

Collingham & District



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

<https://u3asites.org.uk/collingham>

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2019

I am delighted to write this introduction to our May Newsletter. The production of a monthly newsletter certainly highlights our varied activities and I would like to thank Martin and Liz Ball for starting this development and all the Group leaders who submit information. There will be times when your group has been busy and wants to let others know what you have been doing. Sometimes it will be just a little quieter and if there is little to report that is fine.

At the moment the Executive Committee of 11 people has been getting ready for the AGM in June. This is a formal procedure that every U3A has to carry out and we always want it to go well. The Collingham & District U3A members who currently serve on the Committee do so to ensure the smooth running of our organisation. I have attended the Lincoln U3A Neighbourhood Meetings where I have heard of people in other areas who wish to set up a U3A but when no one is willing to be on the Executive Committee a new U3A cannot be established. It has made me realise that we are very lucky that people have been, and continue to be, willing to help ensure the continuation of Collingham & District U3A by being Committee Members. We meet monthly at the Memorial Hall to review our Speaker Arrangements, hear about any new Groups, our Membership Numbers, plan what to say in the Fleet and to keep an eye on our Finances. We also have to follow advice and instructions from the Third Age Trust and respond to queries and request from other organisations. Minutes of the meetings are kept by our excellent Minute Taker, Marion Collins. This enables us to ensure we complete our planned tasks. If anyone is interested in joining the Committee please have a word with me or any of the other Committee Members.

Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee

Forthcoming Speakers

May Monthly Meeting on the 22nd at 2pm

The last years of the Dynasty of the Romanovs

Looking at their family life before the Tzar abdicated and their life after they were arrested.

Presented by Rosemary Beney

June Monthly Meeting on the 26th at 2pm

Collingham & District U3A AGM

followed by the **Ukulele Band**

July Monthly Meeting on the 24th at 2pm

The true stories of a lorry driver and removal man

Len Priestly

Upcoming Events

Quiz Nights

After the successful Quiz Night in April we propose more events as detailed below

Quiz nights on the 3rd Friday, every 3rd month. Commencing June 21st, then on September 20th and possible December 20th.

Where: YCC Low St Time: 7-10pm

Cost: £3.50 includes sandwiches
Bring your own drink and glasses

Bookings in advance from a General Meeting or Sue Fleet 893458

Quiz Master : John Lewis
Host : Clive Bainbridge

More details to follow....

Cool Hand Ukes at AGM June 26th

Two years ago, a small group of plucky strummers first got together to try their hand at ukulele. Led by Dave Goldberg, a man who has spent his life pretending to be a rock 'n' roll legend from the comfort of his own front room, they formed the Wellingore & District U3A Ukulele Group aka Cool Hand Ukes.

They are a motley mix of talents from lapsed guitarists (who played in their youth and then took a 50-year break) to those who have never played any instrument before!

"What's been great is that we have learned together," says Dave. "Helping and supporting each other on the way, it's become a real feel-good and friendly group."

The group meet weekly in a local pub to play popular songs with a ukulele accompaniment. They also support local events such as Wellingore's *Party in the Park*, providing singalong entertainment to the well-known formula: singing + ukes = fun!

This is the group playing at our AGM on June 26th.



Groups

Music Making

Lead: Phil Leckenby, Telephone: 01522 778280
email: pjleckenby@gmail.com
Methodist Church Hall, High Street, North Scarle

The only significant item to report this month was the group's live performance at a North Scarle Fundraiser on 3rd May. The event was planned to raise funds for North Scarle Church, which recently suffered the loss of its lead roofing to a bunch of thieves. The thieves got clean away and, true to form, the insurance company gleefully refused to pay up because of a clause buried in the small print that required the lead to be treated with a traceable coating which would identify it in the event of theft.



The occasion was a sell-out cheese and wine tasting at the Methodist Church Hall, with our group providing the entertainment. We played two 30-minute sets, performing a total of 19 songs to an audience which clearly enjoyed every piece. I can hear some people muttering "Well, he would say that, wouldn't he?" and, of course, I am biased, but the immediate feed-back and subsequent emails were all very flattering. Some say that there have been whispers around the Witham Valley Country Park that a SCAFTA nomination is just possible (Scarle Arts Festival and Turnip Awards). More of which in the next bulletin.



