

Newsline No 48 December 2023

Public Version



From the Chair

“From the Hospital Bed” would be the title of former Chair Marjorie’s piece, if she were still writing this column. At the moment of writing, Marjorie is in hospital recovering from a hip replacement operation and doing her best to build herself back up, by means of a shepherd’s pie lunch with a side order of strong analgesics. We all wish her well in her further recovery and look forward to some Hip-Op dancing from her at the Christmas Party in December!

Talking of which, I hope to see many of you at our party in the Leisure Centre on Tuesday 5th December (further details later in this edition). Marcus Farnsworth, the Founder and Artistic Director of the Southwell Music Festival, has kindly agreed to be our star turn and, in addition to singing a couple of pieces, he will also be directing us all in a Christmas singalong. You will no doubt be aware what a ~~depth~~... sorry... depth of talent we have in our u3a and so we’ve got some great performances lined up from our members for the rest of the show.

800th current member, Rosie’s, newfound fame has not yet faded. Out of the blue, we received a request from Radio Nottingham for an

interview about Southwell u3a reaching our new record membership level. Sadly, my dreams of a limo ride to the studio, along with hobnobbing with various celebrities in the ‘green room’, were not quite fulfilled. However, they did manage to squeeze me in for a phone interview between the music in the afternoon show and so I did get a chance to spread the u3a word. I had tipped Rosie off that she was about to get a mention on the radio and that she would now be famous throughout Nottinghamshire and so I know there was at least one listener!

Christmas is a time for get-togethers with family and friends but sadly that’s not possible for everyone. Hopefully, our u3a provides opportunities for members to get together in other sociable ways, such as our coffee morning and lunch club meetings, along with all our many other group activities. Do please get in touch with any members who you think might not be otherwise able to meet up with family and friends and make sure they know they are welcome at all these u3a meetings and activities over the Christmas and New Year period. There



FROM THE CHAIR (CONTINUED)

are also lots of online activities and podcasts through the national website (u3a.org.uk) for members who may have difficulty getting out and about. Let's all take time to spread some of the 'Laughing' and 'Living', as well as the 'Learning' in our u3a mission statement.

And so of course I must leave you with my Christmas 'Joke of the Month':

The only present I've been promised this year is a deck of sticky playing cards. I'm going to find that very hard to deal with.

Merry Christmas one and all!

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Staying Safe Online Workshop Tuesday 5th December 2023

You are invited to attend a workshop to provide help and guidance on an important and yet common experience: Staying Safe Online and avoiding scams. The risk to any one of us falling for a scam, or fraud seems to increase every year so awareness of how this occurs, what's current and what happens next is vital.

On December 5th in Southwell Library ground floor meeting room from 2.00pm – 3.30pm Steve Dickman will give a review of scamming by email, text or telephone, what to do about them, how to report them and most importantly how to avoid them. This will be followed by a practical look at ways of maintaining privacy online, including password management, search engine and browser use, email and social media etc., with an emphasis on cost effective (i.e. free or

low cost) solutions.

As with other workshops, I will try to ensure everyone is allocated a place but occasionally there is overwhelming demand so my apologies if I can't fit you in. Please request a place on this workshop via

u3asouthwell@gmail.com

Jane

Our Monthly Meetings are normally on the first Tuesday in the month, at Southwell Leisure Centre: NOTE CHANGE FOR JANUARY 2024 ONLY to Tues 9th. (2nd is too soon in the year)

Please arrive between 9:40 and 10.00. If possible bring along a cup* for refreshment time.

***Preferably unbreakable!**

OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER



On 7th November we invited Paul Lillie to talk to us. He very kindly filled in for our arranged speaker who had to cancel.

Paul talked to us about his life from infant school where he became interested in music and art. He showed some very good examples of his artwork and drawings from a very early age. He then took us through an accompanied talk about music from 1954 and Elvis Presley to 1994 and the punk revolution all accompanied by various songs which all meant

something to him growing up.

