

System and District

u3a

learn, laugh, live

MAY
2024

Vitality!

Official newsletter of the System and District u3a

CHARITY No 1180152

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I hope those of who went to hear Dr Ann Featherstone talk about Mash Potato Sandwiches & a bottle of Top Tinsel enjoyed it. Although I never had the sandwiches many of the other things she spoke took me back to when I was young lad and we had to make do and mend.

Fast approaching is our AGM where there are a few vacancies we would like fill. These are Assistant Groups Co-ordinator, Vice Chair and Committee Members. If you would like further information, please email me at sadu3achair@gmail.com or alternatively see me at the May meeting.

I hope to see you at our next meeting when David Bell's talk is 'Down the Garden Path'

Clive

WE WANT TO LET YOU KNOW

AGM to be held on Wednesday 12th June 2024

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of [System and District u3a](#) is to be held in the Syston Community Centre immediately prior to the monthly General Meeting on Wednesday 12th June 2024.

An Agenda with copies of various reports will be sent out to all members in May to give members time to consider them.

On the Agenda, there will also be an election for the empty places on the committee.

These are **Vice-Chairman** and **3 other committee members**.

The committee meets **no more** than once a month. Please consider volunteering, your input would be greatly valued.

If you think you can help, please fill in (**Part A**) of the form emailed/posted to all members and return to sadu3asecretary@gmail.com by **10th May 2024**.

If there is something you wish to be discussed at the AGM, please fill in **(Part B)** of the form sent out and return **by 10th May 2024** to sadu3asecretary@gmail.com . Please note - only matters previously notified and put on the agenda can be discussed at the AGM.

If you haven't seen the email with the form for completion, please check your spam/bulk/junk mail box. We have no control over whether your email provider diverts our messages there.

GROUP NEWS

WALKING GROUP

For this walk on April 18th, group 1 and group 2 combined. We met at 9:45 at The Old Thatched Inn in Stanton-under-Bardon, a 16th Century, once farm house, and, for those who wanted, we ordered our lunches for when we got back. At 10am we left the car park and made our way through various woods, gradually descending to the North west tip of Thornton Reservoir. Built in 1854, the water treatment plant was once on the south side of the reservoir, next to the Dam, but it now runs down to Cropston Reservoir and is treated there.

Our path then climbed up in to the village of Thornton, then down to cross the Railway Line, and then pass through Bagworth Heath Woods.

As we approached Bagworth, we stopped for a quick Photo shoot on one of the newly built wooden bridges.

It was here we turned for home, crossed fields and eventually picked up the Ivanhoe Way back to Stanton.

Muddy ? Of course not, well perhaps a little, but the weather was really good, sunshine, no rain and very little breeze – very lucky considering how it had been of late. Just under 5 miles.

Cindy and her team then served us with our lunches which everyone seemed to enjoy.

A walk definitely worth repeating sometime.

Dave Palmer



FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

A brick wall in family history is a person you can't trace back. They usually suddenly appear as say an adult, but you struggle to find them as a child, so don't know who their parents were. Harriett Clark was one such person, she married John Hayes in 1875 saying she was 20, but there was no birth registration or baptism record under that name, no definite sign of her on census data in 1861 or 1871. She said her

father was John Clark (deceased) on marriage, but I suspected that might be false, that she was born outside wedlock and was hiding the fact.

DNA was a possible way of getting around this brick wall. A cluster of distant cousins all linked back to the Clarke and/or Slator family and I thought I had found John Clark, which is until a chance exchange with a closer cousin provided a snippet of information. The marriage between Harriett and John had foundered quite quickly and I had assumed that it had produced no children. My cousin mentioned that a John Hayes was born in 1876, he had assumed this was my 2xGreatgrandfather, who went by the name John William Clark, but John William was born in 1879 and I had a birth certificate for him.

