

System and District

u3a

learn, laugh, live

SEPT
2023

Vitality!

Official newsletter of the System and District u3a

CHARITY No 1180152

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Hi Everyone,

Well, the nights are starting to draw in to remind us that summer is coming to an end.

A short time ago I had to use the services of ageUK in Leicester and I enquired if they gave talks to organisations like the u3a. Anyway, they do, but the lady who gives the talk cannot do a Wednesday. This made me think that we may be able pull another meeting in between our monthly meetings. I think that the information that they can impart would be useful for members. If you would like me to try and organise this, please email me at sadu3achair@gmail.com or speak to me at the next members meeting on Wednesday 13th September.

I hope to see you all soon.

Clive

WE WANT TO LET YOU KNOW

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

A couple of people have enquired about membership renewals. Our simple membership system generated an email and sent it out to you on 30th Aug (mine has arrived). Letters will be sent to those not on email. These messages tell you how to renew. If you don't spot the email, or forget about renewing, the system will automatically send you a reminder. If you don't receive the emails in your inbox, please check your spam/junk mail. Have you changed your email address and forgotten to let us know? If this is the case, or you don't receive the renewal messages, contact our membership secretary Chris on sadu3amembers@gmail.com

GROUP NEWS

IMAGINARIUM

Since it looks like Imaginarium has now moved on from being an experiment and is now an established group, I'm asking our webmaster Steve Kenney to record it on our u3a website.

As agreed, we'll be meeting on the first Thursday afternoon of each month, and in my dining room until our growing numbers force us to book a room elsewhere.

Our August meeting was full of laughter as we allowed our imaginations to take over from the serious business of getting older, and coping with all that comes with it.

We shared some stories based around objects brought from home, and found, to our surprise, that some of our members have been present at times and places when history was being made. A good illustration that everyone has a story.

Our next meeting will be on September 7th and for this I ask that we each bring along two things

1. An opening sentence for one of our 'make it up as you go along' tales
2. A song or piece of music that brings back memories. If you tell me in advance, I'll ask 'Alexa' if its available and play it when we meet. Otherwise please record it on your phone.

I want to give thanks to our friends in the Art Group and the Photography group, who have kindly provided pictures and drawings that we'll be using in some Miroirama exercises. If you don't know what that is, look it up...

What a wonderful organisation is the u3a, where we can cross fertilise ideas and share our talents and resources. If any other groups have found ways to share and use the talents of others, I'm sure our editor Julie would love to know about it.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Those of you who heard my talk about some of my ancestors at the July GM may recall my 2x Great Grandmother Harriett Clark. It took me quite a while to unravel any of her story. However, I was then faced with the problem of finding her parents. I couldn't trace a birth registration, a baptism, or find her on a census under the name Harriett Clark. I could trace nothing definite before she married. I suspected the father's name, John Clark, she gave on marriage might be a made-up name; that Harriett Clark was not her birth name because she was illegitimate.

That theory was turned on its head when I came across a small cluster of DNA matches linked to the area where she lived and said she was born – the Lincolnshire Fens. I followed this up and that led me to a James Clark born in Tydd St Mary, unfortunately I couldn't find a baptism for him there. However, there were other baptisms for Clark children, parents John and Jane. Added to that, I found indications that the parish registers contained errors and omissions, burials with only

a surname shown, baptisms with parents names missing, entries that were not in date order – a poor record keeper cleric is a family historians nightmare!

