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NEWSLETTER - July 2021

Welcome to the July Newsletter

As you now know we have postponed our AGM until September. This decision was taken by your Executive Committee after much consideration and in the light of the current Covid situation. It was not an easy decision to make and we took into account the feedback from some of the Group Leaders.

Please hold onto the formal AGM papers that you have already received as you will need those in September.

Group Meetings

Several Interest Groups are planning to continue to meet online. Some other Groups will be starting up again in person before September especially where the Members can meet outside. Other Groups plan to start again in September. Information will come from the Leaders of Groups to which you belong.

Membership Renewal 2021

Some people may have been planning to renew their membership at the AGM in July. As this will no longer be possible and the final date for renewal of membership is the 31st July, please make arrangements to renew your membership either by BACS or by sending a cheque to the Membership Secretary. If you want your membership card now, please include a stamped addressed envelope with your cheque.

Best wishes,

Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee

New Group

Before lockdown a new group was proposed but circumstances meant it never got going properly. The idea behind the group was that people living on their own would get together to share social activities at the weekend.

I'm proposing that we have an initial meeting in September to discuss what we would like to get out of this group. The original ideas included theatre, garden centres, historic houses and open gardens. If you have any extra ideas that would be welcome.

If you live on your own and would welcome company on outings at the weekends please let me know by mailing me directly at lizball36@gmail.com.

Liz

Groups

Art Appreciation

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

In June, Art Appreciation went from spring to summer from one week to the next, such was the change in the weather. Although we changed season, we didn't change styles, with the bulk of the pictures looked at being by impressionists with the exception of Spring by Rene Magritte.



The clothes worn are worthy of note – I don't think many of us would want to wear quite as much clothes as these women did, whether in spring or summer.



Springtime by Claude Monet



Luncheon of the boating party by Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

The other two summer pictures look more like how we might behave, even more appealing with the hot spell in July.



The bathing pool by Laura Knight



The bathing party by Henry Scott Tuke.

In addition to emails, the group was lucky enough to meet up in person in Sue Brauer's garden. A very pleasant afternoon ensued, with some talk of art and some general catching up. At this point, we are hoping that we will be able to continue to meet in person when indoor meetings resume in September at the YCC. Any new members interested in joining should get in touch nearer the time.

Bucketeers

Lead: Lesley Piper Telephone: 01636 892795
email: lesleypiper48@gmail.com

It is with huge sadness that I am having to write that Roger recently lost his battle to live. We all knew that he'd been battling cancer and had had huge amounts of chemo.,- but we all hoped that he would pull through. It was not to be,- although his actual cause of death is noted as "sepsis" ., not cancer.

His partner, Tricia, is, of course, devastated. As Bucketeers and friends of them both we are giving Tricia all the help and support that we can. Roger was a very gentle and softly spoken man. He was kind and immensely caring.

In his youth he climbed 266 "Munroes" and maintained a superb level of fitness until very recently. He loved to go camping with Tricia and they came with The Bucketeers twice to a lovely camp-site in North York. Moors.

We are all privileged to have known such a warm, kind, gentle man.

Report of Bucketeers meeting held on Thursday 15th July in Lesley and David's garden.

This time the weather was kind to us so 9 members gathered in the garden to meet up again, chat and have afternoon tea. This was followed by David leading a tour of the garden (it's called showing off!)

We discussed, albeit briefly, (between mouthfuls of scones with jam and cream,) what we may, or may not, be able to do as intrepid, but very Covid cautious Bucketeers.

A few ideas had already been emailed in by members who were not able to get to the meeting, some were suggested at the meeting and some I'd already thought of but forgot to mention. (scatterbrained as ever!)