He talked about the evolution of rock and popular music from blues, country and gospel music, the relationship between them and the influence they had on Elvis, Eddie Cochran and Skiffle in the 50s, through the Beatles, Beach Boys and Mamas and Papas in the 60s, and then through the 70s, 80s and 90s. This was all interspersed with songs which he played and sang to and which the members of u3a sang along to thoroughly enjoying themselves.

He also told the story of Dylan, Pete Seager, Joan Baez and others who wrote songs of rebellion against the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights and Women's Liberation Movement as well as nuclear war and the influences they had.

He also illustrated rock's relationship with the visual arts through the work of artists such as Peter Blake and Andy Warhol.

All in all, it was a thoroughly entertaining morning for us all and many members thanked Paul for his performance.

Remember also that the January meeting is on Tuesday 9th January as it was felt that the first Tuesday in January, the 2nd, was too close to New Years Day when many of us will still be recovering!

John

Our December Meeting

We have the annual Christmas concert on 5th December, so please remember to come in your Christmas jumpers, hats and any other Christmas clothing that you have. We will be entertained by our u3a Members giving performances related to Christmas so should be a fantastic morning. Please come along.

John

Our Speakers for 2024

9 Jan	Kim Kettle	Cheesemaking at Long Clawson Dairy Note change from usual date
6 Feb	Minster School Students	As We See It
5 March	Ann Hilton	Medical Dogs
2 April	Geoffrey Bond	Lord Byron
7 May	Martin Gorman	Bromley House Library
4 June	Roger Browne	History of Jazz Piano and its Influence on Popular Music

Newsline Deadline for the January Edition

Please email articles & pictures to the Newsline team by 10th of each month to ensure inclusion:

su3anewsline@gmail.com

Items that arrive after the 10th will be carried forward to the next month's edition. There will be no exceptions to this.

Group news is of particular interest to existing and new members and an excellent opportunity to review and promote your group.

Updates on social activities are also good to see, such as the coffee mornings at Southwell Garden Centre or Sunday lunch groups. We now have space for some 'Letters to the Editor.'

PLEASE remember to include your email address; a telephone number is optional.

Anne Greenaway,
Editor

CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

It's time to dig out those Christmas jumpers and Santa hats again for this year's u3a Christmas party! This will replace our usual monthly meeting in the Leisure Centre and take place from 10.00am to around midday on **Tuesday 5th December**.

Lots of our talented members will be putting on a variety show of musical and spoken pieces, with special guest **Marcus** (Founder and Artistic Director of the Southwell Music Festival) topping the bill. Hopefully Marcus will also lead us in one or two Christmas songs or carols to end the show. We will also have other musical contributions from the [Ukulele](#), [Recorder](#) and [Folk](#) groups and of course our indomitable Membership Secretary, Richmond, along with pieces from the [History of Art](#), [Poetry](#), [Literature](#) and [Creative Writing](#) groups and our own published poet, Margaret .

You may have heard that we intended to run a tombola but we've had to postpone this until maybe another year and so **please don't bring any prizes**, as were originally requested. New this year though will be a **performance by our [Country Dancing group](#)** and we also look forward to another photo show from the [Photography group](#), during the interval.

As if all that is not enough, there will also be free tea, coffee and mince pies for all – do please try to bring a reusable cup, if you have one. The [Quiz group](#) will have a festive quiz for us and no doubt we won't be able to stop the Chair coming up with some more terrible Christmas jokes. Hope to see you there, folks!



ANNUAL QUIZ



Winning team from the Quiz held at the rugby club on 13th November by the Social committee.
Rosemary

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Five Questions from October's Quiz Group

1. Raised in Accrington as Margaret Anne Lake, she came to prominence when the National Lottery was televised in 1994. How is she better known?
2. Who became Prime Minister after Alexander Douglas-Home?
3. What is Barbie, the doll's, full name?
4. What year was Heinz established?
5. Who was the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated?

