

BEESTON



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
Registered Charity No. 1152882



NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2016

Editor – Marie Potts editor@beestonu3a.org.uk
Website address. Steve Austin www.beestonu3a.org.uk

OPEN MEETINGS

October 2016	Louise Fountain	Attenborough Nature Reserve
November 2016	Irene Starkey	Irene Starkey Entertains
December 2016	Christmas Meeting – Programme to be advised	

Open Meeting – Fire Procedure.

After consultation with a representative from the Beeston Methodist Church, and discussion at our Committee Meeting, it was felt we should have a formal Fire Procedure for the Monthly Meeting. It is very simple:

In the event of a fire leave via the nearest fire exit. If you are main church, you should exit from both **upstairs** and downstairs via the doors at the back (Chilwell Road end) of the church. Committee Members present in the main church will act as stewards and guide you towards these exits.

Ilkeston U3A, one of the members of our Cluster

Group, is holding an Interest Group Fair and Open Day, on Tuesday 4th October 2016 at any time between 10.00am and 12.00am.

The event will be held at the Arena, at the bottom of Chalons Way, Ilkeston near Tesco.

Beeston U3A members are cordially invited to attend this event

Trips and Outings in 2016/17

Christmas Outing to Haddon Hall Derbyshire

Friday 9th December 2016

Cost: £21.50 - this includes entrance to hall, coach fare and driver's gratuity.

Visit Haddon Hall, Derbyshire to see the Hall decorated for Christmas. We aim to arrive at 11 am in time for refreshments at Haddon (not included). **There will be time to go around the Hall and see the decorations** - this should take between an hour and a half/an hour and three quarters.

Lunch/snacks will be available at Haddon - 1pm-2pm.

If the weather is good, then there is the opportunity to go around the gardens and visit the shop before returning to Beeston.

There is a short walk up the drive to the Hall as the coach will stay in the parking area across the road from the Hall.

If members wish to make their own way there and take advantage of the reduced entrance fee, please contact Lucy. You MUST tell Lucy in advance if you are going to do this

Cathedral City of Litchfield

Friday 15th April, 2017 - Cost £14 per person

Lichfield Cathedral which houses a small permanent display of the Staffordshire Hoard - the largest Anglo-Saxon hoard of gold.

An opportunity to visit Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum, Erasmus Darwin's house - scientist, doctor, inventor, poet, botanist & grandfather of Charles Darwin

Friday is Market Day, and there are plenty of places to eat and shop.

Blenheim palace - overnight stay 16/17 June 2017

Cost - £90.00 per person, £20.00 single room supplement, this includes entrance to Blenheim Palace, Park and Gardens. Staying overnight - dinner, bed and breakfast - at Holiday Inn Reading South. This Hotel has an indoor swimming pool and gym.

Visit to historic Blenheim Palace - the birthplace of Winston Churchill. Set in a landscape designed by Capability Brown.

We visit a place of interest on the journey down (probably Oxford) and, following our time at Blenheim on 17 June 2017, visit somewhere on the way back. These details will be available at a later date.

If you would like to book a place on any of these outings, please contact Lucy Beardsley on lucybrdsly@yahoo.co.uk or Tel 0115 9397230

Monthly Meetings



Our June monthly meeting brought us John Whiffield who's talk was The Kennedy Family – Triumphs and Tragedies.

John is not so much a speaker, more a story teller I feel. His entire talk was done without the aid of notes, slides or other prompts but was interesting, informative and certainly held the attention for the length of the talk. John told us all about the Kennedy family, which was beyond fiction. Its patriarch, Joseph and his wife Rose, had nine children and throughout their lives, the family experienced more than their fair share of tragedy,

including several fatal air crashes and two assassinations.

He had designs on the Presidency and in 1938 he was appointed US Ambassador in Great Britain, but made himself very unpopular by constantly maligning Britain and during the Blitz would drive his family into the country to avoid it. As a result of his actions, he was recalled to the USA and lost any chance at the Presidency. He spent the rest of his life trying to get one of his sons into the White House. Daughters didn't come into it! Unfortunately, his first choice, John Jr was killed during WWII so he turned his attention to John F, with great success, and subsequently Robert, both tragically assassinated. Edward was a different character. He was more charismatic, and a better speaker than his brothers, in John's view, but he was unstable. He was the longest serving Senator, 1962-2009, but the Chappaquiddick incident effectively ended his career. The most famous of the female siblings, were Patricia, a socialite rebel who married the actor Peter Lawford, the marriage ending in divorce, and Kathleen who was a friend of the Miiford sisters and was presented at court. She went against the family and married the Marquis of Hartington who was killed in the war. She later became engaged to the Earl of Fitzwilliam, but tragically they died in a plane crash flying from Paris to the South of France, against the wishes of the pilot when weather conditions were bad. She is buried at Chatsworth.

Our July meeting's write up is by Ace Cub Reporter Breda Cooper who had her arm twisted by the wicked Ed. Thanks Breda.

The speaker, Tony Waltham, was to talk on 'North Korea-South Korea. Oh dear this could be boring. Not with this guy. My ribs ached when he finished. Tony was entertaining and informative. If you excuse the Anglo Saxon expletives it was a really interesting talk.

Tony had visited several times, with his wife. They had made friends with the locals and it appears the people of the South are friendly and welcoming. The markets were busy and absolutely filled with food of all colours. But Tony's description of 'KIMCHEE' a seemingly popular dish (hope that's the spelling) was enough to give it a miss should I ever see it on a menu, unless you just love cabbage. The populace appears well fed. They are industrious and appear happy. Tony gave us views of the countryside and some of the activities taken by the locals. He also took us to the burial hills of previous rulers. These made me think of the 'barrows' that are found here in England. Life in general seems quite good for South Koreans.

North Korea is a very different picture. Our speaker was with about half a dozen others on an organised bus trip. Everything is organised, and in some instances, when visiting groups of people at a meeting, or education (translators) appeared to be stage managed tableaux for the benefit of Western tourists.

The group had 'minders' and the minders had minders. Tony's group was not allowed to wander freely. On one occasion Tony 'got away' and entered what he was told was a grocery store. It was in darkness and the shelves and chillers were empty. He was very speedily returned to the party.

The people looked unsmiling, a potato field was being harvested by hand and a plough was a museum piece being pulled by an ox (I think). I really enjoyed the talk. Could tell you lots more, but then I'd be doing the talk. If you missed it, sorry, but I won't be going to North Korea anytime soon.

Our August speaker was Dr John Dornan, who spoke on What Happens When a Doctor Goes to Ward. And our reporter is Haydn Boothroyd, who writes

Whilst in no way condoning war, Dr John Dornan, in his talk to us in August, sought to illustrate his thesis that dealing with victims of war stimulates advances in medicine which can later be applied to civilian medicine.

