



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

## NEWSLETTER - October 2020

Welcome to the October Newsletter

We successfully held our AGM last month using Zoom. Thank you to all those members who attended and to those who couldn't attend but returned their voting forms. We thanked Marion Collins for her work as the Minute Taker. She steps down having held this role since the Collingham & District U3A started. This is a crucial but not always straightforward role as meetings can be lively. However, as someone commented, Marion's patience was legendary. Anita Maunsell stood for election and has taken on this role. The whole committee welcomes her.

An Emergency Temporary Amendment to our constitution was passed at the AGM. You will recall that you received information about this with your AGM papers. The passing of this resolution means that the membership years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 will be counted as a single membership period. The Membership Fee for this time is £17. So, if you have already paid your fee you will not need to pay again until the end of March 2022. If you haven't been able to pay this year don't worry. We will be in contact with you before the end of March 2021 about how to pay your membership fee. We are grateful to our Treasurer, Graham Fleet, whose careful management of our finances has enabled us to be in this position.

It is amazing how adaptable people can be. One example of this is that we have already begun to receive offers from speakers to present their talks online. We were pleased to hear from Fool's Gold, whom I am sure all of you will remember. They are putting together a session which can take place online. Your Executive Committee is considering how we can use these offers in a way that could enable us, next year, to have 'virtual' general meetings.

Best wishes,

Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee

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European Tours

Worldwide Tours

River Cruises

Short Breaks

# Earn funds for your U3A



## **Earn Money for Our U3A at No Cost to You . A great Idea! - Please Read On.**

Many of us may be dreaming of a holiday abroad, full of sunshine and interesting places to visit. If only! .....

But if current circumstances change and these holidays become possible again, please consider the possibility of doing that and at the same time earning 10% of the cost for our U3A. This is how:

Book your holiday through Riviera Travel, a reputable company which has been operating for over 35 years and is a member of all the major protection schemes. Holiday and travel information can be found at [www.u3ariviera.co.uk](http://www.u3ariviera.co.uk) or by telephoning 01283 248304. It is essential to mention, at the time of booking, that you wish the 10% payment to go to Collingham & District U3A.

**Happy Holidays soon - we hope!**

**Many thanks, Graham Fleet, Treasurer**

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# Groups

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## Art Appreciation

Lead: Chris Stothard, Telephone: 01636 894241  
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It seemed appropriate at this time of the year to look at paintings of autumn. We started by looking at paintings of Woldgate Woods by David Hockney and followed this up with a video showing him creating one of his huge paintings. The video showed how an artist transforms a flat canvas into a three dimensional representation.



Woldgate Woods by David Hockney

We went on to look at some paintings by Austrian and German Secessionist painters, Egon Schiele and Hans Christiansen. Gustav Klimt was a possibly more famous member of this school.



Four Trees by Egon Schiele



By Hans Christiansen

Finally this month we looked at a pair of pictures from before WWI, by European artists and another pair by American artists, one from before and one from after WWII.



Autumn View by Pierre Bonnard 1912



Autumn in Murnau by Wassily Kandinsky 1908



Autumn Leaves by Georgia O'Keefe 1924



October on Cape Cod by Hopper 1946

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# History

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Peter Brauer, [p.brauer@btinternet.com](mailto:p.brauer@btinternet.com)

## REASONS TO BE GRATEFUL

**As the Covid crisis rumbles along it's a good time to remind ourselves that there are some advantages to living in the 21st century. Here are just a few historical horrors or injustices.**

**Cuckstools** (or ducking stools) were a popular punishment for scolds and merchants who gave short measure during the medieval period. Whilst both genders were eligible, women were predominantly the victims. The site for local offenders was at Cuckstool Wharf at Newark Castle. The last recorded use of this punishment in this country was as late as 1801.

**Medical practices in the 17th century** were enough to frighten one into good health. The list of medicines in the Pharmacopeia Londonensis includes things like "turds of goose, of a dog, of a goat, of pigeons..."

**Medieval sumptuary laws** prevented people from dressing above their station. Early in the 14th century the law stated: "no common woman should go to market or out of her house with a hood furred with anything other than lambskin or rabbit fur ... because shopgirls, wetnurses, and other servants, and loose women bedizen themselves with hoods furred with ermine and minever, like ladies of quality."

**Scolds Bridles** were first recorded in the 16th century. Consisting of an iron framework to enclose the head with a bridle-bit to prevent speaking, they were mostly used on women of the lower classes whose speech was deemed riotous or troublesome or whom were suspected of witchcraft. Its last recorded use was as late as 1856 in Lancashire.

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## Italian for Beginners

Lead: Mary Hughes & Jannet Wright Telephone: 01636 892415

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We have continued to meet using Zoom and really felt the power of it when two of our members joined us from Italy. The connection was so good that they could have been in the same room.

We have been working on our use of prepositions. We can now say things like 'the cat is behind the dog' or 'the cup is between the kettle and the microwave' or even 'the train is under the chair'. It all depends on the pictures at our disposal. We know it will all come in useful one day.