Answers can be found on page 20

SOCIAL AND TRIPS

THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER – SOUTHWELL THEATRE CLUB

Robin Hoodie and his Merry People

Robin Hoodie and his Merry People have a problem! So successful have they been in robbing the rich to give to the poor, there are no poor anymore! Bored almost to death, Alan a-dale, the resident minstrel, organizes snail races; Friar Tuckin' dreams of his next meal; Robin is ensuring his horse is kept off the menu; and Mad Marion is bossing them all about. Throw in an invisible forest sprite, the devious Sheriff of Nottingham, the treacherous Prioress of Kirklees, Pitkin an innumerate peasant, and you have a recipe for mayhem – and murder!

Southwell Library

7pm for 7.30. Ticket £10.00 includes Quiz, and light supper

Please call Rosemary to book tickets; there are only a few left!

Saturday 27th January – Burns Night

This event has been cancelled.

COFFEE MORNINGS

The fortnightly coffee mornings held at Southwell Garden Centre, Fiskerton Road, are still popular and open to all members, so if you fancy a chat and a coffee come along at 10.30am. Due to the Christmas holidays, there will only be one meeting, the 14th December. It can help other (and especially new) members if you remember to bring and wear your u3a lanyard. There are usually one or two Committee members present.

FESTIVE GREETINGS TO YOU ALL!



SITUATIONS VACANT!!

Brian

Rik has recently let me know that he would like to stand down from his role as Webmaster for Southwell u3a at our AGM next August. He is so busy with all his various u3a and many other activities that something has to give and, sadly for us, it will have to be his work as Webmaster.

Rik has done a fantastic job as our Webmaster and I'm sure he will have interacted with many of you, in his relentless quest to keep our website up-to-date and relevant! As such, he will be a hard act to follow. Indeed, we discussed the Webmaster role at our recent committee meeting and decided that we would ideally like a small team to take over this role, following Rik's departure. We still wish to have a Webmaster but would like two or three additional volunteers to assist with some of the duties.

By giving us such notice of his intended retirement from the role, Rik has given us plenty of time to recruit a new Webmaster and supporting team. He has also kindly offered to help train and hand over to any new team. Please do then get in touch with me (chairmansu3a@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming our Webmaster or one of the new supporting team.

Our website is crucial to keeping our members informed and in touch with each other. It also showcases Southwell u3a to non-members and allows them to contact us. Being part of a supportive website team will be a very interesting and rewarding way of helping us to maintain and develop our communication and information systems in the future. I look forward then to hearing from you, if you think you might be able to help us.

'what3words' – what does this mean and how to use it?

'what3words' is a nifty and user-friendly tool that helps you easily find and share precise locations in the UK and around the world. It takes the complexity out of traditional GPS coordinates and replaces them with something incredibly simple: three easy-to-remember words.

Imagine you're planning to meet friends in a vast park or direct a delivery driver to your doorstep. Instead of struggling with postcodes, landmarks, or long strings of numbers, you can use 'what3words'. For instance, "table.lamp.sofa" can guide anyone to your exact location, making it perfect for situations where clear directions matter.

What's particularly handy is that 'what3words' covers the entire UK and beyond. You can use it whether you're in London or exploring the stunning Scottish Highlands. And the best part? It doesn't require an internet connection, so you can rely on it even in areas with poor signal.

This system is designed to be simple

for everyone, whether you are tech-savvy or not. It's available in multiple languages, so you can use it comfortably anywhere you go, and it's accurate to within just a few meters, ensuring you always find your destination with ease.

In a nutshell, 'what3words' is a game-changer for simplifying location sharing and navigation, making it an essential tool for everyday life in the UK and beyond. Whether it's for social meet-ups, emergencies, or deliveries, it's your reliable guide to finding your way.

Simply type in **what3words** to a search engine and amazingly it will give you a unique sequence of three words for where you are at that moment and indicate your position on a map with an accuracy of around three metres: This system is used by many delivery services and emergency services, so could be really useful.

