
Family History Group

On Monday 21st May eight members of the Family History Group were the guests of Richard and Jackie Free at their home in Nocton, for a presentation on Richard's research into the Free family of Cambridgeshire and Australia. Initially the presentation centred on the family during the seventeen and eighteen hundreds, amply illustrated with photographs of the village of Hadstock from family sources showing the buildings in the village dating from that time. Recent photos taken by Richard illustrated how little the centre of Hadstock had changed in the intervening years. Sadly there are now no longer any members of the Free family living in the village which gave impetus to the other strand of Richard's research following the fortunes of two brothers who had emigrated separately to Australia in the late nineteenth century.



Cemetery on the Darling Downs at Nobby (QLD) with Free family monuments

Managing to get in touch with distant relatives through the magic of the internet, Richard and Jackie have visited cousins in the remote regions of Queensland, south of Toowoomba. Luckily one of Richard's cousins had already done a great deal of research into the Australian side of the Free family and was able to pass on data, photos and many anecdotes of the families progress from labourers to wealthy ranchers.

Thank you Richard and Jackie for a superb, informative morning.

Bill Randerson

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

www.branstonu3a.org.uk

Visits Group

Royal Air Force Waddington has a distinguished history, of which it is justly proud. Almost continuously active more than 90 years since first opening as a Royal Flying Corps training base in 1916, the base held significant operational roles during World War II, the Cold War V-Bomber era and during the Falklands Campaign.

Since the opening of the base it has become one of the RAF's busiest airfields, now home to RAF Air Command surveillance and reconnaissance and, today, their squadrons and personnel are involved in supporting operations all around the world.

Voluntarily run and situated in the old NAAFI building, the RAF Waddington Heritage Centre traces the history of the base from its earliest years up to the present day. Numerous squadrons have served on the base and over time a significant number of personnel have donated their memorabilia from their time serving in the county; this has enabled a small collection to be established in the Station Heritage Centre for all to learn from and enjoy.

As Waddington is an operational base the group had to clear security before being taken by coach onto the base and to the Heritage Centre. After a short Powerpoint presentation we were free to explore the museum and its collection. Displays included the wreckage from aircraft that were based at Waddington and other links to RAF museums across the country. Many of the logs from the war period were also within the collection giving an idea of what happened during those dark days.

Later in the visit we were taken across the airfield to visit the preserved Vulcan which took part in the Falklands Campaign.



Natural History Group

Recently twelve members of the Natural History Group visited two sites to the south of us in the neighbouring counties of Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire.

The group started at Fineshade Wood which is a large wooded area in the county of Northamptonshire between Stamford and Corby.

The area is managed by the Forestry Commission and is part of the former royal hunting forest of Rockingham. It is known for its population of red kites several of which were seen during the visit. It also has a population of adders and other reptiles as well as many nationally scarce breeding birds. The hide at Fineshade is not supported by bird feeders nowadays and so little was seen in that area. However the group did see 25 bird species as we walked round the woods.



Whats that then?



The Red Kite



Burnett Companion

After lunch the group moved on to Barnack Hills & Holes. This is a Site of Special Scientific Interest in Barnack in Cambridgeshire as well as being a national nature reserve. Just south of Stamford, it is one of Britain's most important wildlife sites. Covering an area of just 50 acres, the grassy slopes are home to a wide range of wild flowers along with a wide range of insects some of which are nationally rare.

On this site the group found 10 different bird species and various orchids, particularly the Man Orchid and the Fragrant Orchid. In total, during the day the group found 35 birds, 6 butterflies and about 50 flowers so a good time was had by all.



The Pasque Flower

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.

Local Heritage Group

Members of the local heritage group recently visited the beautifully restored 8 sailed windmill at Heckington

Heckington Mill was built in 1830 to plans by millwright Edward Ingledew for the first owner Michael Hare. Originally the five sailed mill drove three pairs of millstones and milled grain for 60 years. After Hare's death the mill eventually passed to Joseph Nash who became its last miller before it was seriously damaged in 1890. A tail-wind made the sails run backwards and after the destruction of the fantail by lightning the entire top was blown off smashing all the five sails and destroying part of the tower. Nash abandoned the wrecked mill.

