



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

NEWSLETTER - August 2021

Welcome to the August Newsletter

Update

In the August edition of the National u3a Newsletter Sam Mauer, the Chief Executive acknowledged what I am sure many of us will be feeling.

'It is great to see so many members out and about resuming u3a life and meeting each other again in a careful and considered way.'

'Whilst all of us have learned and adapted to living and meeting online which is part of our future it is also a joy to be able to see members actually being able to meet again in person.'

Some of Collingham & District u3a Groups have taken a break during August. Others Interest Groups are preparing for their first face-to-face meetings in September. I am sure many of you are looking forward to these. However, we also know that each member will evaluate their own situation before deciding whether or not to attend in person. Some Groups may choose to continue online or to have some meetings online and some in person. This will enable the new skills that we have acquired over the last 18 months to be maintained.

Don't Forget

The AGM is planned for Wednesday 22nd September and we have all our fingers crossed that we can go ahead in the Memorial Hall. We look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes,

Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee

Sue Fleet has provided us with these amusing signs.

TOILET OUT OF ORDER: - PLEASE USE THE FLOOR BELOW.

In a Laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL OF YOUR CLOTHES
WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS.

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY - PLEASE
BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK, STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND
STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

I wonder how long they have to stay there.

Outside a second-hand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC.
WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN ?

Notice in health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

Spotted in a safari park:

ELEPHANTS, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.

Do they taste like chicken ?

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

A damn Chainsaw Massacre all over again !

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE
FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

Message on a leaflet:

IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET WILL
TELL YOU HOW TO GET LESSONS.

On a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING, BUT PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR AS THE
BELL DOESN'T WORK.

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Now that's taking things a bit too seriously !

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

No-good-for-nothing' lazy so and so's !

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

Let's see if that works better than a fair trial !

War Dims Hope for Peace

I can see where it might have that effect !

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Huh??

Cold Wave Linked to Low Temperatures

Who would have thought !

Enfield (London) Couple Slain: Police Suspect Homicide

Groups

Art Appreciation

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

Whilst activity on the email front has slowed for the art appreciation group, we are looking forward to starting meeting in person once again at the end of September. Sue Brauer showed us how travel broadens the mind (or something) by introducing us to a quirky artist who lived in New Zealand named Friedensreich Regentag Dunkelbunt Hundertwasser (1928-2000): he was responsible for one of the key conveniences of the small town of Kawakawa.

Anyone interested in joining this very active group, please get in touch.



Circle Dancing

Leads Sue Brauer Telephone: : 01636 894106

Email: sebrauer@btinternet.com

Sue Fleet Telephone: 01636 893458

Email: susanfleet04@gmail.com

We will be dancing again on **Friday, September 10th, 2-4** in the Phoenix Hall.

A gentle warm up and reminder for our feet, and a chance to welcome new members to the group over tea and chat.

Italian

Lead: Mary Hughes, Jannet Wright Telephone: 01636 892415

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

This group meets from 2 – 4pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

In the autumn we are proposing a new structure for our meetings. The plan is that we will use one of our meetings specifically to concentrate on listening and speaking and use the second meeting of the month to study Italian grammar in more detail. We are hoping that this approach will enable us to have the best of both worlds in terms of renewing our knowledge of the structure and use of the language. As with all u3a Interest Groups, we will see how it goes! (or as we might say in Italian: Vedremo come va!)

Ciao.

History

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

All being well, the History Group will re-launch on Friday 24th September at the later time of 11 - 1 pm. This will be a chance to exchange ideas about future topics and visits over snacks and drinks.

About Julian of Norwich

Sheelah Reynolds looks at the life of a medieval pioneer; Julian of Norwich is thought to have been the first woman to write a book in English that has survived.

"Sin is inevitable, but all shall be well, and all shall be well and all things shall be well."

Julian of Norwich (1342-c. 1416) is known to us almost only through her book, Revelations of Divine Love, which is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest classics of the spiritual life.

We do not know Julian's actual name, but her name is taken from St. Julia's Church in Norwich where she lived as an anchoress (religious recluse) for most of her life. She was known as a spiritual counsellor and people would come to her cell seeking advice. Considering that, at the time, the citizens of Norwich suffered from plague and poverty, as well as famine, she must have counselled many desperate people. Yet, her writings are suffused with hope and trust in God's goodness.

Julian of Norwich is often quoted as having said "All Shall be Well". However, when you read the Revelations themselves - the passage occurs in Chapter 27 - what you discover is that in the first instance she says it was not she who said this, but God who said it to her. *Furthermore, Julian then goes on to argue with God for a full 13 chapters, about how all things could not possible turn out well.*

Julian's Revelations of Divine Love is based on a series of 16 visions she received on the 8th May 1373, Lying on what she thought to be her deathbed, Julian experienced insight into Christ's sufferings and his love for us. *Famously, she used women's experience of motherhood to explore how God loves us, referring to Jesus as our Mother.* Also, the book reveals an intelligent, sensitive and very down-to-earth woman who maintains her trust in what she sees as God's goodness whilst addressing doubt, fear and deep theological questions.

For some people today it is important to know that Julian argued with God because it is helpful to those who find it hard to believe that all could ever be made well. Interest in Julian's writings has grown over recent decades. This has been as more and more people have discovered the significance of her book. Her lyrical language and positive image of God speak to the modern reader. Her work is well-respected by theologians, historians and literary scholars, and there are now dozens of translations of her Revelations, together with countless commentaries. Modern poets and writers as diverse as T.S. Eliot and Iris Murdoch reference Julian in their writing.

