

February 2025 Issue No 106

Musings from the chair :

Well Christmas came and went, as did New Year and Burns Night. The nights are getting shorter and the snowdrops are beginning to show their faces. We are now well into 2025 and with a dry January so far (and that's not from alcohol, but lack of rain), it has not been too bad, despite the cold spell.



We have not had too muddy a dog after walks most days. We managed to get 16 people out on our January walking group walk around Attenborough. Not bad at all for the middle of winter, and we had a very pleasant walk.

Our January general meeting was on Zoom only. It did enable us to have a speaker from Devon who wouldn't have travelled to us, and it did mean that in the event of bad weather we wouldn't have been venturing out. We actually had more than 50 of us attending which was pretty good, but I do appreciate that it does mean no social contact and would not be ideal on a regular basis. Perhaps we need to decide what we do next January. If you have strong views then let a committee member know. Inevitably if we decide on an in person meeting for next January, the weather will be bad, but that's life!

Those of you who did tune in on Thursday will no doubt, like me, be trying to get your head around the distances involved, to reach our nearest planets, and have marvelled at the fabulous photographs.

If your thoughts are turning to holidays now, can I remind you that if you intend to book through Riviera Travel they make a donation of 10% of the holiday cost to the u3a of your choice, provided that you tell them at the time of booking. I want to express very grateful thanks to our member Tricia Turpin and her husband, who did just that and we received a payment in excess of £700 into our bank account. Thank you Tricia on behalf of all of us.

Time to sign off and think about preparing some lunch. It seems to me like a soup day today, something warm and comforting. I hope you are all keeping warm, and keeping those winter bugs at bay. Enjoy your u3a activities this month and I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

Val Wilkinson
Chair

Save the date :

Next General Meeting : Thursday 27th February at 10.00 am Mapperley Plains
Recreation and Social Club

Topic : East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme

NOTICES

Copyright issues

Unfortunately we have had an issue with regard to a photograph which has been used on one of our newsletters with a claim for breach of copyright. As a result of this and to ensure we have no problems in the future please could everyone make sure that any photos submitted for the newsletter or for putting onto the web pages have been taken by one of our members or by someone from whom we have consent to publish the photograph.

PLAYGOING - NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE COMMUNITY CLUB

For many years now Mapperley & District u3a has benefitted from being able to offer Nottingham Playhouse tickets to its members at greatly reduced prices (£7.50 per ticket) for their own productions under the Hothouse scheme.

In October last year we were informed that owing to cuts in funding from the City Council the Playhouse has had to cancel this scheme. They do have another scheme – the Community Club Scheme- which offers cut price tickets to some charitable organisations.

An application was submitted for this scheme in October 24 and we have just received a response. Unfortunately, our application was not successful as we do not meet the criteria of the scheme as an organisation. Obviously, we were very disappointed in the outcome but understand the reasoning behind the scheme, which is about bringing opportunities to participate in the arts to those who are in a less fortunate position than we are.

However, as we have been loyal members of their Hothouse scheme for some time, they have agreed to continue to offer us access to some of their productions for a further year at discounted prices. The discounts will not be at the same level as the Hothouse performances but will offer us a discount on the face value of the ticket.

We are very grateful for this generous offer and will be bringing details of future productions to the next full meeting in February.

Lesley Harrington and Lynne Duckett

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 or have a chat with any Committee member so we can help you to get going.

I buy all my guns from a guy called T-Rex. He's a small arms dealer.

INTEREST GROUPS

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

[Ale and Cider](#)

[Art Appreciation](#)

[Badminton](#)

[Book Group 1](#)

[Book Group 2](#)

[Breakfast Club](#)

[Bridge for Beginners](#)

[CineMates](#)

[Creative Craft](#)

[Creative Writing](#)

[Cryptic Crosswords – Beginners](#)

[Cryptic Crosswords – Improvers](#)

[Curry Club](#)

[Family History](#)

[French Conversation & Culture](#)

[French for Fun](#)

[Fun cooking with gadgets](#)

[Games](#)

[German Conversation and Culture](#)

[Italian Speech](#)

[Knit and Natter](#)

[Literature](#)

[Local and Live Music](#)

[Local History](#)

[Lunch Club](#)

[MaD Girls](#)

[MaD Men](#)

[MaDAmDrammers](#)

[Music Appreciation](#)

[National Trust Group](#)

[New & Prospective Members Meet](#)

[Outdoor Activities](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pickleball](#)

