

February 2024 Issue No 94

## Musings from the Chair

It was lovely to see a good turn out to our January meeting on Zoom. If it guarantees the weather will be ok, perhaps we should have more Zoom meetings - joking of course.

For those of you that were members last year you will recall that we held the January meeting on Zoom because the social club were re-laying the floor and we couldn't use it, and the previous year it was due to Covid. Because the weather in January can be inclement we took the decision to hold the meeting on Zoom again this year and it gave us the opportunity to widen the search for speakers who might not be able to travel. Of course, Thursday was reasonably mild and we would have had no problems getting to the social club in person. The Committee will need

to decide what should be done for next year.

I hope those of you who did join us on Zoom enjoyed the speaker and learning about Belper's place in the Industrial Revolution.

We have had a bit of a reshuffle on the committee : Andrew Harper who has done an absolutely fabulous job as Membership Secretary for a couple of years has stepped down and Linda Randall has taken on the mantle. Huge thanks to both of them. Andrew continues as Business Secretary. It is vital that to keep fresh and forward looking, and we need to keep getting new blood into our u3a and the Committee. Any volunteers to help in any way you are able to are gratefully accepted. If you might be able to run a new group or assist the current

Convener in some way, or have ideas for new groups, make teas and coffees at the General Meeting, lead walks for the walking groups, assist with the IT, or buddy up with members who may not be so IT savvy to help them - any contributions will be welcome. Our u3a is what we make it together.

As I write this I am preparing for what I hope will be a straight forward operation this week, so I might be out of contact for a day or so, but any issues can always be raised with any Committee member. I wish you all well and hope to see you soon.

Best wishes

Val Wilkinson  
Chair



## Meetings for prospective members - The Old Flower Shop

Prospective Members are very welcome to come to our General Meetings. Our Membership Secretary always has forms and information to take away.

The week following the general meeting, we have at least two people at The Old Flower Shop at 934 Woodborough Rd, Mapperley, Nottingham NG3 5QS.

We shall be there **from 10.30 am to 12 noon** on **Thursday 1 February and Thursday 29 February.**

We book a table and are there to meet people who have recently joined or those who are thinking about joining our u3a. It's an opportunity for people to find out more about the groups and events so that they can make the very best of their u3a membership.

If you know of someone who is interested then please ask them to come and see us.

### Save the Date :

#### General Meeting

**Thursday 22 February at 10:00am**

### Jump to :

[What's on at the Lace Market Theatre](#)

[What's on at the Playhouse](#)

[Trips and Visits](#)

## NOTICES

### Twixmas Quiz Error

Grovelling apology 🙏

There was a question in the Twixmas Quiz - "Which city does not hold a fireworks display on New Year's Eve? a) Sydney, b) Berlin, c) Paris" and the answer was given as Paris. This was incorrect - each of those cities does hold a NYE firework display. Apologies for the error.

Sue Cullen - Quizmaster

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### Refreshments for our March General Meeting - Can You Help ?

Anna won't be able to do our refreshments for the March General Meeting, so we need a couple of volunteers to take over for that month, or there will not be refreshments available. **Could you assist?**

If you can please contact [coordinator@madu3a.org](mailto:coordinator@madu3a.org), and it would be a good idea to join Anna and the team at the General Meeting in February to see how it's done.

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### Blister Pack Recycling

Many thanks to all those who have carefully saved their pill packets and given them to me for recycling. Please keep it up as you are helping to reduce the mountain of packets that go to landfill. Here is a reminder for those who have not yet brought your packets and for those who are new to our u3a.

I am collecting the packets that contain your tablets. I am not collecting any other form of plastic, foil or aluminium products. The packets are made from plastic and then sealed with a covering of foil. They can come from over the counter products such as paracetamol along with any prescription drugs. Your pharmacist may dispense your tablets in a large blister pack so that they are sorted by date or time for you and these can be included. Once a month, I take my collection to a lady in Gedling who then takes them to a place in Retford where the plastic and foil are split from each other so that they can be recycled separately. If you can collect some on behalf of friends and family, I am happy to take theirs as well.



