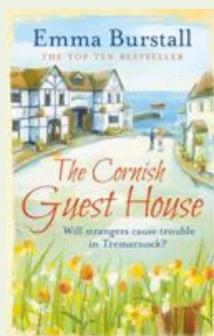
This is a great way of meeting other members and making new friends.

Transport is usually available from the Manvers to the Garden Centres. (Meet at 10.00)

# Group News

## Book Club

The book club meets on the 3rd Monday at Cotgrave library at 2.15p.m. We are a friendly Group, reading and reviewing a wide range of books with easy discussion, feedback and varied opinions on the literature.

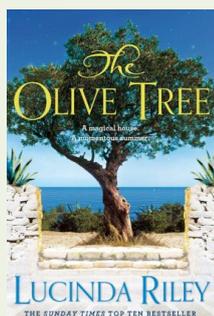
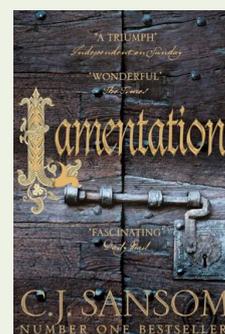


Large print and talking books are available, all welcome.

Over the last three months we have visited Cornwall, Tudor England and Cyprus.

The first book was *The Cornish Guest House* by Emma Burstall. Part of a series of books set in a small fishing village, crowded with holiday-makers in the summer but a sleepy backwater at other times. The residents are disturbed by a new couple who take over the B&B resulting in crime and intrigue affecting the whole close-knit community. This book lacked depth and skilled writing but did highlight the current problem of scamming vulnerable people for money. This was a holiday read for the Christmas period but after discussion only scored 4.5.

The next read was *Lamentation* by C.J. Sansom. Again part of a series set in 1546. This is a very well researched and written book depicting life at that time of religious, political instability and murder. The hunting down and burning of heretics and political turmoil with Henry VIII's failing health and the question who is to be Edward's Regent on his succession? Also Catherine Parr is at risk by writing a book about her thoughts and opinions, this is stolen?... By whom? This was an intense real page turner 750 pages and confirms Sansom's status as one of the top historical writers and was enjoyed by all... We will revisit her. Scored 9.



The final book *The Olive Tree* by Lucinda Riley. This is set in Cyprus, Helena is a 13yr. old staying at her godfather's house called Pandora!! Which she later inherits. 24 years later she, with husband and son, returns for a long hot summer holiday but this is marred by a chain of events set in motion that threaten to make her past and present collide. The idyllic beauty masks a web of secrets she has kept from her family and life will never be the same again!!

Sounds exciting and will be discussed at the next meeting.

We have a very varied list of books over the rest of 2018 to read and hopefully enjoy.

## Comedy Corner

I went to buy some camouflage trousers  
.....but I could not find any.

### Creative Writing

At our last meeting in January we welcomed three new people, bring us to seven attendees. The *suggested* topic was Much Ado About Nothing; attached is one contribution.

Our next meeting (which we will have had by the time you read this) considers

Aches and Pains --- I imagine we could get a big response from most of our readers!

#### Much Ado About Nothing

I thought I'd take a minute, to consider the person I am,  
What brought me to this moment, what covered the years that I span.  
It all started when, as a baby, my life was for me to live—  
When I had everything to take, and, even more, everything to give

Everything was possible, everything was exciting and new,  
Everything had to be learnt, until eventually I knew  
It's not necessary to have everything, that's an impossible dream;  
That everything isn't exactly, what everything to others might seem.

As I grew I could have been anyone, done anything on any day.  
Whatever each day would bring me, I could do anything in my own way,  
Anything I wanted I could have, anything I needed was mine  
Anything came really easily, anything at any time.

Then as a mother with children, there was always something to do;  
Something always kept me busy, something as my family grew  
Those somethings filled my life with something that would not last,  
Something turned into memories as they faded into the past.

And now I'm newly retired, and often have nothing to do.  
Nothing to fill quiet moments, nothing from morning 'til noon,  
Nothing through the afternoon hours, nothing but evening TV,  
Nothing to plan or work for, nothing but nothing for me.

