

# Collingham & District



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

## NEWSLETTER - November 2019

Our U3A has been selected to take part in a ten-year survey of U3A members which is being organised by the Third Age Trust. As our U3A is designated a 'small' U3A based on the size of our membership, we were sent 15 questionnaires. It was agreed at our last Executive Meeting that we would follow the request of the Third Age Trust to assign the questionnaires on a random basis. The Membership Secretary and I met to carry out this task. So, some of you will be receiving large white envelopes from me with a request for you to complete the forms and return them to the Third Age Trust. I hope you will be willing to take part in this process.

Best wishes,  
Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee

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## Forthcoming Speakers

### November Monthly Meeting

27th November 2019 at 2pm

Talking about the history of Nottinghamshire County Agricultural Show and How Farming has Changed

Kay Gugliotta

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### December (**CHRISTMAS**) Monthly Meeting

18th December 2019 at 2pm

Our **Christmas Party**, for MEMBERS ONLY. There will be a Quiz, U3A Music Makers and Afternoon Tea.

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### January Monthly Meeting

22nd January 2020 at 2pm

Footpads, Kings and Highway Men  
The story of The Great North Road in Nottinghamshire

Ian Morgan

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# Rainbows Abseil

You may recall that Lesley Piper and myself were willing participants at the above charity fund raiser in Derby last October, and thanks to all our wonderful friends and families here in Collingham, Navenby, Notts and surrounding areas, we have raised well over £716 between us.

Your marvellous support and generous donations means the Children's Hospice 'Rainbows' which supports life limiting children and young adults in the East Mids will benefit, as it adds to the £20,000 raised by the event at Derby Cathedral.

The event was a challenge for us both, not least the 189 step up a spiral staircase, and the generally cold and blustery day, but one way or another we climbed up and then scrambled down again under the auspicious eye of event providers.

Lesley chose to smile at the crowd on her way



down, completely facing the wrong way for the last 30ft whilst I

got stuck for 70 ft or so, because the rope was heavier than I was, and I couldn't move. Moments which, unfortunately were filmed by Graham, and so we can't deny them.

Afterwards, over a welcome glass of red in the pub, it all seemed slightly unreal, but the money proves we did, and that's what it's all about isn't it?

Cheers and thanks again  
Sue



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## Skittles

The return of a U3A favourite event.

A fun evening at the Grey Horse Skittle Alley for both participants and spectators

On Wednesday 29th January at 7 pm. £4per member including sandwiches and chip supper.

Please sign up and pay at a General Meeting

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## Weekenders

It has been suggested that some social activities and events at week ends, would be a nice addition to our usual weekday groups. These would be primarily for those living alone and for whom weekends can sometimes be lonely, especially if families live far away.

The sort of events/ activities will be up to those in the group of course but could range from cinema to croquet or a walk in the park to a full evening dinner dance, for example. Its intended to be quite informal but within the ethos of U3A of course.

If this appeals to you then please either email me at [susanfleet04@gmail.com](mailto:susanfleet04@gmail.com) or sign up at the next General Meeting.

A meeting will then be organised so that you can get together and work out your own timetable.

Sue

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# Groups

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## Gardening

Leads: Jo Sloane, Telephone: 01636 893877  
email: kslone007@btinternet.com

Ingrid Wiggins, Telephone 07805 975456  
email: ingrid.wiggins@yahoo.co.uk

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

In November the group met at Shirley's house to see the amazing amount of work Shirley and Husband had done on their garden in just a year. The garden was lovely with terraces, new plants in , and new pathways created. Shirley went on to treat us all to home made cream teas with an abundance of cake. Quite a party! Many thanks Shirley.

As usual there was a great deal of laughter and chat. Anne gave us her traditional talk on what we should be doing in our gardens this month which was well received.

Next month on the first Wednesday in December we are having lunch at the Royal Oak Community pub at 1 pm. 12 of us are booked already so it should be fun. We plan to stay in the warm, gaze at the pub garden through the window with a glass of wine in hand!

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## Table Tennis

Lead: Peter Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106  
email: pebrauerglobus@btinternet.com

Meetings take place on 2nd and 4th Thursday, 10-11am at Winthorpe Community Centre

We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday between 10-11 am at the Winthorpe Community Centre. However, the last meeting this month was on November 14th and there is no table tennis in December.

