

NEWSLETTER - May 2021

Welcome to the May Newsletter

We are looking forward to our General Meeting on Wednesday 28th July. We will incorporate our AGM into the meeting followed by a performance from our Music Makers Group. We are very pleased that they have agreed to play for us. Afterwards tea/coffee and cakes will be available. This meeting is an opportunity to meet up with each other and renew contacts. There will also be information about our future plans and speakers for General Meetings. As you will see from the rest of this introduction, we are seeking volunteers as we begin to hold our General Meetings again.

Membership Renewal 2021

Barbara Wilson, our Membership Secretary, has carefully kept the membership cards for those who paid last year but were not able to receive their cards due to lockdown. These are valid until the end of March 2022.

She has also produced membership cards for people who have paid by BACS or by cheque this year. These too are valid until March 2022.

Those members who sent a stamped addressed envelope with their cheque will be receiving their card(s) in next week's postal deliveries.

Those attending will be able to collect their card at the General Meeting on the 28th July. Please remember that Barbara will **not** be accepting cash.

This year the FINAL date for renewal of membership is the 31st July.

The Bookstall

The bookstall at the General Meeting was started by Harry Constantine and the Executive Committee have decided that it is something we would like to see continue. The books are stored at the Hall so they need setting out before the meeting and putting away afterwards. As well as raising some money for Collingham & District u3a, being on the stall provides an opportunity to talk to members as they browse the books and hopefully buy one or two. This could be done by one person or by two people who would like to work together. If you are interested in being on the bookstall, please contact Mary Hughes (Business Secretary) at: mea.hughes@gmail.com

Meet and Greet

As you know we have two people signing members in at the General Meetings and we need more volunteers. This is an important role as it sets the tone of our u3a when visitors or new members attend. You all know how good it feels when you are greeted with a warm smile and made to feel that you are welcome. Please can anyone interested in volunteering let me know by email at: jannet.wright@gmail.com

Group Co-ordinator needed

I am sorry to say that neither Sue nor I have heard from anyone interested in taking over as

Group Co-ordinator when Sue steps down at the AGM. The person in this role provides information for the website and at General Meetings and acts as a liaison between the Executive Committee and the Group Leaders. We would really like to fill this role so if you are interested and want to discuss this further, please contact Sue or myself.

Diversity and Inclusion Policy

I would like to thank Anita Maunsell and Mary Hughes for their work on the development of our Diversity and Inclusion Policy. This document was approved at our last Executive Meeting. It will appear on our website.

Best Wishes

Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee

Online courses

The u3a trust offers a wide range of educational courses over Zoom. Details can be found at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Examples of what are on offer include:

Staying safe online on the 1st June

Genealogy for Beginners, an eight week course starting on the 8th June

Yoga for balance 10th June

How to crochet flowers 12th July

Groups

Art Appreciation

Lead: Chris Stothard, Telephone: 01636 894241
email: cstothard5@gmail.com

The art appreciation group have looked at an eclectic range of subjects in May: body art, deserts and en plein air painting. Body art was inspired by a couple of programmes on TV, one on the use of make up to give women certain looks through history and the other the competition for young make up artists. The body is the earliest canvas available to people and modern people can give an indication of how and why people decorated themselves like this.





This may not be your idea of art but hearing make up artists talk about why they have chosen to produce looks like this shows that this is much an art form as painting on canvas.

We then moved on to deserts, dramatic, stark landscapes that surely cry out to be painted.

As we start to think about moving from meeting outdoors to being able to meet indoors, the subject of plein air painting seemed apposite.



This painting, by John Singer Sargent is an example of the lengths artists can go to capture just the light they are looking for: the painting took two years to complete because the length of time the light was just like this was so short!

The group is planning to get together en plein air, but not to perform any artistic endeavours whilst doing so.

Board Games

Lead: Liz Ball Telephone: 01636 893102
email: elizb36@gmail.com

We met for the first time indoors on Monday the 17th, six of us enjoyed playing Tick to Ride the Europe version.

The group meets on the third Monday of the month at 2 p.m. New members are always welcome

Bridge

Lead: Liz Ball Telephone: 01636 893102
email: elizb36@gmail.com

The group met for the first time on Tuesday the 18th , we will continue to meet in Members homes weekly. New players always welcome

Circle Dancing

Leads: Sue Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106
email: sebrauer@btinternet.com
Sue Fleet. Telephone 01636 893458
Email susanfleet04@gmail.com
2nd Friday in the month, 2-4

If all goes well with opening up the Phoenix Hall, we aim to re-start gentle dancing in a circle to lovely music on **Friday July 9th, 2-4**. New members are always welcome.