I shall be at the back of the room at the Mapperley Social Club at our General Meetings with a large box for you to deposit your saved packets. Please empty your bag into the box and take your bag home with you. I do not wish to collect plastic bags! Some people are unable to come to the general meetings but still wish to recycle their packets. You can give them to me at an interest group meeting that I attend or to someone else to bring for you, or hand them to a member of MaD u3a Committee.

If you have any questions, please email [coordinator@madu3a.org](mailto:coordinator@madu3a.org).

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### Action on Climate Change Conference

Save the Date! u3a members are invited as guests (there is no charge) to this important event at UCL in London

**From Local to National - Achieving the Green Transition**  
**14th February 2024 - 10:00am - 4:00pm**  
**CL Logan Hall, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL**

A collaboration between Climate Reality Europe - Team UK and UCL exploring the outcomes of COP28 and the opportunities towards achieving action on climate change within the UK. This event will seek to connect the UCL community, Climate Reality leaders and guests with policy, industry and civil society to inform decision-making with research evidence and expertise, and inspire future generations of climate leaders.

To read more about this click on [Achieving the Green Transition](#).

Martin Cooke

## Project craft group

The next project is working with air dry clay to make moulded items for decorations. You will bring your own picture frame to decorate and also make a brooch to wear. Different painting mediums will be available for the finish. Theresa will run the sessions using all her stuff.

There are only 5 places available so hurry to sign up. There will be 3 sessions on Tuesdays 5, 12 and 19 March from 10:00am to 12 noon and the cost will be £10.00.

For the summer sessions, we will revisit wire trees but with a different design and in miniature and mounted either on a frame or wood block.

Future projects (depending on interest shown by members) could include learning to crochet, learning to knit, making flowers from ribbon, making cards for next Christmas using matting and layering techniques and embroidered flowers.

Let us know if you have an interest in any of those things or something else.

Please contact us via email [craftproject@madu3a.org](mailto:craftproject@madu3a.org) to register for either of the spring or summer groups.

Elaine Khan

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## Afternoon tea with historic dress-up

We are proposing a full afternoon tea with a talk about Historic Dress-ups and our interest in it.

The event would be held in June or July 2024 and the cost will be between £12 and £20, dependent on numbers and venue.

It will be a 1.30 to 2:00 hour event (probably at St Jude's church or the Baptist Church on Westdale Lane).

The Bird sisters will talk about how they became involved in Regency Dress, some of the lovely times we have had, and some of the amusing stories in which we were central.

We will have a few pictures to show of great houses, lovely gardens, Regency events and of course us .....



We are looking for expressions of interest - please talk to one of us Elaine K, Sandra B or Theresa B or send an email to [craftproject@madu3a.org](mailto:craftproject@madu3a.org).

Elaine Khan

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## Historic Tea Dance

We are planning an historic tea dance to be held in July or August 2024, featuring dances from the regency period and beyond. We can have some folk dancing too maybe - let us know your thoughts. Dances would be simple involving only a few moves and we will walk through the dance and then a caller will remind you as we are dancing - this could be great fun and I am sure those who attend will be asking for more.

There will also be a light snack/cake for the short interval.

We can manage this in-house or pay for an outside caller to come in - but at a cost which is likely to be very reasonable depending on venue and duration and numbers, so please let us know if you have any interest [craftproject@madu3a.org](mailto:craftproject@madu3a.org).

If you fancy any other events not on our list please get in touch by email or at the meetings.

Elaine Khan

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There's a new game called silent tennis  
It's like regular tennis, but without the racquet

## Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners

Do you read cryptic clues and think they make no sense at all? If that's you, why not join the new group, so that you can make a start to breaking the barrier to begin understanding those cryptic clues.

Most people do not realise how many types of cryptic clues there are and how to spot different types.