They include:_

- Being properly trained on how to use a defibrillator.-suggested by Marg and John -John Geeson is looking into this one for us-thanks John.
 - Visiting a garden in Halam-suggested by Sonia
 - Having a first aid course as run by The Red Cross.-Sonia again.
 - Asking Lesley's contact if she'll do another talk on Sign Language. Suggested by Clive.
 - BBQ-Colin and Maureen are happy to host with a few Covid secure considerations of course.
 - Going to Matlock to visit the caves and ride on the cable cars.(-Lesley and David have an Annual ticket and I love it!!)
 - Possibly hiring a boat on the river again.-or just going on The Sonning from Newark.-suggested by Denise.
 - Tricia mentioned walking along Hadrian's wall-it's a very long way Tricia!
 - Going camping again.-suggested by Tricia-(the whole country is thinking along these lines so maybe it will be best to leave it until next year?)
 - Taking part in a Field Walk with Norton Disney and Collingham's Hlstory Societies.(Lesley and David took part in one last week-very interesting)
 - Tolethorpe open air theatre.-please look on-line at the productions on offer.
 - Visit the Japanese Garden at Girton.
 - Go fungal foraging in Clumber Park. -suggested by Denise.
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Circle Dancing

Leads Sue Brauer Telephone: : 01636 894106

Email: sebrauer@btinternet.com

Sue Fleet Telephone:01636 893458

Email:susanfleet04@gmail.com

After an enthusiastic and hopeful get together in the garden last month, it is with reluctance and disappointment that we have made the decision to postpone re-starting the group until September.

So, **September 10th 2-4, Phoenix Hall** it is. I will be in touch with our members before then if there is any change in plan.

Italian

Lead: Mary Hughes, Jannet Wright Telephone: 01636 892415

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

Members of this Group like all u3a Groups learn from each other. While we learn the formal structures of Italian grammar, members who in the past have been able to spend more time in Italy, inform the group about how the language is used in a day-to-day setting. Recently colloquial phrases used during the hot weather were shared with the group. One such phrase was 'Fa un caldo cane!' meaning 'It's dog hot'. Just as in English we might say 'I am dog tired'. Man's best friend is useful in so many ways.

Ciao

Indoor Bowling

Lead: Clive Bainbridge, Telephone: 01636 686905

email: iambembo@hotmail.com

Hello Indoor Bowlers

I have recently had contact with Gail from NIB she is happy to say that the Bowls will be opening later this month.

This would be just for a few days and limited hours. So of course the regular full members will get priority

They would hopefully get back to fully open in September so we agreed on a possible start date of September 13th

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Any equipment that we use will be fully sanitized and all/any regulations will be adhered to. I am pleased to say that Newark & Sherwood council among others have been very supportive to the club to enable it to open again.

I am hopeful that we can get enough interest to start our happy afternoon group again.

All interested can contact me at any time through the details above.

Kurling

Leads: John Geeson, Telephone: 01636 893308
email: jfgeeson1@btinternet.com
Pat Stewart Telephone: 01636 893925
Email: pstewart2@btinternet.com

The starting date is Friday 30th July 2pm to 4pm demanding on numbers. After July we will be holding one a month on the 4th Friday of the month

You do not have to book just turn up we look forward to seeing you

If you are coming on the 30th July could you please bring your own drink .We have decided not to use the kitchen for now.

Family History

Lead: Charlie Stothard, Telephone: 01636 984241
email: cwstothard@gmail.com

John and Linda Geeson hosted our July Ancestry Group meeting in their garden and provided us with tea, and wonderful homemade cake and biscuits. Thank you John and Linda.

There were 14 members present including some new members. The new members gave us a brief insight into why they wanted to learn more about their ancestors.

We arranged for our next meeting to be at Southwell Workhouse where we hope, weather permitting , to have a picnic before being given a talk by one of our group members Leslie, who happens to be a volunteer guide at the Workhouse. We shall then tour the Workhouse.

Due to the increase in our numbers the room which we used to hire at the Phoenix Centre is no longer big enough, so we are moving to the Youth & Community Centre on Low Street. We have also changed our meeting days from Thursday to Tuesday. Therefore our first meeting at the YCC will be on Tuesday 7th September at 10.0am..

