

# Collingham & District



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

## NEWSLETTER - February 2020

Welcome to the February Newsletter.

Members may have noticed that at General Meetings there are often leaflets or flyers about local organisations asking for volunteers.

This has come about because we receive many such appeals either in person or by email. Initially, each request was discussed by your Executive Committee. As our U3A grew and the need for volunteers increased, more requests were made. While we were delighted that our U3A was being identified as an organization that had a lively membership interested in being involved in many areas, we were also aware that this was not the primary role of U3A. We felt that it was not appropriate to have requests for help in every Newsletter or at the start of every General Meeting. Therefore the Committee decided to ask people who want volunteers to provide us with flyers about their organization and the volunteering opportunities they offer. These flyers are now put out at General Meetings. Members can then choose to pick up this information or just read about it as they wish. We also know that members find out about volunteering opportunities in other ways.

It is also important to remind ourselves that as a charity we are not allowed to make donations to other charities. This means that if a speaker at a General Meeting wants their fee to be given to a charity, we pay a fee to them and if they choose to donate this to a particular charity that is their choice. So when the fee is paid to a speaker, either by cheque or by bank transfer, it is the individual who is being paid. The speaker can then choose to donate the fee they have received. In the same vein our Speaker Seeker, who does an excellent job in providing us with a balanced programme, will aim to allocate only one slot a year to speakers from specific charities despite many offers from different organisations. This speaker may then put out a small collection box but the decision to support or donate is left to you as an individual U3A member.

Best wishes,  
Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee

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## Forthcoming Speakers

### 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

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# Forthcoming Speakers (contd)

## March Monthly Meeting

25th March 2020 at 2pm

Two Queens and a Countess

David Templeman

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## April Monthly Meeting

22nd April 2020 at 2pm

Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies

Martin Lloyd

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## Upcoming Events

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### The U3A Robot Constructor's Challenge 2020



Cannock Chase U3A are organising a day of challenges open to any U3A, where moving robot type constructions capable of being remotely or autonomously controlled are subjected to a series of challenges. The use of programmable devices such as Raspberry Pi or Arduino would be ideal, but not



essential. We are hoping to hold the challenge day in the Midlands during September or October, so we need individuals or teams to register their interest now to give time for their build. This would be of interest to those probably in Science groups and enjoy constructional projects.

The challenges for 2020 are yet to be announced, but may be similar to the 2019 challenges shown on our website. Do take a minute to look at the 2019 report.

**To register your interest for competing, please contact:**

Barry James or Ernie Prevost at [cannockchaseu3a@gmail.com](mailto:cannockchaseu3a@gmail.com) stating

the U3A to which you belong, preferred email or contact number. The rules are available on the Cannock Chase website:



<https://u3asites.org.uk/cannock-chase/home> by clicking the "Robots" button.



# WE CHALLENGE YOU

**To all U3As in the Lincoln Neighbourhood**

**The Branston U3A**

Challenge you all to the annual Walking Challenge. As winners of last year's extremely difficult challenge, it will give us great pleasure to invite Teams of 4 persons to enter our challenge this year which we hope give your teams plenty of thought provoking questions.

Date: Wed 20th May 2020, 10:00am

at Branston Church Hall

All willing to take the above Challenge

Please send all your details to Pete Robinson our Challenge Convenor at [peterobinson47@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterobinson47@hotmail.co.uk)

who will keep in touch with further info

Thank You

The course will be approximately 2 hours (depending how long it takes you to find the clues), All on pavements, and hard paths

It is free to enter but could we please have donations of cakes / biscuits from participants to enjoy on your return to the Hall, when refreshments will be served.



# Groups

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## 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

Art Appreciation had some fascinating objects brought along, from family memorabilia, to holiday souvenirs. The brief was that the object had to be no more than 6" high so it could be passed around the group, held and looked at in detail. Some objects were beautiful but of their time, some had very personal family associations, others were quite up to date but had intriguing stories behind them. We were amazed at how much fun we had too.

Thank you to all our members for this lovely session a good way to start 2020.



On February 25th, at 2 pm Jannet will be presenting the works of Edwin Landseer. We all know this work but what else does Landseer offer us and what about the man? His paintings can be seen in Tate Britain, the V&A and many other galleries and I'm sure the odd greeting card!.

On March 24th, Mary will give us a preview to the works and life of Artemisia Gentileschi. Some of you may be going to the National Gallery to see her work from 4 April – 26 July 2020 at the Sainsbury Wing.

Artemisia, for those who don't know, had an interesting back-story that was to influence her approach to painting. She came from a painting family and produced many powerful works concerning women, some of which are held in the Queen's Collection for you to see if you miss the exhibition..



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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 are looking forward to our next get-together on Friday, 21st February, to discuss E.M. Forster's 'Howards End'. We recently read Zadie Smith's novel 'On Beauty' which is a tribute to Foster's masterpiece, not that we need a reason to reread this wonderful novel.

Many thanks  
Sheelah

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# Music Making

Lead: Phil Leckenby, Telephone: 07483 296822

email: [pjleckenby@gmail.com](mailto:pjleckenby@gmail.com)

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

The 'working lunch' at the Royal Oak was both enjoyable and productive. We now have a list of new material to get our teeth into, including numbers made famous by the Beatles, Nina Simone, Gerry Rafferty, the Shadows and David Bowie. These pieces expand our repertoire into new areas and we are hard at work to come up with our own arrangements.

An idea was floated that we might make use of the upstairs room at the Royal Oak for our rehearsals. Unfortunately, this proved to be unworkable for a variety of reasons and we will continue, for the time being at least, to use the Methodist Church at North Scarle.