If you are interested please let me know by sending me an email to [Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners](#), or speak to me at one of the meetings, as I have a couple of people ready to start at the very beginning.

Elaine Khan

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## INTEREST GROUPS

Click on the group name to visit our MaD website for more information :

<a href="#">Badminton Group</a>	<a href="#">Games Group</a>	<a href="#">Outdoor Activities</a>
<a href="#">Book Group 1</a>	<a href="#">Gardening Group</a>	<a href="#">Photography</a>
<a href="#">Book Group 2</a>	<a href="#">German Conversation</a>	<a href="#">Play Going - Lace Market Theatre</a>
<a href="#">Breakfast Club</a>	<a href="#">Italian Speech</a>	<a href="#">Play Going - Playhouse</a>
<a href="#">Bridge for Beginners</a>	<a href="#">Literature</a>	<a href="#">Play Reading Group</a>
<a href="#">CineMates</a>	<a href="#">Local and Live Music</a>	<a href="#">Poetry for Fun</a>
<a href="#">Creative Craft</a>	<a href="#">Local History</a>	<a href="#">Project Craft Group</a>
<a href="#">Creative Writing</a>	<a href="#">Lunch Club</a>	<a href="#">Singing Together</a>
<a href="#">Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners</a>	<a href="#">MaD Girls</a>	<a href="#">Table Tennis</a>
<a href="#">Cryptic Crosswords for Improvers</a>	<a href="#">MaD Jazzers</a>	<a href="#">Trips and Visits</a>
<a href="#">Curry Club</a>	<a href="#">MaD Men</a>	<a href="#">Walking - Longer Walks</a>
<a href="#">Family History</a>	<a href="#">MaDAmdrammers</a>	<a href="#">Walking - Short Walks</a>
<a href="#">French Conversation and Culture</a>	<a href="#">Music Appreciation</a>	<a href="#">Walking - Strollers</a>
<a href="#">French for Fun</a>	<a href="#">National Trust Group</a>	<a href="#">Wine Appreciation</a>
<a href="#">Fun Cooking with Gadgets</a>	<a href="#">New &amp; Prospective Members</a>	<a href="#">Wine Bar</a>

## Could you help to run an interest group?

### Is there a group you would like to start?

If you have a skill or knowledge about a subject you would like to share with others why not consider starting an interest group? There is lots of help and advice to get you started and help with the technical side of things as well. Conveners find running a group is very enjoyable and rewarding.

If you think you'd like to have a go don't be shy - please send an email to our Groups Support on [coordinator@madu3a.org](mailto:coordinator@madu3a.org) or have a chat with any Committee member so we can help you to get going.

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### Your Committee 2023-24

Valerie Wilkinson	Chair	Carolyn Luckhurst	Groups Support
Geraldine Chaffe	Vice Chair	Val Girling	Committee Member
Andrew Harper	Business Secretary	Alison Gove-Humphries	Committee Member
Linda Randall	Membership Secretary	Lesley Harrington	Committee Member
Elaine Lindley	Treasurer	Jane Todd	Committee Member
Eileen Braham	Speaker Seeker )	Patricia Wright	Committee Member
Liz Hagan	Speaker Seeker )		

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### The Mapperley u3a Literature Group

The MaD Literature Group meets weekly on Zoom to discuss texts selected and provided by the Convener. These texts will typically demand about an hour's concentrated reading.

Starting on Tuesday 9 January at 2.30 pm, we will be discussing texts included on a 12-week course called "The Whale", which consists of short stories written by writers born in New Zealand. Some of the writers are Maoris, others are European settlers or the descendants of European settlers. After Easter, we will embark on a six-week course called "Shockers".

For further information, please email the convener, Jonathan Brown at [MaD Literature Group](#) .

### Poetry for Fun

We met in my home as it's a short walk from the centre of the city. There were just the three of us, as three members couldn't make this date but are keen to join us at our next meeting.