I found the birth registration for John Hayes son of Harriett and John, but only lived for 9 weeks. He had been baptised, with only Harriett listed as a parent, suggesting John was already absent. It was little John's death certificate that provided a vital piece of information. The informant of the death was Esther Clark, his grandmother. I had a name for Harriett's mother. My joy was short-lived, I could find no trace of Esther prior to 1876. I could find her in 1881 and that she had married a John Williamson in 1883 as Esther Clarke. Her marriage certificate recorded her as a widow and gave her father's name as Thomas Jackson. I could find no marriage between a Clark(e) male and an Esther Jackson, but Esther Jackson did marry a John Avey in 1873. John died in 1860, the couple had 4 children, one of whom was named Harriett and was born in 1855. Could she be "my" Harriett? A little more digging and I established that Esther Jackson was the daughter of Thomas Jackson and Harriett Slator – ah! was this my connection to the Slator family? The answer to both questions was yes! For some reason, Esther decided to adopt the surname Clark some time after she was widowed, I'll probably never know why. There's nothing illegal about changing your name, except if you do so for fraudulent purposes, but it does cause problems for family historians. So my brick wall has been smashed, however, it has been replaced by another, I don't know anything about John Avey my 3xGreatgrandfather, except when he married and when he died, and that his death and burial records state that he was 31. Oh well, another brick wall to try and knock down.

AMBLING GROUPS

This month both Ambling Groups have walked along the canal from Cossington towards Syston followed by lunch at The Royal Oak in Cossington.

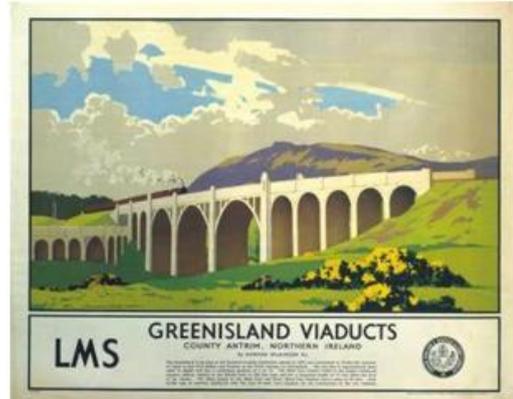
Slightly different weather conditions, but we all managed to smile!



ART APPRECIATION GROUP

We were pleased to welcome 2 new members to the group for our April meeting. The topics ranged from the poster art of Norman Wilkinson,

The ten best known works by Banksy



and the variety of art displayed on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square.

Each provided food for thought and some differing views.



Our next meeting is to be on Weds May 1st when we are going to visit the New Walk Museum in Leicester. There is an exhibition of "Subway Art", as well as the permanent displays of German Expressionism, Victorian Gallery and Picasso Ceramics.

If anyone would like to join us please contact Michael Wherton or Christine Gale via the website.

EVENTS – PAST, PRESENT & PLANNED

Everyone has a story to tell?

So, have you read the article on page 17 of the latest edition of Third Age Matters?

It talks about a project undertaken by Lichfield u3a members, where they produced a template for people who want to write their memoirs, but perhaps don't know where to start or how to go about it.

You can either buy printed copies or download the writing pack. We've downloaded it, and it's really interesting, with easy to use fact sheets and exercises to help with organising thoughts. Instructions are all in the article.

As u3a members, most of us have probably come to an age where we're reflecting on the times we've lived in, the events that shaped our lives, and the lessons we've learned along the way. No doubt some of us have been asked questions by family and friends and been surprised that there's even any interest in our stories.

We might for example, have been born during a war, had gas lighting in our homes, toilets accessed from outside the building we lived in, communicated only by letter, or left school at 14. Whatever our beginnings, our grandchildren's history could have been our reality!