<https://what3words.com>

Steve

Useful websites

Southwell u3a website is <https://www.southwellu3a.com>

National u3a website is <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

Southwell u3a members Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southwellu3a>

MEAL DEAL!!!

The Hearty Good Fellow in Southwell has agreed to give a 10% discount on all food (not including drinks) to Southwell u3a members. Lunch and dinner – just show your



current u3a membership card to obtain the discount. Every little helps!

COURSES AT

SOUTHWELL LIBRARY

Inspire are running several interest courses at Southwell Library. If you are interested, explore their website. www.inspireculture.org.uk



Community News

Southwell Town Council website is <https://www.southwellcouncil.com>, council office admin@southwell-tc.gov.uk or 01636 816103

Nottinghamshire County Council website is <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk>

You can contact Notts County Council customer service team via 0300 500 8080 . Their opening hours: Monday to Thursday: 8:30am to 5pm Friday: 8:30am to 4:30pm

Newark & Sherwood District Council website is <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk>, customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk 01636 650000

Astronomy Group

Following on from our September meeting when we looked at Jupiter and the four Galilean moons, in October we had a guest speaker Alex who came to tell us about the fascinating topic of Astrophotography. Not only was his talk extremely illuminating and informative, but some of the photographs he showed us were incredible.

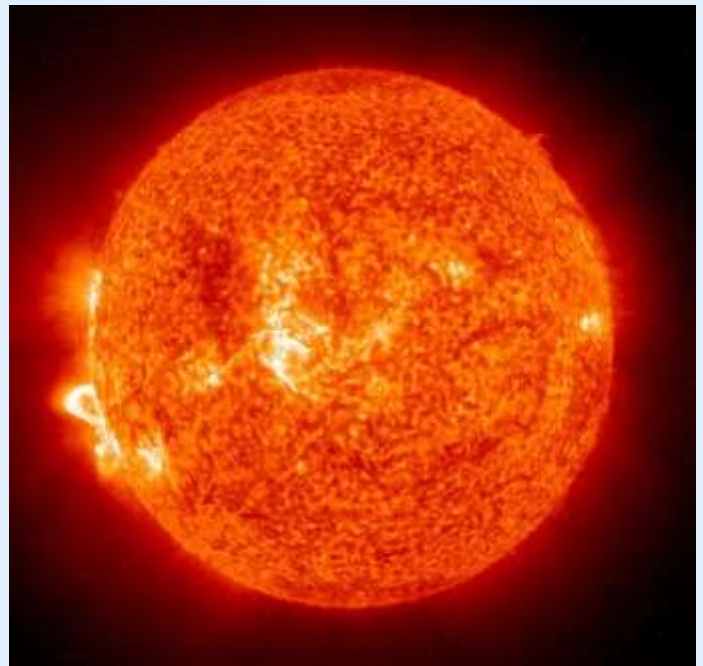


Yes, as you see here, he has a complex telescope, but a lot of his pictures were taken by a normal camera with a few attachments.

His passion for the subject was clear and he kept his audience spellbound for the two-hour session, which included opportunities to ask questions freely. The [Astronomy group](#) is extremely grateful to Alex for giving up his time to come along and talk to us.

Our last meeting of the year was on Thursday 23 November, when we enjoyed a presentation all about the Sun, with opportunities to ask

questions about this fascinating star which governs our existence.



How many features on this photograph of the Sun can you spot and name?

Please note that there will be no group meeting in December, I'm sure everybody will be occupied with their Christmas festivities, we will then get together in the new year on 25 January.

Richard

CONQUERING HERO

Billy was eleven and a half years old. Everyone called him Billy, apart from his mum, who called him William. He had straw coloured hair that refused to take a parting, and freckles. His eyes were bright blue and normally smiling, because most of the time he was happy. He had lots of friends and the boys who weren't his particular friends got on well with him. Billy lived with his Mum, and never knew his Dad, who his mum told him had run away to America when Billy was a baby. Sometimes he wondered if his Dad was a sheriff with a star, a horse and a gun.