Literature

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

We have been reading 'Love in a Cold Climate' by Nancy Mitford. It is a book about rich, aristocratic people with titles and no jobs. These people with their firm self-assurance, their conviction that they are the top of the pile and deserve all the comfort they have, are gently sent up and shown to be absurd. Most surprising of all, a plainly gay character is introduced having a wonderful time and is allowed his own happy ending and lovers, (apparently to the horror of American readers and publishers in the 1950s).

Embracing an entirely different genre, our book for August is 'A Time of Gifts' by Patrick Leigh Fermor. In his Introduction, Jan Morris says "Fermor is generally classified as a travel writer, but he is really infinitely more than that.....he is also a memoirist, an historian, a connoisseur of art and architecture, a poet, a humorist, a social chronicler and one of God's own adventurers". That should do to be going on with.

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T.S. ELIOT wrote this poem for a book entitle 'Queen Mary's Book of India" published 1943. But all foreign men who fought and died in foreign places are remembered here.

## TO THE INDIANS WHO DIED IN AFRICA

A man's destination is his own village,  
His own fire, and his wife's cooking;  
To sit in front of his own door at sunset  
And see his grandson, and his neighbour's grandson  
Playing in the dust together.

Scared but secure, he has many memories  
Which return at the hour of conversation,  
(The warm or the cool hour, according to the climate)  
Of foreign men, who fought in foreign places,  
Foreign to each other.

A man's destination is not his destiny  
Every country is home to one man  
And exile to another. Where a man dies bravely  
At one with his destiny, that soil is his.  
Let his village remember.

This was not your land, or ours: but a village in the Midlands,  
And one in the Five Rivers, may have the same graveyard.  
Let those who go home tell the same story of you:  
Of action with a common purpose, action  
None the less fruitful if neither you nor we  
Know, until the judgement after death,  
What is the fruit of action.

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Another delightful poem by T.S. ELIOT:

A DEDICATION TO MY WIFE

To whom I owe the leaping delight
That quickens my senses in our waking time
And the rhyme that governs the repose of our sleeping time,
The breathing in unison

Of lovers whose bodies smell of each other
Who think the same thoughts without need of speech
And babble the same speech without need of meaning.

No peevish winter wind shall chill
No sullen tropic sun shall wither
The roses in the rose-garden which is ours and ours only

But this dedication is for others to read:
These are private words addressed to you in public

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

On or off? To book or not to book? To be or not to be? This was the question many were asking during July whether in respect of going to the pub, booking a holiday or even proceeding with our humble local history group research meeting. In the end, we did not throw caution to the wind but applied the 'precautionary principle' band decided to postpone our July meeting for the 21st, scheduled for the Mayfield Room. Having moved to new leadership but recently having had two meetings outside, (St. John's churchyard and Collingham Cross) for obvious reasons, we decided that it was important to review these and progress so far. This would require indoor provision. Because of the vacillation of the government on advice on how business, retail and other organisations should proceed, because our Executive History Society AGM meeting had already been postponed to September, and because of our own misgivings for the health of our own members, we decided to postpone our meeting until Wednesday, August 18th. This was somewhat ironic because whether or not we should have an August meeting at all was one of our agenda items!! Our apologies to all members for the last minute notification, which was in the event inevitable. The agenda for the August meeting will be the same but will be re-sent before the meeting but can be found on our email of the 11th July.

Keith and David

Music Makers

Lead: Phil Leckenby

Meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at 10.00 am

Venue: Youth and Community Centre (until September)

Telephone: 01522 778280/07483 296822

Email: pjleckenby@gmail.com

The Music Makers got together again, albeit briefly, and what a pleasure it was to dust off the instruments and give them a long-overdue workout. We were focussed on devising a short programme for the AGM in July. All was going reasonably well in rehearsals, until we were once again thwarted by the alarming proliferation of 'variant D'. C'est la vie!