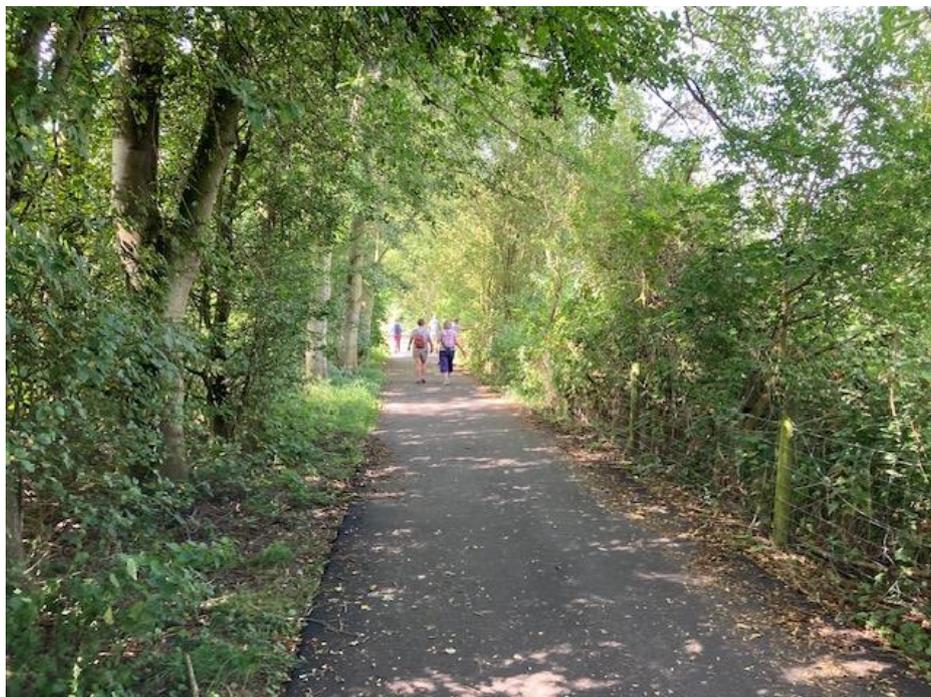
I established that John and Jane had married in Terrington St James, Norfolk in 1803, the couple had migrated to Walpole St Andrew, Norfolk, then on to Parson Drove, Cambridgeshire and finally to Tydd St Mary, Lincolnshire. Although 3 different counties were involved, the distances between these locations is actually quite modest. They all fall into the area called the Fens or Fenlands.

Whilst at Parson Drove, John Clark was born. Were James and John brothers? A mixture of census returns for the Clark family members, along with marriages, deaths and other snippets, allowed me to link different combinations of 2 or 3 family members with each other. The most crucial census was one where James daughter Sarah Ann was recorded visiting with her grandmother Jane, who was living with one of her married daughters. Without that, proving a link between James and his mother would have been difficult, if not impossible.

Family history research is very much like doing a jigsaw puzzle, but the pieces may not be in the same box and some of them may be missing. If you are investigative by nature and relish a challenge, why not try your hand at researching your own family history? Contact me via the u3a website, or email me directly sadu3familyhistory@gmail.com

AMBLING GROUP 2

The group enjoyed an amble around Cossington Mill, followed by lunch at the Royal Oak. Many thanks to Joyce Butler for sending me some lovely photos – too many to use them all – but here is a selection.





FEELING CRAFTY GROUP



The "Feeling Crafty" group used some old beads from unwanted or broken jewellery and wire to make some decorative items to hang onto handbags, key rings, mobile phone, Xmas trees or anywhere else! We had great fun too!
Helen Disley

WALKING GROUP

For the August walk, it was decided we should venture into Derbyshire instead of our usual local walk. We met in East Goscote Car Park for car sharing and managed to set off on time at 8:15am. The journey went quite well (apart from the obligatory crawl through Chesterfield of course!) and we arrived in Ashford-in-the-Water at 10am – so far all going to plan.

So, after a quick change of footwear and use of the on-site toilets, we set off north towards Monsal Head, a distance of about 2 miles.

I had pre-arranged with Nick, the guy who had recently taken over the Hobbs Café, that we were coming, and he had reserved 'The Snug' for us. (traditionally a coffee and cake place, Nick was gradually introducing a wider menu to cater for lunches as well). An 11:15am stop here for coffee was welcomed by all, after the gradual climb up from Ashford.

Suitably refreshed, we descended to the Monsal Viaduct. This 5 arch, 300 yds long bridge was built in the 1860s to accommodate the train service between Buxton and Bakewell. Once again, Mr. Beeching got his way, and the line was closed, and the nearby Headstone Tunnel completed in 1863 was boarded up. It remained like this until 2011, when it was opened to the public and electric lighting installed. This was our next venture. So, carefully avoiding the mass of cyclists, we completed the 1000yds long tunnel, helped by Rob Crosby getting us singing some well-known songs used by the U3A singing group.



