
From the Chair

Our AGM is rapidly approaching and there will be quite a few items of interest to discuss and decide when we meet as a membership. The agenda and notes for that meeting will hopefully be available with various other documents at the Monthly Meeting on 27th February. For those who have paid this year's membership fees but not yet received your badges will also find them in your envelope at the meeting.

The AGM is the occasion when we appoint, or reaffirm, members of the Executive Committee, and also wish farewell to those who have served for the maximum time allowed. And so, we shall be saying "goodbye" to Jo Randerson who has served as Secretary for 6 years, and to John Tyerman, who has held several posts including Vice Chair, Chair, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor. We thank them both for all that they have contributed to the successful running of the organisation, and trust that they will continue to enjoy the benefits of U3A membership for a long time into the future. John has very kindly offered to continue as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor – thank you, John!

We need to replace Jo and John, and we already have one vacancy, so I ask that you think about the possibility of joining the committee or considering who else might be an appropriate candidate. Nomination forms will be available in the near future and will need the agreement of the nominee plus two nominators. I shall look forward to hearing from you!

Whilst thinking about the committee, I would like to remind you that a few months ago, we agreed to invite members to join our committee meetings and we are happy to spend the first 15 minutes or so dealing with questions and suggestions that you have, and you may remain in the meeting as non-participating observers, unless there are confidential matters being dealt with. However, in view of the size of the meeting room at Heighington's Thomas Garrett Rooms, there is really only space for one or two observers and we do ask that you notify us if you wish to attend – and let us know what issues you wish to deal with.

Meanwhile, I can report that Andrea and I attended the first of the U3A's "Keeping it Legal" workshops in Leeds recently. Some 200 delegates attended, representing 150 U3As, and we had 4 sessions. These were on Insurance, Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, and the forthcoming General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), all of which affect us in our dealings as U3A members.

Tony Carlile, told us of his 20 years' relationship with the U3A as an insurance broker. Each year he gathers several

insurance policies to cover various aspects of the U3As insurance needs, which together cost just 17p per U3A member. He outlined some of the benefits, and the limitations, of the cover provided. With the diversity of needs it was not possible for him to provide answers for all the questions that were being asked, but through the Third Age Trust, he has promised to provide answers when we need them. Andrea and I already have quite a list for him!

Mike Canniffe held our attention with a fascinating (to me, anyway) description of the ever-tightening rules involved in the new GDPR which come into force in May. However, he did advise that the full documentation will be useful if we are insomniacs. You can be assured that we shall be working through our responsibilities and procedures to protect the information that we hold on members so that we are in full compliance with the regulations.

With both the Equality and Diversity and the Safeguarding sessions, it was good to discover that most of the ground covered corresponded closely with our own policies. Of course, that does not mean that we can sit back and relax over these matters, and the committee is already making its way through reviewing all of our policies. So, if you know of any discrepancies or omissions in our policies, please feel free to approach myself or any other committee member.

I made two incidental discoveries in relation to our day's venture to Leeds. The first was that there is a wonderful system in place for parking in Newark (and elsewhere) – JustPark, through which you can book to park on local people's drives for much less than the cost of the station parking. We managed to book one just 7 minutes' walk from the station. I also discovered that, after quite number of years since I journeyed by rail, Andrea and I seemed to be the only people speaking face to face. The rest of the passengers were buried deep in their phones.

Am I getting old?!

James Hewson

If you can't attend your group ---

One way we keep in touch with everyone in our U3A is through the groups we attend. Convenors would be the first people to notice if perhaps you were ill and could not make your regular meeting. To make sure this line of communication works properly could you let your group convenor know if you will not be able to attend so that we can be sure you are OK.

If you wish to finish with a group please let the convenor know so that they can take you off their list.

The Natural History Group

The Natural History Group, under the new management of John Butler, recently visited Rufford Abbey near Ollerton.

Our "target species" was Hawfinch, with its powerful beak and bright colouring. Much to our relief, some were spotted high in the trees alongside the car park upon our arrival. Hawfinches can usually be found at Rufford and Clumber Park at this time of year, but are not always easy to see. However, this winter has seen a particularly heavy influx into the country from the continent, so we had high hopes of finding them on this occasion. Unfortunately for the photographers amongst us, the light was not too good, so we only managed "record" shots. We also found a further fifty one species, so we were well pleased with the day's outing.



Hawfinch at Rufford

James Hewson

Morning visit to Stamford
and a
Matinee Performance at Tolethorpe Hall
Open Air Theatre

of
THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL
on

SATURDAY, 23rd JUNE 2018

Run by the WI - for more details contact

Val Elliott

Tel: 01522 793884 /

Email: val.elliott@tiscali.co.uk

Badminton

We have a very enthusiastic group of players who are enjoying playing at Ruston sports club on Newark Road.

They have an excellent full sized court. As a result we tell ourselves that we are all much fitter this year.

John sorts out our games schedule so that we enjoy playing with different partners, mostly mixed doubles but also ladies and mens games depending on who has most energy.

There are no stage lights on which to loose the shuttlecocks or pillars to get in the way now so we have a much more enjoyable session.

Our season runs from early October to the end of March but the courts are bookable on an hourly basis so we can continue if we wish to.



