



## From the Chair

At the time of writing, we're still in the run up to Christmas and I'm enjoying taking part in a succession of u3a festive activities. No doubt by the time you read this though, Christmas will have come and gone, the leftover turkey will have been duly curried and the sprouts turned into an alternative 'bubble and squeak'. It also means that your thoughts may well now be turning to New Year's Eve and the dawn of 2024. Perhaps then you might also think about adding an increase in your involvement with Southwell u3a to your list of New Year's resolutions!

The u3a is a peer-to-peer learning organisation and you only get out of it what you are willing and able to put in. It is relatively light on rules, procedures and top-down management, with groups and members generally left to run things how they best see fit. Our u3a does need a certain amount of organisation though, if it is to support and promote our group and social activities, whilst still living within our means, retaining existing members and recruiting new ones.

At our AGM at the beginning of August, I will be stepping down after my three years as Chair. Rik will also be retiring from his role as Webmaster and several of our Management Committee members will be due to leave the committee. This

means there are opportunities for any members able to give a bit of extra time and energy to our u3a to put themselves forward for these roles – no previous experience necessarily needed!



If you declare your interest now, there will be time for you to learn about the roles from the existing post-holders and committee members and hopefully then put yourselves up for these positions in the Summer. If this sounds like something you may be at all interested in, please get in touch with me, [chairmansu3a@gmail.com](mailto:chairmansu3a@gmail.com) or by giving me a call. In fact, don't even wait until the New Year – please do so right away!

We hope to give our record Southwell u3a membership even more new groups, social activities, short courses and workshops to take part in during the coming year. In what seems to be an increasingly polarised world, I look forward then to the u3a continuing to be at least one shining example of how we can all 'Learn, Laugh and Live' together. That of course now just leaves me to say: "Knock, knock." "Who's there?" "Abby." "Abby who?" "Abby New Year to you all!"

All the best for 2024.

## January 2024 Monthly Meeting

**Note the date: Tuesday 9th of January 2024 NOT THE 2nd.** when Kim Kettle will explore the fascinating process of Cheese-making at Long Clawson Dairy.

Monthly Meetings are normally the first Tuesday in the month, at Southwell Leisure Centre: Please arrive between 9:40 and 10.00. If possible bring along a (preferably unbreakable) cup for refreshment time.

## NEW YEAR – NEW SHORT COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

You'll know that we ran a programme of short courses and workshops during 2023, which included such subjects as smartphones and tablets, basic home plumbing, an introduction to photography, first-aid and even learning to play the violin! The programme was well received by members and allowed us to cover subjects that may not be well suited to regular interest group meetings but which are nevertheless of interest to our members.

In view of the success of the 2023 programme, we hope and intend to run something similar during 2024. Some of the previous courses will be repeated but at different times or locations, to allow members to attend for whom the previous times and venues were not ideal. Other short courses and workshops in the 2024 programme will hopefully include some new subjects that we've not covered so far.

This is where we need your help! Please let me know if you have any ideas for subjects that you think will be of interest to our members. Do also get in touch with me if you feel able to **lead** a short course or workshop. It doesn't matter whether the subject will be of very broad or more narrow interest – almost certainly some of our 800+ members will be interested too! Please send all your ideas and any offers to lead courses to me at:

[chairmansu3a@gmail.com](mailto:chairmansu3a@gmail.com).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Brian

### Short Course:

### Church Architecture

This is now booked for two sessions on the 5th and 12th of February 2.00 –4.00 pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Southwell. If interested contact Chris



## Our Christmas party – the best yet?

If you attended our Christmas party, we hope you'll agree with the comments we've received that it was 'the best yet!'

Our musical groups – recorders, ukuleles and folk – performed wonderfully, as did our Membership Secretary, Richmond, with his amusing delivery of ditties.

There were presentations from interest groups such as poetry, literature, creative writing and history of art. Our country dancing group did us proud with their demonstration and we enjoyed answering quiz

A ditty from  
Richmond



A tale from the Literature Group



Our Recorder Group is an  
impressive sight and sound





questions throughout the morning too.

We were fortunate enough to have Marcus Farnsworth, Founder and Artistic Director of the Southwell Music Festival, to get us in the Christmas spirit by leading the carol singing, ably accompanied by Lorna. A wonderful end to the event!



Marcus Farnsworth



Country Dancing  
&

Some of our expanding folk music group in full voice



## Our Speakers for 2024

9 Jan	Kim Kettle	Cheesemaking at Long Clawson Dairy
6 Feb	Minster School Students	As We See It (to be confirmed)
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 February Edition

**Please email articles & pictures to the Newsline team by 10th January to ensure inclusion in the February**

**[su3anewsline@gmail.com](mailto:su3anewsline@gmail.com)**

**Items that arrive after the 10th January will be carried forward to the next month's edition**

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, Editor

## 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 on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month. This month's meetings are on the 11th and 25th January. There are usually one or two Committee members present.