It was then quite a long way along the disused railway line, but we were treated to some great views on either side, helped by almost constant sunshine. I pointed out to the group a house on the left which used to be a Toll Gate on the A6020. It was here we turned right and took the gentle uphill climb towards Bakewell. Just over the brow, we found the spot I had targeted for our picnic lunch, looking down on Bakewell and the hills beyond. Once again, the planned stop around 1pm worked out perfectly.

With tums full, it was appreciated that we had a nice downhill stroll to follow, and we soon reached the outskirts of Bakewell. Unfortunately, early footpaths alongside the river Wye were no longer passible due to industrial units being built, so we needed to walk along the busy A6 for a while – quite a contrast to what we had been used to. However, we were soon back on green footpaths with lovely views of water pouring over a couple of weirs – the sort of place that makes you wish you could paint!

It wasn't long before we had completed the 5 miles from Monsal Head back to Ashford, and it was STILL sunny! A few of us were tempted into a small shop in the village for ice creams, which we consumed as we made our way back to the cars.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the day, and quite uncannily, it started to rain as we got into the cars for the journey home which went without any hitches.

Thanks to all those who came and made it a most enjoyable day for me too.

Dave Palmer
U3A Walking group.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

On the last Thursday of July, 13 members of the Photo Group visited Queens Park, Loughborough.

The weather was sunny and mainly dry, so we had a wander around the fabulous gardens, with the theme being Water, Birds and Flowers.

After a couple of pleasant hours, some of us had coffee and cake from the café in the park and had a look around the museum there.





Diane



Stephen



John Haig



WHAT'S ON NEXT

GENERAL MEETINGS

In the Brookside Room at the Community Centre – talks start 10.30am

Tea/coffee and mingling from 10.00am



September 13th, 2023: Melody Flyte - The Development of the Great American Songbook

A talk about the development of the Great American Songbook - the songs of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Dorothy Fields and others, mainly living and working in New York City. Starting with the publishing revolution in Tin Pan Alley, via the influences of jazz, blues and ragtime, the Great American Songbook changed popular song and musical theatre forever.

Featuring songs including You're the Top, Over the Rainbow and Ain't Misbehavin'.

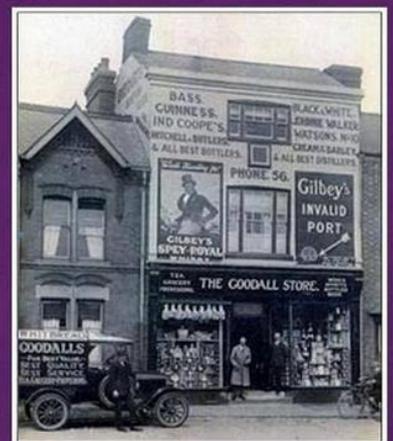
11th October 2023: The History of Syston - Felicity Austin

This will be the story of how I came to write the two history books on Syston in the 20th Century, which I completed during the pandemic.

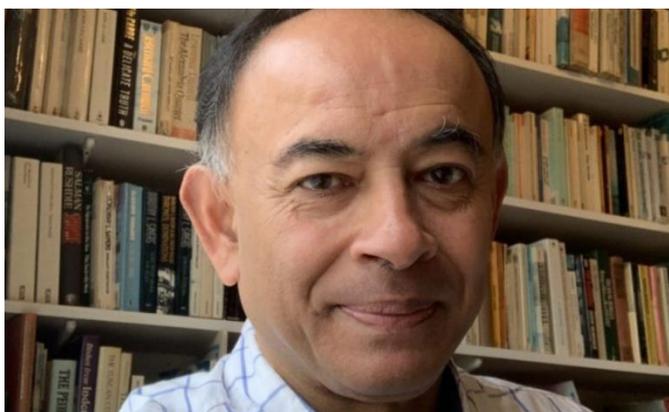
An illustrated talk with lots of old photographs on the area.