John started in Greek times with Hippocrates who was the first to document medical principles (the Hippocratic Oath) and came right up to date with Camp Bastion in Afghanistan. He chose a selection of conflicts to make his point. Roman mosaics show soldiers being crudely treated for sword and arrow wounds. In the 16th century during the 100 Years War, Hieronymus Brunscwhig recognised the fatal effects of poisoning from gunshot wounds and introduced the earliest form of cauterising whilst Ambroise Pare, a barber by trade, devised the method of tying off arteries to save limbs. During the Napoleonic Wars a French doctor, Baron Jean Dominique de Larrey realised the importance of "nourishing" his troops to get them back to health – even feeding them on meat from their cavalry horses. Much to the dismay of the French cavalrymen! He also introduced the idea of evacuating the wounded from the battlefield to a field hospital on a converted cavalry gun limber. Forerunner of M.A.S.H. and A. & E.



Using statistics from the Crimean War, 1853 – 56, John contrasted the DEATH rate in Scutari hospital (80%) with the SURVIVAL rate in Camp Bastion (90%). He referred to the importance Florence Nightingale placed on hygiene in her fight to improve hospital conditions and reduce death rates in Scutari. Meanwhile in 1862, arising from the Battle of Solferino the French and Austrians negotiated the foundation of the Red Cross. Amongst other examples in the 20th century, John referred to the work of Harold Gillies and Sir Archibald McIndoe in WW1 and WW2 respectively which launched progress in the fields of burns treatment and skin grafts. Illustrated by a power presentation, John's talk was informative and entertaining, much appreciated by his audience in the time honoured way.



NEW GROUPS NEWS FROM CHRIS CHATER – GROUPS COORDINATOR johnchater1@sky.com

FRENCH CONVERSATION recommences on Monday 12th September at 9.30am

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY - CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP

Change of venue - Please note that from October 21st the Group will meet at Beeston Methodist Church as the Library will be closed for approximately 9 months for refurbishment. We meet on the third Friday of each month at 2pm. September 16th will be the last meeting Beeston Library.

SCRABBLE

If you like word games and crosswords, there is space for you in the Scrabble Group. We are a friendly bunch who have lots of fun playing this fascinating game. Why not come along and give it a try? Beginner, or experienced, you will be very welcome. Contact marydot2@virginmedia.com for more details.

COMPUTER GROUP

Following successful negotiations with Central College Beeston, to form a Computer Learning Group, with tuition on a one to one basis, the first meeting will take place at the college on 21st September at 10am. There are still places available so if you would like to attend, please contact Steve Austin on stephen.austin@ntlworld.com

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Alan Windsor and Janet Smith have decided to step down from leading this Group because of dwindling attendance. Is there anyone out there who would like a new challenge and is willing to give this group a new start? As we keep stressing, it is not necessary to be a "teacher" or to lead the group single handedly. If there is any interest, we can hold a meeting and see if a team can be formed to take on this interesting subject. If you have any interest, please contact Chris Chater.

BEGINNERS UKULELE GROUP

Are you interested in learning to play the ukulele, it is an easy instrument to learn and quickly rewarding, the idea is that you will be singing and playing lots of tunes and having fun?

FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

A suggestion has been made to form a group for flower arranging which is the combination of several elements to produce a visually pleasing display of fresh, silk or dried flowers.

BEGINNERS GREEK CONVERSATION GROUP

A suggestion has been made to start a Greek conversational Group for beginners **εκμάθηση ελληνικών για αρχάριους**-----translated learning Greek for beginners

Please remember that the U3A ethos is about learning with and from its members, once it is known how many members may be interested in joining the group, an initial meeting will be arranged to discuss the formation of each new group, and the way forward. At the present no one is leading any of the suggested new groups. *If no one is willing to lead or be part of a team, the group will not happen.*

CHRIS CHATER – GROUPS COORDINATOR EMAIL johnchater1@sky.com



SHARED LEARNING PROJECT - THE GRANGE CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR ENQUIRIES?

Members of BeestonU3A have formed an interest group aimed at Shared Learning. A few members of the group are looking into the history of Beeston Police Station, formerly The Grange. Information is being gathered from many sources including visiting Nottingham Archives and searching newspaper articles giving an interesting picture of Beeston history.

It is possible some Beeston members have memories or anecdotes linked to the building during 1940s/1950s 1960s? The Police station moved in 1954 to the brick part, the house part may have been a women's refuge. The police station was extended into the whole in late 1970s. Every little recollection or old maps or photos from the 20th century will help complete the story. The building may have been used as temporary offices for National Companies during the war. Before relocating to the present site the Police Station was situated at the building now used by the Manor Pharmacy.

So far we have uncovered the names of the families living in this large house up to 1939 and found snippets about them. The house slipped from being a private residence in June 1939 when Miss Ada Percy died aged 94. From newspaper adverts we now know the Meadow dairy was operating from the Grange 1941 – 1948 at least. Did anyone work there or have a relation who worked there? We know that it became a homeless shelter connected with Social Services and in 1978 was in a bad state needing much restoration before the Police took over the whole site.

Gill Morral (archivist Beeston & District Local History Society) Kathy Shipway (Beeston U3A) Sue Yeo (Long Eaton U3A) Anything which occurs to you could help and you can contact sueyeo2@gmail.com or gill.morral@ntlworld.com or kathyshipway@yahoo.co.uk



Beeston U3A Trip to Highclere Castle, July 31st 2016

There were gasps of recognition as our coach neared Highclere Castle, home to the Earl of Carnarvon and his family. In front of us, rising up in front of a vivid blue sky, was Downton Abbey itself. Eagerly, we all trooped off the bus and went to stand in line to be allowed to enter one of the most recognisable houses in England. We were not the only people there at 10.00 on a Sunday morning as, already, the queue was forming and growing with visitors from all around the world. It is thanks to the income generated by the many visitors that much of this house has been restored.

The ancestral home, previously a Georgian mansion, of the Earls of Carnarvon was completely rebuilt in the 1830's when the 3rd Earl commissioned Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament, to transform his home into the soaring pinnacled castle we see today. The tour through the rooms open to the public was well organised. Most rooms contained a volunteer guide who was keen to talk to us about the room itself, about its role in the TV series and their own memories of the filming which took place there. In each major room there was also a large photograph showing the cast from "Downton Abbey" so that we could compare the reality with the fantasy. It really is a must for its fans so that they can relive those classic moments from the series. It was also a family space as each room contained many photographs of the family of the present Earl and of his aristocratic friends.

After visiting the house there was time for coffee and to wander the large grounds of the stately home which were originally landscaped by Capability Brown. We were so fortunate that the weather was delightful: not so hot that we were desperate for shade but sunny enough to allow for a gentle stroll. We



were also able to watch some classic planes flying overhead as there must have been an air show nearby. We spent a good three hours at Highclere before we set off from Hampshire.