"All shall be well" is radical, but not a simple slogan. It invites us to a different way of being in daily life, our condemnations suspended, ourselves more sensitively in touch with what is, and so more creatively engaged.

Literature

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

We were able to have our very enjoyable August meeting in the garden of the Royal Oak; drinking coffee and comparing notes on 'A Time Of Gifts' by Patrick Leigh Fermor. Most of us found this book a difficult read, but it certainly inspired a lively discussion.

We have chosen 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee which has become a classic of modern American literature, winning the Pulitzer Prize in fiction. Despite dealing with the serious issues of rape and racial inequality, the novel is renowned for its warmth and humour.

Another quote from Jane Austen:

For what do we live,
BUT TO MAKE SPORT FOR
Our neighbours and
LAUGH AT THEM IN OUR TURN?

-Pride and Prejudice

Local History Research

Leads: Keith Morgan, Telephone: 01636 894168
email: morgan.keithp@gmail.com
David Barker Telephone 01636 893665
Email davidbarker67@btinternet.com

We decided to hold our August meeting having had to cancel our July meeting at very short notice. We did resolve one or two important issues however. Members present were reminded of the cost of meetings and this was linked to the next item which was moving the venue (because of access issues)to the Youth and Community Centre. Despite the charges at the YCC being marginally more, it was still agreed that access was an important issue and that appropriate dates being available, we would move. The Local History Research normally meets on the third Wednesday of each month 2-4pm. As the YCC is not available at this time but is available on the second Wednesday of each month at the same time, we decided to make the move. Our next meeting will therefore be on Wednesday the 8th September when one or two members will share their research progress/problems with us.

The second half of the meeting was led by David who shared several different, but relatively easy ways of pursuing research. A list of websites was made available but he did say that we could all do worse than consulting Prof. Google (free) because all sorts of stuff is thrown up which can then be pursued. David kindly provided several examples of questions he had raised and how he had pursued these. All that is needed is an enquiring mind...searching questions. And we can all help each other as many themes we pursue do overlap.

Keith & David

Motorsports

Lead: Dave Watson
Telephone: 893775
Email: watsonswb@hotmail.co.uk

Members of the motorsports group met early one August morning in sunny Prestwold near Loughborough for a chance to drive some supercars. A thoroughly great morning was had by all attendees with a variety of cars to choose from. It was all very well organised and we all look forward to going again next year to try some more of their supercars.

Many thanks to motrosports group member Colin Smith for the pictures.





Music Makers

Lead: Phil Leckenby

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

Venue: Besthorpe Village Hall

Telephone: 01522 778280/07483 296822

Email: pjleckenby@gmail.com

The postponement of the General Meeting took the pressure off the need to achieve 'performance' standard in just a few rehearsals. The upside was that it gave us breathing space to expand our repertoire at a more leisurely pace.

We had our final session at the YCC; an ideal venue but its popularity with other groups and organisations throws up booking conflicts for our twice-monthly Mondays. Instead, we are about to try the Village Hall at Besthorpe, which at the moment has availability on Mondays.

Surprisingly perhaps, Rick Wakeman and Daniel Barenboim both declined invitations to join us, so I'm pleased to report that the position of keyboard player is still vacant.

Phil Leckenby



Photography

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

The theme for images reviewed at the group's August Meeting was "Sign(s)" Selected examples are shown below.

Our theme for next month is "Contrast". This can be interpreted in many ways. It could be that the image technically has low contrast (i.e. the tones are all very similar) or high contrast (i.e. the tones are at either end of the scale with very few mid tones). Another approach could be the subject itself could show contrast (e.g. a vintage car along side a modern car).

Paul Bass



A sign for the Wealthy by Phil Leckenby



Shepherds Delight by Paul Bass



Sign of Summer by Gill Bass



RR The sign of Quality by Roger Davis



Sign of times by Jannet Wright



Sign of Desperation by Colin Smith



Sign of no Will Power by John Geeson

Play Reading

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

.Play Readers will eventually be able to meet again on **September 21st, 10-12 in the YCC.**
We get back into the swing of things with "Noises Off" by Michael Frayn; a "farce about a farce"
involving a touring company dress-rehearsing their play "Nothing On".

Strollers

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

Fourteen of our Strollers had a lovely morning with nice warm weather visiting Besthorpe Nature reserve, walking around the lake, viewing the river and some lovely birds and sheep. We did a very short mile and a half leisurely pace, then we all drove off further down the A1133 to Newton to the Courtyard Cafe just before the A57 turning, to have a lovely lunch, cakes, and tea cakes in a beautiful setting, wonderful cafe.



Table Tennis

Lead: Peter Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106
email: p.brauer@btinternet.com

Table Tennis at Winthorpe Community Centre

Our fortnightly table tennis sessions at the Winthorpe Community Centre will start again from Thursday September 9th at 10:00 am.

The dates for the next 3 months are as follows:

September 9th and 23rd

October 7th and 21st

November 4th and 18th

Each session lasts 1 hour from 10.00am to 11.00am.

The charge is £ 2.00 pp.

We have been advised that the hall is providing wipes and hand gel

Thursday Talking Shop

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

.We hope to re-launch the Thursday Talking Shop on September 23. This will be an opportunity to catch up with each other and to share ideas and consider topics for future discussion. The meeting will take place between 2 - 4 pm at 25 Rio Drive.