But now I've found I can do everything, or anything,  
or something I choose.  
So I play bridge and badminton and backgammon,  
I don't care if I win or lose.  
I'm busy running a choir, and volunteering at a local school—  
And finally I have discovered that doing NOTHING is  
really Cool!

Comedy aside

I love to study sponges, they're so absorbing

## Group News

### Singing for Pleasure

Once Christmas and the New Year celebrations were behind us we re-grouped in January to start another year of Singing for Pleasure (I acknowledge that the 'for pleasure' part of that title might be a little questionable at times!). We have new songs to sing and more plans afoot to grow our repertoire.

A typical indication of our ambition is that, in mid-February, we broke away from our usual casual sing-along format and, instead, spent the entire session working hard to learn how to sing a lovely new song in 3-part harmony - we sometimes do 2 parts but 3 is a new venture. The concentration was almost palpable at times but, when we got it right, the harmonic sounds were awesome! The high and low voices had the biggest challenges, with the mid-range voices being responsible for holding the main melody. By the end of the evening we all knew what we were meant to be doing. The members that missed the evening due to illness or holidays or other commitments have quite a lot of catching up to do. Several people were kind enough to make a point of saying to me how much they had enjoyed the work out and we will continue to use this singular format from time to time in the future.

We have all learnt such a lot since we started, and this has led to other things. For example, a couple of years ago, one of the Group asked me for piano lessons, and another has recently approached me for individual singing lessons! Now, I would never, ever profess to be either qualified or competent at either of these things but, together, we took on the challenges. As a result, we now have a member who, through dedication and practice, can play the piano and another who is building more confidence in their ability to sing. How great is that!

Another member recently sent me an email apologising for her absence at a meeting but then went on to say that the Group 'keeps the winter blues away' - isn't that lovely?

In spring some of us are planning to participate in The Ruddington Big Sing. I don't know very much about it yet but it seems to start off with various workshops and then end with everyone singing together. It should be fun. If any Cotgrave & District U3A members who are not in the Singing for Pleasure Group are interested in going, please feel free to let me know and we will see if you can come along with us.

### New exercise plan for people over 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room on each side

With a 5lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your side and hold them there as long as you can. Try and reach a full minute and then relax.

Each day you will find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10lb potato bags. Then try 50lb potato bags and eventually try to get where you can lift a 100lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for a full minute (I'm at this stage)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

# Group News

## Short Walks Group

The walks undertaken by the Group consisted of two published walks and one repeat requested by members.



The December walk took us to Southwell where we undertook one of 'The Bramley Apple Trails'. The walk included a visit to the Bramley Apple Centre, The Old Station and the Community Orchard before taking us via the Workhouse, the site of the first Bramley Apple Tree and the Minster, where due to a wedding taking place we were not able to visit the Minster but used The Refectory for a well-earned coffee and cake.

Our February walk was again a published walk taking in the streets and buildings of Nottingham associated with the life of William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army. The trail took us to the site of the Sampson Biddulph Academy, where he was educated, and now The Lace Market Theatre, to the Wesleyan Chapel where in 1844 he dedicated his life to God, now the Broadway Cinema and to the William Booth Memorial Halls before completing the trail at his birthplace, which is now the William Booth Birthplace Museum.



The January walk was one that we had already undertaken but we took it in reverse. Starting at the Midland Station we walked down Queens Walk to the river Trent where we picked up the embankment path to walk via the Suspension Bridge to Trent Bridge. Unfortunately a bitter wind blew up along the river so we took a coffee break in what was once Boots Social Club on Trent Bridge but where our fortunes changed as there was a 'downpour' and instead of getting wet we were able to use public transport back home.

## Longer Walks Group.



Pre Christmas a good turnout was enjoyed for a fairly short out and back walk along the Grantham canal from the Dove Cottage cafe to Plungar. It was cold and damp so we basically completed this and then took refuge in the cafe for refreshments before returning to our Christmas planning.

Walkers were fascinated by their leader's erudite and well informed knowledge of the local disused railway lines, which cross the canal. Not.