Billy wasn't bothered about football or cars. He liked to make model aeroplanes from kits and hang them in his bedroom, but what Billy liked most were trees. He loved to spend long, long days in the woods with his mates. They would make dens, dam streams, build tree houses and play complicated games of tracking each other. He was happiest coming home nettled, bruised and sunburnt, scratched, sweaty and bitten.

Uncle John was Mum's special friend. He didn't live with them, as he had his own house a few streets away, but he did stay over two or three nights a week. He'd been in Billy's life for the last

three years, and Billy thought that he was great. John was funny, he always had time for Billy, and he knew lots of interesting things about nature, but most importantly he made his mum happy.

Uncle John had an allotment, and Billy loved going there with him. He'd share John's sandwiches, and they would drink tea together. It was here that Billy learned how to grow things. In the centre of the allotments there was a grassy area, with park benches, and in this grassy bit there was a towering horse chestnut tree. It was Billy's favourite tree. He loved that it was always the first tree to burst out fresh green leaves in spring, and its piles of pink blossom, like delicious iced cakes. Most of all he loved conkers. Unbelievably beautiful satin conkers hatching from their morning star cases were the most perfect things that he had ever known.

One of the best things in his life was to sit on windless days in September, and [click here to read the whole story on our webpage.](#)

©Andy 17/09/23.

If you are reading the printed edition, and want the whole story, contact the Webmaster, southwellu3a@gmail.com

Film Extra

The next outing to the Broadway Cinema will be on Monday, 11th December. I will email the name of the film and the time of the 26 bus to Nottingham as soon as the Broadway publishes the December programme.

All the films at the Broadway are £5 on Mondays. We use our bus passes to get to Nottingham on the 26 bus. We watch a film and discuss it afterwards over a coffee.

If you are interested contact Sheila



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The [Photography Group](#) normally meet at Southwell Library on the second Tuesday of each month at 2pm, and at our last meeting we were planning to spend some time on 'Snapseed', a clever editing package for phones which gives us amazing possibilities for improving our mobile shots. We are also going back to basics. Most of us find it so easy to just use the automatic settings on our cameras. Our Leader is continually encouraging us to use manual controls, and to be more creative. He went through how to use some of the more obvious manual settings and showed us how to get past the easy option of letting the camera do our thinking for us.



With our increased membership we have had to restrict the number of shots that we each present at a meeting to just four.

This makes us look more carefully at what we bring to the meeting – why do we want to show this photo? Have we edited it to get it to be as good as possible?

We cover a wide range of expertise and equipment; we are a genuine self-help group and support each other whatever level of skill and camera or phone that we have. If you've got a phone you're a photographer – you don't need a camera!

John



Shallow Depth of Field 13.5%
Barry



'Sweets Anyone?'
Deb



'Richmond in the Mist'
Graeme



'Searching for Dinner'
Deb

RECORDER GROUP



At the end of October, we were pleased to welcome the Chair of u3a and other guests to our third concert for "Friends and Family". It was an opportunity for the group to entertain our guests with a wide range of recorder music which we have been playing together this year. Family members could at last hear the whole piece from which only one part has been played at home in practice.

Our programme included music from a "golden age" of English music in the 16th century; well-known folk songs such as "The Oak and the Ash" and "The Water is Wide"; twentieth-century favourites "Autumn Leaves" and "The Carnival is Over"; and into the current century with some modern compositions, including

one by a founder member of the group, Liz, which we played in her memory. We also were impressed by the individual skills of group members in poetry, song and the piano accordion. Special thanks go to Rik, our Deputy Leader, and Lorna, who accompanied several items on the piano. The programme for the concert can be seen on the [Recorder Group's](#) pages on the u3a website.

