

NEWSLETTER - February 2024

From the chair: welcome to February's newsletter. We are rapidly approaching our 10th anniversary year with subs due for renewal any moment. Details about how and when to renew can be found further on in this newsletter.

January's general meeting turned out to be a surprise; our anticipated speaker was unable to come as she was unwell. Luckily Horace Liberty stepped into the breach to give an unexpected wander through some of London's better and less well-known statues. We look forward to welcoming him back later in the year for what is sure to be an entertaining and educational talk, whilst for the February meeting one of our own will conduct an interactive meeting which is one of the ways we have tried to respond to what you told us you would like to see in future meetings.

Signs of new growth are everywhere: the first green shoots appearing on shrubs and gardens coming alive in the yellow, white and purple of daffodils, snowdrops and crocuses with cherry and forsythia bursting forth at eye level.

Just as your garden undergoes a renaissance in spring, so, we hope, does your enthusiasm for the u3a. With our membership starting to grow once more we are looking forward to an equally successful second decade as a u3a. Come and enjoy meeting other members at our general meeting and make sure to introduce yourself to the committee members who are there – we'll be identifiable by our u3a lanyards and you'll even see our names if you peer closely enough (and the card hasn't twisted round, always a hazard with lanyards!).

The commitment and enthusiasm of all our members will take us forward into the next decade ready to laugh, learn, live as the u3a slogan has it. Come along for the ride and find out what you can gain from increased participation in this wonderful organisation.

Lots more information is available at <https://u3asites.org.uk/collingham/home>

Chris

Membership renewal

You need to have renewed your membership by the end of March to continue to enjoy the groups and meetings you currently attend. At the AGM in June 2023 members voted to increase the fees to £20 per annum – a bargain as this is just a return to what it was 10 years ago when we first met. The committee anticipates that, despite the continuing uncertainty over potential price rises for hall bookings and other outgoings, that we will be able to continue to provide you with a varied programme not only for 24/25 but also for 25/26 at this same fee level.

If you are also a member of another u3a which you consider to be your main u3a, the fee is unchanged at £13.50. You will need to present the membership card for this u3a when you collect your 24/25 membership card.

How to renew: whilst I'm sure you all have this information at your fingertips or will immediately go to our website to check out the procedure, here it is for everyone else who can't remember from the last time you did it. The way that suits us best, as it takes the least amount of input from the membership secretary and treasurer, is to use BACS. However, this might not suit you, so you can also pay by cheque but **NOT CASH**.

BACS renewal:

Account name: Collingham and District u3a

Sort code: 77-68-44

Account number: 00423860

Reference: your three digit membership number. If renewing for someone else as well put both numbers e.g. 123, 321.

If you use this method you do not need to complete a renewal form.

Payment by cheque:

Cheques to be made payable to Collingham and District u3a (£20 for us, £13.50 if we are your second u3a).

You can renew and pay by cheque at the general meetings in February and March. Please complete the membership renewal form found on the links tab of our website as well as your cheque. You can also send this form and cheque to the membership secretary, details given on the form available at <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/c/collingham/docs/membershiprenewalformjanuary24.pdf>

What happens after paying:

You can collect your new membership card from the membership secretary at the April or May general meeting. If you cannot arrange to do this in person, or by getting someone to collect it on your behalf, you need to send an SAE so that we can post your card to you. Remember that group leaders will need to check that all members of their group are paid up members as not only are non-members (except those trying us on for size) not covered by insurance but neither are members.

Charlie

General Meetings

January's talk took the members around our capital to look at some statues and the meanings behind them. There were all sorts of styles from classical, modern, impressionist and Renaissance.

Every statue has a meaning behind it. The talk started with a statue of George the IV. Because he was loose with his morals and behaviour, a statue of him on horseback was shown. However there were no stirrups for his feet to go. This is supposedly a representation of his very loosely lived lifestyle.

Also (I did not know this) but one of Queen Victoria's daughters was artistic and a "bit of a loose cannon" too, Princess Alexandra. However, this princess actually created a statue of her mother.