After Christmas some hardy souls met at Cossington, Leics for a brisk walk along the River Soar and around a couple of the lakes in the Watermead Country Park, just off the A46 as you approach Leicester. In fact we picked a bright and dry day so, by democratic consent, we did a longer walk than the poor leader (suffering from the "lurgie") envisaged. Walkers were pleasantly surprised by Watermead, which is rather a gem just over 20 minutes away from Cotgrave.



## Group News

### Luncheon Group



The December outing was to 'The Nevile Arms' at Kinoulton. It was obviously a very popular choice and being just before Christmas we numbered 32, I think a record for our Group, and managed to fill the main part of the restaurant. The menu is not extensive but had enough variation for everyone to enjoy. The food was of good quality, well cooked and nicely presented. Everyone appeared to enjoy the occasion with several very positive comments made.

The venue for our January lunch was the Lady Bay, funnily enough situated in Ladybay! The Lady Bay is a major chain pub. There's nothing gastro about The Lady Bay. It's a proper pub with a cosy interior, well priced drinks and a good value menu of tasty pub food favourites.

19 of us were there. It should have been more, but the "winter bugs" doing the rounds meant some could not attend. The staff were very accommodating and friendly.



Our February lunch was the Plough at Normanton on the Wolds. This proved a popular choice as 35 were there. Exceeding the previous record! As you may imagine, this created problems. The kitchen at the Plough could not serve 35 meals at the same time from their extensive menu. However, we were able to choose from a more limited menu, which nevertheless gave a good choice. This worked well and ensued that everyone on a table received their food at the same time.

The pie was a popular choice and it was interesting to see liver and onions on the menu. There was a choice of very reasonably priced "Light" or "Main" courses. The ice cream was an excellent sweet!

Rachel and all staff at the Plough worked really hard to ensure our large party had an enjoyable and pleasant lunch.

### Ukulele Group



The Ukulele Group started back in June 2017 and we meet twice a month to enjoy a couple of hours of strumming along to some familiar songs. We have one or two fairly experienced players, but everyone is progressing well and we can now manage quite a good and diverse little repertoire.

Each session is very light-hearted with no pressure and we all help each other when we try something new.

## Theatre Group

The group went to four shows since the last Gazette came out. There was quite a variety, as you will see:



*An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde. Lace Market Theatre. Saturday December 16th 2017.

A comedy of manners, with some deeper themes. Well presented and acted, as we have come to expect from the Lace Market. The costumes were particularly fine. There was some criticism of the set but on the whole we enjoyed the production, and were impressed by the standard of amateur theatre..



*The Haunting* by Charles Dickens Lace Market Theatre -Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018

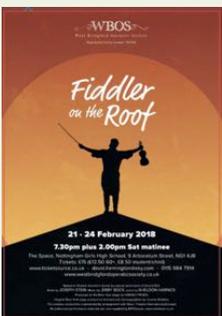
A small but select group went to see a collection of ghost stories written by Dickens and composited into one terrifying tale.

The play is about a young book dealer being sent to a secluded and crumbling old mansion to catalogue a collection of rare and antique books. Whilst there, a sinister and frightening secret is slowly revealed to both the book dealer and the house owner.

The stage setting is a single room in the mansion where the book collection is stored and an adjacent bedroom in which the young man sleeps whilst undertaking his task. This arrangement lent itself to all sorts of physical items being levitated or randomly moved around the room creating an uncomfortable and scary atmosphere to the audience.

There were only three actors who performed the play but they kept us all on ‘tenterhooks’ throughout (aided of course by numerous weird noises and associated natural weather ‘outbursts’).

A thoroughly enjoyable and haunting play, and not too menacing for audiences of a less nervous disposition.



*Fiddler on the Roof*, Nottingham Girls’ High School, Saturday February 24th

Tevye and Golde have lived all their lives in the same shtetl, and follow “Tradition” in finding husbands for their daughters. But life is changing. Girls want to marry for love, and the old ways are swept away by political happenings and new ideas. Some wonderful songs in Fiddler - “If I were a rich man”, “To Life” and “Do you Love Me” being among the favourites.