Syston in the 20th Century

Book 1: A Village becomes a Town



By Felicity Austin, with Diana Smith, Ray Weston, Ray Young, members of Syston Local History Group and many other local people



8th November 2023: Bharat Patel BBC Reporter – His Own Story

Bharat Patel has worked for BBC Radio Leicester, Radio 4, ITV and the BBC. He has covered major events which have made headlines around the world, including the Kegworth air crash, the death of Princess Diana, the Gujarat earthquake and the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. But it's not all been about tragedy. He's also interviewed a parrot who

spoke five languages, the world's oldest donkey and met Brian the Budgie, who escaped from Ilkeston to Corfu but was found by his astonished owners while they were eating a souvlaki under a tree on holiday in Corfu Town.

But there's one story he has never covered and that is his own. By the age of eight he had travelled across three continents. He ended up in Leicester, after a soothsayer told his parents his future lay in England. His family exchanged a comfortable lifestyle in a warm climate in Zambia in Africa for a tiny terraced house with a leaking roof in a much cooler and wetter Highfields. Their arrival in Leicester was followed by a series of bizarre and comic incidents, which were often odder than anything Bharat encountered as a reporter.



THE END OF THE PIER SHOW AT CROMER

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CROMER TRIP

Tuesday, 26th September 2023

Roberts Coaches will pick up members outside the Santander Bank / Building Society on Melton Road at Syston at 7.30 a.m. on 26th September 2023.

As is usual with the Melton Mowbray u3a, can you please have a card with contact details (Name, address, telephone number and any other essential information for you personally) of your Next of Kin / close friend, to be contacted in the case of any emergency. I am not expecting there to be any difficulty, but it is better to be prepared.

If you need to contact me, please telephone 01664 564768.

I am looking forward to an enjoyable day – friends have told me how good the End of the Pier Show is this year, as usual.

Thank you. Angela Fielding

Amateur detectives invade Leicestershire Village

On a sunny day on August 27 people arrived at the Stilton Cheese pub in Somerby and enjoyed a lovely Sunday lunch in their upstairs function room. They were then joined by 4 others and were let loose on our Treasure Hunt in 8 small groups, with 3 pages of cryptic clues at 3-minute intervals (to prevent any assistance from other groups!) The first of these arrived back just after an hour later at the Village Hall - must have run round as they were almost the last to set off! Once everyone was back, and the answers were marked the winning (and losing!) teams were announced, in fact there was a tie for last



place and for 2nd place, so that run round the village paid off as time taken became the deciding factor for those. 2nd prize went to Ann & Tom Barkley accompanied by Tracy and Chris Freeman, and only 5 points ahead (half a question) the winners were David Bray and Jenny who teamed up with Maggie and Mike Harrison.

Everyone said how much they enjoyed it and thanked us for organizing.

Lyn & Dave Palmer.

NATIONAL U3A ITEMS

There are various talks and workshops publicised in the national u3a magazine, in an online newsletter, and on the main u3a website. You can sign up for the newsletter using the link below, and find previous editions there www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter

Online learning of various types can be found www.u3a.org.uk/learning

This link www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events includes all of the free talks on Eventbrite, not just the trio that I pick out and include in our newsletter. You can also sign up to be notified of the program.

You can find various other events and information via the home page www.u3a.org.uk

u3a TALKS



Electing the President in 2024 – A 3 Part Series

In November 2024 the US will elect its 47th President. u3a Subject Adviser for UK and US Politics Paul Carter shows us how it all works.

Tues 12, 19 and 26 Sept at 10am
Free – online via Zoom

Book [here](#)



u3a Week – Bolder – How to Age Better, and Feel Better About Ageing

Join Carl Honoré award-winning writer, broadcaster and TED speaker for a talk on embracing ageing as both a privilege and an adventure. (Photo – Madeleine Alldis)

Thurs 21 Sept at 10am
Free – Online via zoom

Book [here](#)



History of the British Secret Intelligence Services

Moira of Guildford u3a presents a History of the British Secret Intelligence Services – as portrayed in the media

Fri 22 Sept at 2pm
Free – Online via Zoom

Book [here](#)



Found in Nature

Photo gallery of all things weird and wonderful in nature

Submit Your Photo

We are asking members to share any photos which are 'wild and interesting' with us.