We will continue working on the prepositions during this term. For the next meeting we also plan to translate a recipe from an Italian vegetarian magazine. Perhaps we will all try it and report back, in Italian of course.

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# Literature

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

Our recent choice 'A Far Cry From Kensington' by Muriel Spark has been very much enjoyed. 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie' is familiar to all of us but we'll surely enjoy reading it again before long.

In the meantime, the library have been able to supply copies of 'Things Fall Apart' by the world-acclaimed Nigerian author Chinua Achebe. Sadly, recent news from Nigeria makes this novel topical in terms of world events, but may also shed some light on the complexity of this troubled nation's history.

## THE CATS' PROTECTION LEAGUE

Midnight. A knock at the door.  
Open it? Better had.  
Three heavy cats, mean and bad.

They offer protection. I ask, 'What for?'  
The Boss-cat snarls, 'You know the score.  
Listen man and listen good

If you wanna stay in the neighbourhood,  
Pay your dues or the toms will call  
And wail each night on the backyard wall

Mangle the flowers, and as for the lawn  
A smelly minefield awaits you at dawn.'  
These guys meant business without a doubt.

Three cans of tuna, I handed them out.  
They then disappeared like bats into hell  
Those bad,bad cats from the CPL.

ROGER McGOUGH

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# Local History Research

Lead: Pat Smedley, Telephone: 01636 892292  
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## In Search of the River Trent : summer outing in August 2020

Having studied our local OS map : SK 86 [Collingham and surrounding area] via Zoom over the summer and discussed the use and importance of the River Trent in our local history our research group decided to get our boots muddy and go on a mini field trip to look at the River Trent from four vantage points all around South Clifton and district.

Our first attempt at this trip had to be called off due to dreadful weather so we were hoping we would be successful second time round. Rain was forecast for the day at around 4pm. We brought forward the outing by half an hour and had just finished our last destination when the rain started!

There were four views of the Trent that we wanted to explore. We started off climbing up South Clifton Hill [grid ref : 698822] the local high spot at 76 metres above sea level. This gives a view of the whole Trent valley with the Trent itself winding its path through the flat agricultural lands on either side. In the distance is St. Mary Magdelene church in Newark. It was amazing to remember that in the rains of February this whole scene was water, water everywhere as the Trent had flooded its banks. Plotting the course of the actual river at that time was difficult!

From this vantage point we could see the river meandering within the constraints of its modern flood banks, the adjacent rich grass meadowland which has been traditionally managed by controlled flooding in the early spring, and some of the old courses of the Trent marked on the Map.

Walking back down the hill we then turned left into Coal Yard Lane and made our way to access the banks of the River Trent. Coal Yard Lane reminds us that coal would have been transferred from the boats and delivered to the village via this route. By this time the weather had turned quite chilly and windy. We accessed a spot on the river bank which appeared to be an old quay near the end of the lane which could also have been a ferry point.

Bridget, one of the group delivered a very interesting lecture on the River Trent ferries, and the men and women who lived by them and worked them. This is a little known topic, and Bridget is just starting her research project on this. We saw in the distance an example of a self closing Trent Clapper Gate.

We also saw a boat towing two water skiers!! This would have likely been the 'Water Rats' whom two of us had earlier met when 'getting our boots muddy' in the 'Brownlow Arms' pub just across the river on an earlier reconnaissance. We learned then that the Trent is silting up in this area as it is not dredged or scoured by commercial barges.



Water Skiing on the river with two skiers!

We next proceeded to St George the Martyr church – a lovely vision in stone on Church Lane between the two Clifton villages. The church yard yielded many interesting graveyard inscriptions which the group took time to explore and compare with those found in Collingham, including the presence of some familiar names and clusters of names unrecorded in Collingham.

We then stumbled down the bank of the river terrace at the top of which the church is situated. We had studied the development of settlements along the terrace of the Trent flood plain and now we saw this at close hand. The fields were well cultivated at this point – paddocks with rambling ponies : pockets of agriculture set on lush rich flood plain lands. A well settled landscape. Over to the right of our viewpoint we saw the dramatic Fledborough viaduct stretch out along the skyline.

Finally a short walk took us to the bridge allowing some of use access to the viaduct. This access was very steep and not for the faint hearted.

The viaduct gives a wonderful panoramic view of the view of the Trent and its flood plains as it heads North. In the far distance Cottam and West Burton power stations looked dramatic, silhouetted against an increasingly grey sky.

At every turn we would see clues of the past and potential subjects to interest the researcher. The skeptical would highlight that we were only tourists who barely scratched the surface. True, but at least we were aware that we were just identifying a few of the markers of the past, there is much more to see. Also that each community has its own story to tell in the bigger landscape of history, which leaves a space for curious people to undertake their own unique research whether individually or as part of a group like ourselves. Above all the social aspect of our getting together and sharing our different viewpoints and ideas are just as important as the history.

We were glad to get in our cars and some warmth but agreed that it had been a worthwhile trip and that there was a lot more to learn about the River Trent.