The group starts again on Thursday January 9th 2020.

Bats and balls are provided.

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## Indoor Bowling

Lead: Clive Bainbridge  
email: iambembo@hotmail.com

Meetings take place every 2nd and 4th Monday, 2-4pm at Newark Indoor Bowling Centre

To start with I would like to thank Sue Fleet for getting the ball rolling with this new group. Also I would like to thank Gail, Jeny and all at the centre for their friendly help, support and coaching they have given us, it as been lovely.

I am sure I can speak for all in saying how much we have enjoyed our first few sessions. Most of us had not played 'indoor' before and soon realised how different it is from 'outdoor'.

I know we have all had a good laugh watching our bowls sail past the Jack either into the ditch or the adjacent rink!

We have a few spaces left so give me a buzz if you wish to come along,

Anyone can do it!

Clive Bainbridge

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# The Bucketeers

Lead: Lesley Piper, Telephone: 01636 892795

email: lesleypiper@tiscali.co.uk

Meetings take place on 2nd Thursday, 2-4pm at various locations

## Visit to RAF Scampton

On what was a very very wet dreary day we all had an amazing insight into how the Dam Busters Raid really did happen and all the planning etc that went into it. 19 intrepid Bucketeers made the journey to Scampton and had an incredible visit.

Our volunteer guide was a mine of information, giving us a blow by blow account of the raid on the 3 dams which were finally breached by the bouncing bombs.



We sat in Guy Gibson's office seat and visited the grave of his beloved dog. We heard about the history and personal stories of those involved in the raid, and about the very heavy losses incurred by 617 squadron.

The chance to see and hear of all the memory's of the 1st and 2nd world wars and story's that are from those eras was really good.

The chance also to see the red arrow planes and sit in one was enjoyed by a few also.

A day that was really enjoyed by all. The bad weather did not spoil the day at all.

Both groups had food afterwards, one at Pennels (afternoon tea) and the other went for the alcoholic and chips option at the Dambusters pub nearby.

A couple of incidental facts.....

The bouncing bomb was called "Upkeep" and the designer of the "Earthquake" and "Bouncing bombs" was Barnes Wallis.

Guy Gibson's dog (Nigger) died on the morning of the raid.

All those who took part in the raids were incredibly young-some only in their early 20s.

A superb visit-thanks go to John and Mavis White for organising this for us.

The pictures show the two groups of the Bucketeers who went to RAF Scampton.

**contd**

# The Bucketeeers (contd)

## Visit to Veolia

Despite floods, torrential rain and high winds a small group of "The Bucketeeers" gathered , on 14th November, at the Mansfield site of Veolia, for a pre-arranged talk and tour around the working area.

We were met by the Education and Training Officer, Lesley Taylor, helped ourselves to a very welcome hot drink, and then settled down for a talk on rubbish recycling-complete with a quiz of what can/cannot go into our silver bins.

I thought I knew but got so many items wrong it was a good job that I'd gone along to the visit to be re-educated.

Finally a tour of the actual Plant showed us exactly how hard they work at sorting, stacking, magnetising, etc to get everything in the right section and then neatly packed into large cubes ready for their onward journey.

Who knew that so much of the rejected rubbish goes to produce so much electricity?

Who knew that you could magnetise aluminium?

The aim is zero landfill in our region-excellent.

A fascinating visit-thank you Denise for organising this for us.

Lesley

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## Falconry

On Sunday (17th) Rita, Lesley, Margaret, David and John paid a visit to Rutland Falconry and Owl Centre, all in our wellies as forewarned. Good advice, as it turned out.

Along with another ten or so other members of the public we were each given an owl or hawk of our choice. Three brave souls chose hawks, the rest chose owls. Except for one awkward hawk (female, obviously) all the birds were relatively well-behaved. We were told exactly where to sit as some of the birds dislike each other and can get very aggressive - a bit like a humans really.

Our guide Tom showed us how to handle, stroke and talk to our birds to form a bond. After this we walked, birds on arms, through the woods - they're heavier than they look.

In a clearing Tom gave us an amusing and knowledgeable talk about the lives of owls and hawks and the history and work of the centre. All birds are either rescue birds or born on the premises, 'by accident' as they have no breeding policy.