[Play Going – Lace Market](#)

[Play Going – Playhouse](#)

[Play Reading](#)

[Poetry for Fun](#)

[Project Craft Group](#)

[Singing Together](#)

[Table tennis](#)

[The Bryan Ruskin MaD Jazzers](#)

[Trips and Visits](#)

[Ukulele Group](#)

[Walking](#)

[Walking – Strollers](#)

[Walking – Walk in the park](#)

[Wine Appreciation](#)

[Wine Bar](#)

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

LOCAL AND LIVE



In January 10 of the group went to a brilliant concert at NTU's lovely University Hall. There were 6 singers from the Kingdom Choir, who sang at Harry and Megan's wedding.

The concert was to celebrate Martin Luther King day. Their voices were superb and it was very uplifting. They had the whole audience on their feet clapping and moving.

An excellent and very different event enjoyed by all the group.

Eileen Braham

GARDENING GROUP

As the gardening group has become too large to be manageable, from March it will split into 2 equally sized groups according to members answers to a questionnaire designed to find what individuals preferences are. Members will be informed by the beginning of March which group they have been allocated to. The new group will become the MAD Growers and restart in March. However if a convener can't be found to run the second group monthly meetings may need to be delayed for that group.

Pauline Reed

LOCAL HISTORY

Next Meeting 4th Feb ***Looking at the Market Square.***

We will just be looking at the streets around the Square and the Council House. Meet by the right hand Lion at 10.30am.

4th March - *The Nottinghamshire Background of David Herbert Richards Lawrence.*

6th May - *The Early Life of Lord Byron*

ALE AND CIDER

On Friday 24th January ten members of the group met at the first Lincoln Green Brewery owned pub the Robin Hood and Little John on Church Street, Arnold. There has been a coaching inn or pub on the site since the 1760s and details of all the landlords/landlady's since that time on displayed inside the pub

BURNS NIGHT AT GREYFRIARS



Fabulous night , Haggis neeps & tatties which was amazingly hot to say how many they were catering for. Great Ceilidh Band, Piper and Caller. A fun night and all profits to Cancer Research.

Marian Donaldson

WALKING GROUPS

16 people and 3 well behaved dogs joined the Attenborough walk on 17th January. We met at the lock gates by the heritage cafe and garden and had a circular 5 mile walk. We had so much fun that I omitted to take any photos. Most of us stayed for refreshments at the heritage cafe.

Cath Greenwood

Whiteboards are remarkable.

TRIPS AND VISITS

Our first short break of 2025 was to the Tina & Gary Tribute at Bosworth Hall Hotel.

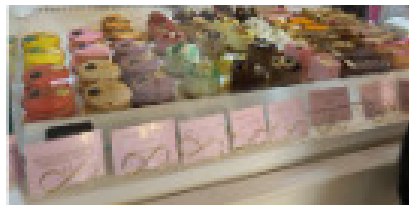
We arrived in Bosworth Hall, parked up and headed straight into Market Bosworth for lunch at the Old Red Lion as we couldn't check in until 3pm. It was a great start to the weekend, we started playing Mrs Browns Boys Party Game, (which was on the shelf in the pub) which was hilarious although we adapted it slightly.

We walked back to the hotel to check in and our rooms were fab, warm and spacious and two of us were on the ground floor so that was the designated pre-dinner drinks bar. By the time we had unpacked, had a cuppa, changed it was time for a glass of wine before our three course evening meal. After dinner we picked up drinks at the bar (241) and headed for the concert room.

Our first night was Typically Tina, she was fabulous, sounded like her, same mannerisms, brilliant!! I think Linda may be looking at booking her for MPSC when she speaks to the Committee so look out for her.



After breakfast on Saturday we decided to do the Bosworth Murder trail, we had to eliminate weapons and people a little like Cluedo, but also got us out and about and learning or recalling about the area. We stopped for coffee and finished the trail successfully!! Murder solved! However on our travels Linda spotted another coffee shop, Maison Rose, with a great selection of cakes so we had to – wouldn't you?



We made our way back to Bosworth Hall, got ready, pre-dinner drinks and more games!! After the fun and games we went for our evening meal and headed over to the concert room (241 bar again!!) for our second night Tribute to Gary Barlow. What a performer he was, the moves and routines were spot on, so another great night.

A brilliant weekend, good company and what a price!! The only downside to this fantastic weekend was that our "Dancing Queen" was not well so couldn't join us. We did miss you Chris. A big THANK YOU to our drivers!!