So far, the trip, organised by Lucy Beardsley, had been wonderful. We had spent the night at the 4* Apollo Hotel in Basingstoke where we had very comfortable rooms as well as a good meal on the Saturday night followed by a big fry-up on the Sunday morning. We were all fascinated by the rabbits in the grounds of the hotel;

especially as the hotel itself was

just off the busy ring road. Lucky Lucy could watch them from the comfort of her room. The hotel though, was not the only pleasant surprise as, on the journey down, it had been arranged for our coach to stop at Abingdon-on-Thames for three hours.

Very few of us had ever visited Abingdon; its near neighbour, Oxford, attracting more visitors. What an absolute gem of an English market town it is. It prides itself on being one of the oldest settle sites in the whole country and, although there was no evidence of Neolithic Man, there was certainly many Medieval buildings to admire. The town had contained a Benedictine abbey and many of its old service buildings were still in use.

We all found places to have lunch there, followed by visits to the church, to the craft market, to the delightful museum and to the river. When we returned to the coach we were all so pleased that our visit to Abingdon was part of our weekend.

There was one more "extra" attached to our two days. Lucy, along with our excellent driver Rick, had



decided that, rather than stopping at a service station on the way back to Long Eaton and Beeston we would, instead, break the journey at Bicester Shopping Village. The place itself was packed with people buying items from Vivienne Westwood, Paul Smith, MaxMara and all the other high class designer outlets. Most of us managed to buy some lunch, join the queues to the toilets, and even partake in a little retail therapy before our final part of the journey.

What a great two days for which we must thank Skills, our driver Rick and, most of all, our organiser Lucy.

Helen Stewart

Beeston U3A Wine Appreciation - A Taste of Italy



Our generation can count itself lucky that we're able to capture the spirit of the 18th century Grand Tour (once a de-luxe gap year for rich young gentlemen bound for glittering careers) and enjoy a week away in Italy. Members of our Wine Appreciation Group and the Nottingham Wine Club once more teamed up to go on a wine-tasting trip under the leadership of Piers Krause. This year, the Veneto beckoned, with the added allure of a

cruise on Lake Garda and guided tours of several famous cities.

Our family-run hotel was very comfortable and the owners did everything they could to make us feel welcome and accommodate our requirements. They also had an interesting wine list. We were based in Grezzana, a small town north of Verona, sheltered by Valpantena (valley of gods) at the foot of the Dolomites.

We were in the centre of the Valpolicella wine region and the eponymous red is the wine of choice for glugging with pizza or pasta. But the winemakers have some tricks up their sleeves to make a variety of Valpolicella wines with a great deal more finesse. After harvest, bunches of good grapes are air-dried for up to 4 months, then fermented as usual. The concentrated sugars produce Valpolicella Recioto, a red dessert wine with surprising and delicious layers of character. Midway through last century, someone fermented the sweet juice just too long and Valpolicella Amarone was born. The longer fermentation converts more residual sugar into alcohol and produces a wine which is succulent and well-balanced but which ages well. And finally, wanting to extract every last ounce of flavour from the grapes, they saved what was left of the grapes and skins from the Amarone process, then fermented a batch of ordinary Valpolicella for a second time on this residue; this they call Valpolicella Ripasso.

The wineries were keen to showcase their best wines. Machinery is modern and steel tanks stainless, but the old methods are reserved for the best wines which age for between 18 months and 4 years in oak or cherrywood barrels and barriques. This softens tannins and lends subtle bramble and vanilla flavours before bottling. All three wineries we visited had a modern visitor centre, a tour of the cellars and a tasting. Our young guides (for whom the invention of Amarone in the 1950s was ancient history!) spoke wonderful English and gave us lots of facts and figures.

All this talk of red wine ignores the area's great contribution to the white wine industry, the dry white Soave. To the east of Valpolicella lies the village of Soave, visible for miles around, and having a hill-top citadel protected by walls which climb the steep slope to the castle. Our first tasting was at Cantina Soave, nestled beneath the walls and offering a taste of their famous white wine, alongside their Rocco Sveve Ripasso Superiore and Reciotta di Soave Classico.

For our next visit, we had to drive all of 5 minutes from the hotel to Bertani, winemakers of distinction (and our most expensive tasting). We tried Bertani Ripasso Superiore, Amarone and Recioto, which, as you'd expect, had plenty of class about them.

Our last visit was to Cantina Valpantena, just down the road from Grezzana. Our guide was Samantha Orlandi and her enthusiasm and joie de vivre were infectious. She talked with her hands and eyes and spiced her repertoire with a few bars of a Verdi aria, sung with a sweet but powerful voice. Oh, and the wines were very good, too! She served a white made from local gargenaga grapes and lightly oaked, very enjoyable drinking; then a Ripasso, an Amarone and a Recioto. The cantina markets its wines under the

name Torre del Falasco (Falasco's Tower). Falasco, Samantha explained, was a local brigand and thief. A bit like Robin Hood, then.

Piers organised an in-house wine tasting to precede our penultimate evening meal. A taste of prosecco was followed by Rocco Sveve Soave Classico and Cantina Valpantena Lugana, rounded and fruity. The reds kicked off with Torre del Falasco Ripasso Superiore, then Secco-Bertani (a dry version of their good red wine), finally Torre del Falasco Amarone Superiore.

We started our day on Lake Garda at Sirmione and took a ferry to Lazise where we had lunch. A brief downpour brought the brollies out, but the streets were steaming by the time we were ready to look around the pretty walled town. Onward to Garda and an opportunity to join other tourists jostling for space in the narrow alleys or queuing to buy Italy's famous gelati.

The weather was kinder for our city visits and photographs looked good in the bright Italian sunshine. Verona has graceful bridges across the River Adige, spectacular Roman ruins (including the amphitheatre which famously stages Italian operas) and architecture spanning the centuries in brick, sandstone and Veronese Rosso marble. It's obligatory to be led into a compact courtyard, accompanied by half the tourists in Verona, to goggle at a nondescript balcony said to be the very one from which Juliet delivered her famous soliloquy. Pity Shakespeare wasn't there to pick up some ideas for a play.

The sun was out in Vicenze and the white marble facades of Antonio Palladio gleamed. Vicenze's son was the genius who created a fashion for Greek and Roman architecture and sold his 'Palladian' style to the aristocracy of 16th century Italy, later to be adopted by Robert Adam in his British stately homes.

Mantova proved itself well-fortified in medieval times; the castles and palaces stand to this day, the cathedral interior a riot of frescos and trompe l'oeil panels. And for our last trip, we were blessed with a gloriously bright and warm day in Venice. The waters of the Lido sparkled and the Grand Canal assumed a milky turquoise hue. Words alone can't do justice to the beauty of the city, but our old legs had begun to tire of traipsing the streets in the heat and we were relieved to be back on solid ground.

The quality of the food and the number of empty bottles which went in the hotel's skip each night speak volumes for the good time we had. And thank you to all the lovely, friendly Italians who made our stay so pleasant.