Anyway, the group now has renewed vigour to perform for a u3a audience at some time in the future – perhaps September? We are looking at an eclectic mix of new material, ranging from the Shadows through Camila Cabello, Eva Cassidy and (whisper it) Metallica, to Amy Winehouse. The choices should rejuvenate our repertoire.

As ever, we struggle to come up with home-grown accompaniments, so – and you know what I'm going to say next - should there be any keyboard players out there, please do come and join us.



Photography

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

The photography group met this month again using video conferencing and will continue to do so until the membership considers it safe to meet face to face again. Fortunately the group can function well using online meetings.

The theme for this month's images was "Order". Next month it will be "Signs". This month we also had presentation on "Taking Better Holiday Images"



Ace to King by Jenny Macpherson



All Lined Up by Paul Bass



Bomber Command Veteran by Phil Leckenby



Cup Measures by Gill Bass



Feathers in Order by Colin Smith



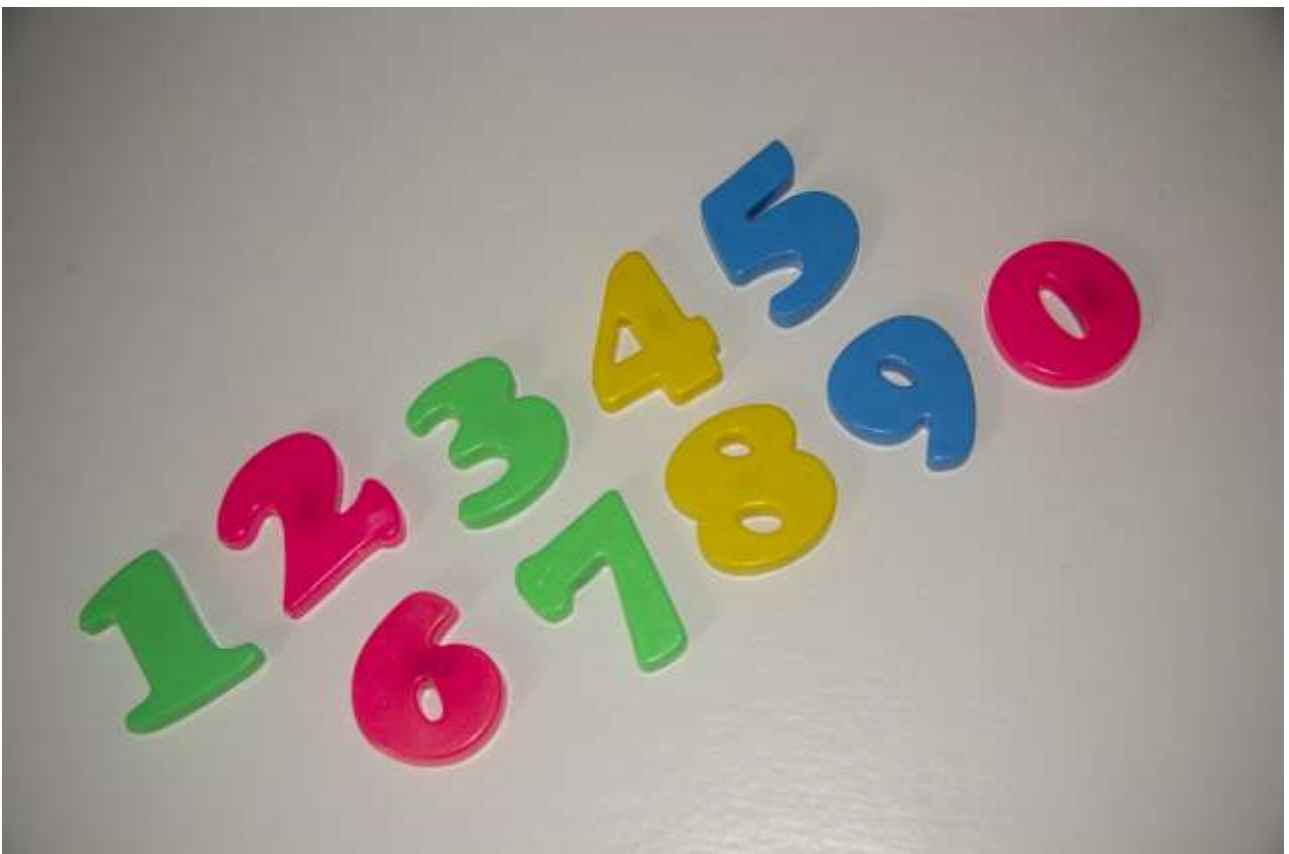
Carrying St Cuthbert by Jenny Macpherson