The Hungarian troupe from Derby enhanced the dancing - the bottle dance was electrifying. Perhaps the chorus was a little too large to allow for livelier dancing otherwise. But this was the only criticism. A well mounted production, in a congenial new performance space.

[Continued on the next page](#)

## Group News

### Theatre Group (continued)

**But, for those few who saw it, all the other plays were eclipsed by:**



*Wonderland* Nottingham Playhouse, Thursday February 15th

This was a powerful and fascinating play charting the history of the miners' strike through the lives of men at Welbeck Colliery.

The use of the underground mine as a "set" was a revelation as it showed the harsh working conditions, but also was effectively used to depict both Claridge's Hotel and the Orgreave confrontation between miners and the police.

There was much humour as well as sadness as we witnessed the inevitable closure of a once great industry with bitter reflections that today we import so much of our coal from abroad.

The actors were able to use song and dance to show the dangers they faced as well as the camaraderie that existed between the men. Youthful apprentices and experienced deputies gave us an insight into a working pattern sadly lost to many communities. Inevitably there was swearing but the audience quickly recognised the appropriateness of the language in both miners, politicians and industrialists.

For those of us who lived through the period it gave insight into how the strike impacted on lives as well as other events such as the Libyan embassy siege and the Brighton bombing affected public opinion. At the end the audience gave a standing ovation and I was moved to see a lady near to me wiping a tear as she remembered that period in her life.

People in the Theatre Group have already received news of future trips. If you would like to join us, please sign up at the next Open Meeting, or contact Anna.

### Knit and Natter Group



The Knit and Natter Group continue to meet regularly once a month on a Monday afternoon. Recently we have been very lucky to have Lesley join the group. It turns out she is a dab hand at quilting. A number of the group expressed an interest in learning this skill which Lesley has very kindly agreed to teach them. (See the photo).

The rest of the Group continue with their embroidery, crocheting and knitting and, of course, lots of chatting

## Real Ale Group

Cotgrave & District Real Ale Group (R.A.G.) ventured to the Hand & Heart pub in Derby Road, Nottingham for its February meeting.



The pub, the rear part of which is built into the sand stone escarpment is clean, pleasant, and interesting, with a good range of ales and food. The only problem with the venue is that it is a fairly long walk

from Mount Street bus stop to nearly the top of Derby Road hill, which a couple of our members found a little challenging.

After sampling our usual 5 half pints of different, curiously named, ales, this time being Little Weed, Round Heart, Colt (the least popular), Resolution, and Jay, one enthusiastic member decided we should try Chouffre, a French beer on tap (the only one in Nottingham) at 8%. He therefore ordered 3 half pints to divide between the eight drinkers, as a “lunch cap”! Unfortunately he forgot to mention that this beer cost £4.50 a half pint! This put £1.50 on everyone's bill. It was good though!

## Comedy Corner

I'm making a list of reasons to move to Switzerland.

*The flag is a big plus.*

## Computer Club

### “A Problem Aired is a Problem Shared”

Let's face it, most of us have spent many a frustrating day or so trying to unravel the weird and wonderful ways of our laptop/tablet/smartphone.

Well, the Computer Club comes together once a month to try to help out, as best we can, by sharing experiences in a workshop environment.

Some of our members are more computer literate than others . . . it doesn't matter . . . we're all there to help, to chuck in our two penneth.

So just come along and air your problems . . . someone else will no doubt have encountered some or all of them themselves, may well have solved them and be happy to share their experiences with you.

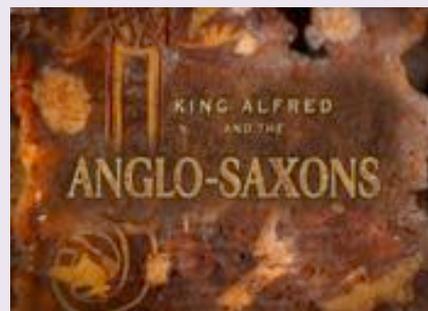
At our most recent session we unravelled the problem of creating a revolving screen (important, it was explained, for gardening photos).