Adrian Shipway

Art History



Back in June thirty members of the Art History Group went to Compton Verney for the day. I can already hear the questions: Compton Verney, where's that and why would you go there? Many years ago one of our members had told me about Compton Verney and said that it was worth visiting but I had placed the idea on a back-burner. This June I was looking for a short trip as there was the possibility that we would have to cancel the talk for the month. As Compton Verney is east of Stratford-upon-Avon I thought it would be a reasonable distance to travel. Also, it was advertising a special and topical exhibition of Shakespeare in art so a trip was quickly organised.

What a wonderful place for art lovers. This small, stately home is a whole art museum in the middle of a Capability Brown landscape. There are rooms full of wonderful collections of art: medieval artefacts, Baroque oil paintings, Chinese Jade, English folk work and a room dedicated to the designer Enid Marx. Of course there was also the special Shakespeare exhibition and we were all staggered by the "Ophelia" installation where the artists had projected the floating body of a woman in a tank - complete with fish and flowers. Compton Verney also has an excellent restaurant, a well-priced café and a delightful shop selling an excellent array of art-related goodies. The guides and staff on site were also so friendly and knowledgeable. Unfortunately, the day remained overcast but it was warm enough for many of our party to have a lunch out in the superb grounds. For the first time on an Art History trip people were delayed returning to the coach but as one person was the organiser all was forgiven. We shall definitely make a return journey someday.

Since the last contribution to the Newsletter we have had riveting talks on Caravaggio and Rubens by Elizabeth Le



Marchant Brock for which, many thanks. Elizabeth also kindly stepped in to fill a gap in our programme. We have also had talks on Caravaggio, El Greco, Tintoretto and Paulo Veronese. I mentioned earlier that we almost had to cancel our June meeting because of unexpected circumstances; however, a new member of the group, Olena Heywood kindly stepped in and ran two excellent sessions on Hogarth's "Marriage à la Mode" for which I was extremely grateful.

Art History still goes from strength to strength. The morning session is now completely full and we are no longer taking new members. It is still possible to join us in the afternoon but we shall soon be closing membership to that one too. It is thanks to the standard of the talks from our members (remember, none of us are professional art historians or speakers) that we continue to attract people to the group. A special "thank you" to everyone who makes this group successful.

Helen



Art Gallery Visits



June's visit was to the New Walk Gallery in Leicester to view the Mary Sloane exhibition. **Mary Sloane (1867-1961)** was one of Leicestershire's most distinguished artists, trailblazing the way for modern women during the Suffragette period. Her early works included watercolours and etchings of Leicester, the local countryside and the framework knitters of Enderby, giving a detailed insight into the social history of the late 19C and early 20C.

After moving to London to study and expand her artistic talents, in 1907 she became a member of the Women's Guild of Arts and in 1912 an Associate of the Royal Society of Painters, Etchers and Engravers. A firm friend of May Morris (daughter of William Morris), Mary began travelling around Europe expanding her portfolio which included many

watercolours and etchings of famous cities and historic sites. Her work showed great detail and draughtswoman's precision in her portrayal of working class life and of cityscapes, whilst her portraiture showed a delicacy and sympathy to her subjects – a very talented artist in many genres.

July saw us pay a promised repeat visit to the Harley Gallery complex, part of the Welbeck Estate near Worksop, to view the newly built Portland Gallery and its contents – The Portland Collection. Alongside, in the established Harley Gallery, were 2 other exhibitions: 'Made in China' by Clare Twomey and 'Arms of the Portland Vase' by Sarah Danays.

The Portland Collection – on show some of the fine and decorative arts from this huge aristocratic collection. The gallery, completed earlier this year, now houses many treasures, from miniatures to full size portraits, jewellery (including the pearl earring worn by Charles 1st at his execution), silver, racing trophies, maps and books. The exhibition will be rotated as even this brand new facility cannot display all of this vast collection.

'Made in China' - Clare Twomey. The exhibition featured 80 x 1.5 metre tall identical vases. The artist sourced and ordered them via the Internet from Jingdezhen (the porcelain capital of China). 79 were mass produced – cast in several pieces, assembled, joints and surfaces smoothed by hand, decorated with a red glaze and a 'gold' transfer design. The 80th vase was delivered completely unadorned to Royal Crown Derby – there it was fired with the red glaze and hand painted with 18 carat gold.

As we walked among the 80 vases (yes - we did actually walk amongst them!!!) the task was to identify the hand painted vase placed in the midst of the other 79. (*It took longer and cost more to decorate the 1 vase than the other 79*). So what was the artist hoping to convey – juxtaposing mass production alongside the talent of artisans? Can the 2 types of production ever complement one another? Royal Crown Derby cannot mass produce vases such as this, but they have world class skills in specialist decoration. In this exhibition differing techniques and traditions meet.

'Arms of the Portland Vase' – Sarah Danays. The artist's sculptural homily to the family's famous purchase – The Portland Vase (*now housed in the British Museum*).

To create her template for the sculpture Sarah copied the decorative frieze of the Vase. Enlarging it 7 times, she discovered it matched the vertical proportions of the figures around the Parthenon building. Stripping away all but the arms of the adult figures on the frieze shows a minimal composition. The artist's sculptural installation of the arms does not aim to be anatomically correct, she exaggerates them, isolating them as full sculptures 'in the round' not as reliefs as on the Vase. Her work celebrates the genius of the unknown makers of the Portland Vase.



Next visit 15th September - Da Vinci drawings and Evelyn Gibbs at the Nottingham Castle Gallery

Barbara Johnson and Nadya Lancaster



Book Group

We continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday each month in the CRMC Wesley Room at 10 am, for friendly and informal discussions about our chosen book for the month, which hopefully everyone will have managed to read! We are fortunate in the support of Beeston Library in ordering books for the Book Group, although some members like to buy their own copies.

Over the summer months, we have read and discussed 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' by Anne Bronte, 'Us' by David Nicholls, 'The Children Act' by Ian McEwan and 'The Spool of Blue Thread' by Anne Taylor. We broke with tradition and met in August, when we welcomed North Notts writer Anne Goodwin, to discuss her debut novel 'Sugar and Snails', published in 2015, and currently on the shortlist for the Polari First Book prize. In September we will be discussing 'The Good Girl' by Fiona Neill and plan to read 'The House of Orphans' by Helen Dunmore in October.

We are larger than many book clubs – and we are still up to full capacity. Despite the second U3A general book group called 'Readers' Rendezvous', now being up and running, this hasn't had any effect on reducing our waiting list, so unfortunately, we can't add any more names for the time being, but Readers' Rendezvous is still able take a few members.

Jane



Craft Group



We continue to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Wesley room from 1.30-4.00pm.

This year we are being a bit more adventurous – trying crafts we have never done before – felt appliqué, fabric painting and Japanese patchwork.