Italian for Beginners

Lead: Graham Fleet, Telephone: 01636 893458
email: grafl2003@gmail.com
Meetings take place on 2nd & 4th Monday, 2-4pm at peoples homes

We are taking a short summer break, the next meeting is on 10th June

Photography

theme is **Monochrome**

Lead: Paul Bass, Telephone: 01636 892057

email: bass.ps@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 2nd Wednesday, 2-4pm at peoples homes

The theme of Monochrome challenges the photography group to use form, texture and composition to make a good image, rather than to rely on colour.



Cactus Bonanza by Gill Bass



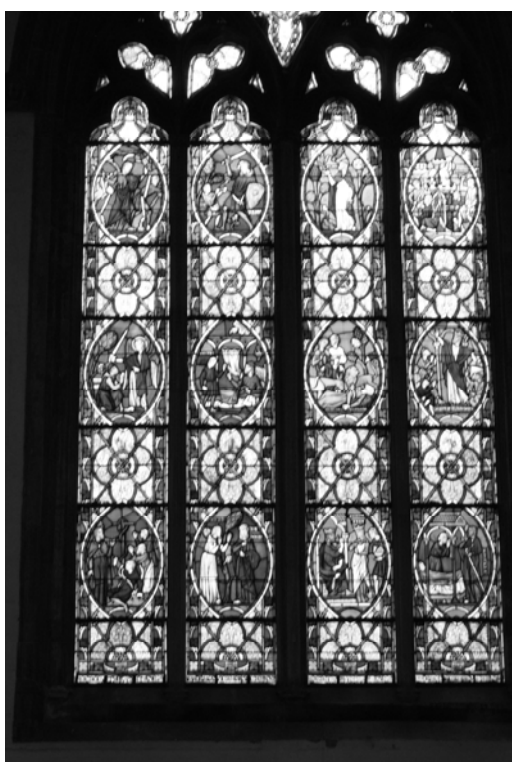
Flintham Hall by Paul Bass



Piano Keys by Phil Leckenby



Riverside Park by Jenny



Stained Glass by John Geeson



The Big Push by Colin Smith



The Ram by Jannet Wright

The Bucketeers

Lead: Lesley Piper, Telephone: 01636 892795

email: lesleypiper@tiscali.co.uk

Meetings take place on 2nd Thursday, 2-4pm at the Youth & Community Centre

The next Bucketeer's trip, for 12 of us, is to The Kinema in the Woods, Woodhall Spa, to see "All is True" starring Kenneth Branagh as Shakespeare and Judy Dench as Anne Hathaway. The morning screening will be followed by lunch at "The Tea House in the Woods."

We hope to go to Tolethorpe open air theatre in the summer to see "Blithe Spirit", but no date has been agreed as yet.

Please contact Lesley if you require further information

Art Appreciation

Leads: Helena Narracott, Telephone: 01636 892938

email: hnarracott@yahoo.co.uk

Chris Stothard, Telephone: 01636 894241

email: cstothard@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 4th Tuesday, 2-4pm at the Youth & Community Centre

May's presentation will be given by Lesley on Van Gogh, " Brilliant artist, tortured soul? "

In June, Lila and Margaret present Gaudi. We also have an outside visit to Morton Church to see the Burne Jones stained glass windows.

Gardening

Lead: Bea Morgan-Bentley, Telephone: 01636 893693

email: beamorganbentley123@btinternet.com

Meetings take place on 1st Wednesday, 2-4pm at peoples homes

In June we will visit Dr Andrew Wards nursery at Norwell

In July we have been invited to a U3A members garden in South Scarle

History

Lead: Anita Maunsell, Telephone: 01636 892928

email: marriott40@live.co.uk

Meetings take place on 4th Friday, 2-4pm at the Youth & Community Centre

For our next session on Friday 24 May we will be visiting the Richard III Centre in Leicester as a follow up to Lesley Piper's excellent presentation in April on the life of Richard and the mystery of the Princes in the Tower.

In the June meeting we will follow this up with another Tudor story when Ann Platt will lead us through the 'The Battle of East Stoke and the Pretender Lambert Simnel'.

