

NEWSLETTER - November 2022

Welcome to the November Newsletter

Hello all, welcome to November's newsletter. Thank you to all the groups that have so far contributed decorations for the u3a tree this year. If your group hasn't yet given me yours, do get it to me as quickly as possible, so that we can put the tree up in the Methodist church. Do also take time to visit the coffee shop Monday to Friday mornings, 9.30 – 11.30 to admire ours and all the others during December.

Christmas rushes ever nearer and our December meeting will take place earlier than usual to miss Christmas itself. We will gather in the Memorial Hall for festive celebrations on Wednesday 14 December, 2.00 – 4.00 as usual. Looking forward to a good turnout to get into the swing of the season.

We've enjoyed a varied programme at the general, monthly meetings, thanks to the wonderful efforts of Sonia Brodell and I'm sure you've learnt a lot from them. Visiting speakers are a feature of many organisations and presentations given to a substantial audience may be the only thing offered. However, in our u3a branch, as in all the others throughout the country, this is not the only, or indeed the main way we can participate in the activities of the branch. As anyone who has taken the plunge and given a presentation on their own, or worked on something with other members of the group, will have found, we all learn most when we set out to tell other people about it. So, don't be afraid to suggest a topic and make a small start on sharing your new knowledge with others – you'll be thrilled at how much you've gained from the experience and you'll be able to encourage others to give it a go too. Remember, the u3a has been about learning, staying active and having fun for 40 years and you too are part of this.

Chris

The national u3a has a number of initiative which have a wide range of learning activities for members to get involved in - from challenges and projects to competitions. Some are one-off events and others run over an ongoing period of time.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/new-for-autumn>

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

General Meetings



Dave Gilbert at October's meeting where he gave a talk on Bomber Command Lincoln.

Advance notice of Speakers at the General Meeting

The general meeting takes place on the fourth Wednesday in a month, apart from December, at 2 p.m., in the Memorial Hall in Collingham.

November, 23rd "Ice Age Journeys"

December 14th Festive gathering

Groups

Contacting group leaders

A full list of groups can be found on our website. <https://u3asites.org.uk/collingham/groups>.

To contact one of the group leaders by email please use the contact link on the specific group page.

Art Appreciation

This group meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Youth and Community Centre, Low Street at 2pm.

At our last meeting Nick Narracott gave an interesting talk on Popular Art and provided us with a review of the development of art through the ages. He highlighted some well-known art movements and particular artists. It was very encouraging for many members of the group to recognize and recall some of the artists and movements we had heard about while the group has been running. Many of us recognized how the group had helped to extend our knowledge in all these areas. It also stimulated discussion about what we might do next year as we begin to plan our timetable.

Following a discussion at a Group Leaders Meeting, I was invited to give a talk to the History Group using a presentation I had used at our Art Appreciation Group meeting in May. The talk was about how and where museums and art galleries, from different cities in the world, had stored and protected their collections during WW2. The discussion with members of the History Group encouraged me to see how a follow up talk could be done about this topic. I plan to do this in 2023.

Jannet

Board Games

This month we have visited the Board Games cafe in Newark and learnt a new game, Mandela.

We meet once a month in Members homes on the third Wednesday in a month at 2 p.m..

Liz

Bridge

The group continues to meet in the Royal Oak on Friday afternoons. We have practiced duplicate scoring in anticipation of playing at club level in the not too distance future.

Chris

History

At our October meeting, we welcomed Jannet Wright who kindly came along to give us an excellent presentation on how the country's art treasures were protected during WW11. An amazing feat, without motorways or todays huge lorries.

Our next meeting is on Friday 25th November at 10.00, hope to see you all then.

Our December pre-Christmas meeting will be at the earlier date of 16th at 11.30. Please bring an item of party food to share. There will be the usual Mulled Wine and fruit juice to drink, and a quiz so bring a pen and your thinking caps!

Ann

Italian

The Italian Group meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 2pm.

Our first meeting in November focused, as usual, on encouraging everyone to speak. We used photographs to encourage each person to talk at their own language level. This could be naming items in the photo or telling each other about what was happening. We were pleased with what we were all able to say even if we did have to use our dictionaries and apps to help us out!

At the start of every meeting we have a warm up activity to help us all concentrate on Italian vocabulary. In our most recent session we used cards which have numbers written on one side.

These were placed face down on the table. We picked up two cards at a time for example, 23 and 48. We then had to tell the others that the number in Italian was 2,348 or 4,823. Everyone else wrote down the number we thought it was and then we checked it out with each other. Recognising 'big' numbers can sometimes be useful when shopping.

Mary and Jannet

Kurling

We are a happy group which meets at The Memorial Hall on the fourth Friday of the month at 2pm. We look forward to seeing present and new members to enjoy time together, a game or two and refreshments.