Marian Donaldson

TEA WITH ELVIS

On Thursday 16th January a few of us went to afternoon tea at Brookfields. An Elvis tribute act played two sets performing some of the lesser well known hits, as well as the more familiar ones. The singer was somewhat upstaged by a toddler who was fascinated by him. The tot was swaying to the music and refused to move on. The tea was very good and we were kept well supplied with drinks.



Although we were few in number we thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and left with "doggy bags" containing the remnants of the tea. Just what was needed on a dreary January afternoon.

Elaine Lindley



My wife just found out I replaced our bed with a trampoline. She hit the ceiling!

BURNS NIGHT ENCORE!



A fantastic Traditional Burns Night supper at Maggie & Vic's. Great food, company and many tales to tell after a few toasts to the Haggis and the Bard himself of course. I think we all came away knowing a little more about the Bard, Scottish life and where so many of our everyday sayings come from. Well done Maggie & Vic!!



GERMAN CONVERSATION AND CULTURE

We enjoyed a pleasant meeting on 21st January. It was nice to see almost all our members for our first meeting of the new year.

Two interesting articles from Nachrichten Leicht were, as usual, read, translated and discussed. Firstly, about some countries prohibiting the import of pork, lamb and beef from Germany because of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. The first in Germany for 37 years. Reading about the impact on farmers and their livelihoods, we remembered the last time the disease had been in the UK and how it had affected us.

Our second article was about the former President Jimmy Carter, who has recently passed away at the age of 100. It was interesting to read how, together with his wife, he founded an organisation dedicated to fighting for democracy and human rights. He received the Nobel Peace Prize for his commitment. Members were

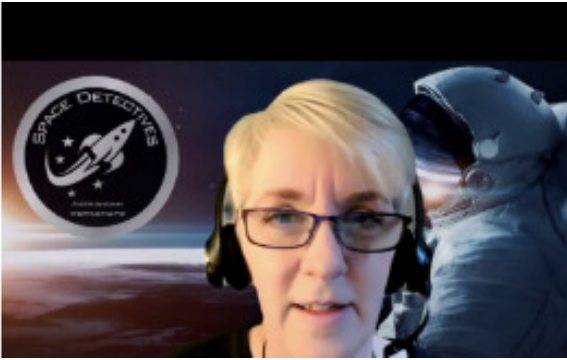
surprised to learn about his achievements since leaving office and also that he had received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Some very interesting sentences were read out from Members containing our "study" verb KLINGEN. Especially Tricia's which covered several tenses of the verb and Karen's which highlighted the imperfect tense.

Coffee, tea and biscuits were enjoyed whilst we had our usual light-hearted chat. Karen is due to travel to the Caribbean for a cruise. We look forward to hearing about her adventures at our next meeting. We also discussed the advantages of learning a language and also how Latin forms the basis of many of our words.

Our next meeting is on 18th February.
Joy Brown.

JANUARY'S GENERAL MEETING - Jo Richardson - In the Night Sky



How lucky we were to have such an engaging and mind-expanding talk on Zoom from Jo Richardson, who is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society! Jo last gave us a talk in January 2023 and it was so inspiring we wanted her back and we were not disappointed. Her talk was inspirational and I for one will be out looking at the night sky at the next 'clear sky' opportunity. I may even purchase a pair of 10 by 50 binoculars as Jo suggested. Star-gazing is of great interest at the moment particularly as we have been able to see the Northern Lights recently in Nottingham.

Jo explained how light pollution can really impede viewing the night sky and will be getting worse due to the Starlink satellites of Elon Musk. I did not realise light pollution also affects the health and wellbeing of all animals including us humans. There is the DarkSky International campaign or the Commission for Dark Skies for those of us who wish to get involved in preserving our night sky view.

Jo and her husband have an observatory in Exmoor where the night skies are still dark and her husband has taken some wonderful photos. It is our closest galaxy and some 2.5 million light years away. My head is still spinning at the scale of space that Jo so ably explained to us. She suggested we start looking at the night sky by focussing on the moon with the naked eye. It is our closest celestial neighbour being a mere 240,000 miles away. She showed us how to pick out certain areas of the moon like the gigantic Tycho and Copernicus craters and the landing areas of the

Apollo spacecrafts. It is best to look at a crescent moon or the waxing and waning moons as you can look along what is called the Terminator line and see the real difference between the light and dark. Fascinating!!