We discussed our personal histories of poem writing, each presenting one or two of our previous works. and spoke about free courses on poetry writing that were available - Moot being one - and looked at poetry aids (RymeZone and the AI ChatSmith). We discussed favourite contemporary poets, Roger MaGough, Brian Pattern, John Cooper Clark and Brian Bilston. All agreed that the group would focus on light-hearted issues and we would work on a poem using different topics as a focus and encourage presenting this aloud for each other.

In-between meetings we will keep our interest alive by writing a joint poem, one person writing a line, emailing it to the next person on the list to write the next line and so on with a limit of 3 days allowed before sending it off to the next person. We will each produce 3 lines, making a poem of 9 lines. If other members would like to join in, we can incorporate them to make a longer piece of work.

Our next meeting will be at the same venue at 11:00am on Thursday 11am on the 15 February.  
Mo Moffatt

### Family History

At the next meeting on 26 February, the Group will be telling the story behind individual family items they've brought in.

Claire Wilkie

### German Conversation & Culture

We had a very enjoyable meeting on Tuesday 16th January. As agreed, this year we are reading, translating & discussing one topical article from Nachrichten Leicht. This will allow more time for general chat and discussion. We are also planning to examine the various tenses of verbs, one of which will be sent out each month.

Coffee, tea and the usual chocolate biscuits were very welcome on a cold and bright morning. Our usual light-hearted chat followed where we told of our Christmas and New Year celebrations. Sue spent Christmas and New Year in Chennai, India so it was very interesting to hear about her exploits, especially over New Year.

Our next meeting will be on 20th February 2024 at 11.00.

Joy Brown

### Short Walks

We had another lovely walk in Gedling Country Park. There were 19 walkers plus four dogs. It was a chilly morning and we fully appreciated the clear footpaths in the park. The dogs chose to jump and chase in the muddy areas, causing much amusement. As the wintry weather is likely to still be with us on 9 February, we hope that Colwick Park is our destination. Members who have registered interest in this group will receive an email giving instructions.

### Strollers

We were prevented from walking at Colwick Park due to the river spilling onto the footpaths so we were back at Arnot Hill Park. It was a chilly morning but we enjoyed a very pleasant stroll followed by a warm drink at the kiosk. We will have to walk in Arnot Park on 2 February as the shortest circuit at Colwick Park still contains flood water.

Carolyn Luckhurst



## Burns Night Supper

12 MaD members enjoyed a great Burns Night at the home of Maggie and Vic.

The haggis was piped in by Vic, Maggie did the *Address to the Haggis* and David wielded the knife.

Vic read us a poem and sang a very amusing song and we did Rabbe proud.

Delicious food, wine and whisky and lively company.

A very enjoyable evening with lots of fun and good conversation - many thanks to Maggie and Vic for opening their home to us and providing splendid food and entertainment.



## Wine Appreciation Group

This month the Wine Appreciation Group were challenged with a blind tasting - having to decide which wines they were tasting.

Tasting notes were provided for 4 white and 4 red wines, and they had to decide which 3 of each colour they were tasting, and in what order. Not an easy task, but they rose to it and enjoyed the challenge.



## Do you have anything to share with us?

We love to hear from members with stories, anecdotes, poems or anything which will amuse or entertain us.

If you have something you would like to put into the Newsletter please send it to [newsletter@madu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@madu3a.org)



Alison Gove-Humphries

## GENERAL MEETINGS

### January's General Meeting

David Skillen - Knitters, Nailers and Traitors - Belper and the Industrial Revolution

I used to travel between Birmingham and Chesterfield regularly to visit my in-laws and always enjoyed going through Belper as it looked such an interesting place. My father-in-law worked for a quarry near there once. I knew about Arkwright and Cromford but never realised the importance of Belper to our history and the Industrial Revolution until I heard David's talk today.