By Order by Paul Bass



Lily Detail by Colin Smith



Numbers by Gill Bass



Not Forgotten by Phil Leckenby

Play Reading

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

Despite our optimism and commitment last month and with play sets at the ready ("Noises Off" by Michael Frayn) re-starting Play Reading will now be delayed until **September 21st, 10-12 in the YCC.**

If there is any change in plan I will, of course, be in touch with our members.

Strollers

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

Strollers 6 July 2021

It was a wet day so we didn't stroll but that did not deter us meeting up.

Christine Stephenson, Margaret Cotton, Barbara Barrie, Liz Ball, Rita Lodge , Gwenneth Clarke , John and Margaret Lewis all met at Whisby nature reserve cafe for a two-table socially distanced coffee and snack and an enjoyable chat.

Our next meet is 10 August Co-Op car park at 10.30am. As always, everyone welcome

Sunday Lunch

Lead: Marion Wilson, Telephone: 01636 893058
Email : loavenderpatch14@gmail.com

The Sunday Lunch group has been cancelled for August for various reasons, holidays etc. It will start again in September.

I will look forward to seeing you all again then. Keep safe. Enjoy the holidays. Best wishes to you all.
Marion.

Table Tennis

Lead: Peter Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106
email: p.brauer@btinternet.com
Meet Winthorpe Community Centre 2nd and 4th Thursday in month

Unfortunately we had to postpone the relaunch of our table tennis session until September and therefore had to cancel the sessions booked for Thursday July 29th as well as August 12th and 26th.

I am hoping that we can finally start playing table tennis again from September and will be in touch with an update in August.

Thursday Talking Shop

Lead: Mary Hughes, 01636 892 415, mea.hughes@gmail.com
Anita Maunsell, 01636 892928, marriott40@live.co.uk

This conversation group is planning to re-launch on Thursday 23 September, at 2.30 at 25 Rio Drive. This will be an opportunity for members to catch up with each other and discuss future plans and topics.

Wine Appreciation

Lead: Graham Eaton, Telephone: 01636 893895
email: eastlound@btinternet.com

The Group met on July 23 at the home of Chris Douglas. We were pleased to welcome our newest member, Sue Owens. Chris had opted to challenge us to identify the country of origin, grape variety and price of each of four white wines, two of which were sparkling.

First we sampled a Cremant d'Alsace made by one of the region's biggest producers. Most of the group realised that this was not Champagne particularly as it was quite sharp and refreshing. The second sparkler was from Exton Park in Hampshire. Unfortunately it was badly 'corked', that is, the cork had mould in it making the wine smell 'like a wet dog'! Sadly, this made it undrinkable. The empty bottle and cork have already been returned to the wine merchant, who refunded the cost.

Next came another wine from Alsace. It was made from the Pinot Gris grape, which is more commonly known as Pinot Grigio. None of us enjoyed the strong after-taste of this wine, which had the highest alcohol content, at 14.5%.

Finally, another Pinot Gris but this time from Bodiam in Kent. It was totally different from its French counterpart, being much lighter in taste and only 11.5% alcohol. The Group agreed it was far preferable.

It was a highly enjoyable evening, all the more interesting owing to the choice of unusual wines. Additionally, it was the first time most of the Group had been out after dark for some while!