The Cenotaph was originally made from plaster and was supposed to be a temporary memorial to the personnel who lost their lives in the first world war. It proved so popular that it was then constructed out of stone to become a permanent fixture.

Amongst the backdrop of statues being erected, various groups would object to them either being inappropriate, offensive or in the wrong place. Over the past few years, some of the forgotten skills of people who helped out during the blitz of the 2nd World War have been erected in the East End of London, for example the firemen and the dock workers.

The talk finished with the memorial Bomber Command at Lincoln and how things of the past are still relevant and mean so much on a personal today.

Again an interesting and valuable insight into our history.

Richard.



Next Speaker Wednesday 28th February 2024

February 28th - The Titanic - What Happened Next?

We all know that the Titanic sunk on its maiden voyage, but the story of “what happened next” is not generally known.

This presentation will take us on that strange, shocking and somewhat unsettling journey into the class prejudices of the day and the poignant story of one little boys shoes. Beware though, there will be two quizzes and lots of tea and (hopefully) cake – just to assist us in our journey into the unknown.

Part of this talk was previously presented to the u3a history group (without the tea and cake) and further information has since been added and new revelations highlighted.

Presented by Lesley Piper

March 27th – Victorian Medicine: Challenges, Champions and Charlatans

Presented by Em. Professor Robert Wilcox

April 24th – Commonwealth War Graves Foundation

Presented by Sarah Moody

David

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.

New Group

The Strathspey group

We are often told that to stay healthy we should keep our minds and bodies active. Suggestions for doing this often include learning a new language, and staying active.

Bourrel, allemande, cast off, 3 hands across, 8 hands round, tourbillon this is a whole new language to learn as you move to the lovely music of the strathspey.

Strathspeys are a gentle form of Scottish Country dancing that does not involve hopping, twirling or any other movements that place undue stress on joints.

To form a group we would need at least 6/8 people to sign up. I would think that to make progress the meeting would need to be at least an hour every two weeks.

If you might be interested please contact me on pharland29@gmail.com

And click on the link to find out what a strathspey looks like. Kilts not obligatory – often worn for demonstrations and more formal social dances.

[Cherrybank Gardens Scottish Country Dance Video \(scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com\)](http://scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com)
[The Orchards Of Co. Armagh Scottish Country Dance Video \(scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com\)](http://scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com)

Art Appreciation

This friendly, stimulating Group meets at the Youth and Community Centre (YCC) on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

We enjoy talking and learning about art, different artists and approaches to art. We have looked at artists, sculptors, photographers and embroiderers. We share information with each other about local and national exhibitions.

The next meeting on Tuesday 27th is entitled 'Desert Island Art'. Members of the group will be sharing with each other their favourite piece of artwork and telling us why they would take this with them to a Desert Island.

In the next newsletter we will share some of these choices with you.

New members are welcome.

Jannet

Bridge

The Bridge group continues to meet on Friday afternoon in Beyond Coffee. The Coffee Shop has made us very welcome and as the Royal Oak is not opening in the afternoons we will continue to meet at the Coffee Shop.

Chris

Family History

For the first part of our February meeting John told us of his ancestors named Bradder. Members of two generations of this family emigrated to America and as some settled there and had families it is apparent that John will have relatives there. By looking at Ancestry members profiles he may find some of them. One named George Bradder returned to his birthplace of Mansfield. He ran a building operation and had a street that he constructed named after him. Unfortunately this was swept away in ring road construction in the 1970s.

The second topic of the meeting was introduced by Bridget. Instead of researching your particular family she suggested the idea of researching a family name. This involves finding where the name was common and how the spread of it around the country, and indeed world, changed over the years. Tracing its origins to a small location would be fascinating.

Our next meeting will be at the YCC on Tuesday 5th March.

Charlie

Italian

The group meets the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Our first meeting in February was very lively as we welcomed an Italian visitor. She was a colleague of one of our members and had agreed to come and meet and talk with us in Italian.