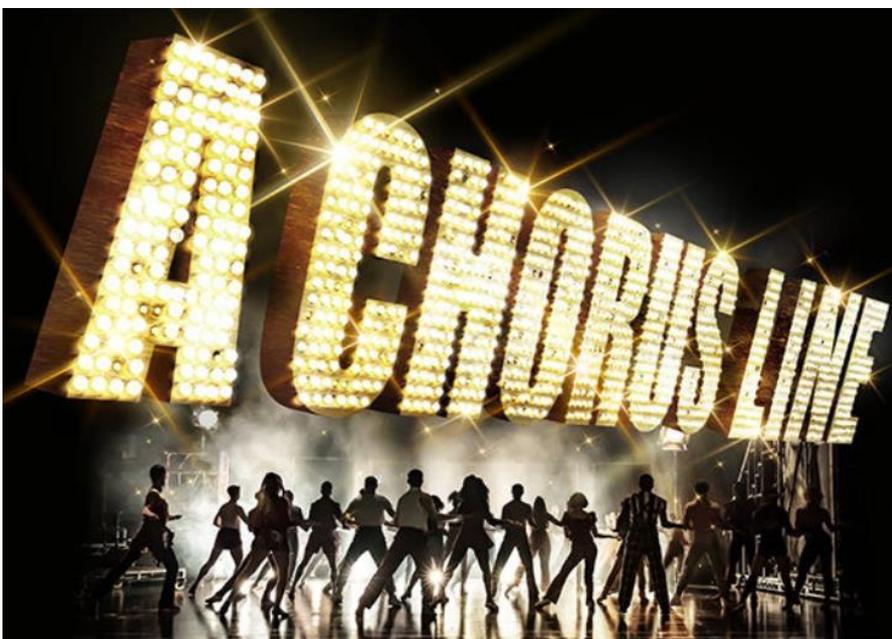
In considering how to make best use of the Lichfield pack, Michael and I had some thoughts about how we could help our Syston and District members to benefit from the materials.

Here's what we came up with.

How about we gather interested people together and have some workshops, providing a launchpad for members to feel confident and equipped to use the template? As (now retired) professional adult trainers, we reckon it could be covered by having three sessions split into the areas identified by the memoir pack. Interested? Contact us either through our editor or by email to michaelwherton@gmail.com with your email and availability for the workshops.

Pat and Michael Wherton

A TRIP TO LEICESTER CURVE THEATRE TO SEE....



Sheila Driver is organising a trip on Thursday, 4th July, 2.15pm at a cost of £31.50 per member (stall seat).

Travel there under own transport.

To book a seat please contact sheiladriver@hotmail.com by Thursday 11 April; with your name and membership number.

It may still be worth making enquiries just in case someone pulls out.

Coffee Morning

At St Mary's Church Barkby

Saturday 1st June 2024

10am to 12 noon

“Sing Along Saturday”

With the Syston U3A Singers



Singing popular songs

Coffee/Tea/Cake/Raffle

Supporting charity: Life Skills Project

International

WHAT'S ON NEXT

GENERAL MEETINGS

In the Brookside Room at the Community Centre – talks usually start 10.30am
Tea/coffee and mingling from 10.00am

May 8th, 2024



David Bell returns to give us an amusing talk on *'Down the Garden Path' - a humorous look at the privy!*

June 12th, 2024

Mick Clowes - an illustrated talk on The Melton & Oakham Waterways – past present and future



July 10th, 2024

Derek Holloway presents his talk on the life of aviator Amy Johnson, who will be remembered for her amazing achievement of flying, solo, from England to Australia in May 1930.



NATIONAL U3A ITEMS

u3a TALKS



THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

The Harlem Renaissance

Join Irene Kiffin, London u3a, for a talk on the Harlem Renaissance movement.

Thursday 9 May at 2pm
Free – online via Zoom

Book [here](#)



**The Story of the Workhouse
– Welfare in England Before
1948**

A look at the origins and evolution of the workhouse, the buildings, life for inmates, and whether it was as grim as it's often painted, by Peter Higginbotham

Friday 17th May at 10am
Free – online via Zoom

Book [here](#)



**Understanding Online
Safety: Expert Tips for You
and Others from AbilityNet**

Connect with tech charity AbilityNet, and gain invaluable insights from experts on enhancing digital safety for yourself and others.