To finish the day, Tom got one owl and one hawk to fly to us each in turn and take food from our hand. In keeping with their natural hunting styles, hawks hit the glove quite aggressively whereas owls drop on it very gently.



A most enjoyable and informative day and a real privilege to be allowed to interact with such beautiful, intelligent creatures - again, a bit like a U3A meeting.

Just to add, Lesley formed a very up close and personal relationship with her bird (don't try and deny it, Lesley - we have the photos to prove it). It was OK though - David didn't seem to give a hoot.

Lesley the owl whisperer!-at falconry on Sunday with the Bucketeeers

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# The Bucketees (contd)

## Glass Workshop

Seven of us followed in the footsteps of Sue and Lesley and attended a Beautiful Glass workshop at Toothill school in Bingham, Maureen, Linda, Tricia, Bea, Maureen, Mags and myself had a very enjoyable day creating a variety of artwork.



This is Maureen's Butterfly bowl



And this is Mag's abstract

The rest of us created a variety of different items from coasters, Christmas tree decorations, Flower hangings to landscapes.

Liz

## Walks

Lead: Colin Smith, Telephone: 01636 701205

email: colismit@aol.com

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

The walking group's planned November walk from Collingham down to the River Trent was again cancelled due to the very wet weather.

Our December walk will start and finish at the Full Moon, Morton with the groups Christmas lunch to follow in the Full Moon.

Colin

## Ukelele

Lead: Susan Fleet & Wellingore U3A, Telephone: 01636 893458

email: susanfleet04@gmail.com

Meetings take place on every Tuesday, 4-5pm at Memorial Hall

Having begun in late September this new beginners group have already met 6 times. We started with 6 members and borrowed ukuleles, but now, as we experience the thrill of making a chord or two work sufficiently enough to sing a tune, new Ukes have been bought, and we are hooked.

There are already 10 of us strumming, and singing along to our first half dozen tunes, more or less together. However there is plenty of room for more, and it's definitely a case of more members the better the sound and we are very much just beginners.

If you would like to join us we meet every Tuesday between 4-5pm in the Mayfield Room

Contact Sue for further details.

# 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

Chris gave us us a fascinating glimpse into the life of John Constable who declined taking on the family business and chose to become an artist depicting his beloved Suffolk countryside. He always made out door sketches but completed work in his studio. Over the past few years his work has been reclaimed and is a great reminder of Suffolk in the 1800 hundreds. In his life time he did have considerable success in Paris but Constable always struggled as a RA member against Turner in particular. Now he is remembered for his realism and the beauty of his colours.



We do not meet in December, so at our last meeting of the year, we will have a festive fun session with art quizzes, food and time to chat.

It has been a fascinating year, we have had such variety within the arts and our thanks go to all our presenters and the group who contribute in different ways to make it what it is.

Happy Christmas from Chris and Helena

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## Music Making

Lead: Phil Leckenby, Telephone: 01522 778280

email: pjeckenby@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 1st & 3rd Monday, 10am-12 at peoples homes

You would have had to be a resident of the planet Zogto have escaped the relentless reminders on TV, and everywhere else, that the festive season is just around the corner. Bowing to the pressure, the Music Makers have increased their rehearsal schedule from fortnightly to weekly. Rather than the pleasing whiff of chestnuts roasting on an open fire, the rehearsal space in the North Scarle Methodist Church is now infused with the pungent scent of a commercial wood-worm treatment. However, none of us seems to be the worse for it and it would be churlish to complain, as the facility is well-heated and is currently provided for free in recognition of our group agreeing to perform at North Scarle's carol service free of charge.

Thanks to a generous U3A Executive Committee, the mixer deck mentioned last month has now materialised and is proving very successful in balancing the various audio inputs. Still, to paraphrase Many Rice-Davies, we would say that, wouldn't we? However, members will be able to judge for themselves when the new equipment is used for the first time at the Christmas Tea Party on the 18th December.

Have a Cool Yule!

Phil Leckenby



# Circle Dancing

Lead: Sue Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106  
email: sebrauer@btinternet.com

Lead: Sue Fleet, Telephone: 01636 893458  
email: susanfleet04@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 2nd Friday, 2-4pm at the Phoenix Centre

The Circle Dancers met this month on the 8<sup>th</sup>, being the second Friday, 2-4 in the Phoenix Centre, and next meet on December 13<sup>th</sup>, when we will be dancing (and chatting) to Christmassy tunes, with a little bit extra than the usual tea, coffee and biscuits.