Jo then showed us photographs of all the different coloured stars - red stars are old stars running out of gas, blue ones are the young, hot stars and the little white stars are middle-aged like the sun. It is unfathomable how big space is. Just in our one galaxy, it would take us 4.5 years to get to the closest star to the sun - Proxima Centauri - if we travelled at the speed of light. It would take 70,000 years by car and that is just one galaxy among trillions of galaxies as was shown by the Hubble spacecraft in 1993!

Astronomers have also proved using the James Webb telescope that Einstein was right - space is curved.

We saw some amazing video of the Sun and how violent and hot it is. Jo also explored the many ways in which our ancestors interpreted the stars - from archaeological sites like Stonehenge and Avebury to the Ancient Babylonians who foretold the coming of Halley's Comet, scribed in tablets in 146 BC. She also showed us a cave painting from the Lascaux caves that looks like animals being hunted but is also a map of the night sky.

Finally, Jo urged us to really look at the night sky. In winter you can see Orion and from that the Orion Nebula and Betelgeuse. Also look out for Ursa Minor and Cassiopeia which you can see all year long. At present, you can see the planets Mars, Jupiter and Venus. You might also catch the odd satellite, comets, meteors and the International Space station. Good apps to use include Google Sky, Apple Sky and Stellarium which I have already downloaded!!!. Happy Night Sky watching (when it gets a bit warmer!!!). We must get Jo back again!!!

Alison Gove-Humphries

I saw a sign the other day that said, 'Watch for children,' and I thought, 'That sounds like a fair trade.'

Your Committee 2024-25

Valerie Wilkinson	Chair	Amanda Knight	Committee Member
Geraldine Chaffe	Vice Chair	Lesley Harrington	Committee Member
Elaine Lindley	Business Secretary	Liz Hagan	Committee Member
Joan Davis	Treasurer	Pat Smith	Committee Member
Linda Randall	Membership Secretary	Sheila Ward	Committee Member
Alison Gove-Humphries	Groups Support }	Sue Cullen	Newsletter & Tech Support
Eileen Braham	Groups Support }		

Technical Problems?

If you have any problems or issues with our website please don't struggle or, even worse, give up!

We have a team of people who will do their best to assist you to get the most out of our lovely [MaD Website](#) or with Beacon site issues.

Please contact the [Webmaster](#) or one of the MaD Tech Comms group :

Richard Hill, Sue Cullen, Liz Hagan, Andrew Harper

TRIPS AND VISITS

Future events that you need book now if interested:

6th February 'Julius Caesar' - Performed by BA2 Acting – 7.00 pm at Fletchers Theatre (Nottingham College Theatre, Lace Market)

Jealous conspirators convince Caesar's friend Brutus to join their assassination plot against Caesar. To stop Caesar from gaining too much power, Brutus and the conspirators kill him on the Ides of March. Mark Antony drives the conspirators out of Rome and fights them in a battle. Brutus and his friend Cassius lose and kill themselves, leaving Antony to rule in Rome. By William Shakespeare-Please note this show explores adult themes; there may be smoke, haze and flashing lights in this performance. Code 5JS0602 - £6.50pp

17 May Queen Rhapsody @ The Art's Theatre, George Street. 7.30 pm £22.50 (over 65's) Code 5QR1705 - Open to family & Friends

23 June @ 1pm - Nottingham Forest Football Ground Tour £15pp please book your place now as we have to reserve the slot Code NF2306

Events at Mapperley Plains Social club

We have reserved 20 **Early Bird** tickets for these events, prices indicated are the Early Bird price, the events do sell out so please let us know if you wish to book any of them and transfer the cost to the U3A using the appropriate code so that we can secure your tickets. These are **open to friends and family** also.

Date	Event	Code	month	day	cost
21/03/25	FAB4 Returns (MPSC)	5F4	March	Fri	£10.00
10/05/25	DD Anniversary (MPSC)	DD1005	May	Sat	Free
10/05/25	Salute to the 40's (MPSC)	S1005	May	Sat	£15.00
16/05/25	The Jukebox Jets - Rock & Roll (MPSC)	5JJ	May	Fri	£10.00