It can help other (and especially new) members if you remember to bring and wear your u3a lanyard.



## 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>

Nottinghamshire [website](#) and Newsbites Magazine for [December](#)

### 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 – **EACH** member must show their current u3a membership card to get their **INDIVIDUAL** discount.



### COURSES AT

### SOUTHWELL LIBRARY

Inspire are running several interest courses at Southwell Library. If you are interested, explore their website. [www.inspireculture.org.uk](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk)



## Community News

Southwell Town Council website is <https://www.southwellcouncil.com>, council office [admin@southwell-tc.gov.uk](mailto: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

Customer service 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](mailto:customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk) 01636 650000



## NEW GROUPS

### New Wine Interest Group:

Southwell u3a has two very popular Wine Interest groups, SWIG and Wine Lovers, that are full and have been for some time. I am wondering whether there may be enough interest from other members to start a new group. If you are interested in taking part in a new group, please contact me:

Once there is sufficient interest, I will be in touch to get everyone together and take it from there. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jean, Groups Coordinator

### New Year Puzzle:

Here's a simple little puzzle for you. All you have to do is use all the Scrabble letters to make two words that relate very much to u3a.

When you've done that see how many words of five or more letters you can make from the letters.

Try and beat our puzzler's score of 39.

List on page 13

### New Group for all music lovers:

We are planning our first meeting for our latest New Group, "**Sounds from The Decades**" (from 1930s to 1970s).

Presentations are based around favourite artists, groups, life experiences or life events. The format includes telling a brief story and hearing the music that triggered that memorable moment ... or it can just be music you like.

**Our first session is at Edingley Old School Room, Monday 22nd January from 2-4pm.**

We already have over twenty members interested, and this is a last call for anyone else interested in being a founder member.

Philip





## GROUP NEWS

At our monthly meetings, our **Groups' Table** will feature groups whose leaders wish to show members what their group can offer.

Please contact Jean Hogg to agree a suitable date.

## Rummikub

Our [Rummikub Group](#) meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup> has been cancelled as everyone is too busy with family & friends.

On January 26<sup>th</sup> we will have a four hour session so we can follow our regular game with a belated celebration of Xmas & New Year.

The group has grown over 2023 but we still are open to more members  
Leaders: Sandra & Anne



Rummikub Members enjoying a session together

### DECISIONS

I sat next to her. She was so excited, her gloved hand fluttering nervously, restlessly. I placed my hand over hers to reassure her, something that I had done many times over the years. This was a proud day for her, for both of us actually. I heard someone behind us comment on how proud his father would have been, seeing his only son pass out at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. "His father had such an illustrious military career" they said. "What a tragedy for him to have died so prematurely, such a dashing and charismatic man."

I smiled to myself, thinking back all those years, twenty-five to be exact. I can remember it as if it were yesterday. This was my first secretarial post since leaving college, and I was both delighted and nervous to have been offered it. I was to be secretary to Lady Annabelle Marshal. Her husband, General Sir Alistair Marshal, had in fact interviewed me for the post, explaining that his wife was of a nervous disposition, and needed a personal assistant to help her deal with what he described as "Life's irritations". At the time I thought this

remark rather condescending, but what did I know about the aristocracy, and he was so handsome and charming, to my inexperienced eye. Any slightly critical thoughts were immediately dismissed; like everyone else I was in thrall to this charismatic man.

My first few months were an education, learning quickly how to mix with high society, but always, of course, discreetly in the background. I was, after all, only staff, although I must admit, Lady Annabelle was never patronising to me. She always treated me as a friend rather than an employee, for which I was truly grateful. I remember the day she asked me to accompany her to Harley Street. Taking me into her confidence, she revealed how desperate she was to become a mother, saying if she couldn't produce an heir, Sir Alastair would be terribly disappointed with her.....  
[Click here to read the whole story on our webpage.](#)

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**If you are reading the printed edition, and want the whole story, contact the Webmaster, Rik**

Come and join us at the [Family History Group](#).

Lots of people will have made a start on researching their family history, perhaps prompted by tv programmes on the topic. Why not join a Group of us with a shared interest in the subject? Our group aims to cater for complete beginners, those who have gone some way and got stuck, as well as those with more experience.

We meet monthly on Monday afternoons with sessions on topics which will help you go further with your research into your family roots. Recently we have covered:

- Workhouse Records, where we explored how to trace the lives of those many of our ancestors who will have experienced the Poor Law system
- Finding and Using Wills to help trace ancestors and build a picture of their lives
- Websites: help with locating and using the vast range of online resources for Family History

- Using DNA tests in Family History
- World War I and II records
- Non-Conformist records: where to find records of our ancestors who attended chapel rather than the Church of England

We normally meet on the third Monday at 2.00 in Southwell Library. The topic of our next meeting, on January 15<sup>th</sup>, is 'Using Maps in Family History', showing how maps can help fill out the life stories of our ancestors. Later on, we have a visit booked to the Special Collections Archive of Nottingham University.

