

This month's item takes a different approach, with Mary Corbould, leader of the Cycling Group explaining how the group works. Then we have some one-liners from members on the benefits of the U3A. We asked for these when we met to plan our part in the National U3A Day to be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

So, Mary says of the Cycling Group; "We are a loyal group of people who enjoy going out on our bikes. Our rides are about 25 miles in length and we aim to explore the local area. Sometimes we start from Branston Village Hall, sometimes we are further afield, taking our bikes in or on our cars.

"In the last year we have cycled along the Fledborough Viaduct, visited Castle Bruer, had a short ride near Christmas to see the flooding at Short Ferry, got extremely wet on a ride to Minting, and been to lots of other places.

"So far this year we have rides planned to Normanby-by-Spital, Collingham, and round the Navenby area. Rides are not often cancelled but if the forecast is dreadful, a ride might be postponed or curtailed, but the winter cold has not put us off. There is nearly always a lunch stop at a pub or café. We start our rides at 10.30am and proceed at a sensible pace: we are not 'boy racers!' Come and give us a go!"

And in response to the question, "What does the U3A mean to you?" here are some responses;

"It widens my social circle and makes life more interesting."

"Finding local people with similar interests to yourself."

"The U3A, via its groups, allows me to continue things I am interested in and try new ones."

The accompanying photos show members of the STEM group simulating (crash!) landing a light aircraft on a remote African airstrip during a talk by Mission Aviation Fellowship representatives; and views of the February Monthly Meeting when Alan Stennett spoke on the Lost Railways of Lincolnshire.

For the June U3A Day, we look forward to putting on some great displays and activities that will enable you to discover for yourself the benefits of membership, but why not find out before then by attending our Monthly Meetings on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> May at Branston Village Hall, 1.30pm for 2.00pm. See the noticeboard elsewhere for details, or visit, [www.branstonu3a.org.uk](http://www.branstonu3a.org.uk), or call 07459 470 995 (voicemail).

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