We would like you to share your photos of elements of nature or wildlife that are out of the ordinary. Anything that has challenged your perception of nature and the world around you.

Please upload your photos to our [online form](#), telling us where you found or saw what you've 'found in nature'.

IGO Online Fair

We're excited to announce that the first ever Interest Groups Online Fair will be taking place from Monday 2 to Friday 6 October. There will be three sessions each day which will take place at 10am, 11.30am and 3pm.

The Interest Groups Online (IGO) Fair is an opportunity to try out u3a's online learning community for free!

Anyone who is no longer in full-time work can come along to get a taste of the many opportunities IGO offers. You do not have to be a u3a member to enjoy the IGO Fair.

We hope that the Fair will encourage you to join IGO, whether you are looking to learn something new from a vibrant and friendly online group or want to share your skills with others.

IGO is an online community of learners, who meet mostly via Zoom. From October, membership is just £6 for 6 months and you will have access to over 75 different groups across a wide range of topics, visit the [interest groups online groups page](#) to browse all groups.

You can join IGO as a complementary service to your local in-person u3a membership or as a standalone membership.

Each taster session will last around 45 minutes to 1 hour. **Booking will be available from September.**

More information [here](#)

NOT u3a BUT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED



St Peters and St Paul's Church,
Syston
Sat 9th & Sun 10th September
Heritage Weekend exhibition in
church
100 years of Weddings
Saturday 10am to 4.30pm
Cream Teas 2pm to 4.30pm
Sunday 1pm to 4.30pm

This is only one of many Heritage events held locally during September you can find more details [here](#)

Vintage Craft Market & Classic Car Meet

October 1 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Melton Town Centre Town Centre, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

Melton Mowbray Vintage Craft Market will feature live music and a classic cars display in the Market Place. Vintage stalls, Craft stalls, Steam Punk, Music, Dancing, Classic Cars, Jeeps and Bikes



More details [here](#)

Leicestershire Industrial History Society Glenfield Railway Tunnel Experience

9th & 10th September

Visit the first 400yards of a very early feat of engineering and understand how the navvies built it in the days before machines.

All places on tours MUST to booked in advance please. Donations invited for the Societies work in schools. More details and to book tickets go [here](#)



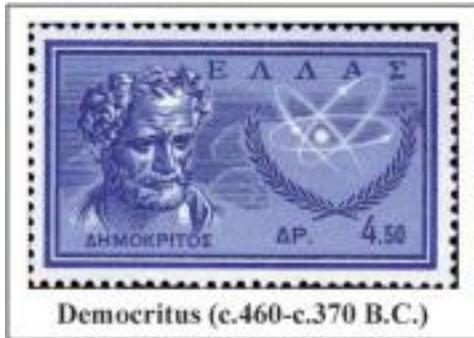
FROM OUR MEMBERS

DOES A VACUUM SUCK?

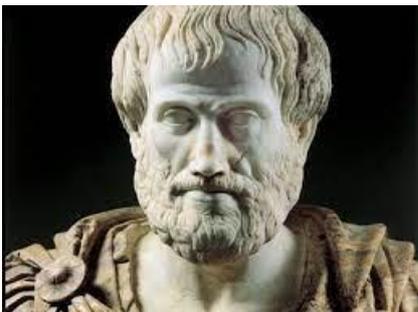
BY PIERRE CASTILLE



Have you ever wondered how drinking straws and vacuum cleaners work? Obviously it isn't magic and some natural process is at work so we need to ask someone who might give us a clue. We could ask an ancient Greek philosopher called Democritus.



He taught that matter was composed of very small particles, which he called atoms, with empty spaces in-between.