It provided us with the opportunity to be 'immersed in Italian' and we were pleased with how much we could understand.

The second meeting will continue the work we started in January on the Future Tense. This time we will look at the verbs 'avere' (to have) and 'essere' (to be) and others that do not follow the regular pattern we worked with last time.

We hope to welcome a possible new member from another u3a who has expressed an interest in our Italian Group. We are pleased that the numbers continue to grow.

Jannet and Mary

Kurling

We started our new season last month, 25 members came along and enjoyed the afternoon. At tea break we announced the winner of the 2023 League Trophy. Steve Aram from Newark had the highest scores and Terry Walters, the winner in 2022, presented the Trophy to him. The Newark Advertiser also came along to take some photographs. If anyone is interested in Kurling we meet every 4th Friday of the month in the Memorial Hall 2pm – 4pm.

John



Literature

Although received with mixed feelings, 'The God of Small Things' by Arundhati Roy, sparked off a lively discussion at our get together this month. Roy has stretched language and imagination to recreate the fun-filled, magical yet anguished world of childhood with simplicity, directness and an enormous amount of wit.

'The Beekeeper of Aleppo' by Christy Lefteri has been chosen for our next book, and we meet again on Thursday, 21st March.

Sheelah

Local History

Continuing from a discussion at the last meeting, and as agreed, the theme for February would centre on aspects of enclosure. Charlie had prepared an informative brief history of the development of the enclosure movement upon the open field system. He cited its advantages for farming and agriculture and also the impact it had on poorer villagers. Interestingly Barry had 'insider knowledge' of strip farming in the open field system as his father was chairman of Laxton Jury which managed its open field strips, (also known as the Court Leet.) His father worked for 40 years in this farming environment. He had bought his own place, Copthorne Farm, in Moorhouse Parish. Barry went on to describe everyday experiences of farming in yesteryears. David's input concerned a little known determined attempt to enclose the open fields of North Collingham in 1648-9, but which ultimately failed. He explored the reasons why one party promoted the project and the other party resisted it. Resistance was partially due to village politics and probably exacerbated by the civil war. The ensuing row led to an action in the Chancery Court in London between parties. The final judgement is unknown but must have favoured the defendants as enclosure clearly did not happen at this time.

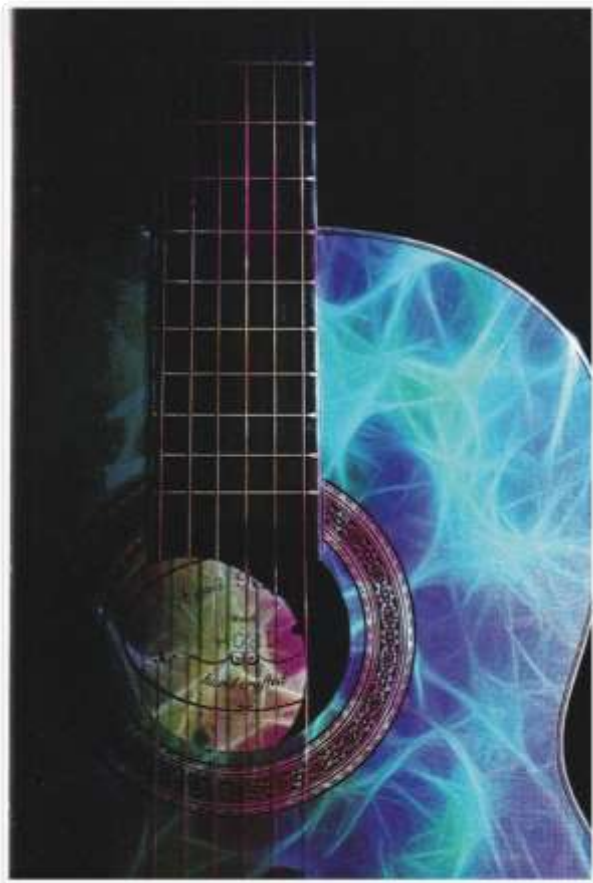
David

Music Makers

A quiet month during which we managed only one rehearsal. Winter ailments have hit a couple of our members so progress with new material has been slowed. Nonetheless, individual practice continues and we look forward to resuming our sessions in March.

