

Collingham & District



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

NEWSLETTER - December 2019

After a busy and eventful 2019 we would like to wish all our members the very best over the coming festive period and end of the year.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Xmas Tea on Wednesday 18th December.

We will mark the start of 2020 with a talk at our January General Meeting about 'Footpads, Kings and Highway Men'.

Best wishes and a Happy New Year to all from the
Collingham & District U3A Executive Committee

Forthcoming Speakers

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.

January Monthly Meeting

22nd January 2020 at 2pm

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

Ian Morgan

February Monthly Meeting

26th February 2020 at 2pm

The Grey Gap Year.

A real life story of two oldies surviving in a world of youngsters. They went to manage a ski chalet in the Alps.

Alan Rimmer

Upcoming Events

Skittles at the Grey Horse on January 29th:

We have had a large response to this popular event and are almost at full capacity, there are a couple of spaces left.

Groups

Music Appreciation

Lead: Nick Narracott, Telephone: 01636 892938

email: n_narracott@yahoo.com

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

In 2020 the Music Appreciation Group will continue to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Presenters for the next meetings are:-

January 20th - Keith Morgan

February - no meeting

March 16th - Judy Muirhead

April 20th - Anne Speed

NOTE: There will be no meeting in February



Art Appreciation

Leads: Helena Narracott, Telephone: 01636 892938

email: hnarracott@yahoo.co.uk

Chris Stothard, Telephone: 01636 894241

email: cstothard5@gmail.com

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

Great fun was had at our last meeting with 2 fun quizzes organised by Chris, mulled wine, festive eats and plenty of conversation and laughter.

We do not meet in December but have a full programme organised for 2020 which includes an outside visit. So we will see our members in January.

Happy Christmas and New Year - enjoy this famous artist's winter scene, no prizes but a little homework for those who don't know!



Ukelele

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

email: susanfleet04@gmail.com

Meetings take place on every Tuesday, 3 - 4:30pm at Royal Oak, upstairs

As from Tuesday 7th January the ukelele beginners group will be meeting in the community room at the Royal Oak pub on the High St.

We will now commence at 3pm until 4.30 with a short tea break in between.

The New Year will bring new music and extend our chord playing a little more However there is always room for more new members who might wish to enjoy the fun of learning to play the ukelele and singing some well known tunes in this small group

Please contact Sue Fleet

The Bucketeers

Lead: Lesley Piper, Telephone: 01636 892795

email: lesleypiper@tiscali.co.uk

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

Fourteen Go On Safari

On Saturday 23rd November 14 Bucketeers went on Safari - without even going as far as Africa

As it turns out you don't need lions, tigers or even a jeep camouflaged as a zebra to go on Safari. All you need is a few houses, good company and a 1970's themed-menu, in this case prawn cocktail, beef bourguignon and Black Forest gateaux.

After splitting into different groups per course and moving from house to house for each course, all fourteen of us ended up at Martin and Liz's for coffee and entertainment. Mags and Stuart did their own take on the The two Ronnie Four candles/ Fork handles sketch, John Geeson hosted a 1970s music quiz (won with a very impressive score by The Pipers and Ball's team) and finally a game of 20 questions, all Hilarious.

Great food, great company, great fun.



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 last meeting of the year took place on Monday the 9th December. We were pleased to welcome Graham Fleet, our previous Group Leader, to this meeting where we marked the festive season with refreshments and panettone.

The Group will start meeting again on Monday 13th January 2020.

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

14 members of Collingham Garden Club met for lunch at the Royal Oak . Whilst no gardening was involved in this meeting ,we did admire the Christmas tree and array of vegetables and salads served at the lunch. We also welcomed back some of our members who had not been able to attend previously. It's always good to have friends return to this special group of Collingham folk. In fact the only absentee was Anne Mackie, and ,as she was in Scotland ,we conceded it was too far to come just for lunch.

Nevertheless you were missed Anne!

Hopefully, we will have all 15 of us together at our next meeting on January 8th, we voted to go to Patchings in Calverton. The brave amongst us will stroll and view their Monet garden through potential snow/ frost / rain and others may view from the warmth of their tea rooms and art galleries. Our inclusive club aims to cater for all our needs and as some of our party are not keen drivers, volunteer drivers will ensure we all get to Patchings. We meet at 11 am on the 8th Jan in the Coop car park.



Best Christmas wishes to all our members and we look forward to an exciting and eventful New Year.

Ingrid

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

Table Tennis at Winthorpe Community Hall "Just a polite reminder that our next session takes place at 10:00am on Thursday January 9th, 2020.

A great opportunity to get some exercise after the festive season."

Sunday Lunchers

Lead: Marion Wilson, Telephone: 01636 893058

email: lavenderpatch14@gmail.com

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

We have been meeting as a group now for 3 years and have visited very many local pubs and restaurants around and about Collingham. There are 17 in the group, which includes couples and single members from Collingham and District U3A, and we meet every 2nd Sunday in a month. Because we have now eaten our way through a fair number of Sunday meals we feel we are fairly well placed to identify and name some of our favourites, the places we return to regularly, and whose food we enjoy.