The Thursday Talking Shop

Leads: Mary Hughes, Telephone: 01636 892415

email: mea.hughes@gmail.com

Anita Maunsell, Telephone 01636 892928

email: marriott40@live.co.uk

Meetings take place on 4th Thursday, 2-4pm at peoples homes

The April meeting of this new Group produced a lively and stimulating discussion around issues to do with charity and philanthropy - from the past to the present day.

The subject for our next round-table discussion will be 'News'; Are we obsessed with 24/7 access to news? What do we think about populism in the media? What about truth, lies and propaganda? How dangerous is the concept of 'alternative' truths?

Sunday Lunchers

Lead: Marion Wilson, Telephone: 01636 892967

email: lavenderpatch14@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 2nd Sunday, 12:30 at various locations

The Generous Britain was our venue for the May Sunday Lunch... It was a lovely day with some people having their lunch outside.. The pub is not very big, inside but it was full of diners and had a lovely homely atmosphere .. As always the meal was excellent and everyone enjoyed it....

Afterward's we walked across the road to the Quaker Room, which was open so we were able to have a look around inside, and at the gardens it was so quiet and peaceful, and is kept lovely. Brant Broughton is a beautiful village, and we shall definitely go there again....

Literature

Lead: Sheelah Reynolds, Telephone: 01636 892348,

email: sheelahreynolds@btinternet.com

Meetings take place on 3rd Thursday, 10:30-12:30 at peoples homes

We had a very jolly time discussing "Sweet Thursday ", John Steinbeck's re-creation of "Cannery Row". Steinbeck's quality and wit shines as he writes about the bawdy and high-spirited lives, loves and aspirations of ordinary people; that is humanity.

Staying with Steinbeck, we also read "Of Mice and Men". This moving story of friendship, loneliness and the dispossessed leaves one almost speechless.

Our choice for June is Evelyn Waugh's "A Handful of Dust", a novel set between the wars which captures beautifully the fecklessness of a group of upper-class characters. Tragedy, comedy and savage irony combine to make what many say is one of Waugh's masterpieces. We look forward to another lively discussion on TUESDAY , 25th JUNE.

Board Games

Lead: Liz Ball, Telephone: 01636 893102

email: elizb36@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 3rd Tuesday, 2-4pm at various locations

The next Board Games meeting is on the 21st May at the Youth and Community Centre at 2 p.m. Marg and John Lewis will be hosting as we will be away.

The group is taking a summer break for June, July and August back in September.

Liz

Local History Research

Lead: Pat Smedley, Telephone: 01636 892292

email: patmedley@googlemail.com

Meetings take place on 3rd Wednesday, 2-4pm at the Mayfield Room

This month the group met on the 15th May in the Mayfield Room from 2-4pm as usual.

The meeting combined our different ongoing projects:

- Living History Reports [from interviews with local residents and their memories of Collingham].
- Local history research projects : updates from our group members on their individual research work
- The History Trail presentation. We started this Trail in April. This is a chronology from Pre-history to the present day using the national narrative as a framework from which to understand the history of our locality. Our first session covered Big Bang to tectonic plate activity and the formation of continents. This session will focus on rocks, and the geology of the East Midlands including Collingham and district.

All are welcome to this group – you do not need to have any experience of local history to join!

Pat Smedley : Group Leader

Family History

Lead: Charlie Stothard, Telephone: 01636 894241

email: cwstothard@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 1st Thursday, 10am-12 at the Phoenix Centre

Members of the Family history group are currently compiling information about the people of North Scarle from census returns, trade directories and other sources. One of the group members can trace her ancestors who lived in the village and with her knowledge added to the research, the group intend to build up a 'walking tour of North Scarle'. We will then visit the village for our July meeting with a break for lunch in the excellent pub.

Walks

Lead: Colin Smith, Telephone: 01636 701205

email: colismit@aol.com

Meetings take place on 1st Tuesday, 9:30am meet at Co-op

HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE TWO OLDIES UP THE TREE?

Coming to the final mile on our recce for the walking group, we made our way towards the next way sign with our small dog, Molly, on her lead. As we navigated between the cow pats, and the rise and fall of medieval ploughing, a young calf, about 40 foot to our right and away from the small herd way over to our left, seemed to take a sudden interest in us and began to prance a little bit. Deciding to keep moving forward we weren't too worried, until a few seconds later, a loud call from across the far side of the field, where the herd were grazing next to a restored dove-cote, made us just a little bit nervous.