Fabric painting was fun if rather messy! Patchwork was enjoyed even by those who "never sew".

Our final two meetings this year - October 27th and November 24th – will be taken up with various styles of Christmas cards and decorations. New members welcome.

For further details, contact Carole Brown at c.brown929@btinternet.com

Carole



Family History Group

In May we started with a talk by Maureen, whose extensive family history researches have involved much travelling to archives offices and libraries over the country, including Chichester, Worksop, Sheffield, Islington and the records centre in Kew (more of an adventure than downloading a document from the internet!). Maureen has been able to find references in books, old wills and more to build up a library of documents and the family tree, together with a social history context. After a break, we compared several internet genealogy websites (some free, some not) to see what we could find out about an ancestor about whom we wished to know more; this proved an interesting exercise, and we plan to do more on this.

In June we began by looking again at different websites to see what we could find about the emigration of a butcher turned cinematograph operator, with some limited progress. After the break we welcomed Graham Guilbert, who has been researching Jonathan France and William Bray, with Derbyshire connections in the late 18th century. Members were able to make some suggestions for further lines of enquiry, while an examination of genealogy and newspaper websites also provided some further possible leads.

In July it was time for members' participation in what we call 'mini-talks'. Several members contributed, talking about either their ancestors or websites they had used. It was pleasing that the discussion enabled group members to suggest avenues that may be fruitful for further research.

Chris

Indoor Games

Bridge



We play friendly Rubber Bridge - ACOL system. We welcome all levels of bridge players except complete beginners. It is quite different to many bridge clubs in that we do talk to each other about the game, discussing different bidding techniques or how we could have bid!! - always in the friendliest manner and with no blame attached. If you enjoy bridge and want to improve and to meet similar minded bridge players do please come and join us. Weekly attendance is not essential, just join us on the days you are free. We look forward to welcoming new members and if you would like further information, please contact me either by phone or email. 0115 9283707

hpbright23@yahoo.co.uk

Pauline

Canasta



Briefly Canasta is played with 2 packs of identical cards and is an extension of rummy, where the aim is to make canastas or 7 cards of the same rank, sometimes with wild cards used to make up the set. The emphasis is to score points with canastas with comparatively little emphasis on going out. It is essentially designed for 4 hand partnership play making it popular with bridge players, but there are also 2, 3 & 5 hand versions. We meet on a Thursday morning on a fortnightly basis between 9.30 and 12.00 at the BMC. Whether a beginner or improver, if you are interested in joining, please contact me by phone or email.

paul.pinnock@yahoo.co.uk

Paul

Rummikub



We continue to meet on the second Monday of the month at 1.45pm. Several members arrive at 1.30 to help set up the tables. We are a friendly and well attended Group. The game is fun and very easy to learn. New members are always welcome.

0115 9257836 or pautill77@gmail.com

Pauline

Scrabble



The Scrabble Group meets fortnightly on 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 2 pm in the Epworth room at the Chilwell Road Methodist Church. We are a friendly Group and would love to have more players. Depending on numbers, we divide into groups of 2, 3, or 4 players. Learners are helped, and play against less accomplished players. We usually manage 2 or 3 games with an interval for refreshments. If you are interested contact me by phone or email

0115 8541359 or marydot2@virginmedia.com

Mary

Mah-jong



Mah-jong is a very entertaining Chinese game played by 4 players. Beginners are welcome. The game has similarities to Gin Rummy but played with tiles. Learners can sit and watch initially, but nothing beats "having a go". We have a mixture of abilities in the Group including a good number who had never played before the Group was set up.

0115 7524413 gillian.hallam@outlook.com **Jill**

I always think that people my age are older than me!

International Dance



SALI dancers

We had a great time at our last meeting enjoying dances from Bolivia, Taiwan, Israel, France, Bulgaria, Russia among others. We have enjoyed the music and movement, exercised our shoulders, our brains and our feet and had fun. We now have "time off" until September. We are happy to welcome new members to our Foster Avenue "home".

Future Meeting Dates

September	13 th and 26 th	October	11 th and 25 th	November	8 th and 22 nd
-----------	---------------------------------------	---------	---------------------------------------	----------	--------------------------------------

Gill

BEESTON U3A GROUPS LIST				
GROUP	LEADER & TEL NO.	MEETINGS HELD	VENUE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Art Gallery Visits	Barbara and Nadya, Secretary Elizabeth	Monthly 3 rd Thursday 2.00 pm	Various	barbara.e.johnson@btinternet.com nadya.lancaster@btopenworld.com eliz3le2ma1b@btinternet.com
Art History I & II	Helen 922 7717 Elizabeth (SEC)	Monthly 4 th Tuesday 10.30 am and 1.30pm	Guild Room BMC	helen.stewart1@btinternet.com
Badminton	Ann and John	Fortnightly 2 nd Wednesday 10.30 am	Pearson Centre Beeston	johndubbury@btinternet.com
Bird Watching	Peter 07813867135	Monthly 2 nd week, day variable	Various	psadler197@gmail.com
Book Group	Jane 9226643	This Group is full. There is a waiting list	BMC Wesley Room	ejlsarch@outlook.com
Bowls	Peter 9288131	Variable	Notm Indoor Bowls Club	peternoon@c24.net
Bridge	Pauline 9283707	Weekly Monday 2.00-4.00 pm	BMC Epworth Room	hpbright23@yahoo.co.uk
Buddies	Zena	Monthly Last Friday 10.30 am	The White Lion, Beeston	zenabe@msn.com
Canasta	Paul 9431012	Fortnightly 2 nd & 4 th Thursday 9.30 am	BMC Epworth Room	paul.pinnock@yahoo.co.uk
Cinema/Film	Alan 9221976	Monthly - Tuesday which falls the same week as the Open Meeting 10.30 am	White Lion Beeston	alanwindsor@ntlworld.com
Craft	Carole	Monthly, 4 th Thursday 1.30-4.00 pm	BMC Wesley Room	c.brown929@btinternet.com
Exploring Spirituality	Richard 9252586	Monthly 3 rd Tuesday 10.00 am	BMC Wesley Room	riedd@btinternet.com
Family History /Genealogy	Chris 9221481	Monthly 3 rd Wednesday 9.30 am	BMC Wesley Room	chris.obrien.uk@gmail.com
Garden/Visits	Sandra 9285031	Monthly 2 nd Wednesday 10.00 am	BMC Guild Room	sandy.banks@talktalk.net
History	Ron 9258093	Monthly 2 nd Friday 10am	BMC Guild Room	ronhjones@outlook.com
International Folk Dance	Gill 9171831	Fortnightly 2 nd and 4 th Tuesdays 10.00 am		gill.morral@ntlworld.com
Languages –French (Not for beginners)	Jill 9256792 Maria 9223524	2 nd & 4 th Mondays 9.30 am - 11am	BMC Epworth Room	jillddavis3@gmail.com
Languages – Spanish (Limited Spanish speakers welcome)	Maria 9223524	2 nd & 4 th Mondays 11am-12.30	BMC Epworth Room	dleadbetter1944@o2.co.uk
Latin	Jill 9227646	3 rd Wednesday 9.45 am - 11.15 am	BMC Epworth Room	jill.boothroyd@live.co.uk
Let's "Right" Shakespeare	Di 9252353	4 th Monday 1.30pm	BMC Epworth Room	difschr@yahoo.co.uk
Long Walks	Mike 9177150	Various	Various	mushnpuss@gmail.com
Lunch Club	Shirley 9170715 Glenis 8752336	4 th week of the month. Day varies	Various	shirley.cooper@ntlworld.com glenis.fisher@yahoo.com
Two Lunch	Pamela 9396828 Peter Lyons	3 rd week of the month. Day varies	Various	pamela.bayley247@gmail.com peterlyons7@ntlworld.com