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# Music Making

Lead: Phil Leckenby, Telephone: 07483 296822  
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Rehearsal Photo (BC – Before Covid)

The cottage industry of home recording is alive and well. However, the ambition to provide a link embedded in this newsletter to show how the group is managing to perform in isolation, despite the severe constraints imposed by present circumstances, has been thwarted due to copyright considerations. It is a complicated area and we are waiting for clarification of performing rights as they apply to our organisation.

Any faint hopes of the group getting together in the foreseeable future have been dashed by the savage resurgence of COVID-19. In the meantime we will continue to rehearse our repertoire and work on new material as best we can. Some of our 'standards' have been re-worked and recorded for the library. I suppose any nascent thoughts of a "Greatest Hits" compilation will have to remain firmly on the back burner.

Phil Leckenby

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# Photography

Lead: Paul Bass, Telephone: 01636 892057  
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*The Photography Group continues to use video conferencing for its monthly meetings. It is now becoming used to sharing its images during its meetings. This month's image theme was "S Curves" and some of the images are printed in this month's Newsletter. Next month we shall be producing images on the theme "Triangles".*

Paul Bass



Down to the sea by Gill Bass



Boats at anchor by Les Murray



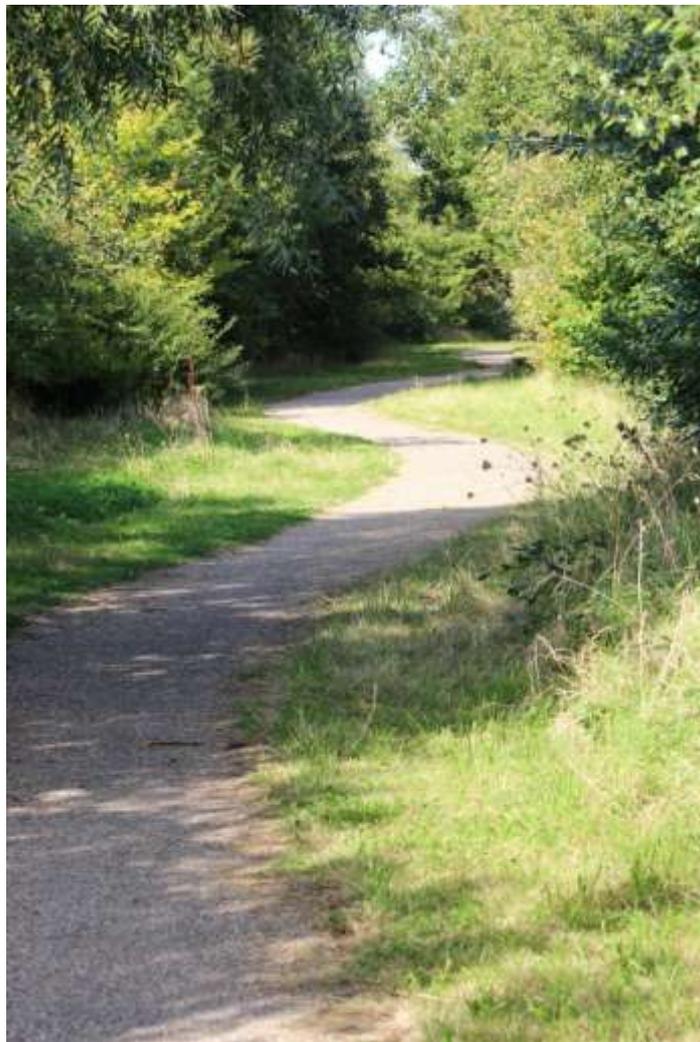
Wall near the river by Colin Smith



Dawn Mist by Paul Bass



Along the canal by John Geeson



S bend to the hide by Jannet Wright



Guitar detail by Phil Leckenby

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## Sunday Lunch group

Lead: Marion Wilson, Telephone: 01636 893058  
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After four months of lockdown, when things seemed to be easing a little a friend and I tried the Oakridge at Swinderby, for Sunday lunch, it was a really lovely meal. Also the breakfast is very good too . So I thought it would be safe to try it for the Sunday lunch group, with just three people going at a time, that way we were well within the limits. Since then nine of the group have been to the same place, and thoroughly enjoyed it.

But with the latest regulations I don't think we will be able to continue for a while.

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# Walking group

Lead: Colin Smith, Telephone: 01636 701205  
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On Tuesday 6th October the walking group had its first walk since February. Given the coronavirus restrictions in place, in particular the rule of six meeting outside, we decided that we could undertake a walk with six people, maintaining social distancing and taking other precautions to stay safe.

We decide to stay local so John Geeson lead a pleasant walk which started in Low Street near the church. We headed down Trent Lane to the River Trent and returned on the new footpath through Besthorpe nature reserve, stopping for coffee on the way, a distance of about 5.5 miles. Those of us on the walk all agreed that we could carry on walking within the current restrictions and look forward to our next outing, possibly with two groups of six people.

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