Don't give them eye contact I advised Graham, and just keep moving forward, they won't bother us. A few minutes later though, like a group of apaches in an old fashioned cowboy film, they all gradually moved up behind us, until they formed a 20 strong posse of large, weighty silent mothers and their half grown calves intently watching and moving in tandem with us.

We walked more quickly, they moved more quickly, and soon they were only 5foot behind, at which point Graham and I decided to run; swiftly followed by the cows. We swung to our right, and as one, we all, cows and calves too, dived down a bank of several feet, into a small wooded dell.

Surrounded now by cows we climbed up a few branches of a rather dead tree, Molly in our arms, and perched on a conveniently large flat branch, looking down on the herd who continued to get as close to us as possible. At which point the heavens opened to add to our troubles, and it hailed and poured down for a full 15 minutes until all of us were drenched.

Our Mobile phones now came into use and I rang the local pub to see if they might know the local farmer. All credit to the barmaid, who, after the initial few minutes of laughter and me having to repeat myself a few times, was helpful. However we established that no one at the pub, including the barmaid who answered, was local or knew the farmer, therefore I had to ring 999. I've never rung emergency services before, and was impressed by the swift response and transfer to the local Lincolnshire service, and a really kind and helpful police officer who managed great restraint and only laughed when I did. What she must have thought when I explained that two 70 year olds and a small dog were stuck up a tree surrounded by a herd of cows in the hail and rain is anyone's guess. But she took details and after a bit of a giggle said she would get help as soon as she could.

We waited, the cows waited, and after 15 minutes a call came in, saying a local community officer was approaching us from across the field in a high viz vest with a small man holding a wooden staff. The farmer, a local but not the owner, walked briskly up to the cows and they just moved on, annoyingly. The officer, tall and statuesque led us out of the field on to the road, whilst the farmer advised us to 'just face them and make yourself as big as possible if this happened again'. However I'm not sure at my lowly height, making myself taller would do any good, and when cows are moving their bulk at the speed they were running, and as close as they were, that they could have stopped before trampling all over me.

Returning to our car we kept to the road, a decision made when we approached a further field, a shorter route, and saw a 'Bull in Field' sign on its gate! However, unfortunately this longer route got us to the pub just as it closed, and so weary and wet, we drove home for a very late dinner, of steak and ale pie.

Needless to say, we haven't promoted this walk with the walking group, but we have enjoyed telling the tale and having a laugh at ourselves.

Sue Fleet



Group Diary

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Week	AM/PM	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	AM	Making Music 10am - 12 Homes	Walks 9.30am Coop Car Park	Recorders 10.30am-12 Homes	Family History Motor Sports 10am - 12 10am - 12 Phoenix Centre Coop Café	Casual French 10am - 12 Homes
	PM			Gardening 2 - 4pm Homes	Scrabble 2 - 4pm Homes	Kurling 2 - 4pm Memorial Hall
2	AM		Strollers Active 50+ 10am - 12 Times Vary Co-op Newark Leisure			
	PM	Beginners Italian 2 - 4pm Homes	Committee 4.30 - 6.30pm Mayfield	Photography 2 - 4pm Homes	Bucketeers 2 - 4pm Youth & CC	Circle Dancing 2 - 3.30pm Phoenix Centre
3	AM	Making Music 10am - 12 Homes	Play Reading 10am - 12 Youth & CC	Recorders 10.30am - 12 Homes	Literature 10.30am - 12.30 Homes	Casual French 10am - 12 Homes
	PM	Music Apprecia- tion 2 - 4pm Mayfield	Board Games 2 - 4pm Youth & CC	Local History Re- search 2 - 4pm Mayfield	Lunch Club 12.30 Various Venues	Kurling 2 - 4pm Memorial Hall
4	AM		Active Over 50's Times Vary Newark Leisure		French Advanced 10am - 12 Homes	History 10am - 12 Youth & CC
	PM	Beginners Italian 2 - 4pm Homes	Art Appreciation 2 - 4pm Youth & CC	General Meeting 2 - 4pm Memorial Hall	Thursday Talking Shop 2 - 4pm Homes	Wine Appreciation 19.30pm Homes