It was a fascinating and well-presented talk with carefully chosen slides and sprinkled with many interesting anecdotes. Here are just some of the fascinating nuggets of information we learnt from David's talk. Who knew

- that the first knitting frames could only do stocking stitch but not rib?
- that out of the hundreds of nailworkers' workshops in Belper, only one remains?
- that a man from Belper called Samuel Slater (known in Belper as 'Slater the traitor') began the Industrial Revolution in the USA?
- that you can remember which is warp and weft by thinking the weft goes from weft to right?

This small town in Derbyshire literally helped to change the world. One family, the Strutts changed not only Belper but the way we work forever by a series of inventions and innovations. Everyone has heard of James Watt, George Stephenson, Richard Arkwright in relation to the Industrial Revolution but very few have heard of Jedediah Strutt, who was a key player in it.

Belper, with its proximity to the River Derwent, to ironstone and

trees for charcoal, was the centre for nail making since Norman times. Life was hard for the nail makers who had to buy a bundle of rods at the beginning of the week and make a thousand nails by the end, each one requiring 42 blows of the hammer. During the Industrial Revolution, nail making moved to the Black Country where it was mechanised and nail making died out in Belper.

Since at least the 16th century, men and women all wore stockings. In 1589, the Reverend William Lee of Calverton, fed up with his fiancée continually hand knitting stockings, invented the knitting frame. However, this machine had limitations: it could not knit the ribbing which kept the stockings up. It was Jedediah Strutt of Belper who invented and patented the Derby Rib and became very wealthy as a result. He used this wealth to support other entrepreneurs and to provide work and reasonably good living conditions for the workers of Belper. It was interesting to hear that his knitting frames were used throughout the East Midlands and that you can tell a framework knitters house by a row of small windows at the top of the house. I know there are some such houses off Mansfield Road in Sherwood. David suggested a visit to the Framework Knitters Museum in Ruddington, which sounds like an excellent idea for a U3A outing.

David went through all the textile inventions in the Industrial Revolution from Hargreaves' Spinning Jenny to Crompton's Mule. What I didn't know was Strutt's involvement in financing Arkwright's mill at Cromford where the water frames for spinning were housed.

These mills had a real problem - inflammability. Wooden machinery covered in oil, cotton dust and candles were not a good mixture and the mills burnt down on a regular basis. By the end of the 1790s Jedediah had died and passed the firm on to his three sons, George and Joseph who were the businessmen and William the inventor. Belper Mill caught fire in 1803. William Strutt heard about Bage's Flax Mill at Shrewsbury. Built with iron pillars, iron girders and a stone floor, it was arguably the world's first fireproof building. In 18 months, William had had Belper North Mill built in a similar way. It used a water drum as the power source, iron pillars to make the building fireproof, and the use of metal wedges to prevent vibrations from the machinery. The building was warmed by warm air central heating. As it was a tall steel frame building with cladding, it could be claimed it was the world's first skyscraper.

David talked about the effects of the machinery on peoples' livelihoods and their response to it through the Luddites and the Pentrich uprising in 1817. With the introduction of water frames, 68 people could do the work of 4,216 people and workers took to machine breaking to protect their livelihoods. Strutt didn't have problems with the Luddites for a number of reasons including being in charge of the local militia and having a fortified building but also Strutt was a good employer by the standards of the day and encouraged his employees to grow their own vegetables and provided water, gas and electricity to the town. He built a Unitarian chapel and converted the river garden to pleasure gardens which thousands

Meeting report - continued ....

David finished by telling us about 'Traitor Slater' who worked for Strutt and Arkwright and took their secrets illegally to the USA. Samuel Slater and Moses Brown set up Portucket, the first spinning mill in the USA. President Andrew Jackson called Slater 'the father of American industry.' The influence of Belper and the Derwent Valley has been so profound on the world that it has been designated a World Heritage site; maybe another idea for a day trip? Thank you David for a very engaging talk and to the audience for the lively discussion that followed.