Mah-jong	Jill 0115 7524413	Fortnightly 1 st and 3 rd Wednesday 2.00pm	BMC Wesley Room	gillian.hallam1@outlook.com
Medium Walks	Alan 9164574	Various	Various	alanbailey@virginmedia.com
Murder Book Group	Helen 922 7717	Wednesday 1.30pm	White Lion	helen.stewart1@btinternet.com
Music	Sue and Graham 9256729	Monthly 3 rd Thursday 10.00 am	BMC Epworth Room	lodges3@hotmail.co.uk
Play Reading	Christine 9287576 Susan	Monthly 3 rd Friday 2.00 pm	BMC Epworth Room	christinedornan@gmail.com
Philosophy & Religion	Nicholas 9285473 Geoff	Monthly 1 st Monday 10.30 am	BMC Epworth Room	geoffbaaley@me.com
Photography	Heather	Monthly 4 th Wednesday 10.00 am	Contact Heather for venue details	imagesbyelise@gmail.com
Poetry Appreciation	Joan 9226975	Monthly 3 rd Tuesday 1.30 pm	BMC Wesley Room	joan.whiting@ntlworld.com
Practical Gardening	Margaret 9287643	Monthly 3 rd Monday 10.00 am	BMC Wesley Room	mrichardson14@hotmail.com
Readers Rendezvous	Alison	Monthly 3 rd Thursday 2-3pm	White Lion Beeston	alison@solidus.co.uk
Rummikub	Pauline 9257836	Monthly 2 nd Monday 2.00 pm	BMC Wesley Room	Paulill3@gmail.com
Science	Jim 9170353	Monthly 1 st Wednesday 10.00 am	BMC Epworth Room	jm.jj.turner@ntlworld.com
Scrabble	Mary 9258033	Fortnightly 1 st & 3 rd Tuesday 2.00 pm	BMC Epworth Room	marydot2@virginmedia.com
Short Walks	Ann 9288413	Various	Various	walks@theharts.free-online.co.uk
Singing for Fun	Margaret	This Group is full, but there is a waiting list	BMC Guild Room	DaCapo19@googlemail.com
Table Tennis	Janet 9256048	Monday Term Time Only At Pearson Centre. Contact leader for dates		janet@jandee.co.uk
Table Tennis Two	Kathryn			kcadeane@hotmail.co.uk
Theatre Outings	Eve 9281983	Monthly 1 st Tuesday 2.00 pm	BMC Wesley Room	evegurd@yahoo.com
Ukulele	Kath 9431331	Fortnightly -contact Kath for details of venue and times of meetings		kath.childs1@gmail.com
What the Papers Say	Karen 9253332	Monthly 3 rd Friday 2.00pm	BMC	stainer_696@msn.com
Wine Appreciation	Piers 9284988	This Group is at full capacity at present	White Lion Beeston	pierskrause@yahoo.co.uk
Wine Appreciation Two	Adrian	This Group is at full capacity at present	White Lion Beeston	arshipway@yahoo.co.uk
Writing for Pleasure	Helen 9227717	Monthly 1 st Wednesday 10.00 am	Wesley Room BMC	helen.stewart1@btinternet.com
Yoga	Ken 9392232	This Group is at full capacity at present	BMC Hall	kenmorrell@virginmedia.com
<p>Members are encouraged to contact leaders for up-to-date information. Please be aware that members participate in all Group activities entirely at their own risk. Group Coordinator: Chris Chater email johnchater1@sky.com BMC is Beeston Methodist Church Chilwell Road Beeston</p>				



Long Walks Group 8-10 miles

The Long Walkers meet in the early part of each month but avoiding the first week during which the U3A Open meeting is held. The actual day is chosen by the person leading the walk. We have found that meeting at Bramcote Hills Park and taking as few cars as possible works well. Many of us in the Long Walk group also walk with the Medium walkers who arrange their walks for the later part of each month! We are a very friendly group and always welcome new walkers. All you need is some good boots, waterproof gear and a sense of humour!

In June, Judy and Jane led us on a 10.1 mile walk from Long Clawson via Holwell, Ab Kettleby, and Wartnaby to Nether Broughton.

The wall-to-wall sunshine made the climb up Brock Hill a little tiring but the views from the top of the escarpment made it well worth the effort. The designated lunch stop spot had to be moved one field due to the frisky attention of two horses! Bison and deer were also encountered on the route. After the lunch it was good to be going down rather than up Broughton Hill with more fine views across the Trent flood plain. Nether Broughton was a very welcome stop due to the pub allowing us to quench our considerable thirsts. This made the final two-mile amble across the meadows back to Long Clawson easier, even though we had to pass over Slyborough Hill.

In July, Mike led us on a 9.6 mile walk from Alstonefield.

The weather was reasonably kind to us, with just two short showers to keep us on our toes! The two dales were very verdant after all the recent rain, which also made the river fairly high. It was good that the steep down and up through the two Dales was right at the start of the walk, as we still had the energy to appreciate the scenery with a break on a grassy bank in Hall Dale. Then it was off over the rolling fields towards Castern. Our lunch stop was on another grassy bank above Castern Hall. A sharp right turn took us across more open fields and onto the edge of the escarpment above the nature reserve of Castern Wood with extensive views over the Manifold valley. Soon after leaving the escarpment and traversing a few more fields we were pleased to reach The Olde Royal Oak in Wetton to be able to sample the real ales. Refreshed, we got the legs going again to circumnavigate Wetton Hill and return to Alstonefield.

In August, Anne and Sue led us on a 9-mile Long Walk from Melbourne.