Contact: Sue Brauer (sebrauer@btinternet.com Tel. 01636 894106) and/or Sue Fleet (susanfleet04@gmail.com Tel 01636 893458).

Gardening

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

The garden club is meeting in Sue Boreham's garden on 2nd June at 2 pm. That's weather permitting of course. We will cancel and set another date if the weather isn't good. It's our first meeting in a long time and Sues garden gives us the space to socially distance whilst still enjoying peoples company. Sue has a glorious garden with many sculptures so there will be so much to see and enjoy. Below are photos of blackbirds feeding their young in Sues garden. At the meeting we are hoping to elect a new leader as Ingrid stands down. Also, we hope to plan future venues.

It will be wonderful to see all our friends again. Hopefully as many of our members as possible will turn up. Tea and cake will be served outdoors.



History

Lead: Anita Maunsell, Telephone: 01636 892928

email: marriott40@live.co.uk

Peter Brauer, p.brauer@btinternet.com

The re-launch of the History Group will take place on Friday 23rd July at the Youth and Community Centre. We will aim to set the agenda for our programme over the next months and catch up on plans that were put on the shelf when lockdown came. On this one occasion the meeting will take place from 11 - 1 pm.

Italian for Beginners

Lead: Mary Hughes & Jannet Wright Telephone: 01636 892415

email: mea.hughes@gmail.com jannet.wright@gmail.com

We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 2pm and as eagle-eyed readers of this Newsletter know, we have been meeting on Zoom during the last year. This has been very successful but we would like to see each other in person. If all goes well and the government plans continue to stay on track, we hope that by our second meeting in June, on the 28th, we will be able to meet up face-to-face.

Literature

Lead: Sheelah Reynolds, Telephone: 01636 892348,

email: sheelahreynolds@btinternet.com

We had a very enjoyable get together on the 20th May at the Royal Oak. The wind and rain drove us indoors and we were made very welcome with coffee and cake. We had a very animated discussion on Amor Towles novel 'A Gentleman in Moscow'. We have all found this book charming, witty, poetic and generous. In fact an absolute delight.

Our choice for June is 'The Woodlanders' by Thomas Hardy, which takes up the familiar Hardy theme of the destructive power of desire and ambition, and is one of the few Hardy novel we have not re-read so far.

We are looking to restart our group meetings in the Royal Oak on the 17th June, 10.30am to 12.30, (ie the 3rd Thursday of the month).

Local History Research

Leads: Keith Morgan, Telephone: 01636 894168

email: morgan.keithp@gmail.com

David Barker Telephone 01636 893665

Email davidbarker67@btinternet.com

Meet third Wednesday in the month 2 p.m. Mayfield Room

Pat Smedley kindly chaired her final meeting via Zoom in April where she handed over the responsibility for the leadership to David and me. During the summer, where possible, we will take the opportunity to meet outside. This can enable us to share each other's research efforts. In May, Charlie and Bridget will take us round St. John's churchyard and gravestones revealing to us the mysteries of South Collingham past. In June, we will meet at the Cross where Keith will explain what he has discovered so far about North Collingham pubs, their "colourful" landlords and the early malting industry down Low Street. Please contact David or myself if you would like to join us.

Keith and David



The gravestones in St John's churchyard

Motorsports Enthusiasts

Lead: Dave Watson, Telephone: 01636 893775

email: watsonswb@hotmail.co.uk

Meet at various venues, first Thursday in the month

The Motorsports Enthusiasts group held a socially distanced meeting on Thursday 6th May at The Lord Nelson pub in Winthorpe. A large number of suggestions were made for future events but the full menu for this year remains a work in progress! If anyone would like to know more about the group please email Dave Watson on watsonswb@hotmail.co.uk

Photography

Lead: Paul Bass, Telephone: 01636 892057
email: bass.ps@gmail.com

The group met again this month using video conferencing. We reviewed our images on the theme "Gathering" and selected our submission for this month's newsletter. This was followed by a talk about "Monochrome" photography. Our theme for next month is "Texture and Patterns". This is a good subject for monochrome photography and we expect some examples to be in the next newsletter. We are also considering the opportunities for the group to undertake some outside trips, now that restrictions are about to ease.