Aristotle (384 – 322 BC)

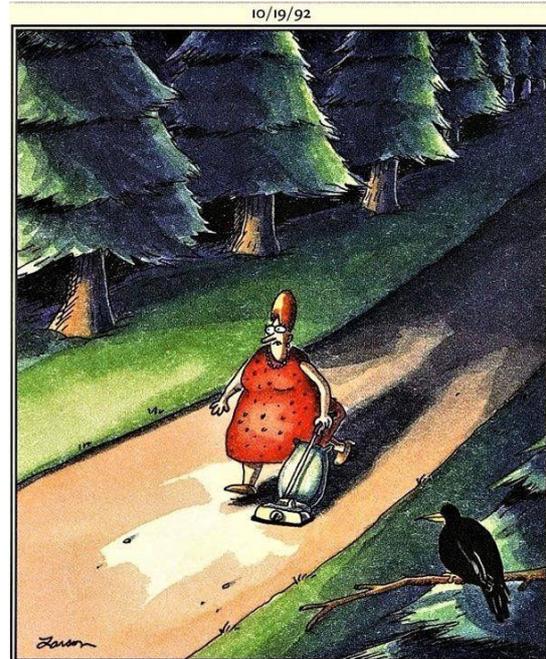
Aristotle argued that empty space which we could call a vacuum was impossible and coined the phrase *Nature abhors a vacuum*. His reasoning was that anything next to the empty space would expand to fill the space.



Butter and peas models of matter

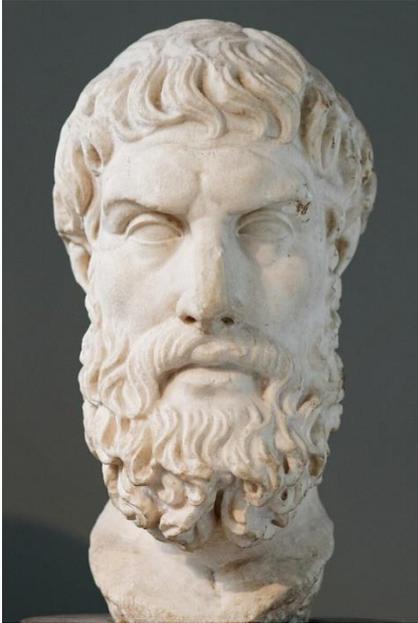
Aristotle believed that matter was like butter – the same stuff all the way through without any spaces. The peas represent Democritus's idea of matter

The arguments lacked evidence but then who needs evidence when you are good at arguing?



The woods were dark and foreboding, and Alice sensed that sinister eyes were watching her every step. Worst of all, she knew that Nature abhorred a vacuum.

Some of the arguments used by the ancient Greek philosophers were very sophisticated, even by modern standards. We seem to think that people who lived a very long time ago must have been stupid because they lacked all the accoutrements of modern life.



Epicurus (341 – 270 BC)

Developed the 'atomic theory' model of nature arguing that the universe was infinite and eternal. He believed it had always existed and would never end.

He also believed in education for slaves and women.

Epicurus went out of favour with the rise of Christianity and Aristotle's teaching prevailed for over a thousand years.

Sir Francis Bacon, the English philosopher, tells an interesting but probably apocryphal story. The story was that a meeting of monks was taking place and the monks were hotly debating the issue of how many teeth were in the mouth of a horse. The problem was that they could not find the answer anywhere in Aristotle's work. Then, a young monk, perhaps at his first such meeting, timidly suggested that, because they had all come to the meeting on horseback, that one way to get the answer would be simply to go outside and count. Bacon went on to say that the young monk was expelled from the meeting!

As you know, in the late 1500s some of the ideas of Aristotle were challenged, much to the

consternation of the powers that be (The Church). The Italian philosopher Giordano Bruno speaks to huge audiences about his beliefs, spreading controversial ideas such as vacuums exist and matter is composed of atoms. He is burnt at the stake for heresy!