Liz Oglesby

**Remember for all the latest information
CHECK THE BRANSTON U3A WEBSITE**

www.branstonu3a.org.uk

The Original Walking Group

The original walking group continues to thrive and new members are always welcome. Walks have been county wide and well organised by those who have taken turns to lead. We have agreed to limit walks to a minimum of 5 miles and a maximum of 7 miles. Most walks are between 6 - 6.5 miles and the number of members walking averages out at about 20.

It is some time ago now, but in line with the community and educational spirit of U3A, whilst walking, we were engaged in helping police with their effort to locate an old quarry. Navigation skills were imparted!!! Reason and outcome unknown!

Those who wish to stay on for lunch after the walks are always impeccably behaved, but (not so sadly) we have to own up to being banned from one pub, "the B.... H...." in a village near Spilsby.

If you want to know more join the group!! Beware those who try to take advantage of group members by giving poor service and even poorer value for money!



Memories of a Summer Day

Jim O'Hara

U3A Insurance

Did you know that the U3A insurance covers all its members whilst taking part in U3A activities.

It also insures visitors for two meetings after which they will have to become a member.

The U3A **DOES NOT** insure youngsters accompanying their parents/grandparents and it would be the parents/grandparents responsibility to ensure their safety.

All members of Branston U3A are invited to join a

Coach Trip to Peterborough

Wednesday 16th May 2018



Coach Pick Ups at Branston and Nocton

Leaving 8.30 am returning about 6.00 pm

The Cost is dependent on what you choose to do.

Wheelchair Accessibility in the Cathedral

The main reason for choosing Peterborough is to make a guided visit to the Cathedral which was rebuilt between 1118 and 1193 in the Norman style. It has a unique 13th century painted nave ceiling, the 1,200 year old Hedda stone, plus associations with Hereward the Wake, Katherine of Aragon and Mary, Queen of Scots.

For those wishing to do their own thing, There are lots of things to see and do in Peterborough close to the drop point for the Cathedral.

Nene Valley Railway – All Day Rover Ticket £13.00 includes Museums and Steam Hauled train rides.

A Free Museum with a good Geology collection as well as Archaeology, Heritage and the Norman Cross Collection of Napoleonic prisoner of war craftwork, plus lots more including the Art Gallery.

There is also Shopping of course!

Booking Forms are available on the Website on either AAM History or Visits Group pages. They can also be obtained from Sue Morris at the next general meeting.

Visits Group

A group of about 30 recently visited the newly refurbished Lawn complex which is now the home of Stokes Coffee and Tea.

After a coffee (Stokes of course) and scone in the Blue Room we were welcomed by Nicholas Peel, the great grandson of Stokes founder and the current managing director, who gave us a brief history of the company followed by a tour of the building

Stokes Tea and Coffee began in 1892 when Mr Robert William Stokes moved to Lincoln. He got himself a job as a grocer in Guildhall Street and in 1902 he took control of the business and started to deal in fine teas and coffees. Just two years later he won the first of many medals for his coffee roasting skill and so in 1913, by which time he had won almost three dozen awards, he opened his first cafe which he called the Arcadia. The Arcadia was on the site of what is now Marks and Spencer, M&S were desperate to buy the site and in 1937 Stokes sold it and moved to the High Bridge where they still are today.

More recently Stokes have opened two further coffee shops in Lincoln. In 2011 they opened a new cafe in The Collection Museum and most recently the latest cafe at The Lawn.

Now roasting about 2 tonnes of coffee a week in the latest environmentally roaster, running a barista training school and operating a thriving on-line business, after four generations and more than a century later the company is still expanding within the city.



The Visits Group at The Lawn



Some of the Coffee Beans

E - Mail Security

For security and privacy reasons, it is best to use the Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) feature when sending an email message to a large number of people.

When you place email addresses in the BCC: field of a message, those addresses are invisible to the people receiving the email. Conversely, any email addresses that you place in the TO: field or the CC: field are visible to everyone who receives the message.

Keep in mind that many people do not want their email address to be distributed to people they do not know. For this reason, you should use the BCC: field when sending a message to a large group. Each recipient will receive his or her own copy of the message, but the email addresses of the other recipients will be shielded from view.

Another benefit of using the BCC: field to conceal email addresses acts as a way of preventing scam emails. If you use the TO: field or the CC: field to send a message to a large group, it becomes more likely that the recipients will receive unwanted email.

The picture below is taken from the top of an email on a mac computer, yours may look slightly different however they will all be basically the same.

If you have any questions about this do not hesitate to ask either John Tyerman or James Hewson who will do their best to resolve your problem.



Kurling

The Kurling group held an exploratory meeting recently and it has been decided that the group will go ahead on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in the afternoon between 2pm and 4pm.

If you are interested in joining the group and did not attend the exploratory meeting please contact Denis Stubbings



Walking Groups - Venues for March



THURS 8TH MARCH
PETE & GAIL WILL LEAD A WALK FROM
THE TEA HOUSE IN THE WOODS

WOODHALL SPA
PLEASE MEET AT 10:15AM TO ORDER LUNCH IF
REQUIRED

ONLY A SHORT EASY WALK, BUT PAST A LOT
OF SHOPS



WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH, TERRY WILL BE LEADING 5.5 MILE WALK
FROM COLEBY MEET AT 09:30AM FOR 09:45 START
PLEASE PARK ON VERGE



Some of the other pictures received for this issue