08/06/25	Daytime Disco MPSC	DD0806	June	Sun	£7.00
20/06/25	Barn Dance (MPSC)	BD2006	June	Fri	£7.00
26/07/25	Motown Night (MPSC)	MT2107	July	Sat	£20.00
22/08/24	ABBA Tribute (MPSC)	A2908	Aug	Fri	£10.00
06/09/25	Kelly's Heroes (MPSC)	KH0609	Sept	Sat	£10.00
24/10/25	Shania (MPSC)	S2410	Oct	Fri	£20.00
15/11/25	The Swingtones (MPSC)	ST1511	Nov	Sat	£10.00

GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY

This month's meeting will be on Thursday 27th February at Mapperley Sports and social club – 10 am to 12 noon. Our speaker is from East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme. EMICS is a network of volunteer doctors with specialist training in pre-hospital emergency medicine who assist East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) at the scene of life threatening emergencies. EMICS doctors provide advanced specialist skills at the point of need. Our doctors are dispatched alongside usual NHS resources to the most serious incidents in the region and arrive at scene carrying all their own kit and medications, funded entirely by the charity

There will be a bucket collection at the end of the meeting

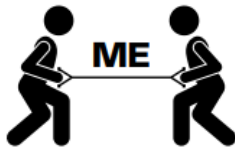

MEETINGS FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS - THE OLD FLOWER SHOP

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

On the Thursday of 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 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

DINGBATS (answers at the end)

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5	6	7	8

If you don't pay your exorcist, do you get repossessed?

QUIZ (answers at the end)

1. Which planet is closest to the sun?
2. Who wrote the book Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car?
3. In which part of your body would you find the cruciate ligament?
4. What is the most populated city in Australia?
5. What is the name of the main antagonist in the Shakespeare play Othello?
6. When was the movie the Titanic released?
7. What is the capital of Qatar?
8. What element is denoted by the chemical symbol Sn in the periodic table?
9. How many of Henry VIII's wives were called Catherine?
10. What was the most popular girls name in the UK in 2023?
11. What is the name of the 1976 film about the Watergate scandal, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman?
12. Which comedian was the second permanent host of Never Mind the Buzzcocks after Mark Lamarr?

Random science :

1. Earth's rotation is changing speed. It's actually slowing. This means that, on average, the length of a day increases by around 1.8 seconds per century. 600 million years ago a day lasted just 21 hours.
2. The Universe's average colour is called 'Cosmic latte'. In a 2002 study, astronomers found that the light coming from galaxies averaged into a beige colour that's close to white.
3. The Sun makes a sound but we can't hear it. In the form of pressure waves. The wavelength of the pressure waves from the Sun is measured in hundreds of miles, however, meaning they are far beyond the range of human hearing.
4. Our solar system has a wall. The heliopause – the region of space in which solar wind isn't hot enough to push back the wind of particles coming from distant stars – is often considered the "boundary wall" of the Solar System and interstellar space.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

We'd love to hear from you. A story or poem, a recipe, tips or tricks, a lesson learned or a near-disaster averted - anything you think may be of interest to MaD members. Send your contribution, with pictures if you have them, to the editor at newsletter@madu3a.org.

NEWSLETTERS Our MaD Moments Newsletter is published monthly in digital format. Hard copies are available for members who do not have email. Please contact our Chair Geraldine Chaffe on chair@madu3a.org or speak to one of the Committee members if you cannot receive the Newsletter via email.

THIRD AGE MATTERS MAGAZINE VIA SCREEN READER The TAM is also available in a text only format to make it readable with screen reader. 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.



NATIONAL u3a NEWSLETTER The u3a National Newsletter is available for all members to receive directly if you sign up for it. To receive your monthly copy just click on this link <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>. There's lots of information there for everyone and it's good to see what is happening in u3as across the country. Click on this link for the latest edition - <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter> and for Nottingham u3a network here : <https://www.nottsu3anetwork.org/>

Gedling Community and Voluntary E-Newsletter - click here.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKGEDLING/bulletins/3254c39>

Gedling Health and Wellbeing Newsletter - click here.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKGEDLING/bulletins/32084ce>

HAVE YOU MOVED HOUSE? Please remember to let the Membership Secretary know if your personal details change. If you don't you may stop receiving Third Age Matters, email information and the Newsletter etc.

Quiz Answers

1. Mercury
2. Ian Fleming
3. Knee
4. Sydney
5. Iago
6. 1997
7. Doha
8. Tin
9. 3
10. Olivia
11. All the President's Men
12. Simon Amstell

Dingbat answers

1. Back to back
2. Hang in there
3. Make a long story short
4. No pain no gain
5. Pull yourself together
6. The last straw
7. Get bent out of shape
8. A picture is worth a thousand words