Tuesday 21 May at 2pm
Free – online via Zoom

Book [here](#)

Open Space Event

Tues 14 May, 2-3.30pm

This is an annual event hosted by the Future Lives Group to enable members to share their views and experiences about important issues and shape what is next for Future Lives. Numbers will be limited.

[Register here](#)

NOT u3a BUT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED



Do you play an instrument and want to join a fun and friendly orchestra in a relaxed setting without the pressure of performing in concerts? Then come to...

DAYTIME ORCHESTRA LOUGHBOROUGH

For adult instrumentalists.
Grade 3+ is recommended

All players welcome, especially strings and brass!

Contact us to arrange a free taster session to see if it's right for you!

Email: admin@music-for-everyone.org
Phone: 0115 9589312
See website for full term dates www.music-for-everyone.org

TUESDAYS
10AM - 12PM

EMMANUEL CHURCH,
FOREST ROAD,
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Music
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Registered Charity No. 1153412

DECISION DAY AT THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE

It's decision day in the Syston and District Volunteer Centre as the weekly task of matching social car requests for the following week with available drivers begins. This process is never easy and often very stressful. Current demand on the service regularly exceeds driver availability. Some tough decisions lie ahead.

Many hours later, as more than 100 journeys have already been successfully arranged and the last few pieces remain to be fitted into the schedule, there are three applicants for the remaining single available driver on the Friday.

David* lives in Queniborough and needs to be driven to the LRI. He has been offered a 11.00 a.m. late cancellation appointment for an MRI scan to investigate the possibility of a brain tumour.

Maisie*, lives in Thurmaston, is registered blind and needs transport to her weekly hairdressing appointment in Syston for 1.00 p.m..

Hilda* is a first-time applicant for the service. She lives in Birstall, uses a wheelchair and has an appointment at Melton Hospital scheduled for 12 noon to assess a potential basal cell carcinoma on her leg.

What would your decision be? Who would you choose to disappoint?

In the event, Maisie's request was accepted.

Peter has family living close by, to whom in an emergency, he can turn to for help, and he lives close to a bus route into town. Hilda is informed, with sincere regret, that, because of a shortage of drivers, the Centre currently has had to set up a waiting list for new applicants for the service.

For Maisie, who lives alone and has no family in the area, this is her once-a-week opportunity to leave her lonely house to meet and interact with others. Eagerly anticipated, this excursion represents the highlight of her week. Sadly, she is only one of hundreds of lonely and isolated people cut off from family, friends, local services and social activities. Many rarely receive visitors from one week to the next!

Low-cost, reliable transport provides an answer to their problems, enabling them to stay in touch and to continue to participate in family and community life. Through the Syston and District Volunteer Centre, Centre, grant-aided, community transport is available to help address the problem. However, we urgently need more volunteer drivers to enable us to deliver this subsidised service to more of those in need.



We need volunteers to use their own cars, in return for generous mileage allowances, or to drive one of our specially adapted vehicles, to enable us to provide a more personal service for those needing to keep hospital and doctors' appointments, visit family and friends or, simply, to do the weekly shop. Simple activities that the rest of us take for granted.

We need volunteers for training to drive our small fleet of minibuses, which provide a range of social excursions for groups.

All of our volunteers dictate their own patterns of availability and remain in complete control over the number of hours involved. Every single one speaks of how rewarding they find it.

If **YOU** have a spare hour or two in your week and would like to help to improve the quality of life for your lonely community fellows, we would love to hear from you.

For more information, please call into the Centre or telephone on **0116 2607 888**. Alternatively, you can email: info@syston-vc.org



Curious About Leicester

Discover Leicester in this self-guided heritage walk with an optional treasure hunt.