We heard how one of our members had purchased a Tablet some years ago and had never got round to using it (!) . . . well, with the help of some settings in “Settings” we got her up and running.

We heard how, if all else fails (it sometimes does!) a quick trip to the John Lewis Computing Department can, with the help of a few well chosen taps on the keyboard, solve what had appeared to be intractable problems (and the service is free).

So, do come along . . . air your issues with us . . . we're here to help solve your computing problems.

### History Group



The **December meeting** held at the Manvers pub was a quiz about Cotgrave history and included many facts and stories told on the Cotgrave walk No 1 held a few months previously. Many of the questions were asked such as: -

What was the name of one of Cotgrave's three Windmills?

The previous names of the Rose & Crown and Manvers pubs?

How old is the Saxon burial ground?

Which 'royals' visited Cotgrave in 1977 brought forward some interesting answers (although not correct) did cause some consternation and hilarity on the day.

The group was informed that a planned 2<sup>nd</sup> walk would take place in February 2018 and would cover the remaining areas of the village and questions would follow.

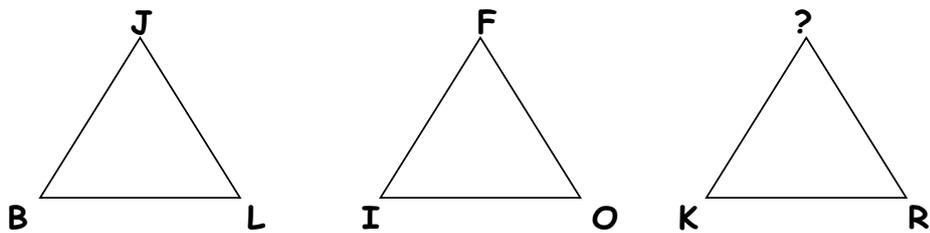
**January's meeting** was a presentation by Carole Pimblett tracing a surname in Preston and showing many archive maps/photographs of the town along with locations of the surname in relation to their working places (predominantly the cotton mills) and social gathering centres. Carole commented that this type of research is a typical reflection of families, their connections, the geographical proximity or migration to cities but also of the difficulties of tracing individuals through the various records and noting the errors that can occur in the recording procedures. Members valued the presentation saying that it was a fascinating insight into that period of time.

**February** saw the second Cotgrave walk when Malcolm and Paul put together a walk schedule showing the places of interest with factual/anecdotal information about the place or location. Malcolm led the walk starting from All Saints church via Church St. through to Plumtree road, along Mensing Ave and down through Green Platt/Broadmeer to Scrimshire lane. Although not proceeding up Owthorpe Road, Malcolm explained the history of various places and their location before walking down Risegate with its past associations and finally to Bingham road and Chapel lane. Malcolm had produced a schematic map of the walk and offered to reproduce copies and supporting narrative to those who were interested. Members and guests of the history group thanked Malcolm for his time and efforts.

# Tony's Brain Teaser

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1. If two painters can complete 2 rooms in 2 hours. How many painters are needed to complete 18 rooms in 6 hours?
2. Which number logically follows this series? 4 6 9 6 14 6 ...
3. Which conclusion follows from the statements with absolute certainty?  
**A) None of the stamp collectors is an architect.**  
**B) All the teachers are stamp collectors.**
  - All stamp collectors are architects
  - Architects are not teachers
  - No stamp collectors are teachers
  - Some teachers are architects
4. **Water** is to a **pipe** as ? is to a **wire**.
  - Cord
  - Electricity
  - Heat
  - Gas
5. Which letter tops the third triangle?



6. John has a new set of golf clubs. Using a club 8 the ball travels an average distance of 100 metres. Using a club 7 the ball travels an average distance of 108 metres... Using a club 6 the ball travels an average distance of 114 metres. How far will the ball go if John uses a club 5?