Our ratings include: ----- the quality of the food and service, ambience of the venue, value for money and ease of access.

Top 4 recommendations are;

The Black Swan -Beckingham

The Five Bells -Bassingham

The Generous Britain - Brant Broughton

Whittakers - Long Bennington

Also highly recommended by the group are;

The White Hart - Carlton Le Morland

The Glass Bottle - Harby

The Lord Nelson - Besthorpe

The Five Bells - Claypole

Marion

Family History

Lead: Charlie Stothard, Telephone: 01636 894241

email: cwstothard@gmail.com

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

The Family History Group have held their last meeting of the year at The Phoenix Centre and this took the format of two quizzes followed by Festive Food.

The first quiz was on "The Origins of different kinds of food throughout History" such as "Who introduced cabbage into England?". The Romans so now you know who to blame !

The second quiz tested our knowledge of different periods in history. The Civil War, The Regency Period, The Twenties and The Sixties.

We then followed the quizzes with food glorious food, provided by the Ancestry Group.

The Ancestry Group would like to thank Charlie for all his hard work throughout the year.

Sonia

Wine Appreciation

Lead: Graham Eaton, Telephone: 01636 893895

email: eastlound@btinternet.com

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

We met on a very icy Friday evening as usual to taste and discuss four wines as chosen by the nominated member of our group, for November. As usual these wines were purchased using money collected from members the month prior, and remained secret until the evening get together. A welcoming glass of Prosecco kicked off the evening as, in teams of 3, we settled in comfy seats to explore the purchases of the month, and voice our opinions of them.

This month we explored both red and white wines from the Southern Italian regions of Puglia and Abruzzo, and in true U3A style, were asked, as teams, to write our own labels for each wine and give scores out of ten for each.

To assist with the tastings, there were foods on offer from the regions chosen, such as salami, prosciutto, pizza and red fruits which complimented the red wines, and chicken prawns, pears and salty peppers to do a similar job for the whites. We have learnt during our time in this group that food can change a wine quite considerably, and make or break the enjoyment of it. A second thing we have discovered, which might seem very basic, is that a wine which may have seemed unpleasant or even undrinkable initially, can if left a while, seem considerably different. Of course, this has nothing at all to do with how much wine may have been tasted over that time period, as I'm sure you all understand.

The wines this month were all purchased from one local supermarket and were:

Pecorino Superiori , - a single grape white from Abruzzo which scored 23/30

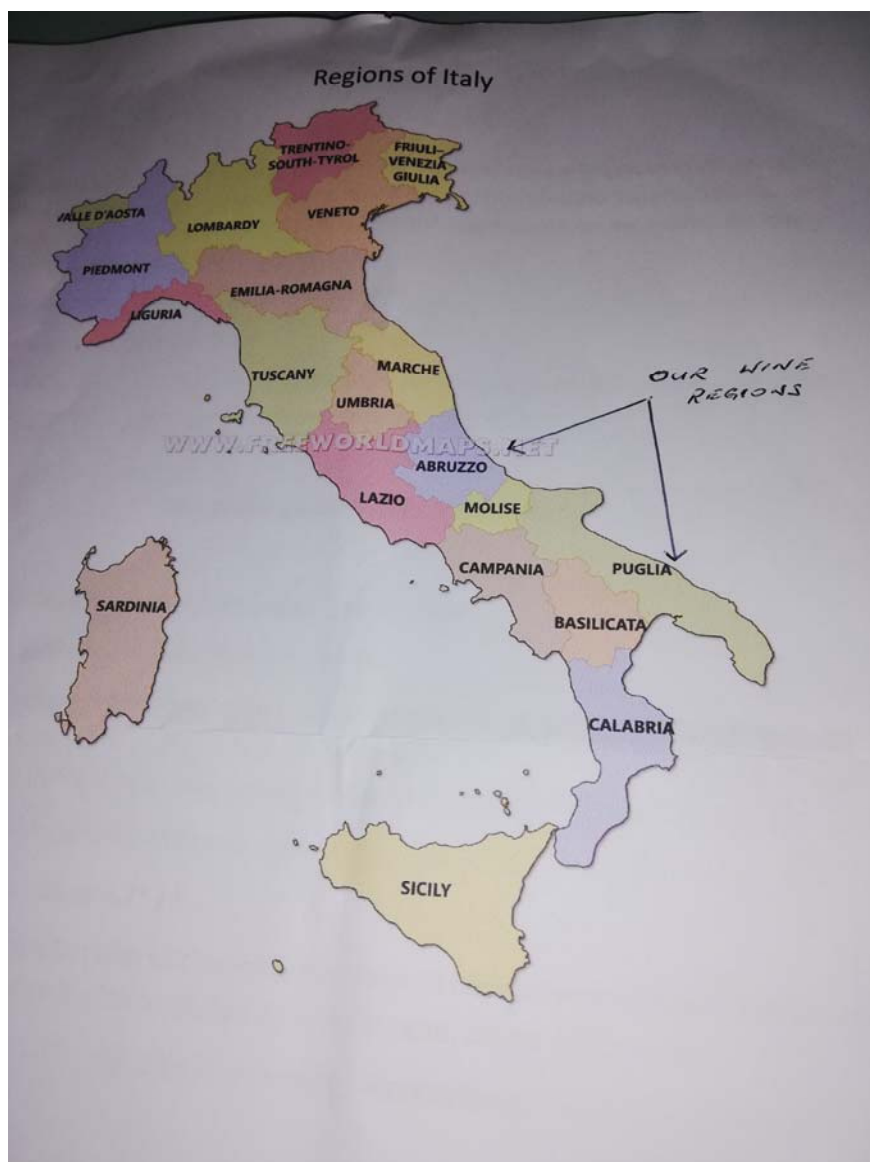
Organic Fiano - a single grape white from Puglia which scored only 12/30