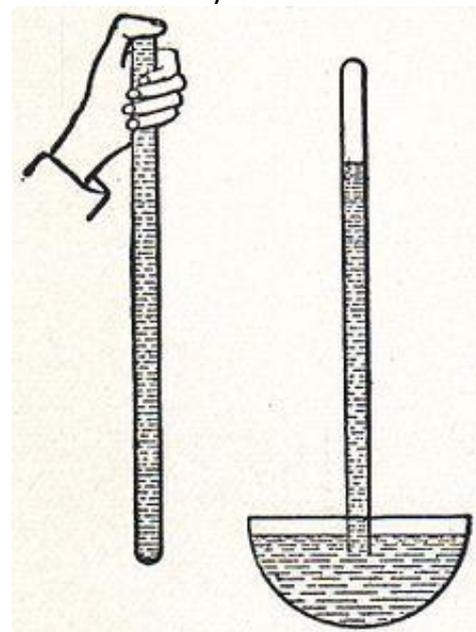
It is too late to stop scientific progress. Natural Philosophers (those who ask questions about the natural world) are now seeking answers by personal observation and experiment.



Evangelista Torricelli (1608 – 1647)

In 1643, in Pisa, Torricelli invented the barometer.

He took a glass tube, sealed at one end and filled it with mercury, a very heavy liquid metal. He then sealed the open end and inverted the tube over a bowl of mercury



Torricelli's barometer.

Notice the space above the column of mercury. This space is empty – a vacuum! The question is, what stops the mercury column from falling? Galileo (whom Torricelli met) thought the vacuum must be sucking up the mercury. No! – Torricelli put forward a different idea. Our atmosphere is a *sea of air* and pushes down on us. This downward push we call atmospheric pressure

This is a revolutionary idea. It means that if we take a mercury barometer to the top of a high mountain where there would be less air above, the mercury would not rise so high. Sadly, Torricelli was unable to test this idea and he dies tragically young, probably from typhoid or cholera.

The French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal did take a barometer to the summit of a mountain confirming Torricelli’s prediction. Mercury barometers are delicate (glass), heavy (mercury) not really portable and unsuitable for general use, principally because of the poisonous nature of mercury.



Aneroid barometer

The barometer I have at home measures the air pressure using a different method, but the units of measurement are the same. The measurement of air pressure is useful for weather forecasting.



Barometer from an aircraft

The barometer in an aircraft is used to measure air pressure but is calibrated in height above sea-level and is called an altimeter.

Torricelli’s work was a challenge to other scientists and inventors. In Germany, physicist Otto von Guericke invented the first vacuum pump and used it for a famous experiment. He made two thick metal hemispheres that were separated by a thin rubber ‘washer’.



Each hemisphere was about 15 inches in diameter. These hemispheres are known as Magdeburg hemispheres, from the town where they were first demonstrated.

In front of a large crowd, he used the vacuum pump to remove air from the two hemispheres and then connected two teams of horses, one on each side.



On the signal, both teams of horses pulled hard but the hemispheres did not separate until von Guericke opened the valve to allow air to enter, when they then fell apart.

He repeated the experiment a number of times to larger and larger crowds and everyone who has studied physics will have been told about this landmark experiment in demonstrating the force of atmospheric pressure.

The world of science duly took note. Our atmosphere was worthy of study. Torricelli is remembered by giving his name to the measure

of the emptiness of a vacuum with the unit called **torr**.

Now here's an experiment you could perform.

Assemble the apparatus



1. Bowl of cold water
2. Kettle to boil some water
3. Tongs to protect yourself from heat
4. Aluminium drink can (initially empty)



Add a small amount of hot water to the can.



Carefully boil the water in the can taking care not to burn yourself. You can use a gas or an electric hob.



With one smooth movement invert the can and plunge the open end under the water.



Be amazed at the power of atmospheric pressure!

How does it work?

The steam produced by the boiling water replaces most of the air inside the can. Inverting the can in the water causes the steam to turn back to water, reducing the pressure inside the can. The outside air pressure forces the can to collapse. Drinking straws and vacuum cleaners don't suck! Your lungs, or the motor reduce the pressure inside the straw/cleaner and atmospheric pressure forces the liquid to rise up the straw, or air to be pushed into the cleaner.

Fluids (liquids or gases) only move if pushed and the pushing force is measured as pressure.