Answers can be found on Page 17

## Speakers Corner (1) - Rev Dr Ebenezer Cobham Brewer

The General Meetings of 2018 began in lively fashion with a presentation by Carol Brooks on the life and writings of a Victorian bibliophile who rejoiced in the delights of random fact collection. Ebenezer Cobham Brewer was the author of some forty books on a wide range of subjects but is best known for his ‘Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable’ which was first published in 1870 and is still being revised today. Carol came to our meeting fully equipped with a paperback copy which must have been about three inches thick and weighing in at several pounds (in deference to its Victorian origins I hope I may be forgiven for overlooking the existence of metric units!). The author, himself, looked anything but a lightweight and sported a magnificently flowing beard which contrasted dramatically with a marked lack of hair – but, to be fair, the likeness was obviously made during his later years. These years, we were told, were spent in the village of Edwinstowe (some ten kilometres north-east of Mansfield) thereby giving the subject a ‘local’ flavour. Brewer’s son-in-law was Rector of the village church of St Mary’s where, it is rumoured, Maid Marion and Robin Hood were married, a ‘local’ fact (?) that appears to be considerably better celebrated than the residence of our rather less fictitious subject, even though the latter is buried in the churchyard.



Brewer was born in Norwich in 1810 to parents who clearly valued education. His father ran a private school associated with a Norwich Baptist community and the son soon picked up his father’s interest in fact-finding. From being a small boy, he started a diary and maintained the habit of writing down each day such new discoveries as had come his way. He was obviously destined for a life of academic excellence; he attended Trinity Hall, Cambridge, duly gaining a first class honours degree in Law in 1836. He was ordained in 1838, then returned to Norwich to teach in his father’s school but took every opportunity to travel, in particular, spending time in Paris where he married Ellen Mary Tebbutt, the daughter of another Reverend gentleman from Hove, near Brighton. All the while he continued to note down a multiplicity of ‘facts’ which gradually grew into a book ‘A Guide to the Scientific Knowledge of Things Familiar’ in which he emphasised his religious beliefs by relating his scientific observations to the goodness of God. After several false starts this was eventually published by Cassells in 1840 and became an instant success. But it was in 1856 that he began work on his famous Dictionary. It was eventually published in 1870 and by 1894 had sold over a hundred thousand copies – this in spite of his publisher’s initial doubts, enjoining him not to make it too learned nor include too many Latin quotations!

Brewer’s wife died in 1878 and he moved to Ruddington to live in the vicarage with his daughter, the wife of the Rector. His grandson recalled that his grandfather’s bedroom wall was papered with plain white paper so that he could jot down anything of interest which came to mind! Such was his dedication to fact-collecting. The family moved to Edwinstowe in 1884 where Dr Brewer continued to edit a revised edition of his master-work, while finding time to entertain his grandchildren with both ‘fact’ and fable, to work in the vicarage garden and to assist his son-in-law with parish duties. He died there in 1897.

Our meeting ended with a quiz on the meaning of words. What, we were asked, were the original meanings of some thirty well-known modern words? Few of us knew – indeed, the best ‘score’ was three correct out of thirty. Such is the way in which language changes. It was both illuminating and just a little humiliating. Oh, and, finally, this was by him, too:

“Little drops of water, Little grains of sand, Make the mighty ocean And the pleasant land.”

## Speakers Corner (2) -

### The Life and Travels of Robert Bruce Napoleon Walker

#### The Life and Travels of Robert Bruce Napoleon Walker

or - What do the Battle of Trafalgar,  
Princess Agnorogoule Ikoutou of the Gabon  
Amadeus Mozart and my wife have in common?

For our February talk we were treated to a presentation by local historian Stephen Flinders entitled The Life and Travels of Robert Bruce Napoleon Walker (or – what do the Battle of Trafalgar, Princess Agnorogoule Ikoutou of the Gabon, and my wife have in common?)

This proved to be an informative, thought provoking and well researched presentation made in Stephens’s clear and witty style.

R B N Walker was born on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1832 in Sussex, the seventh child of Royal Navy Lieutenant Henry Walker and his wife Charlotte. Here lies the connection to Trafalgar where Henry was a midshipman on board the Bellerophon at the Battle of Trafalgar.

