

NEWSLETTER - September 2021

Welcome to the September Newsletter

WE DID IT!

Our seventh AGM took place on the 22nd September 2021 in the Memorial Hall. This was our first 'in person' large meeting since February 2020. We were delighted to welcome over 70 people to the event including new Members.

The AGM went smoothly and efficiently thanks to the detailed planning beforehand and the generosity of those who came early to set up the Hall for the meeting. All Executive Committee Members were re-elected for another year.

After the AGM the performance from the Music Makers was excellent. They stated that this selection had not been performed in public before but everyone was impressed with their skills and the range of music from Gershwin to Amy Winehouse and Eva Cassidy.

Refreshments, in the form of cold drinks and biscuits, were a welcome end to the afternoon.

Thank you to those who arranged and provided these. At this time Members had the opportunity to talk to many of the Group Leaders who were present and to buy u3a diaries for 2022, which were on sale for the first time.

I want to take this opportunity to say a special thanks to members of the Executive Committee for all their work and support during the last 18 months. I believe we have worked well together as a team. We have tried to remain realistic and thoughtful about what we *could do* and about how we could manage it.

On behalf of all our Members I would like to express appreciation and thanks to all the Group Leaders and the Group Co-ordinator, Sue Fleet. The Group Leaders have kept many Interest Groups active throughout and have demonstrated a willingness and enthusiasm to start up again as soon as possible.

I know how much Members have appreciated the regularity of the Newsletter with its interesting and colourful content. Thank you to Liz Ball and the Group Leaders for continuing to make this possible throughout this challenging time.

The next General Meeting will take place on the 27th October at 2pm.

Best wishes,

Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee



Music Makers at the AGM

Advance notice of Speakers at the General Meeting

27th October . Simon Cook. A light hearted look at American Presidents "Who Why and When"

24th November. Emma Sheardown. "No such word as Can't" A motivational talk.

Some information that may be of interest to Members from a local group:

"We are a theatre group, based in Collingham, who are planning a small tour to local, rural venues, including the Cat Asylum in Collingham. The tour takes place during November and we will be at the Cat Asylum on Sunday the 14th, tickets available from Gascoigne's.

Should you require them, more details of the play can be found on <https://www.dogwoodproductions.co.uk/anotherwinterstale> but as a taster from the website:

'A new theatre show, rich in original music, composed and performed by award-winning composer, Alastair Collingwood. The show is produced in partnership with Shoot First Theatre, who bring their accomplished puppetry work and storytelling skills.

The show, designed for all audiences (Age 8+), is a journey through the shortest days, before the new life of Spring. It draws upon tales of deepest winter from Japan, Russia and across Europe, as well as those from nearer to home.

It includes shadow puppets, hand puppets and a Kamishibai, the traditional Japanese street theatre. The stories and songs could not be more diverse: from the joyful to the dark, the new and the familiar, all performed by the company of travelling strangers. '“



Groups

Art Appreciation

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

The Art Appreciation group will meet for the first time indoors on 28 September at the Youth and Community Centre at 2.00. We will plan an exciting programme for the winter months and would welcome anyone who is interested in joining us.

Bucketeers

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



12 intrepid Bucketeers took to the water recently on board the good ship "Sonning".

We enjoyed a 90 minute cruise along the Devon Navigation, going as far as the Farndon Boat-house restaurant before turning for home again. The boat was surprisingly full of other groups and tourists all bathed in the sunshine of the afternoon. I have a feeling that we'll be doing this trip again(and again)

Our next gathering will be on October 6th at Beaufields House where we'll be given a demo. of how to use a defibrillator. (6.30-9.30pm). This is being run by our wonderful firemen from Collingham Fire Station-fully qualified of course!-a true "fireman's lift"



Circle Dancing

Leads Sue Brauer Telephone: : 01636 894106

Email: sebrauer@btinternet.com

Sue Fleet Telephone:01636 893458

Email:susanfleet04@gmail.com

Friday the 10th of September was the start date for our happy band of dances, and 11 of our 16 or so members joined hands and worked their way through both familiar and not so familiar dances, from all over the World. It was a hot afternoon and all doors were open facilitating plenty of ventilation.

Amidst a few brain/ foot and left/ right coordination issues and much laughter, we danced through music by Abba, Jason Donovan, Charlie Pride, to The Weavers, and Ralph McTell. We encouraged members to bring their own refreshments this time but will return, if safe, to our welcome tea break and chatter soon.

