



## Article Featured in Sheepwash Times – February 2020

I'm sure that Christmas will seem long past by now, and even "Happy New Year" might be old hat, but I wish you it anyway.

Our December Main Meeting saw us enjoying a wonderfully tasty Christmas Lunch at Branston Hall Hotel, with entertainment provided by London-based Singing Surprise. And what a surprise it was, one minute the three were acting as waiter and waitresses, serving tables and the next they burst into song, with items from the sixties onwards. Needless to say, we all joined in and some of the less inhibited amongst us took to the dance floor.

That was Marcus Stead's last engagement as Programme Secretary, and a high point amongst many highs as he has found a wide variety of speakers and entertainers over the last few years, and he was given a conductor's baton as a mark of appreciation of his work.

The following week, Marcus led the Singing for Pleasure group around the old centre of Branston, singing carols during a fortunately dry period of a very wet day. Someone must have been looking down on them favourably!

In early January the Visits Group visited the Collection for a guided talk of the Victoria and Albert Exhibition. Curator, Andrea Martin explained how she had been involved with the choosing and displaying of the items for the exhibition. She talked about the pictures, one of which was on loan from The Queen, and about Albert's Great Exhibition. There were some very fine objects on display including a 12th century gold candlestick.

We recently introduced a new interest group, which is railway-related, focusing mainly on modelling. Having looked at several of the members' own railway layouts, we are now researching Heighington station with a view to recreating it in OO gauge. If you have an interest in modelling or railways in general, you will be welcome to join us for taster sessions. And if you have any details, including photos, of Heighington station tucked away somewhere, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Coincidentally, for our February meeting, we shall be welcoming Alan Stennett to speak to us on the Lost Railways of Lincolnshire. So why not join us on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm (2.00pm start). The fee for non-members is £2.

For details of all our groups and events, please visit our website, [www.u3asites.org.uk/branston](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/branston) or call 07459 470 995 (answerphone). – James Hewson