It was a day with perfect weather for walking: dry and pleasantly warm, with a light breeze. From Melbourne Market Place, we passed Thomas Cook's ("the founder of modern travel"!) house and climbed gradually up through houses and countryside to St Bride's Farm complex, surrounded by National Forest plantations, noting a plaque to tell us that the track on which we were walking was the old route of the main Oxford to Derby road. There were then good views across to the Peak District before we descended through Robin Wood. A field with a grassy bank provided a welcome coffee stop opportunity. After passing Seven Spouts Farm and down through Heath Wood, we reached the grounds of the impressive Foremark Hall and Repton School. The route then took us along the base of sandstone cliffs to "Anchor Church" caves on the banks of the River Trent. These extraordinary grottoes have been carved out of the cliff by the river, and extended and decorated by the hermits and saints who lived there from the 6th century. We then climbed up towards Ingleby village, pausing for lunch in the welcome shade of clifftop trees, overlooking the river across to views beyond. A final gradual climb took us up to Ingleby Toff, before working our way across open countryside, through fields of crops ripe and ready for harvesting, back to Melbourne.

Mike Tel 9177150 mushnpuss@gmail.com



Lunch Clubs



Dining out with like-minded people continues to be a popular choice for members. In May we veered away from the usual lunch time meal and tried an early evening meal at Latino's in Chilwell. This was a very successful choice and will be repeated again in September when Linda P and Julie are organising a meal at Roya, the vegetarian restaurant, on Wollaton Road.

In June we had lunch at Bennett's in Long Eaton; most members chose the two course senior citizens lunch, which, at £5.95 was great value for money served by friendly staff in a clean and stylish dining room.

July saw the group at Finton's Bakehouse in Breaston for afternoon tea. Again this proved to be a popular change from lunch as you can see from the photograph.

In October Sheila and Linda are organising lunch at Bramcote Hills Golf Club **and in November** Jose and Jean will be taking us to George's in Nottingham. The Christmas lunch is always popular and it is hoped that volunteers to organise this event will be announced soon. Do get in touch with myself or Shirley if you would like to take this on or have a favourite restaurant you can recommend to us.

Shirley shirley.cooper@ntlworld.com

Murder Book Group



The group has been established for almost a year. It is astounding how quickly the time has gone by. We have lost a few members and have gained a few in their place but a steady fifteen people still meet once a month to discuss a writer of the murder genre and their most famous protagonists. We hope to maintain the group at fifteen as that number allows everyone to join in with any discussion.

We are a diverse group who have strong opinions which are voiced assertively. People, who do not like the crime genre, may feel that our discussions must be limited. We have discovered, though, that not only is there a tremendous variety of crime books but there is also a fascinating variety of opinions regarding the type of crime individuals prefer. Some of us like the gruesome and bloody; some the more cerebral; some the more traditional "who-dunnits". Whatever our interests there are many books to discuss and to enjoy.

At the end of our meetings we do rate that month's choice. Our system is as follows a) an overall impression b) an appreciation of the central protagonists c) a likeable setting and finally d) a recommendation to others to read the book and or series. So far three books have had the highest rating of 17/20. They are: **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** by Stieg Larsson, The Falco novels by Lindsey Davis and the Tony Hill novels by Val McDermid.

For the next couple of months, we will be looking at: The Sister Fidelma novels by Peter Tremayne and then, in October the start of the crime genre, **The Moonstone** by Wilkie Collins.

My thanks go to everyone who has lead us in a session and also to Sergio who has made us feel so welcome at "The White Lion".

Helen

Why is it that the one who snores the loudest is always the first one to fall asleep?

Quiz Cubicle



FOOD		AND		DRINK	
1	What is a Mortadella?	11	How many gallons are there in a Firkin of beer?		
2	In which continent is 'quinoa' mostly grown?	12	In which country was Stella Artois originally brewed?		
3	Angels on Horseback are oysters wrapped in what?	13	Which cocktail is made from gin, lemon juice, sugar and carbonated water?		
4	Duxelle are what vegetables, finely chopped, cooked in butter with shallots and wine?	14	What did Newcastle chemist William Owen invent in 1927 for those who were sick with common illnesses?		
5	What was originally made from white Trebbiano grape juice, and used as a condiment?	15	Which Scottish carbonated soft drink is often described as 'Scotland's other national drink'?		
6	The saliva of which bird is used in the making of bird's nest soup?	16	Most of which African country's wine is produced in Cap Bon?		
7	Paella originated in which Spanish city or region?	17	What is the Chinese word for tea?		
8	Made in Scotland, what are Bonchester, Caboc, Crowdie and Dunlop?	18	What name is given to an Australian beer glass just smaller than a pint?		
9	In which year did World War II rationing officially end?	19	What alcoholic beverage is used in the English Christmas game called 'Snapdragon'?		
10	What did Richard Burton describe as Welshman's caviar?	20	What drink originated in Jacobs Pharmacy in Atlanta Georgia?		

It's not my fault I have a double chin. When God was giving out chins, I thought he said Gin so I said "I'll have a double!!!"

Photography



The Photography Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month, alternating between an outdoor shoot and meeting at BMC for a review of the previous month's session. The June meeting saw the Photography Group head to Staunton Harold, near Melbourne, where a varied range of subjects, landscape, architecture, plant life and nature, was available to photograph. One of the images captured are shown here.



In July, a variety of excellent images from Staunton Harold was displayed. These led on to discussions ranging from the merits of getting as close in to your subject as possible (e.g. Joan and the cows) to the wisdom or otherwise of improving our photos via computer software. 'Before' and 'after' shots demonstrated examples of what could be achieved by this process. It was suggested that the group might occasionally divide into

two, so that aspects of specific types of camera could be explored.

In August the group stayed local and explored the Bramcote area, with the images captured there to be shown at the September meeting. A visit to the Victorian Papplewick pumping station was chosen as the venue for the

October shoot. **Chris Hibbert**

Practical Gardening



This friendly group is still running very successfully and we have welcomed several new members recently. We still have room for more of you to join us if gardening interests you, or you want to start to improve your own garden. Meetings have recently included such topics as recommending shrubs to grow in our gardens, when to plant or move perennials, taking softwood cuttings, greenhouse care and plant diseases. We always break into groups for part of the morning to focus on a particular topic and to share our ideas and suggestions. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Wesley room.

If you are interested, you can contact me on 9287643 or mrichardson14@hotmail.com

Margaret

Singing for Fun



We're now becoming used to singing together and adding more numbers to our repertoire. Particularly we've enjoyed singing Amazing Grace and other songs which allow us to have a go at harmonies, since we have some good male and deeper female voices. The men also contribute some excellent whistling during Always Look on the Bright Side of Life. In addition, we're discovering the inner Latin in us with Hernando's Hideaway. We do have a waiting list but we'd love you to join us and enjoy the fun.

Contact Elizabeth Le Marchant Brock for more information. eliz3le2ma1b@btinternet.com

Margaret

Table Tennis and Table Tennis Two



We are now playing every Monday morning, from 10am to 11am except during school holidays, and of course Bank Holidays. We all enjoy the sessions, which are played in a very friendly way. The group has proved so popular that we have started **a second group**.