Nothing firm yet but there is the prospect of a couple of gigs this Spring: one might be an appearance at a residents' club in Collingham and the other could be at a fundraising evening at All Saints Church in North Scarle. Both events are still in planning stages but if they come to fruition we will have to knuckle down and decide on suitable set lists.

Phil



Photography

Our theme for February is "Items that Time has made Obsolete". These will be things that have been superseded by better technology, but some may still be used today. We have also included items that are no longer used for their original purpose and now have another use. I hope that some of our images take you back down memory lane.

Our theme next month is "Happiness."

Phil



No Electricity Needed by Jannet Wright



Floppy Disc by Paul Bass



Hay Feeder for Horses by Colin Smith



Long (Ago) Players by Jannet Wright



Old Coins by Jenny Macpherson



Old Mobile Phones by Paul Bass



The Lace Maker's Lamp
by Jenny Macpherson



The Gilstrap Library by Gill Bass

Threshing the Harvest by John Geeson





The Old Town Pump by Gill Bass



Tie up your Horse here by Colin Smith



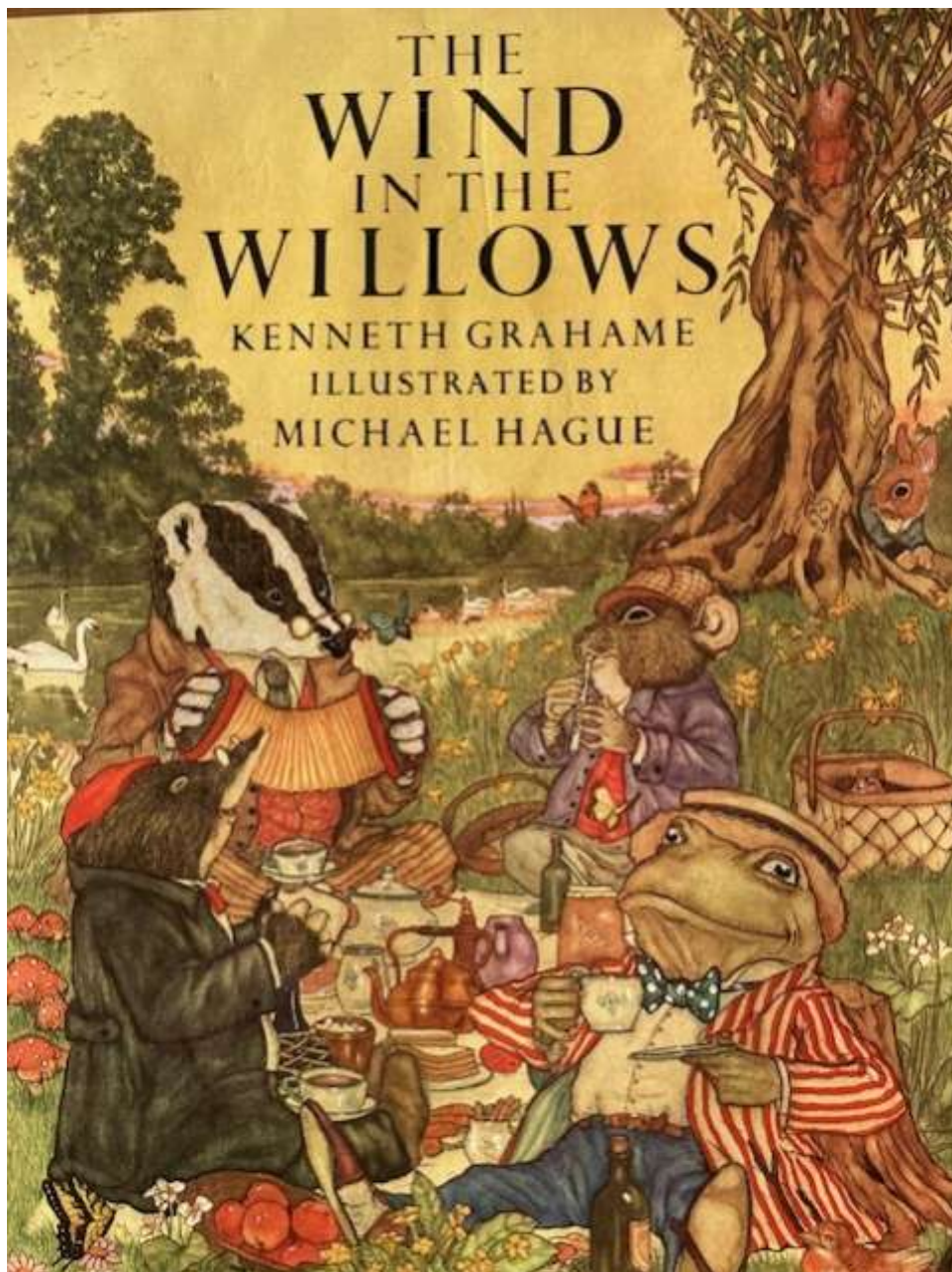
They Don't Make Them Like This Any More by John Geeson