Triade Rosso - a blend of 3 red grapes (Negroamaro, Nero de Troia, and Primitivo, from Puglia which scored 24/30

Nero De Troia Organic - a single red grape from Puglia which scored 18/30

There are clear winners and losers as you can see, and opinions varied quite widely at times, with comments ranging from the disparaging 'oily and like petrol' to 'full bodied red fruits and smooth'.

Hot decaffeinated coffee and salty caramel almonds brought us back to reality, and the walk home in the deep frost of a real English Winter, far away from the warmth of an Italian vineyard.



Music Making

Lead: Phil Leckenby, Telephone: 07483 296822

email: pjleckenby@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 1st & 3rd Monday, 10am-12 at
Methodist Street, High Street, North Scarle

As a final warm up for the North Scarle Carol Service on 13th December, the Music Makers rehearsed in the church with organist Richard Smith, of Bracebridge Heath. A full report to follow in next month's newsletter.



Pausing only to shake out the relentless ear worm of the Calypso Carol, the next event, the Collingham U3A Christmas Tea Party, will follow hard on the heels of the carol service. Again there is nothing to report as we go to press but a short write-up on this, and the Newark Art Club gig, should appear in the January 2020 Newsletter.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Phil Leckenby



Literature

Lead: Sheelah Reynolds, Telephone: 01636 892348,

email: sheelahreynolds@btinternet.com

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

Our December meeting at the Royal Oak enabled further discussion of Middlemarch by George Eliot, followed by a very enjoyable Christmas lunch.

We will be moving on to 'Cider House Rules' by John Irving at our next meeting on Friday, 17th January.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TOO.

Sheelah

Local History Research

Lead: Pat Smedley, Telephone: 01636 892292

email: patsmedley@googlemail.com

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

At our November meeting the group explored some important themes for our VE 2020 project on the Collingham in the second world war. Maps from 1915 and 1948 were examined to discover how much new housing had been built between the first and second world wars. Only a few houses were discovered, mostly dotted along Station and Swinderby Roads. A look at the 1970's map of course revealed the massive enlargement of Collingham post second world war around the new housing estates away from the older settlements round Low and High Street.

The group also focused on the 1939 Government Survey to reveal the occupations of adults all over England. This survey was an amazing achievement completed as on the advent of the war itself. It gave the government a complete record of the occupations of all adults in the UK, essential in helping them to plan how best to use everyone in the war effort. One of our group will analyse the results of this survey for both North and South Collingham and the results will be compared to the 1911 Census [for which we already have a report in Irregular 2].



International Bomber Command Centre Museum

Finally we enjoyed a short presentation on the Air War around Collingham. An over view of the events leading up to and including the Battle of Britain was given, followed by an analysis of the work of Bomber Command in the remaining years of the war. It is fascinating to think that Collingham was surround by Bomber Command bases. The building of these, and the work they did in the war will be a highlight of our May Day exhibition.

For our December meeting the group visited the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln. We were blessed with an exceptional morning, with clear blue skies over Lincoln. Despite the cold, we enjoyed an excellent tour round the memorial spire and heard more incredible stories of the courage of these brave young pilots from all over the world who joined Bomber Command.

The museum offers some spectacular features, all of which make one appreciate more the day to day life of a Bomber Command Pilot and crew, and the ground staff who made the whole operation possible.

Irregular 2,3, and 4 editions are on sale in Gascoignes at £5 each. There are many articles published in these editions written by members of this group. Please support their work.

*International Bomber Command Centre :
The Spire*



Photography

Lead: Paul Bass, Telephone: 01636 892057

email: bass.ps@gmail.com

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

This month the group did not produce its usual themed images. Instead we had an introductory workshop on studio photography, which was great fun. Next month we revert to themed images which the subject will be "Connections".



Cap it All



Folk Singer



Music Making



Queen Lookalikes



Rocket Man



Sonny and Cher



You Looking at me



GROUPS DIARY

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