Have fun re-discovering Leicester, spotting things you've never noticed before, with two quirky treasure hunt style heritage walks - a fun and affordable way to get some fresh air, whilst finding out more about this fascinating city. Curious About Leicester visits not just the obvious places, but some unusual ones too, with hidden treasures to discover. Suitable for all ages, the walks take 1-2 hours each and are wheelchair and buggy friendly. Each 16-page booklet contains two walks, a brief history of Leicester, a detailed map with two walking routes marked on, and a series of directions and clues (Hints as to where to find the answer, and the answers can be found towards the end of the booklet). You'll also find ideas for things to see on the way, pictures to identify & some interesting snippets about the people & events that have shaped Leicester.

Visit our website then buy in printed booklet format (we post to you) or instant download format (you print at home, or download to your mobile (devices), then explore in your own time. Use code List20 at checkout for 20% off all purchases. Have fun & be curious! [Visit Website](#)



The Leicestershire Society of Botanical Illustrators Exhibition

'Handle with Care!' 'Plants with a Dark Side.'

An Art Exhibition in the Library at The Guildhall, Leicester.

The Leicestershire Society of Botanical Illustrators was established in the 1980s and comprises a group of local artists who meet weekly...

9 May 2024 Open 11:00 - 16:30
10 May 2024 Open 11:00 - 16:30
11 May 2024 Open 11:00 - 16:30
12 May 2024 Open 11:00 - 16:30
13 May 2024 Open 11:00 - 16:30
14 May 2024 Open 11:00 - 16:30

Where: The Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester, LE1 5FQ
Contact details: 0116 253 2569



Meet the Bees

Have you ever wondered what's inside the beehive? What the honeybees do and what's so special about them? Take part in the exclusive bee-keeping experience with Honey Craft's Beekeeper. What will happen in the session? Join a beekeeping...

26 May 2024 to 15 Sept 2024

Where: Bradgate Park, Bradgate Road, Leicester, LE6 0HE
Contact details: 0116 236 2713



An Introduction to Patchwork and Quilting

Try patchwork and quilting for the first time and discover the modern way to make timeless heirlooms. This 5-week course starts on Wednesday 15 May and ends on 12 June 2024. Each weekly session starts at 10am and finishes at 12.30pm. This...

15 May 2024 to 12 June 2024

Where: Attenborough Arts Centre, University of Leicester, Lancaster Road, Leicester, LE1 7HA
Contact details: 01162 522455

FROM OUR MEMBERS



This is a story about our ancestors. How, over the course of two million years or so, one particular animal, *Homo sapiens*, came to dominate the world.

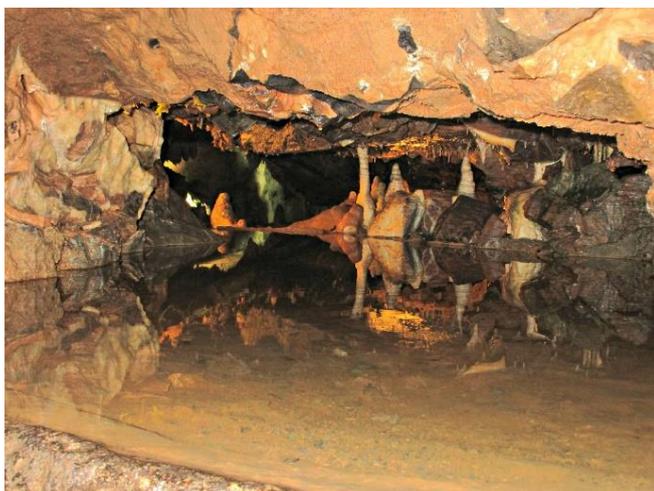
We will start this story in Cheddar Gorge, Somerset in the late Victorian period. Imagine, if you will, that you own a fine property – let us call it Longleat, and you need to make some money to run the estate. The emerging middle classes will pay good money for an interesting day out.