We have had a super year, maintaining our numbers, but always open to new members. Gentle, rhythmic exercise to lovely music. We have learnt new dances and, dare I say, become more expert at the older ones. A few of the group attended a workshop in the village led by visiting experts; a chance to get together with dancers from further afield and form a bigger circle. Another workshop is planned for the spring.



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## Literature

Lead: Sheelah Reynolds, Telephone: 01636 892348,  
email: sheelahreynolds@btinternet.com

Meetings take place on 3rd Friday, 10:30-12:30 at Royal Oak

We much enjoyed our September book 'On Beauty' by Zadie Smith, which is a tribute to E.M. Forster's 'Howard's End'. Forster's "Only connect....." theme runs through this very entertaining novel.

22nd November marks George Eliot's bicentenary and we were more than happy to plunge into 'Middlemarch', often said to contain some of the richest characters ever to appear in English literature. This much loved novel, set in rural Warwickshire, incorporates the lives of ordinary people and their struggles to answer fundamental questions about life and love.

Going down a very different road, our next book is 'Cider House Rules' by John Irving.

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## History

Lead: Anita Maunsell, Telephone: 01636 892928  
email: marriott40@live.co.uk

Lead: Peter Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106

Meetings take place on 4th Friday, 10am-12 at the Youth & Community Centre

The next meeting will be on 24 January when the subject will be 'The Scramble for Africa - The 1884 Berlin Conference', to be presented by Phil Platt.

Planning is now underway for the rest of the 2020 programme, early indications are that Pat Smedley will offer her 'Big Bang' presentation whilst Chris and Charlie Stothard are planning a presentation on 'The Incas Prior to the Conquistadors'.

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# Play Reading

Lead: Sue Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106

email: sebrauer@btinternet.com

Lead: Sandra Howarth,

email: rogerandsandra\_889@btinternet.com

Meetings take place on 3rd Tuesday, 10am-12 at the Youth & Community Centre

In November we meet on the 19th, 10-12 in the YCC, Low Street; it being the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

We will be taking it in turns to read from Alan Bennett's Talking Heads, with extracts from Beyond the Fringe thrown in – therefore, a light hearted read which should prove to be enjoyable. Our meeting in December is rather special; we will be combining with Bucketeers to enjoy together a short play, "The Park" directed by and starring Mags and several of the Players, who have taken that brave step from reading to acting to join in the fun.

Next year we will continue to search out plays that entertain and challenge us and keep an eye on Event cinema showings at Newark Odeon and local theatres. New members to the group are very welcome.



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## Italian for Beginners

Lead: Mary Hughes, Telephone: 01636 892415

email: mea.hughes@@gmail.com

Lead: Jannet Wright, Telephone: 01636 892415

email: jannet.wright@@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 2nd & 4th Monday, 2-4pm at peoples homes

Our group consists of members who have a love of Italy and the Italian language. Several people have or have had homes in Italy and so they bring a realistic approach to our learning and our knowledge of Italian. We use a variety of activities ranging from listening tasks to grammar sessions as well as trying to extend our ability to converse using complete sentences!

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## Wine Appreciation

Lead: Graham Eaton, Telephone: 01636 893895

email: eastlound@btinternet.com

Meetings take place on 4th Friday, 7:30pm at peoples homes

On Friday 25th October we gathered at Sue and Peter Brauers house for our first meeting since our sojourn to the Loire Valley.

No wines were on show from our trip to France (no we haven't drunk them all yet) as Peter provided wines made from some of the less common grape varieties for us to taste. Some of the wines were blends of up to three different grape varieties. However by general consensus the favourite was the single variety Albariño wine from Spain.

Our next meeting is on 29th November when our hosts are Sue and Graham Fleet.

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# Photography

Lead: Paul Bass, Telephone: 01636 892057

email: bass.ps@gmail.com

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

The theme for November was "A Good Day". The resulting images, as you can see, have resulted from some quite liberal interpretations.

Next month we shall be having a workshop on Studio Photography. The Group will get the chance to be both photographer and subject.