We welcome new members at any time, and can assure you, all dances are walked through first, so come along and see us.

We meet once a month on the 2nd Friday, 2-4pm at the Phoenix Centre on Station Road, and this has car parking. Wear comfortable clothes and in particular, shoes, and maybe bring some water too.



Family History

Lead: Charlie Stothard Telephone: 01636 894241
email: cwstothard@gmail.com

Members of the u3a Family History Group enjoyed a visit to Southwell Workhouse arranged by Lesley Piper who is a Volunteer Guide there.

When we arrived we sat on the picnic benches and enjoyed a coffee whilst Lesley gave us a brief resume on the history of the Workhouse, including a lot of info we were not aware of. We then toured the Workhouse meeting up with Lesley in some of the rooms.

We enjoyed a picnic at the Firbeck Cafe and then for those who wanted we visited the Infirmary and mortuary, the latter which opened in 1930.

Italian

Lead: Mary Hughes, Jannet Wright Telephone: 01636 892415
email: mea.hughes@gmail.com, jannet.wright@gmail.com

We have started our new regime and the first meeting in September was devoted to conversation. We start every meeting with a 'warm-up' activity. This time it involved a range of made-up car number plates. Each group member chose one and read it out. The rest of us guessed what it was. This way we were using the Italian alphabet and numbers as well as practicing speaking and listening. This is an activity, which can also be carried out when sitting in traffic jams! Then we each spoke about recent activities. This way we can all learn some new vocabulary and get an opportunity to practice our speaking skills.

As some members had just returned from Italy, we also had an opportunity to catch-up on the latest 'corona-travel' bureaucracy!

Ciao.

History

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

The re-launch of our Group on the 24th September was a great opportunity to catch up on old ideas and come up with some new ones. The programme over the next few months includes:

The Murder of Thomas Becket
Aftermath of the sinking of the Titanic
Captain Fitzroy and the Beagle
The History of American Football
The Knights Templar and visit to Temple Bruer
Captain Cook and the Discovery of New Zealand
Visit the Gainsborough Old Hall
Visit to Cromford Mills

We were very pleased to welcome two new members to the Group and now look forward to a stimulating and varied programme of presentations and discussions.

Indoor Bowls

Lead: Clive Bainbridge Phone: 07866116324
email: iambembo@hotmail.com

We are up and running again as from last Monday 13th then every two weeks so next one on the 27th 2:30 -4:30 all welcome

Contact me via the details above
Clive

Literature

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

We were able to enjoy another very pleasant get together this month in the sunny garden of the Royal Oak. We all enjoyed Harper Lee's wonderful novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird', which was definitely worth a re-read for some of us, and a first read for others.

We are now reading E.M. Forster's novel 'A Passage to India'. Forster made three visits to India, and his firsthand experiences of the country clearly inform this novel of anticolonialism. 'A Passage to India' remains, as The Washington Post called it, "the classic novel about India against which all others ever since have been measured and found wanting".

Most of us will remember David Lean's Academy Award-winning film produced in the '80s.

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In homage to The Royal Mail by W.H Auden

NIGHT MAIL  
(Commentary for a GPO film)

This is the Night Mail crossing the Border,  
Bringing the cheque and the postal order,  
Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,  
The shop at the corner, the girl next door.

Pulling up Beattock, a steady climb:  
The gradient's against her, but she's on time.

Past cotton-grass and moorland boulder,  
Shovelling white steam over her shoulder,  
Snorting noisily, she passes  
Silent miles of wind-bent grassed.

Birds turn their heads as she approaches,  
Stare from bushes at her blank-faced coaches.  
Sheep-dogs cannot turn her course;  
They slumber on with paws across.  
In the farm she passes no one wakes,  
But a Jug in a bedroom gently shakes.

Dawn freshens, Her climb is done.  
Down towards Glasgow she descends,  
Towards the steam tugs yelping down a glade of cranes,  
All Scotland waits for her:  
In dark glens, beside pale-green lochs,  
Men long for news.

Letters of thanks, letters from banks,  
Letters of joy from girl and boy.....

.....to be continued

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# Local History Research

Leads: Keith Morgan, Telephone: 01636 894168

email: morgan.keithp@gmail.com

David Barker Telephone 01636 893665

Email davidbarker67@btinternet.com

The group met on the 8th September at the Youth and Community Centre.