The Lions of Longleat Safari Park (opened 1966)

Obviously lions are not going to attract fee paying visitors until the motor car has been invented.

A good money spinner would be a show cave, such as Gough's Cave in Cheddar Gorge, only thirty miles away.



View from inside Gough's Cave, Cheddar

Water flowing through limestone has created impressive caverns decorated with stalagmite and stalactites. People will pay good money for the experience.

In 1903 the money-spinning show cave (billed as *the best in the country*) had to be closed because of flooding. Labourers were hired to dig a drainage ditch to prevent future closures and in the course of their work they unearthed human remains.



Human skeleton found in Gough's Cave

The skeleton was examined by experts and later moved to the Natural History Museum in London where you can see it today. To encourage visitors the finding was publicised with the claim that the skeleton was at least 40,000 years old and perhaps twice as old.

A rival show-cave claimed that Gough's Cave would be haunted and visitors would be safer if they visited their cave which was nearby. Of course this drove up visitor numbers to the benefit of the Marquis of Bath, the owner of Longleat and Gough's Cave.

The skeleton has been examined by different teams of experts over many years, revealing details of Cheddar Man. Anatomists have concluded that he was male and died in his twenties. Radiocarbon dating indicates he was alive 10,000 years ago.

More recent investigations have analysed his DNA using recently developed techniques. He had dark skin, green eyes, dark, perhaps curly hair and was intolerant to milk. Not exactly what you would expect from an early Briton.



Cheddar Man imaged using forensic techniques

In another scientific study, an attempt was made to match mitochondrial DNA of Cheddar Man with male local residents.



Mr Adrian Targett, a history teacher in Cheddar shares the same mitochondrial DNA as Cheddar Man though 300 generations apart

Adrian Targett lives in the *modern age* that some anthropologists want to call **the Anthropocene** Cheddar Man lived in the middle stone-age referred to as **the Mesolithic** period. He would have lived in a small group leading a hunter-gatherer existence.

To continue with our story we need to jump back in time to 3.2 Million years ago



Lucy,

named after the Beatles song *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* Lucy, *Australopithecus afarensis* was discovered in Ethiopia in 1974. She predates humans and was predominantly tree dwelling though she could walk upright, as we can.

She stood at a little over a metre tall with a brain size of one third of that of a modern human. Some essential features for living in trees.

BINOCULAR VISION



Tarsier with forward pointing eyes allowing binocular vision Judging distances with great accuracy is an essential skill for animals that move from branch to branch in trees. Tarsiers are primates, we can regard them as distant relatives.

OPPOSABLE THUMBS

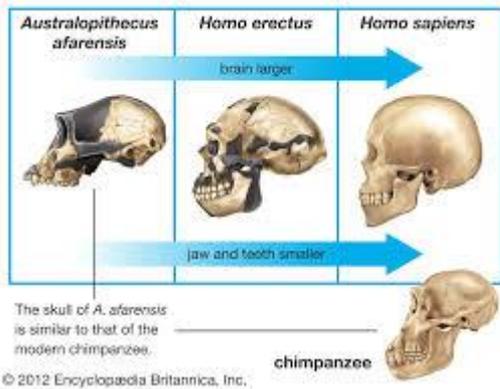


Power Grip

Precision Grip

Many tree dwelling animals have opposable thumbs (the thumb can touch the fingers allowing a grip).

LARGE ENOUGH BRAIN



To process information from the eyes and direct the muscles needed for precise and safe movement.

Lucy seems well on the way to developing modern human characteristics.

Our ancestors moved down from a life in the trees to take advantage of new opportunities amongst the grasses, bushes and small trees that make up what we call savanna, popularly called African bush.



Savanna, (Tarangire NP in Tanzania)

It was a risky strategy, exposing themselves to predators that were unable to reach them in trees as a trade-off against new sources of food. Proto-humans could take advantage of the three characteristics they developed as tree dwellers, using their opposable thumbs to grip sticks and stones and use them as tools to aid their survival. A number of animals have been seen to use found objects as tools



This crow is using a stick to prise insect grubs out of holes in wood, using a tool to obtain food.