This group will be immediately after the first group, and will commence at 11.10 each Monday morning, with the same provisos. **The second Group will be called Table Tennis Two**. Both groups play for one hour and there is no difference in the level of play or ability of players. There are a few places available in this group so if you are interested, don't delay, contact Kathryn Deane on kcadeane@hotmail.co.uk

Janet 0115 9256048 janet@jandee.co.uk

Ukulele

AKA **Beeston Ukulele Strummers**



The group meets fortnightly on Thursdays, at 2 pm at Chilwell Road Methodist Church. New members are invited to arrive early to have someone to one support and be shown a few simple chords. The joy of the ukulele is that, with just a few chords, it's possible to sing and play along from the start.

Within the group, there's a wide range of ability. Some are more experienced players; for others the ukulele may be the first instrument they've played - it really doesn't matter.

Songs range from rock, folk, pop and show songs to more traditional old favourites. As well as a range of strumming patterns, we've recently ventured into finger-picking which sounds lovely, but is a whole new skill to learn!

We break for a cup of tea and a chat and finish with ideas and suggestions of songs to practise for the next meeting.

Beware new members! If you're not a ukulele player, you may be unaware of **UAS (Ukulele Acquisition Syndrome)**. Several members of the group have already been struck by this condition. The main symptom is an irresistible urge to get another bigger/smaller/different ukulele. Sadly, having acquired a new one, the initial satisfaction is short lived and the craving goes on!

For further details, please contact: kath.childs1@gmail.com

Writing for Pleasure



Who wants to write poetry?

"My neighbour's a poet. How about if she led us in a session one month?" and so began a very inspiring relationship with Becky Cullen.

As a group of aspiring scribblers we had already invited two local writers to attend and lead us in a couple of sessions with mixed results. Becky, though, was an inspirational light from the moment she walked into our room. As a person she is bubbly and friendly. Professionally, she is studying for her PhD at Nottingham Trent University in creative writing - concentrating on poetry. Quickly picking up our names she began the two-hour session with some relaxing word-play exercises. These moved on to using other poets as springboards for our own imagination as well as quirky items to inspire us. The two hours absolutely flew by and, by the end of the session, we had all achieved some poetry of which we were proud but which needed further work at home. There was no fee for this as it was part of Becky's outreach work for the University.

In March our U3A held a Groups' Fair and we requested a time slot to read out some examples of our work. Several of us read out the poetry we undertook with Becky and there, in the audience with her mother, was Becky herself. Her praise for our efforts was itself inspirational. It was at this meeting that she told us that she had been chosen to be poet-in-residence at Nottingham Castle and at Newstead Abbey, funded by the Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, and would we like to join her at one of those venues. So, on Wednesday 4th March a crowd of us met her at the Gatehouse to Nottingham Castle where she took us to a private room in the museum to start her second session with us.

She began by asking us to select a colour and to write something about it: how it made us feel, what associations do we have and what we think about when we look at the colour. It was a light-hearted and unthreatening way to begin. Becky then took us to see the latest art exhibition at the castle. These were paintings and collages created by Gordon Cheung a British artist entitled "Here be Dragons". She asked us to wander around the exhibition and, when we had selected a painting, to sit in front of it and use the artwork as a springboard. The resulting pieces of writing were varied and fascinating as were the next tasks which included studying other works of art in the museum. We all agreed that it was a brilliant morning.

Could we have achieved this level of involvement without Becky? Probably not - as her sympathetic approach to us, coupled with her enthusiasm, makes her uniquely qualified as a great teacher. One of her strengths is listening and picking up on the positive within any piece of writing. We have since been delighted to hear that she has been awarded the Midlands3Cities Public Engagement Award 2016, for her work with Nottingham Museums. This is the first time it has been awarded, and it was across six universities. The award could not have gone to a more inspirational person. Not only that but Nottingham City Council wants to have further links with creative writing groups because of Becky's success with people like us. I was aware, at the castle, that several of the officials were fascinated to learn that we were writing about rather than copying the works of art on show.

We are now hoping that we can have further sessions with Becky as she has unlocked the poets within us!

Helen

We are advised by the U3A National Office that the 24-hour legal helpline we have been subscribing to, for the benefit of you and your members, will cease operation on 30th September. We are delighted to be able to tell you that a new provider has been found and the new arrangement will commence on 1st October.

The details are as follows: -
 Arc Legal Assistance in partnership with Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
 Telephone number 0344 770 1040 Quote - U3A Legal Helpline

Did you know that you can sign up for to a Broxtowe Community Newsletter and receive regular information from the Neighbourhood Policing Team about issues which affect the local community, such as burglaries in the area, scams that are being operated locally? You can sign up to receive the newsletter by emailing: alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk

U3A National office have advised us that the Metropolitan Police have produced an excellent publication entitled "The Little Book of Big Scams" with a view to raising awareness of the scams currently operating in the UK and covering easy steps you can take to protect yourselves. A copy can be downloaded by going to www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf or members can contact the Metropolitan Police on 02072301228 or email sterling@met.pnn.police.uk



Last but not least, if you change your address, phone number, or email address, do please let us know by emailing Marie Potts on pottsofnots@gmail.com



Just once I'd like to read a medication label that says
WARNING! May cause permanent weight loss, remove wrinkles and increase energy!

QUIZ CUBICLE ANSWERS			
1	Italian Sausage	11	Nine
2	South America (Peru and Bolivia)	12	Belgium
3	Bacon	13	Tom Collins
4	Mushrooms	14	Lucozade
5	Balsamic Vinegar	15	Irn Bru
6	Swift or Swiftlet	16	Tunisia
7	Valencia	17	Cha
8	Cheeses	18	Schooner
9	1954	19	Brandy
10	Laver bread	20	Coca Cola
Bonus Question Answer - Gin and Tonic of course!!!!			

AND FINALLY - WHY WE SHOULD NEVER LIE!!! We were dressed and ready to go out for a dinner & theatre evening. We turned on a 'night light', turned the answering machine on, covered our pet parrot and put the cat in the backyard. We phoned the local taxi company and requested a cab. The taxi arrived, and we opened the front door to leave the house. As we walked out the door, the cat we had put out in the yard scooted back into the house. We didn't want the cat shut in the house because she always tries to get at the parrot. My wife walked on out to the taxi, while I went back inside to get the cat. The cat ran upstairs, with me in hot pursuit. Waiting in the cab, my wife didn't want the driver to know that the house would be empty for the night, so she explained to the taxi driver that I would be out soon. "He's just going upstairs to say good-by to my mother."
 A few minutes later, I got into the cab. "Sorry I took so long," I said, as we drove away. "She was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her backside with a coat hanger to get her to come out. She tried to take off, so I grabbed her by the neck. Then, I had to wrap her in a blanket to keep her from scratching me. But it worked, so I hauled her downstairs and threw her out into the backyard.
 The silence in the taxi was deafening.