Phil Leckenby



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# Photography

Lead: Paul Bass, Telephone: 01636 892057

email: [bass.ps@gmail.com](mailto:bass.ps@gmail.com)

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

On Wednesday 29th Jan. members of the Photography Group and partners visited Patchings Art Centre to view printed photographic images selected for the North East Midlands Photographic Federation (NEMPF) annual exhibition. NEMPF is the body that represents club photography in the North East Midlands. The standard of work on show was exceptional and much admired by the attendees. After the viewing, the group visited the on site cafe/restaurant for refreshments and to discuss what we had seen.



# Photography (contd)

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The theme for this month's images is "Seasonal Colour". We shall be working on the theme of "Isolation" for March.



Be my Valentine  
by Margaret Bruce



Daffodils  
by Colin Smith



Dogwood  
by John Geeson



Frosty Field  
by Phil Leckenby



Ivy Seed Pods  
by Jannet Wright



January Sky  
by Paul Bass



Robin on Branch  
by Allan Allcock



Sunset Langford Low Fields  
by Roger Davis



The Stag  
by Jenny Macpherson



Town Lock Newark  
by Les Murray



Tulips Wilting  
by Gill Bass

# History

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

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

The topic of the last meeting was 'The Scramble for Africa - The 1884 Berlin Conference'. Presented by Phil Platt. The way in which decisions were taken by Western colonial powers to carve up and share the spoils of Africa was new territory and a sharp learning curve for most of the Group. Another excellent piece of research and presentation by one of our members.

Forthcoming topics are: 'The Incas Prior to the Conquistadors', February; 'The Big Bang', March; 'Aftermath of the Sinking of the Titanic', April; 'Captain Fitzroy and The Beagle', May, and 'South Sea Bubble', June.

Meetings take place on the 4th Friday of each month, 10 am - 12 noon at the Youth and Community Centre. Costs approx. £2-£3 per quarter. For further details contact Anita Maunsell: 01636 892928 or Peter Brauer: 01636 894106.

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## 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 26 March

The subject for the January meeting was 'Ageing'. The discussion ranged widely, for example: 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? This was a very lively conversation full of interesting ideas and questions.

The next meeting in March will look at 'Justice'; another subject that is bound to give rise to an interesting sharing of views.

Meetings usually take place on the fourth Thursday of each month at members' homes, but please note there is no meeting in February. For more information contact: Mary Hughes, 01636 892415 or Anita Maunsell, 01636 892928.

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## 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

Music Appreciation is not meeting in February. Future meetings resume in March on the usual third Monday of the Month. Our March presenter will be Judy Muirhead.

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# Strollers

Lead: Marion Wilson, Telephone: 01636 893058

email: lavenderpatch14@gmail.com

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



Strollers day out to Carlton le Moorland Marion, Rita, Carol W, Carol B, Marg and John had a lovely stroll around this lovely village, there are some lovely cottages, lovely countryside and lanes to wander around and some stunning views.

The day was cold and windy but we were all wrapped up warm.

We were then joined at the 5 Bells at Basingham later with Mags and Margaret C for a lovely lunch.

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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

February saw our group going to Belton Garden Centre near Grantham. Their tea room was the largest we have seen so far and completely full . Never have we seen Wednesday lunch hour so busy at a garden centre. They also had a tank of Koi carp and we discovered we could some could fetch up to £6,000 if they come with papers from Japan. Not something you want the local heron to eat.

We decided that a pub up the road in the next village was a better prospect the garden centre and that turned out to be the case!

Below are just a few of our party tucking into lunch. We would like to point out that the blue gin bottle on the table contained tap water( or so we were told) by those that sat that end of the table. Anne provided tips for gardeners taken from the Internet and we were all amused to read Google's advice not to dig up trees when the ground is frozen! Not something any of us are likely to try apparently!

Sue led the way home on a scenic route through lovely villages past snowdrops and catkins in the hedges.



Spring is on the way.

Next meeting is the first Wednesday in March and we are still voting where to go. Club members Will be kept posted .

Best wishes, Ingrid

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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>
			3-4.30 Mayfield Rm	2 - 4pm Homes	3 - 5pm Homes	2 - 4pm Memorial Hall
			<b>Strollers   Bridge</b>		<b>Table Tennis</b>	
	AM		10-12 2-4pm Co-op   Homes		10-11am Winthorpe Comm Centre	
2		<b>Begin'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 Cent	4.30pm 3-4.30 Mayfield	2- 4pm Homes	2 - 4pm Venue Varies	2 - 3.30pm Phoenix Centre
			<b>Play Reading</b>	<b>Recorders</b>	<b>Literature</b>	<b>Casual French</b>
	AM	10 - 12md N.Scarle Methodist Church Hall	10 - 12md Youth & CC	10.30 - 12md Homes	10.30-12.30 Royal Oak	10 - 12md Homes
3		<b>Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Board Games Ukelele</b>	<b>Loc History Research</b>	<b>Lunch Club</b>	<b>Kurling</b>
	PM	2 - 4pm Mayfield Rm	2-4pm // 3-4.30pm YCC   Mayfield Rm	2 - 4pm Mayfield	12.30 Various Venues	2 - 4pm Mem Hall
			<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'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 Cent	2-4pm   3-4.30pm YCC   Mayfield	2 - 4pm Memorial Hall	2-4pm Homes	19.30pm Homes
						<b>Sunday Lunchers</b>
						12.30 1.00pm Various Venues