Pat and John

Local History Research

We met on the 16th of November with 8 members present. David had prepared a presentation entitled "The Hemplands — the Ongoing Saga" . This research has been ongoing for several months. The Hemplands, we believe, were used for rope walks; the manual making of rope and latterly, part mechanised in the 18th century onwards. David also illustrated how the industry collapsed and what the land may have been used for in the 19th century. This drew us into farms and farm implements, including the " Moffrey" (short for hermaphrodite) cart, a cart, horse drawn, designed to be used for goods and people.

Keith had transcribed a letter to the Privy Council from local J.P.'s where they were explaining how the introduction of a malt tax in the middle of the 17th century would not be possible and because of the all other trades relying on malt would collapse if subject to such a tax.

Keith and David

Literature

We have been reading 'The Children Act' by Ian McEwan in which a fiercely intelligent, well-respected High Court judge faces a morally ambiguous case while her own married life is crumbling. This is a novel that keeps its readers thoroughly enthralled until the last stunning page, and provided a great deal to discuss at our very lively get together.

We have chosen 'Meet Me at the Museum' by Anne Youngson. This debut novel offers hope for change in its tender exploration of what it means to have experienced a life well-lived - 'A moving tribute to friendship and love'.

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We will remember them.

## THE SOLDIER

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field That is for ever England. There shall be  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed; A dust whom England bore, shaped, and made  
aware,

Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam, A body of England's, breathing English air,  
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,

A pulse in the eternal mind, no less

Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England

Given;

Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;

And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,

In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

RUPERT BROOKE

Sheelagh

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# Music Makers

The photo shows the group at full throttle in the Memorial Hall in 2019, yet, oddly enough, carols are conspicuously absent from the selection of pieces we are currently working on. The North Scarle carol service used to be one of our regular gigs but this year the vicar is proposing a rather different format: requests from the floor – or from the congregation anyway. Luckily the organist is highly adaptable and a good sight-reader but, unfortunately, this departure from the Yuletide norm wouldn't suit our modus operandi so we have gracefully bowed out.

Our staple diet of old standards is being supplemented with one or two more modern songs, including one by George Ezra. The other is a ragtime instrumental, 'Osceola's Revenge', an original piece for piano composed by my brother.

Just in case you were wondering, we still have vacancies for a drummer and a keyboard player.

Phil



# Photography

The theme for November was "part of the Whole" where detail of part of a bigger object is photographed. Next month our theme is "Triangles". The eye responds well to this shape and our brain will even virtually create this shape when there are just 3 dominant points in an image .

Paul



Bracken Detail by  
Paul Bass





Bean parts by Jannet Wright



Automatic Gearbox Control by Colin Smith



Exercise Bike by John Geeson



Fluorescent bulb tube by Jenny Macpherson



Part of a puzzle by  
Jannet Wright

Handset by John  
Geeson





Rose by Paul Bass



Skoda Badge by Colin Smith



Double Bass by Jenny Macpherson

## Making Images Look Old

With digital images and good image processing software, it is possible to create photographs that appear to have been taken many years ago. The 2 included images could be Victorian.

To create such images it is best to have some idea of what you want to achieve. It is very important to ensure there is no part of the image that is later than the period you are trying to capture. This can be done by careful selection of the subject and/or using software to delete later period items. This has to be done really carefully, I did not pick up the lady in the photograph had a microphone on her blouse until the image was almost finished. The people in the photographs were digitally cut from another image and pasted on. Careful blending is needed to ensure authenticity.

The images were finished by converting to a sepia monochrome and adding a white vignette..

Paul



The Old Lady

The Old Man



# Play Reading

This month play readers spent a thoroughly enjoyable and informative morning visiting The Robin Hood Theatre at Averham. Actor/director and trustee Dave Baliol-Key gave us a fantastic backstage tour, explaining how a production comes to life. David Piper brought along his scaled down design for the set of the forthcoming play "Theft" by Eric Chappell, giving us an insight into the tricks of the trade in designing a set that complements the play and also acknowledges the author's descriptions.

The play was originally put on at The Robin Hood many years ago, and is being reprised as a tribute to the famous Grantham playwright who died earlier this year. Many of our group will be going along to see it.

The theatre is obviously thriving, not the least due to the enthusiasm, commitment and skill of dedicated volunteers.

Next month we will be having a Christmas lunch at The Royal Oak, and then back to play reading in the New Year.

Sue

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# Scrabble

Anyone interested in joining our Scrabble group which meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 2-4pm? We meet in members homes. Word games are an excellent way of improving memory and language skills. Learning new words is said to improve intelligence scores.