Play Reading

The Play Readers were delighted to be invited to reprise reading extracts from Pam Ayres' satirical play "Who Are You Calling Vermin?" at founding member Jean's wonderful Birthday Party at the end of January.

This month we met as usual in the YCC to complete Alan Bennett's adaptation of "The Wind in the Willows"; great fun! And then next month we are heading up North for the gritty tale of "Kes" the stage adaptation of Barry Hine's novel about a troubled young boy who takes up falconry.

Sue



Strollers

On Wednesday 14 February we decided to walk around Collingham keeping to footpaths due to the ground being so wet. Mary, our group leaders co-ordinator, came along with 15 of us for a chat along the way. The weather was very mixed on the day, ranging from drizzle to rain then drying out.

Our walk was just less than 2 miles. We started at the Co-Op heading through its side alley to Nursery Gardens, through another alley crossing a field, then along Dykes End to Cottage Lane, taking another alley leading to Southend and through the Churchyard. Finally all along Low Street and just off Woodhill Drive to Mary and Jannet's home who very kindly laid on some refreshments.

Our group is getting quite large, so we are considering at this stage the possibility of doing 2 walks a month in smaller groups with hopefully an additional leader.

Marg



Sunday Lunchers

The Generous Briton, at Brant Broughton, was our venue for u3a Sunday Lunchers, where we had our usual excellent lunch.

Margaret



Table Tennis

Our friendly table tennis group usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month 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!

The dates going forward are as follows:

March 14th and 28th

April 2024 11th and 25th

May 2024 9th and 23rd

June 2024 13th and 27th

Peter

Thursday Talking Shop

The subject at the February meeting was 'Space Exploration', a topic which gave rise to a wide spread of questions. What of have the cost benefits been and could this money have provided wider benefits? The human race is naturally curious, but is all knowledge useful? Satellite images have enabled us to see our planet in detail but could this have security implications? Space exploration has generated scientific knowledge and new technologies but could we have achieved these by other methods?

The subject for discussion at the next meeting on March 28 will be: 'What do we mean by 'The Snowflake Generation'?

Anita

Ukulele

This is a friendly and fun group for improvers and intermediate ukelele players. We have a very wide range of music which has been collected since we began in the winter of 2019, before Covid hit.

We meet at 1.30 pm and play until 3pm each Tuesday at the Mayfield Room within the Memorial Hall in the village.

The venue cost is £2 per week and new members are very welcome.

Please contact Sue Fleet via the website for more information.

Sue

Weekenders

The talk by Professor Van Tam was fascinating, lots of facts about Covid and the decision making process.

We have been to see The Holdovers at the Everyman, and celebrated the Lunar New Year at the King's Head .

We meet on the third Saturday in a month at Pennels, contact me via the website if you're interested in joining us.

Liz