INSURANCE AND THE INTERNET

I thought that you might like to be aware of an expensive legal claim being made by a firm of solicitors, which deals with insurance claims.

My friend was driving along, when a bus coming in the opposite direction caught her car. There was no problem with the bus company. She was aware that she had to report the accident within 24 hours. She decided to go on the internet (whilst still in her car), to get the telephone number of her insurance company.

She googled the name of her insurance company to get their phone number. Unfortunately, when the name of her insurance company came up there was a telephone number, which she dialled and was answered by the Accident Claim Helpline. She explained about the accident to the company and told them that she would need a loan car, which her insurance policy should cover as she paid an additional amount. The company checked that she wanted a car and she confirmed it and they proceeded to arrange it. They did not mention any cost involved. She had the car for four days and was charged £3,197.77. This occurred on 9th November 2022.

She had a letter from her insurance company on 7th December 2022, stating that a claim had been made and that the insurance company had no records of an accident. The insurance company representative asked her to read the letter she had received about the hire car to him, he told her that she was dealing with a firm of solicitors which only had its name in very small print at the bottom of the letter. It was not her insurance company and the firm of solicitors are continuing to pursue her for £3,197.77, because she had instructed them to secure a car for her.

She has since checked with the car hire company and was told that the cost of hire was £482.00 for four days. The solicitors claim that the additional costs are for administration. She has received advice from several organisations and it is legal, as she had instructed the company, without being notified of the cost, as she thought that it was covered by her insurance. It is important to double check with whom you are speaking. Her insurance company advised her never to take a telephone number off the internet, always use the policy document details.

Thank you Angela Fielding for highlighting this issue.

As an aside to the above, I'd recommend that folks save the phone number of any insurance company they use to their mobile phone, and to their home phone, if it has phone number memory facilities. Failing that, write such numbers down somewhere so that you have them to hand. ED

WILKO SCAMMERS

There are several scams around relating to the troubled Wilko chain. Wilko themselves have ceased online sales, but others have jumped on the bandwagon and set up fake sites, purporting to be Wilko selling off goods at heavily discounted prices. The scammers will take your money, but you will never see any goods in return!

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?



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

POETRY CORNER

SEPTEMBER

by: Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1885)

THE golden-rod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
Its hidden silk has spun.

The sedges flaunt their harvest,
In every meadow nook;
And asters by the brook-side
Make asters in the brook.

From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.

By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
And autumn's best of cheer.

But none of all this beauty
Which floods the earth and air
Is unto me the secret
Which makes September fair.

'Tis a thing which I remember;
To name it thrills me yet:
One day of one September
I never can forget.



To Autumn by John Keats

**Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.**

**Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.**

**Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.**



SEPTEMBER by Edgar A Guest

September with her brushes dipped in dazzling red and gold
Now comes to paint the valleys and the hills;
And we forget completely that the year is getting old
As we gaze upon the colour that she spills.
For all that we remember
Are the glories of September,
The bloom upon the peaches and the gold upon the grain,
The apples red with blushes
From September's crimson brushes,
The glory of the hill tops and the splendour of the plain.

September – magic artist – comes again to paint the trees,
Comes again to crown with beauty Mother Earth;
And she'll touch with gold or crimson every humble plant she sees.
Without questioning its merit or its worth.
And the eye that looks to see
On the frailest little tree
Will behold a touch of glory where September it caressed.
And the poorest little bloom
That is soon to meet its doom
Will be nodding in the sunshine with the proudest richly dressed.

And September makes me think as I watch her splashing paints
Over every living thing underneath the skies today,
That the poorest of us here, when he goes to join the saints,
Will receive a touch of glory in the very self same way;
That the humblest of the lot
In the end won't be forgot,
As September crowns with beauty all the works of Mother Earth,
So the gentle God above,
In His mercy and His love,
In the frailest of his creatures will find something that's of worth.

And finally.....

We know that in September, we will wander through the warm winds of summer's wreckage. We will welcome summer's ghost. —Henry Rollins

It was a lovely afternoon - such an afternoon as only September can produce, when summer has stolen back for one more day of dream and glamour. —*L.M. Montgomery*