Stephen Flinders wife through tracing her family history has discovered that she is a descendant of the Walker family. Hence a further connection to R B N W.

In 1851 Walker gained employment with the Liverpool based shipping and Trading Company of Hatton and Cookson and left for Sette Karma in the French Colony of Gaboon (Gabon), West Africa where his older brother Henry Clements Walker had been trading since the 1840s. He returned to England in 1854 and married Margaret Molesworth



before returning to Gabon with the task of establishing a new trading station or ‘factory’ on behalf of Hatton and Cookson in Libreville. This task was carried out successfully and Walker became a prosperous and esteemed businessman.



It was during this period that Walker became a significant donor of African artefacts to British museums. Of particular note was his major contribution (143 items) to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford where he was involved in the affairs of the Ethnological Society of London (ESL) and the Anthropological Society of London (ASL).

Walker had two sons with Margaret before she died in 1873. He remarried to Minnie Bevir but there were no children and the marriage broke down probably due to his long absences in Africa and to Minnie’s ‘intemperance and incurring debt’. She did however outlive Walker living in London where she died in 1910.



Walkers long spells in Africa led to a number of liaisons with native women. The most enduring of these with Princess Agnorogoule Ikoutou of the Mpongwe tribe, a niece of King Louis Dowe, resulted in the birth of Andre Raponda Walker (1871) and a daughter (1873). The third connection in the presentation...

It is also fairly certain that he fathered further unrecorded children by other native women. In 1866 Walker wrote a paper suggesting that African women once experiencing relations with a white man could not return to an inferior native relationship. Imagine the furore that would cause in today’s environment.

Continued on the next page

## Speakers Corner (2) - (continued)

### The Life and Travels of Robert Bruce Napoleon Walker



Andre became famous in his own right becoming an author, botanist and ethnographer and also the first Gabonese Roman Catholic Priest. With his father, he visited England once in 1875 before returning to Gabon and probably he never saw his father again

By 1876, Walker was looking for new opportunities and left his position with Hatton and Cookson and travelled via Paris to Marseilles to invest his shrinking resources in an ice skating venture. This unsound venture soon ran into financial difficulties further depleting his finances and he returned to England. He secured backing to represent a gold prospecting enterprise the 'Guinea Coast Gold Mining Co.' probably through his contacts and on the back of his wide and successful experience of working in Africa. His lack of geological experience and misplaced trust in the 'mining experts' led to this venture failing, and with it his reputation, the investors capital and most of his remaining wealth took a severe hit. By the mid 1880s he was forced to resort to borrowing and begging money from friends and colleagues.

Robert Bruce Napoleon Walker died in London on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1901 and was buried at Brompton Cemetery, sharing the same plot as his first wife Margaret and his brother in law Thomas Molesworth.

### Hope you found this fun!!

1. Six painters

2. Correct answer is 19.

Each time 5 gets added, the sixes in-between remain constant.

3. The second conclusion is correct.

4. The correct answer is Electricity.

5. Water flows through a pipe. Electricity is conducted through a wire.

The answer is G.

In each triangle the numerical value of the lower left letter increases by the numerical value of the top letter to give the lower right letter.

ie. L H Triangle  $2 + 10 = 12$ : Centre Triangle  $9 + 6 = 15$ :

R H Triangle  $11 + ? = 18$ . Therefore  $? = 7$  the numerical value of G.

6. The answer is 118 metres.

With each club with a lower number, the ball travels farther by the difference between the previous two clubs, minus 2 metres. (Thus  $114 - 108$  is  $6 - 2$  is 4 metres. 4 + 114 is 118

### Answers to Tony's Brain Teasers

## And Finally

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Welcome to the new members who have joined since the  
Winter issue of the Gazette  
Christine Jeffreys, Trevor Peet, Judy Bullock,  
Liz Manning and Jim Odell

If you are booking a holiday with Riviera Travel don't forget to mention your membership of Cotgrave & District 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.)*

*Articles for inclusion in the next edition of the Gazette should be sent to*

*The Editor by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018*