Long tailed macaque using a stone to prise open oysters
Our hominid ancestors, with their larger brains were able to use sticks and stones as tools to protect themselves and secure the necessary food for their survival.

We assume that our ancestors used sticks as a survival aid, but without tangible proof, it's just an intelligent guess. Their use of stones is based on evidence that we can find if we look in the right places.



Flint, a stone found in ploughed fields near my home

Flint is a hard form of silica with properties similar to glass. If it is struck in a particular way, flakes will detach, a process called knapping. These flakes have very sharp edges in the same way that broken glass has.



As sharp as any kitchen knife, and much harder, it will cut wood, bone, deer antler and other common natural materials.

A skilled flint knapper can produce a range of effective tools



Flint knife blades displayed in a Cadiz Museum

Using knives of flint, our ancestors would be able to remove the hide of animals such as deer and use the material to make useful items.



Flint arrow heads

Adding a very sharp flint tip to an arrow or spear ensure better penetration of the prey animal's skin and the deep cut produced will ensure a faster death of tomorrow's dinner, giving it less chance to escape.

The 16th Century scholar Michel Mercati noted that the Vatican museum's collection of flint arrowheads were labelled as "thunderbolts"



Stone axe-head displayed in Manchester Museum

Researchers have shown than a skilled stoneworker can produce a very effective stone axe in about 60 hours. Perhaps a week's work without the distraction social media! Stone axes (or hammers) can be used to shape other softer stones for construction purposes or, if given a sharp cutting edge, be used to fell trees. If you look in the right places (caves would be a good start) you will find evidence of our stone-age forbears throughout the world (except Antarctica).

We will leave our story there and continue with it next month.

Wait! Isn't fire a tool? – An excellent question which I will attempt to answer.

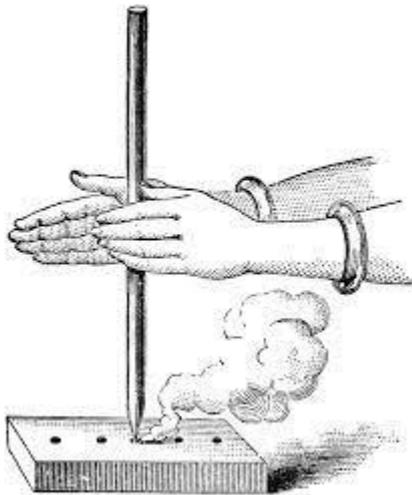
Fire is very useful. It provides light (useful if you live deep inside a cave) and gives warmth. Scares away wild animals and cooks food. Cooking food is a very good idea. In the heating process germs and parasites are killed and large molecules are broken down making digestion easier, so providing more energy.



Early human ancestors would have encountered

fire that had been started by a lightning strike. It would have been possible to 'capture' the fire and preserve it by feeding it with fuel. However there is no surviving evidence to show that this happened even if it is a good idea. We know that modern day hunter-gatherers deliberately set fire to grassland to find food – lizards and snakes move away from the flames and are caught by the hunters. Birds abandon their nests leaving their eggs behind.

There are two ways to make fire that could have been employed by our ancestors.



Wood-on-wood friction

Rubbing sticks together can, if you know how, cause combustion by frictions. Having started a fire, our ancestors would have added the sticks to the fire, leaving no evidence behind to be discovered by a modern day investigator.



Stone on stone percussion

If you take a piece of a mineral called pyrites (fool's gold) and strike it against a flat piece of flint you will produce a shower of sparks that can be used to set fire to dry materials such as grass. Very careful examination of 50,000 year old flint pieces collected from caves in France show marking caused by pyrites strikes. Our Neanderthal ancestors knew how to make fire.

More on this topic from Pierre Castille next month

WHAT IF YOU THINK YOU ARE HAVING A HEART ATTACK, BUT YOU ARE ALONE?