In 1891 John Pocklington of Wyberton bought the eight-sailed mill cap from the 78-year-old disused Tuxford's mill at Skirbeck in Boston. As a condition of the deal, he had to remove all the machinery from the mill site. So he bought the wrecked Heckington mill, and, from 1891 until early 1892, he fitted Tuxford's Mill cap to the Heckington Mill. The newly refurbished mill worked for the next 54 years. The bricks from the Skirbeck mill were used to build the millers house at Heckington.

As the demand for flour grew large mills were established by such companies as Hovis and small windmills lost trade. To try to compete Pocklington installed a large circular saw-mill in a shed on one side, driven by wind-power. He also started milling cattle feed and at one point became a coal merchant.

After Pocklington's death in 1941 the mill continued to be used for the next five years but stopped working in 1946 and remained unused for the next 40 years. The shutters were removed from the sails and in 1953 the mill came into the hands of the County Council who made the first restorations preventing the old mill from being dismantled and restoring it as a rare landmark.

Now the world's only working eight-sails windmill is run by the Heckington Mill Trust and was reopened in 1986. In 2004 the mill underwent a larger restoration and after a Heritage Lottery grant in 2014 all 8 sails were replaced.

With a new visitors centre and a tea room on site it has become a very popular tourist attraction in the county. At the moment the mill is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays but during the school summer holidays it is open every day.

Located alongside the mill in the old engine shed and saw mill is Heckington's 8 Sail Brewery. It is not part of the mill but works in conjunction with it.



Heckington Mill



The brewery opened in 2010 and produced its first beer on 22nd June that year. The six barrel brewery is owned and run by Tony Pygott and Steve Doane and brews a wide range of beers. Our group had a very informative tour of the brewery and several bottles of beer were bought from the on site shop.

August Social Nidd Hall



For our August Social Event this year we are planning a visit to Nidd Hall, Harrogate on 28th August. The format will be similar to last year's visit to Thoresby Hall and Nidd Hall has extensive gardens and grounds.

We plan to arrive at Nidd Hall by 10.45 am and depart at 4.15 pm. The cost of £20.00 includes the cost of the coach, tea and coffee on arrival, a buffet lunch that also includes tea and coffee, and a contribution to the driver's tip.

A booking form can be found below or alternatively via a link on the **Events Page** of the **Branston U3A Website**.

Please note that the closing date for bookings is the end of June.

Branston U3A Visit to Nidd Hall – 28th August 2018.

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Other beverages will be available at two bars and one coffee shop but will incur an additional cost.

Please complete the booking form opposite and overleaf to indicate which is your preferred pickup point, or if you are using your own transport, and which activities you would like to try.

Please note that there is an additional cost of £15.00 if you wish to use the Spa (a two hour session). If you book Spa sessions payment should be made direct to Nidd Hall at the time of the activity.

<https://www.warnerleisurehotels.co.uk/hotels/nidd-hall-hotel>

PICK UP POINTS

All times are indicative only and may be a couple of minutes late

- 8.00 am Branston Village Hall
- 8.05 am Bus stop, Lincoln Road/ Beech Road (closest to Lincoln)
- 8.10 am Bus stop, Station Road opposite the Academy
- 8.15 am Bus stop at Flag Pole, Heighington
- 8.20 am Bus Stop on Washingborough Road, Heighington
- 8.25 am Opposite shopping precinct Washingborough
- 8.30 am Bus stop on Fen Road junction with Granson Way

Please detach this portion and return to Chris Hodson, 163 Lincoln Road, Branston, Lincoln LN4 1NS with your cheque for £20.00 per person, made payable to Branston U3A Social Account, by 30th June to secure your place.

Name(s):

Email address:

Preferred pickup point:

Please tick the boxes to indicate which activities you would like to do (Maximum of 2 per person)

	<u>First person</u>	<u>Second person</u>
Nordic walking (pm only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grounds Tour (am/pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rifle shooting (pm only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery (am/pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bowls Green unaccompanied (am/pm) ...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming (am/pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(You will need to bring a towel)		
Two hour Spa Experience (am/pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Additional cost of £15.00 pp)		

OR Free time to relax & explore.

Please note that numbers are limited for most of these activities, so they will be allocated on a first-come basis.

Details will be confirmed by email nearer the time.

Some of the other pictures submitted for this issue.



Heckington Mill



Fineshade Wood and Barnack



RAF Waddington



Radio Lincolnshire