We're now preparing seasonal items for the u3a's Christmas Party in December, and the "Carols for Everyone" concert in Southwell Minster on the 9th December.

Ian , Group Leader

Southwell u3a Concert Coaches – Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham

I am opening booking for the following concert. If you haven't booked already, please send cheques and booking form to my address shown on the form. As of now, we only have a small number signed up, but I will be able to take bookings up to Nov 30th at the latest.

Tuesday 5 December, 7.30pm

The Hallé

Conductor	Bruno Philippe
Cello	Chloé van Soeterstède
Chabrier	Suite Pastorale
Saint-Saëns	Cello Concerto No. 1
Rachmaninov	Symphonic Dances

Seat plus coach prices: Band A £39, Band B £35 and Band C £33.

Please can you post a cheque (made out to Southwell u3a) and booking form. My address is shown on the booking form.

I am also inquiring as to the possible take up for the Christmas Concert shown below. Please let me know by email if you would like to attend so I can assess if it would be worthwhile running a coach. I should be able to make an assessment of that at the December Monthly Meeting when I have returned from holiday.

Wednesday 20 December, 7.30pm

The Hallé Christmas Concert

Conductor	Stephen Bell
Rodney Earl Clarke	Baritone
Various works:	A Christmas themed range of classical pieces

Roger

POTATO & SAUSAGE SOUP (KARTOFLANKA)**Serves 4**

Continuing our random exploration of the cuisines of other nations, this month's "[Dine with Us](#)" recipe is a hearty winter warmer from Poland. Polish meals often start with a soup but this one can be a meal in itself, particularly with some interesting bread on the side. Our attempt to make 'pierogies' (dumplings) was slightly less successful, as most were a bit too heavy, but one of mine is still coming in handy as a door wedge!

INGREDIENTS:

Potatoes: 1 kg (suitable for boiling) peeled and cut into approx. ½" cubes
Pork (smoked): about 6oz/170g eg 10 strips smoked bacon cut into ½" pieces
OR about 6oz Polish sausage/chorizo/bratwurst – cut lengthways & then into ½" pieces

Carrots: 2 large – peeled & cubed

Parsnip: 1 medium – peeled & cubed

Peppercorns: 6 whole and (optional) 4 allspice berries (or pinch of allspice powder)

Bay leaves: 2

Salt & pepper: about ¼ tsp (to taste)

Water: about 700ml

Chicken stock: about 700ml

MIREPOIX

Onion: 1 medium diced

Celery: 1 stalk diced

Marjoram: ¼ – ½ tbsp



ROUX:**Butter:** 2 tbsp**Flour:** 2 tbsp all-purpose flour**METHOD:**

Sauté bacon (if using) until crisp, remove and reserve half for topping **OR** brown the chopped sausage in a pan and remove and reserve for later.

Into a large pot return half of the bacon **OR** all of the sausage. Add potatoes, carrots, parsnip, peppercorns, allspice berries and bay leaves. After 2–3 mins add water & stock. On medium heat slow boil for 20 minutes, or until veggies are soft. Towards the end add salt & pepper to taste: You may need to be easy on the salt as the meats and stock add salt too.

Mirepoix: In a small sauté/frying pan on medium/low heat, melt a little oil or butter (1 tbsp). Add diced onion & celery & cook until translucent (don't burn). Add marjoram for 1 minute. Remove from pan and set aside.

Roux: In a small sauté/frying pan on medium heat add the 2tbsp butter and then add the flour and for 2–3 mins stir with a wooden spoon in a figure of 8 pattern until well combined and light in colour. Allow to cool 2 mins. Then add a couple of cups of the hot soup and whisk to combine. Heat until it thickens. Combine **mirepoix** and **roux** in soup pot. Stir until soup thickens. Serve with bacon pieces (if using).

ENJOY!

QUIZ ANSWERS 1: Mystic Meg 2: Harold Wilson

3: Barbara Millicent Roberts 4: 1869

5: Spencer Perceval – May 1812