I feel the message below would be a useful read regarding our health.

I have had many CPR classes over the last few years but was never told this.....

Have you ever thought about it ♥

When you are alone and have a heart attack. What are you going to do then ?

A really good post that can't be shared often enough:

1. Take a 2 minute break and read this:

Let's say it's 5:25 pm and you're driving home after an unusually hard day's work.

2. You are really tired and frustrated.

All of a sudden your chest pains. They are starting to radiate in the arm and jaw. It feels like being stabbed in the chest and heart. You're only a few miles away from the nearest hospital or home.

3. Unfortunately you don't know if you can make it..

4. Maybe you've taken CPR training, but the person running the course hasn't told you how to help yourself.

5. How do you survive a heart attack if you're alone when it happens? A person who is feeling weak and whose heart is beating hard has only about 10 seconds before losing consciousness.

6. But you can help yourself by coughing repeatedly and very strongly! Deep breaths before every

cough. Coughing should be repeated every second until you arrive at the hospital or until your heart starts to beat normally.

7. Deep breathing gives oxygen to your lungs and coughing movements boost the heart and blood circulation. Heart pressure also helps to restore a normal heartbeat. Here's how cardiac arrest victims can make it to the hospital for the right treatment

8. FOR WOMEN: You should know that women have additional and different symptoms. Rarely have crushing chest pain or pain in the arms. Often have indigestion and tightness across the back at the bra line plus sudden fatigue.

I hope you don't need to use this information but very useful to know if needed.

Thank you Glenis Smith for sharing this.

DECLUTTER DEN

Do you have anything sitting in a cupboard, or on a shelf, that you no longer want? Might one of our members or groups be able to make use of it?

Peter Spooner has a run of the Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society Journals covering December 2019 to March 2024.

If anyone is interested in giving them a new home please contact Peter email: pgs6955@yahoo.com



If you have something that you are prepared to give away – **strictly no items for sale!** Let me know and I'll put it in declutter den and hopefully we can help each other free up some space, whilst giving others something they have a use for, even if we don't.

Email: sadu3aed@gmail.com

THANK YOU

Thank you to those of you that sent me kind messages on my family bereavement. I know that because of the age demographic of our u3a, many of you will have already lost both parents. I am incredibly blessed that my mother was with us until she was almost 91, and my father is still with me at 93.

Please accept my apologies if I have overlooked any contributions that have been sent to me for this newsletter, and for any errors that I might have missed due to hasty editing. *Ed*

POETRY CORNER

HER HANDS by Maggie Pittman

Her hands held me gently from the day I took my first breath.
Her hands helped to guide me as I took my first step.
Her hands held me close when the tears would start to fall.
Her hands were quick to show me that she would take care of it all.

Her hands were there to brush my hair, or straighten a wayward bow.
Her hands were often there to comfort the hurts that didn't always show.
Her hands helped hold the stars in place, and encouraged me to reach.
Her hands would clap and cheer and praise when I captured them at length.

Her hands would also push me, though not down or in harm's way.
Her hands would punctuate the words, just do what I say.
Her hands sometimes had to discipline, to help bend this young tree.
Her hands would shape and mold me into all she knew I could be.

Her hands are now twisting with age and years of work,
Her hand now needs my gentle touch to rub away the hurt.
Her hands are more beautiful than anything can be.
Her hands are the reason I am me.

Haiku by Richard M Deets

Love is nature's threads
embroidered in children, stitch
by stitch by a mother.

And finally.....

Al Capone: "They can't collect legal taxes from illegal money."

Albert Bushnell Hart: "Taxation is the price which civilized communities pay for the opportunity of remaining civilized."

Albert Einstein: "The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

Alfred E. Neuman: "Today, it takes more brains and effort to make out the income-tax form than it does to make the income."

Anonymous: "A fine is a tax for doing something wrong. A tax is a fine for doing something right."