Margaret

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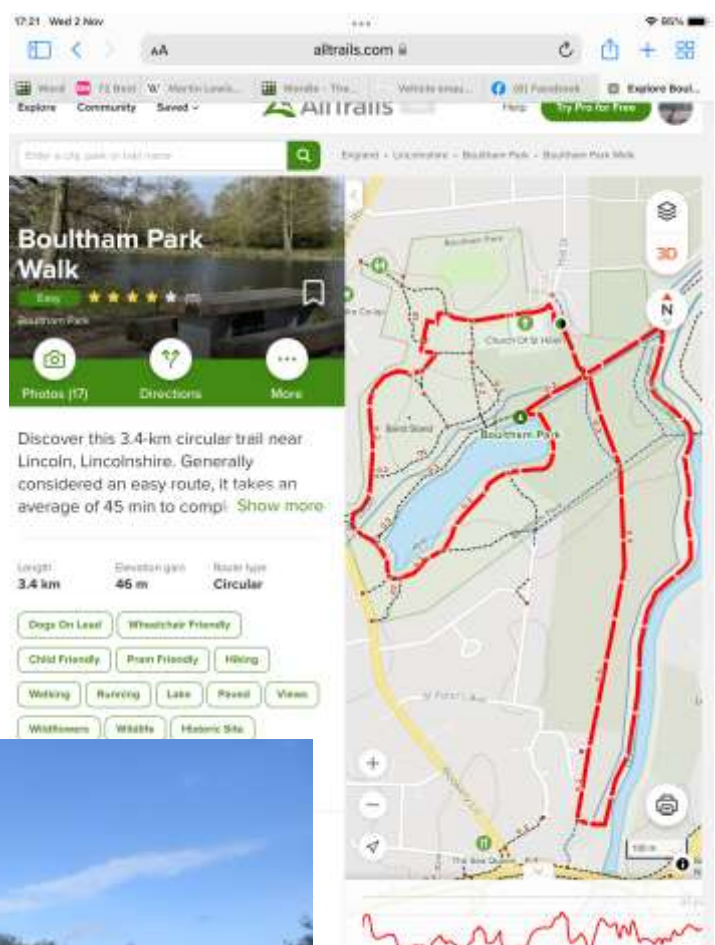
# Strollers

On Wednesday 9 November, a sunny warm day, 11 of us visited Boultham Park Lincs. We all walked along the River Witham, then around the lake at Boultham park. The walk was a 2 mile figure of 8, with options of a 1 mile walk just around the lake, or a 1.75 mile walk along the river and part of the lake

We all then went to the cafe in the centre of the park for a lovely varied lunchtime menu

Strollers do gentle walks of 2 miles or less, usually followed by a bite to eat and a chat. We meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month by the Co op at 10.30am. Give us a try if you are interested (lifts available for those without their own transport).

Margaret





# Sunday Lunchers

For our November u3a Sunday Lunch, we returned to The Generous Briton at Brant Broughton, by popular request.

Fifteen of us enjoyed another excellent meal, with very helpful staff making the experience a memorable one.

Margaret



# Table Tennis

Our friendly table tennis group usually meets twice monthly at the Winthorpe Community Centre for 1 hour from 10 – 11 am. Afterwards many of us enjoy a cup of coffee and the occasional cake at the Lord Nelson in Winthorpe. We do provide bats and balls and new members are always welcome.

Do come and give it a try!

Here are the dates of our forthcoming meetings:

|                                                    |  |                          |
|----------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>November 17<sup>th</sup></b>                    |  | <b>from 10am to 11am</b> |
| <b>December 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup></b> |  | <b>from 10am to 11am</b> |
| <b>January 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup></b> |  | <b>from 10am to 11am</b> |
| <b>February 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup></b> |  | <b>from 10am to 11am</b> |
| <b>March 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup></b>    |  | <b>from 10am to 11am</b> |

Peter

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# Thursday Talking Shop

The subject at our last meeting was: 'Democracy in Theory and Practice' and as may be imagined discussion was wide ranging and sharply focussed. Whilst discussion reflected current world-wide issues, the group also looked at the origins and practice of the concept of democracy.

At the next meeting, on November 24th, we will be asking ourselves the question: 'Why do we Preserve the Past?'

Anita and Mary

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# Weekenders

A friendly group for those living on their own to share social outings, or just a chat at our monthly meeting at Pennels .

This month we have been to the Cat Asylum, heard Steel Rhyme in Coddington and seen the musical Girl from the North Country in Nottingham. Like everyone else December looks to be busy already, some of us are off to Thursford, some to see Swan Lake and most of us will be having dinner at the Royal oak on the 16th.

Liz

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At the Cat Asylum

Our Ornaments for the tree in the Methodist church