Alison Gove-Humphries

## FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

**22 February**    **Malcolm Darroch - Down to Earth**  
**Our own MaD member Malcolm previously gave us a very entertaining talk about a lady parachutist - this is another parachute tale. Try not to miss it!**



### PUZZLES

Keep your little grey cells exercised with these puzzles. Answers at the end of the Newsletter.

#### The Little MaD Quiz

1. After the Queen what is the most powerful chess piece?
2. Which three countries lie on the shore of Lake Victoria in Africa?
3. The Bislett Stadium in Oslo has seen more than 50 world records set there in which sport?
4. From which Italian wine region do Chianti wines come?
5. 'Honeysuckle Rose' and 'Ain't Misbehaving' are amongst the compositions of which jazz pianist?
6. Which actor's first film as director was 'Citizen Kane'?
7. What is the name for the SI unit of electrical resistance?
8. Jamestown is the capital of which island in the South Atlantic?
9. Which company used to advise you to 'Put a tiger in your tank'?
10. In cooking, what does 'farci' denote?

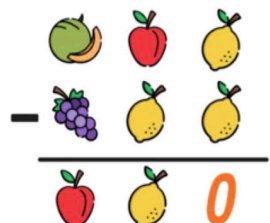
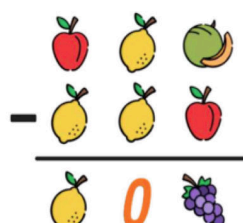
#### Dingbats : Can you solve these phrases or sayings?

<p>1</p> <p><b>Paddington Must-haves</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>6 ÷ 4 = 15</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>you just me</b></p>	<p>4</p> <p><b>lacerate nap</b></p>
<p>5</p> <p><b>BIDDEN ORANGE BIDDEN PLUM BIDDEN GRAPE BIDDEN PEACH</b></p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> <p><b>MRS BECKHAM</b> R G E</p>	<p>8</p> 

#### The Fruit Factor

Each of the fruits below is equal to one of the following whole numbers : 1, 2, 3, or 5.

Find the value of each fruit so that both of the equations would be true

	
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## THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT



In 2022, a quarter of a million people from households, schools, businesses and communities across the country made **The Big Plastic Count** the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste. By counting your plastic waste for 1 week, you helped to reveal a shocking truth: that **the UK throws away 2 billion pieces of plastic every week**, only 12% of which is recycled.

In 2024, governments will be negotiating a Global Plastics Treaty that could finally phase out plastic production for good. And so, they're doing The Big Plastic Count again - this time using the results to convince UK ministers to lead the way at these talks and push for a really strong treaty.

It's a massive opportunity...and your help is needed!

Taking part in The Big Plastic Count is really easy. Here's a reminder of what you need to do:

1. Register: Get your free counting pack (digital or via post) which includes everything you need to take part
2. Get Counting: Count all your plastic waste from 11-17 March
3. Submit Results: Submit your data via our website by 31 March
4. Get Your Footprint: Discover your plastic footprint and use the results to make a difference!

Click on the link to register - [The Big Plastic Count](#).

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## NOTTINGHAM NEWS



### Check what you can recycle

Nottinghamshire County Council have teamed up with Recycleopedia so that you can find out what day-to-day household items you can recycle and how.

Just enter the item you want to recycle and your postcode and it will tell you which bin to use at home or if you need to take them to a recycling site or request a special collection.

If you are trying to recycle an item that doesn't show on the list, you can let them know on the next page and they will also add it to the list for other people to see.

The Recycling checked - [Recycling checker](#).

If an item isn't listed, you could try searching for it using different key words or by simply reordering them. If you still can't find your item, please use the 'Add My Item' feature and they will find out how it should be recycled in your area and then add it to the database. Please note that this can take up to 14 days to process before it appears on the system

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### More drivers choose Broad Marsh city parking

Drivers have been flocking to Nottingham's new Broad Marsh car park – with latest figures showing an almost five-fold increase in usage.