There was quite a lot of interest around the use of the National Library of Scotland which provides clear maps of the U.K. Janet liked the “historical” side by side projection. Keith also referred to a map produced by David of the position of the the buildings of the Royal Oak in 1915. This helped with his interpretation of David Hoe’s will and sale of the property 1897/98.

Janet then lead on her research into hemp and the Hemplands and shared with us her interest in the change of the social make-up of the village over the decades. She produced a map from 1884 which shows now “defunct” paths in this area. Reference was also made made to the census and that it was by this time (40-50 years on ) becoming more accurate and reliable. Reference was also made to the Fleet and how it might have been used to steep the hemp.

Moving on, David produced a photograph of the grave of one, Thomas Johnson, who is buried in South Collingham churchyard and fought at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. This battle was 1882; he died of typhoid in the same year. His burial at South Collingham clearly prompts several questions.

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# Motorsports

Lead: Dave Watson

Telephone: 07826848214 Email: watsonswb@hotmail.co.uk

The motorsport group enjoyed a thrilling day out at Cadwell Park in Lincolnshire on August Bank Holiday Monday. The races were for classic cars of all shapes and sizes. There was also an opportunity for some very silly group members to take a moment out from all the car excitement. I'm sure you'll guess which picture I refer to.

Many thanks to Graham Hobbs and Colin Smith for the pictures.





# Photography

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

The group's theme for this month was "Contrast" and selected images are displayed in this Newsletter. This month's meeting had a lively discussion on some images that displayed common issues or mistakes, and how these could be avoided or corrected in post processing.

Next month our theme will be "Peaceful"

Paul Bass



Kingcups at Water's Edge by Roger Davis



Castles by Jenny Macpherson



Dahlia by Gill Bass



Day to Night by Phil Leckenby



Derwent Water by Paul Bass



Garden Textures by Colin Smith



Tap Tap who's there by John Geeson



Windows by Jannet Wright

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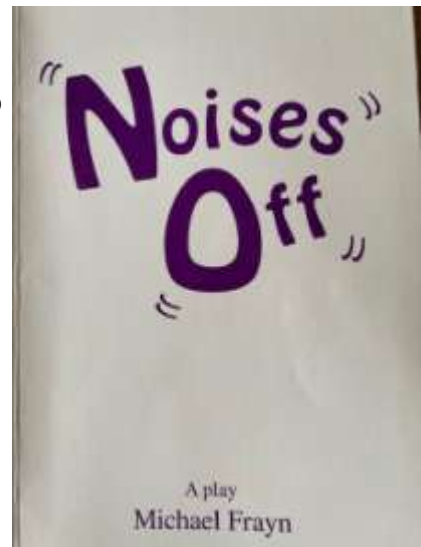


# Play Reading

Lead: Sue Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106  
email: sebrauer@btinternet.com

We finally got together again to read a play this week and had a hilarious time with "Noises Off" by Michael Frayn, keeping up with the complexities, twists and sheer nonsense of the plot; a farce about a touring company of faded actors putting on a farce. Our readers therefore had to contend with playing dual roles of the actors on and off stage!

We next meet in the YCC on October 19th.



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## Strollers

Lead: Margaret Lewis, Telephone: 07754771610  
Email margellen@googlemail.com



Our Stroll this September just happened to be the rainiest day of the month so far. We had originally planned to walk the public paths around the area of Pearson's Garden Centre, instead we all had a coffee cake and chat at Pearson's Cafe. There were 13 of us which caused a bit of a headache for the cafe, but they managed very well to accommodate us all.

Meet 2nd Tuesday in the month,  
1030 Co-op car park

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# Table Tennis

Lead: Peter Brauer, Telephone: 01636 894106  
email: pebrauer@outlook.com

Table Tennis at the Winthorpe Community Centre:

Our U3A Table Tennis sessions at the Winthorpe Community Centre resumed on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September after a break of almost 18 months.

Table Tennis takes place every 2 weeks on a Thursday from 10 – 11 am. The dates for the rest of this year are as follows:

September 23rd

October 7th and 21st

November 4th and 18th

December 2nd and 16th

New members are always welcome. We can provide bats to anybody who does not have their own.