Belton Hall Autumn by  
John Geeson



Buttermere  
by Paul Bass



Civil War Battle  
by Les Murray



Derwentwater  
by Gill Bass



Having a splashing time  
by Roger Davis



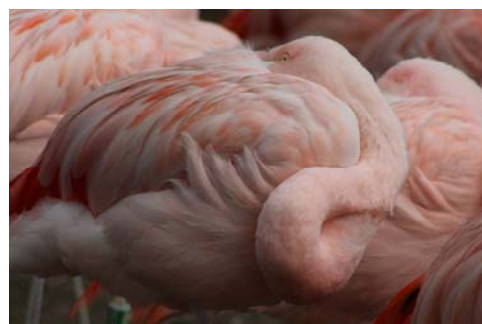
I am Watching You  
by Allan Allcock



Morning Glory by Phil Leckenby



Tattershall Church by Jenny Macpherson



Pretty in Pink by Jannet Wright

# 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

A forum for the exchange and sharing of ideas and issues that affect the way we live.

Next meeting: 2 pm Thursday 28 November. 'Democracy' will be the subject for this meeting when the Group will look at its origins and practice in the past and currently in Britain and elsewhere.

The subject for the January meeting will be 'Ageing': What do we consider to be old age? What factors influence ageing? What are the cultural differences? Is ageism always negative? Is independence always a good thing? What do we think about ageing and the beauty business?

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## Bridge

Lead: Liz Ball, Telephone: 01636 893102

email: elizb36@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 10am-12 at various locations

Although we are down in the groups calendar as meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays, we are flexible about this and fit in with the commitments of group members. Our next meeting is on Tuesday the 26th November between 10 and 12, then we meet again on Thursday the 12th December between 10 and 12. New members are always welcome, we span a wide range of abilities so no need to think you have to be an experienced player to join us.

Liz

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## GROUPS DIARY

Week	AM/PM	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<b>Making Music</b>	<b>Walks</b>	<b>Recorders</b>	<b>Family History   Motor Sports</b>	<b>Casual French</b>
	AM	10 - 12 md N. Scarle Methodist Church Hall	9.30am Grey Horse Car Park	10.30 - 12am Homes	10 - 12md Phoenix Centre  Coop Café	10-12md Homes
1	PM		<b>Beginners Ukelele</b>	<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Scrabble</b>	<b>Kurling</b>
			4-5pm Mayfield Rm	2 - 4pm Homes	3 - 5pm Homes	2 - 4pm Memorial Hall
			<b>Strollers   Bridge</b>		<b>Table Tennis</b>	
	AM		10-12 Co-op   Homes		10-11am Winthorpe Comm Centre	
2						
		<b>Begin'r's Italian   Indoor Bowls</b>	<b>Committee   Ukelele</b>	<b>Photography</b>	<b>Bucketeers</b>	<b>Circle Dancing</b>
	PM	2-4pm Homes   Newark Indoor Bwls Ce	4.30-6.30   4-5pm Mayfield	2- 4pm Homes	2 - 4pm Venue Varies	2 - 3.30pm Phoenix Centre
						<b>Sunday Lunchers</b>
						12.30/1.00pm Various Venues
		<b>Making Music</b>	<b>Play Reading</b>	<b>Recorders</b>		<b>Casual French</b>
	AM	10 - 12md N. Scarle Methodist Church Hall	10 - 12md Youth & CC	10.30 - 12md Homes		10 - 12md Homes
3						
		<b>Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Board Games Ukelele</b>	<b>Loc History Research</b>	<b>Lunch Club</b>	<b>Kurling/Literature</b>
	PM	2 - 4pm Mayfield Rm	2-4pm // 4-5pm YCC   Mayfield Rm	2 - 4pm Mayfield	12.30 Various Venues	2 - 4pm Mem Hall//Royal Oak
			<b>Bridge</b>		<b>French Advanced Table Tennis</b>	<b>History</b>
	AM		10-12md Homes		10-12md   10-11am Homes   Winthorpe  Comm Centre	10-12md Youth & CC
4						
		<b>Begin'r's Italian  Indoor Bowls</b>	<b>Art Appr'n  Ukelele</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday Talk'g Shop</b>	<b>Wine Appreciation</b>
	PM	2-4pm Homes  Newark Indoor Bwls Ce	2-4pm   4-5pm YCC   Mayfield	2 - 4pm Memorial Hall	2-4pm Homes	19.30pm Homes