Asparagus Picking by Roger Davis



Before the Battle by Les Murray



Birds gathering by Jannet Wright



Morris Minors on show by Jenny Macpherson



Traction Engine Gathering by John Geeson



Storm Clouds Gathering by Paul Bass



Tulip Display by Colin Smith



Musicians by Phil Leckenby

Play Reading

Lead: Sue Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106
email: sebrauer@btinternet.com
Third Tuesday in the month 10-12

The group remains enthusiastic and we are tentatively planning to re-meet in the YCC on **Tuesday July 20th, 10-12**. Before then, we are keeping an eye on open air productions in the Newark Castle grounds during the summer and early autumn, and, weather and restrictions permitting, we will get together outside in June.

Contact: Sue Brauer (sebrauer@btinternet.com Tel 01636 894106).

Scrabble

Lead: Margaret Orchiston, Telephone: 01636 894027
email: m.orchiston@btinternet.com
1st Thursday in the month, 2—4 p.m., Members homes

Having zoomed weekly for over a year we have now had not only a meeting outdoors but a meeting indoors for five of us.

Our Brainteaser this month—Which six letter word contains ten other words without re-arranging any of the letters. Answer at end of newsletter.

Strollers

Lead: Margaret Lewis, Telephone: 07754771610
Email margellen@googlemail.com
2nd Tuesday in the month, meet Co-op car park

Lovely easy flat 2 mile Collingham walk from the Co op to Nursery Close public footpath, onto Dykes End fields then to the main road. Crossing over the road to the Cricket Pitch, then on to Cottage Lane and through an alley to Southend, finishing at The Royal Oak via the Churchyard. The Covid rule of 6 applied at this time, so we did the route for 5 of us in a clockwise route, and the other 5 of us in reverse

We all then met for a lovely coffee and cake/ light lunch in the gardens at The Royal Oak, where Margaret Cotton also joined us after the walk

The weather was threatening , but managed to stay dry throughout the morning.

Attended:

Marg Lewis
John Lewis
Liz Ball
Marion Wilson
Linda Walters
Terry Walters
Christine Stephenson
Carol Butterfield
Carol Whittaker
Sheila Bidmead
Margaret Cotton

We walk 2nd Tuesday of every month, and walk no more than 3 miles. We meet at the Co op at 10.30, new faces always welcome

Table Tennis

Lead: Peter Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106

email: p.brauer@btinternet.com

Meet Winthorpe Community Centre 2nd and 4th Thursday in month

We plan to start our fortnightly table tennis sessions again on:

Thursday July 1st, 2021 from 10:00 to 11:00 am

(Provided the government goes ahead with the final phase of opening up on June 21st.)

New players are always very welcome.”

Wine Appreciation

Lead: Graham Eaton, Telephone: 01636 893895

email: eastlound@btinternet.com

Zoom Wine Tastings 25th February and 29th April 2021

In February we tasted four rosé wines. We drank them in alphabetical order of their country of origin and coincidentally that was also the order of preference for their tastes by unanimous agreement (highly unusual).

First up was a wine from the Languedoc region of France. We all thought that this was OK with food. Second was a very different wine from Hungary made mainly from a rare grape which none of us had heard of (or could pronounce the name of). It had a rather unusual but fruity flavour.

The third wine was a deep pink rosato from the Abruzzo region of Italy, tasty enough to drink on its own. Fruity but dry.

Finally the ‘mystery’ wine for our tasters was a very good Moldovan rosé from a high end estate. It was a beautiful pale pink with a strawberry nose. It was dry but fruity with enough acidity to give a refreshing finish.

For our meeting in April, each household selected a New World sauvignon blanc as sold by supermarkets under their own name or as their main offering.

From Waitrose came a cheap Chilean white (just under a fiver). It was inoffensive but lacked any distinctive flavour.

Aldi’s New Zealand offering from the Marlborough region was the favourite. This had plenty of blackcurrant leaf aromas and zingy gooseberry flavour, something of a bargain at a little under £6.

The most expensive wine was South African possessing strong flavour and high alcohol content. Some felt it was a little bit full-on and lacked subtlety.

Finally, we tasted a ‘mystery’ rosé. This had all the attributes of sauvignon blanc but the colour tended to make the drinkers question what it was. It was a New Zealand sauvignon blanc with

merlot grape skin added during the making to give it colour. Lovely to look at and delicious to drink.

Answer to Scrabble brain teaser—

Spared
Spa
Spar
Spare
Pa
Par
Pare
Pared
Are
Re
Red