We are also now making time in our meetings to discuss our own family histories and to look for ways to help overcome 'Brick Walls' in our own research.

Contact Group Leader: Martin



As we approach Christmas and the New Year we can look back on a very successful year for the [Photography Group](#). We've been out on location several times. Our leader ran a well-attended introduction to photography course and we've recruited several new members. Collectively we've produced, shown, and discussed some great photography. Here are some images taken to demonstrate the visual impact of slow shutter speeds.

We can still probably squeeze in a few more members, so if you'd like to join contact Graeme.

Hopefully many of you saw our presentation during the u3a Christmas party on December 5th, we showed some of our favourite images from the past year. We understand if you were there but missed it – during the



### Slow Burning Incense

break we were competing with coffee and chat time!

We normally meet at Southwell Library on the second Tuesday of each month at 2pm, where we look at our recent work against a particular theme, and discuss the shots. With our increased membership we have had to restrict the

## Photography Group continued

number of shots that we each present at a meeting to just four each. 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 also get some tuition from our more expert members on a



### Fighting the flowing water

particular subject – editing, camera settings, etc. And if anybody needs help on any aspect of their camera, that is available on a one-to-one basis.

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!

Graeme (Group Leader)

## NEW YEAR PUZZLE LIST OF WORDS

The two words were of course "Third Age".

**List of words of five or more letters:** death, dearth, dirge, dither, earth, eight, gaiter, gated, gather, garth, girth, grade, grate, grated, great, gride, hared, hated, heard, heart, hearth, hired, irate, raged, rated, ridge, right, targe, their, third, thread, tirade, tired, trade, tread, triad, triage, triaged, tried. [39]

## Southwell u3a Concert Coaches – Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham



A huge thank you for those who contributed to my Christmas thank-you present, given to me by Jean Hogg on the coach leaving the last concert. It was most generous and will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to the small number of you who showed interest in a possible coach for the Halle Xmas Concert on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, numbers were too few to justify a coach.

I am now opening booking for the following concert. There is no great rush to book, and I will be available at the January 9<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting to take bookings.

**Thursday 1 February, 7.30pm**

### **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**

**Eduardo Strausser**

**Conductor**

**Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux**

**Violin**

Rossini

Overture: La Cenerentola

Rimsky-Korsakov

The Golden Cockerel

Vaughan Williams

The Lark Ascending

Stravinsky

The Firebird Suite (1919 version)

Ticket prices remain at Band A £39, Band B £35 and Band C £33 with the coach included in that price.

**Roger**



**ROULADE AUX MARRONS** – serves 6–7

Here is something of a challenge for you from a recent CDWU French evening. We ate it as a starter but it could make a meal in itself. The photo is a little unappetising, as it shows the roulade unsliced and unadorned but we forgot all about taking photos, once the dish was on the plates!

It's important to get non-sweetened chestnut purée – most chestnut dishes seem to be sweet desserts – and it took us a long time to whisk the egg whites to stiff peaks. You can watch whole videos about whisking egg whites on YouTube but basically it seems that you must make sure that your eggs are at room temperature, there is no yolk in the egg whites and the mixing bowl and beaters are very clean. Clearly we maybe failed with this in some way but we got there eventually. Bon appétit!

**Roulade:**

200g packet of chestnut purée (e.g. Merchant Gourmet – online or from larger supermarkets, such as Morrisons)

4 eggs – carefully separate the whites and yolks

Salt, pepper & 1 tsp of nutmeg

Zest and juice of half a lemon

1 tbsp finely grated onion

15g melted butter

**Filling:**

250g sliced mushrooms

A little butter

1tsp plain flour

150ml double cream

Salt and pepper



## Method:

1. Pre-heat oven to 230°C (210° fan oven).  
Beat the purée in a bowl until smooth.
2. Add egg yolks, nutmeg, salt, pepper, zest and juice, onion and melted butter and mix.
3. Whisk egg whites in a separate bowl using electric beater.
4. Start on slow speed and then gradually increase speed until stiff peaks appear but not over-beaten.
5. Fold egg whites into mixture very gently.  
Line a Swiss roll tin with baking parchment.
6. Turn the mixture into the Swiss roll tin.  
Bake in oven for 15 minutes at 230°C (210°C fan).
7. Check after 12 minutes – the sponge needs to spring back when lightly touched.

## Filling:

1. Slice the mushrooms and sauté gently in the butter.  
Add the flour and stir well for a moment.
2. Then add the cream and seasoning.  
Cover a big board with greaseproof paper which has been lightly dusted with plain flour.
3. Turn out the roulade sponge gently onto the greaseproof paper, avoiding breaking it.
4. Peel the parchment off gently.
5. Spread the sponge with the filling.  
Use the greaseproof paper underneath to assist while you gently roll the sponge (see photo of roulade before slicing).
6. Cut into 2cm-thick pinwheel slices and serve onto warm plates.
7. Decorate with sprigs of parsley and serve with a salad e.g. rocket.

Enjoy!