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## Thursday Talking Shop

Lead: Mary Hughes, Telephone: 01636 892415  
Anita Maunsell Telephone 01636 892928  
email: mea.hughes@gmail.com ; marriott40@live.co.uk

Our Group re-launched on the 23rd September to discuss potential topics for the future. When we last met in January 2020, we agreed to devote the next meeting to discussion around the subject of 'Crime, Punishment and Justice'. This will be picked up again for the next meeting on 28th October, focussing on definitions of 'Justice', before moving on to the wider picture. Judging by level and quantity of the discussion at what was just the planning stage, this looks set to be a stimulating session.

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## Ukelele

Lead: Sue Fleet, Telephone: 01636 893458  
email: susanfleet04@gmail.com

Our still small but growing slowly, merry band of ukulele players, have been meeting on and off throughout the Summer in my garden or car port, depending on the weather. But it was a great relief to get back into the Mayfield Room, where, despite all the open doors and windows, we could actually hear ourselves playing and singing. It's not something which happens in the open air really.

We are very lucky as we are joined and encouraged by a player from Navenby, (Cool Hand Ukes) who gives lots of strumming support to our newly formed group, and lovely Clive Bainbridge, whom most will know from his time on the committee and as a Group Leader, kindly adds his strong and melodic voice to our small ensemble.

All in all we now have a distinctive sound and play our way through 40 or so tunes, not necessarily playing all the chords in the right order, but we are getting there, and plan a little 'gig' at one of our General Meetings in the future. Eeeek!

If you would like to try your fingers at playing ukulele we have a couple of spare instruments you can trial, so you would only need your voice and cover your venue cost. We would love to see you, and meet every Tuesday 2-4pm at the Mayfield Room in the Memorial Centre.



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## Weekenders

Lead: Liz Ball Telephone 01636 893102  
Email [lizball36@gmail.com](mailto:lizball36@gmail.com)

Prior to our first "official" meeting we gathered to listen to the jazz on the Bank Holiday weekend at the Royal Oak, a lovely afternoon. There are eleven of us so far with outings planned to the theatre, possibly Belton House lights and day trips by coach. We are also keen to start quizzing. Our aim is to get out and have fun. We are planning to "meet" using Whatsapp, if you're interested in joining us and live on your own let me know.

Liz

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# Wine Appreciation

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

Since our last report the WAG has been very active.

On 27<sup>th</sup> August we met at Derrick and Sonia Brodell's to revisit the chardonnay grape. The four wines we tried were from Australia, South Africa, Chile and Romania. Most of these had been stored in oak barrels during production. This was especially noticeable in the wine from Australia. Most were strongly disliked but the one we disliked the least (yes, things were that bad!) was the example from Romania.

Sadly the evening did little to convert the group to the pleasures of chardonnay. However, we had enormous fun attempting to be convinced.

The Group had originally planned a 7 night stay in the Loire valley but instead 5 members spent three glorious days in the sunshine based in a superb B&B in the centre of Rye. We visited the Sissinghurst Gardens, the nearby coast and had tastings at two Kent vineyards. The well-known Chapel Down is a very large set-up producing a wide range of wines many of which are found on supermarket shelves.

We enjoyed a lovely morning sitting under plane trees tasting the wines. We all bought some bottles to bring home including their well-known Bacchus, rosés and sparkling wines. They even grow the Spanish/Portuguese grape albariño which produces a lovely distinctive dry white.

Next the Gusbourne Estate winery which has a meticulous approach to wine production. Their wines are expensive and are found all over the world in high-end restaurants. We all agreed that their blanc de blancs and rosés were exceptional.

September's WAG tasting was courtesy of Sue and Graham Fleet (not forgetting Molly the dog). The four white wines tasted were an eclectic mix from different countries often containing grapes we had not met before. Opinions were quite divided on each of the four wines. In general the most popular wine was the first, made in Abruzzo, Italy from the passerina grape.

The second wine was from Greece made using malagouzia (didn't he use to play for Arsenal?) grapes. Some of the group really disliked it while others changed their minds as it warmed up to display strong stone fruit flavours. This was the most expensive wine coming in at £15.75.



The third wine was from Alicante in Spain using the merseguera grape (never heard of it? – nor had we!). Finally a wine from an unusual place, the Bekaa valley in the Lebanon. It was spicy and universally unpopular amongst the group. It was made from a blend of four different grapes, predominantly viognier and chardonnay.

Although none of us were wildly enthusiastic about any of the wines we all enjoyed the occasion immensely and all agreed that aromas and flavours improved noticeably as the previously chilled wines approached room temperature.

Red wines have been requested for the October meeting so watch this space!