Click on the link for more information - [Broad Marsh parking](#)

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### Things to do in Nottinghamshire in 2024

Click on the link for more information - [Things to do in Nottinghamshire in 2024](#)

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The adjective for metal is metallic. But not for iron - which is ironic

## How to take care of chapped lips

The winter months can wreak havoc on our lips, leaving them dry, flaky and sore. It can be extremely uncomfortable and irritating, not to mention unsightly. So why does this time of year cause chapped lips - and is there anything we can do to protect them and prevent the problem?

The Patient website has an article with advice on how to care for your lips in winter - click [here](#) to read it.

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## How healthy is your heart?

Whilst your heart is as old as you are - it does have its own age, which is a sign of how healthy you are. The Patient website has a calculator which compares your real age to your heart age and shows how you can turn back the clock on heart attack risks by improving your lifestyle.

Follow the link to read more - [How healthy is your heart?](#)

And click on this link for the [Know your heart age tool](#)

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## Is it indigestion or a heart attack?

Every three minutes someone in the UK is struck by a heart attack, and 30% are fatal, so the faster help is given the better. Recognising the symptoms - or whether you are simply suffering from indigestion - and knowing what to do, is therefore very important.

Click on the link to go to the Patient website to find out about the signs you should look for - [Indigestion or heart attack?](#)

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## Daydreaming is good for you!

**Inc.**

Neuroscience has uncovered the benefits of what was once dismissed as unproductive and a waste of time.

One simple activity with many personal benefits is not exactly seen in a positive light. In fact, it's often dismissed as an unproductive, mind-wandering distraction for unfocused workers mentally in lalaland. What is it? Daydreaming. This is good news for those of us who are daydreamers !

To read the article on the Inc. website click [on the link](#) - [Neuroscience Says 1 Brainless Habit Improves Memory, Boosts Creativity, and Reduces Stress.](#)

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# TECH NEWS AND SCAMS

## Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter - January 2024

Click on the link to read the current edition - [Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter.](#)



## Six Ways to protect yourself from scams in 2024

With fraud losses in 2023 expected to exceed £1bn, Which? shares tips on ways to protect yourself from scams.

Click on the link to go to the Which? website and read the article - [Protect yourself from scams.](#)

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My four-year-old grandson, can't say 'please' in Spanish.  
That's poor for 4

## GARDENING

### It's Snowdrop time

We all love to see snowdrops - little signs that spring isn't too far away. Now's the time to get out and see them in all their delicate glory.

The Muddy Stilletos website has lots of information of where you can go in our region to see these little beauties. Click here - [Snowdrops](#).

### What to do in your garden this month



This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

Click on the link to visit the RHS website and find out [What to do in February](#).

### MaD Moments Newsletter

Our **MaD Moments Newsletter** is published monthly in digital format. Please contact our Chair Valerie Wilkinson on [chair@madu3a.org](mailto:chair@madu3a.org) or speak to one of the Committee members if you cannot receive the Newsletter via email.

### National u3a Newsletters

Links to the u3a Newsletters can be found on our [MaD u3a website](#) under u3a Links heading.

### Third Age Matters magazine

If your household is receiving two copies of the Third Age Matters monthly magazine please let our Membership Secretary know [via this link](#) so that one of them can be cancelled - and if you no longer wish to receive TAM at all, please use the above link so that our Membership Secretary can sort this for you.

## ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES

#### The Little MaD Quiz

1. The Rook (or Castle),
2. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda,
3. Athletics,
4. Tuscany,
5. Fats Waller,
6. Orson Welles,
7. Ohm,
8. St Helena,
9. ESSO,
10. That the dish is filled with a stuffing

#### Dingbats

1. Bare necessities,
2. Missing the point,
3. Just between you and me,
4. Cut above the rest,
5. Forbidden fruits,
6. Pieces of eight,
7. Victoria cross,
8. Spy glass

#### The Fruit Factor

Melon = 5, Apple = 2, Grapes = 3, Lemon = 1

#### And finally ...

**A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position.**

**As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"**

**"Yep," the wife replied, "in-laws."**