



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

NEWSLETTER - February 2021

Welcome to the February Newsletter

We now have 12 Interest Groups operating on line. The Wine Appreciation Group is the latest one to explore this approach and they found it worked very well. Considering that this time last year we did not have any groups operating in this way, I think the Group Leaders and members should be very proud of their achievements.

I realise that meeting online is not possible for all Groups and we do look forward to a time when we can all meet again in person.

I am pleased to report that the Executive Committee continues to be very active on your behalf. At the last meeting Liz Ball volunteered to be the liaison person to the PR Advisor for the u3a in the East Midlands. We are grateful for her willingness to do this. She has already attended some online meetings.

Anita Maunsell and Mary Hughes have agreed to work together to develop our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy drawing on information available from central u3a and other u3as. It is an expectation that we should have such a policy on our website as well as a Committee member who takes responsibility for this area. This is to try to ensure that our meetings are accessible to everyone who might wish to join our u3a.

Sue Fleet continues to liaise with central u3a about copyright issues especially in relation to music. This is a complex area for everyone and the Third Age Trust is trying to resolve the difficulties.

Wanted

Are you a Facebook user? Are you interested in setting up and maintaining a Facebook page for Collingham & District u3a?

If so, we would love to hear from you as we want to develop a Collingham & District u3a page. To find out more about this, please contact Jannet Wright at jannet.wright@gmail.com or Liz Ball at collinghamu3a@gmail.com

Best wishes,
Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee

In lockdown many of us are finding how important meals have become as a focus of the day. This has led to trying new recipes and creating new favourites.

Would you like to share your favourite recipes with us, either for one or two people and who knows we could end up with our own compilation.

Here's a delicious sounding dish from Sue Fleet to start off our collection.

Moroccan chickpea squash and cabbage stew with apricots

Serves 2 Prep. 30mins Cooking time 45mins Vegan/ Vegetarian

Ingredients:

2 tomatoes halved
3tbsp oil
200grms of butternut squash peeled and cut into large chunks
1 clove of garlic crushed
½ large red onion, sliced
100grms of savoy cabbage or cavalo nero; finely shredded.
1 bay leaf (optional)
500mls veg stock
1 x 400gm tin of chick peas, drained.
1/2 lemon zested
2tsp each of dried thyme, ground cumin, harissa.
1tbs fennel seeds
½ tsp ground coriander or finely chopped leaves
½ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp turmeric
Handful finely sliced dried apricots

Method

a/ drizzle half the oil and salt /black pepper over the tomatoes and either roast in the oven or griddle the tomato halves until soft, about 20mins. Oven 200c/ fan 180c/gas 6.
b/ Using a large saucepan, deep frying pan or slow cooker, warm the other half of the oil and add the squash, garlic, onion and thyme, apricots, salt and pepper. Cook on a moderate heat for about 15mins until the vegetables are softened.
c/ Add the tomatoes, chickpeas, bay, ground spices and harissa. Season to taste and pour in the stock. Bring to the boil and then reduce heat and simmer for 30 – 35mins and liquid has reduced.
d/Whilst this is cooking, place the fennel seeds in a pan and toast for a minute, before crushing lightly.
e/ add the ground coriander and cabbage to the stew and cook for 2 minutes.

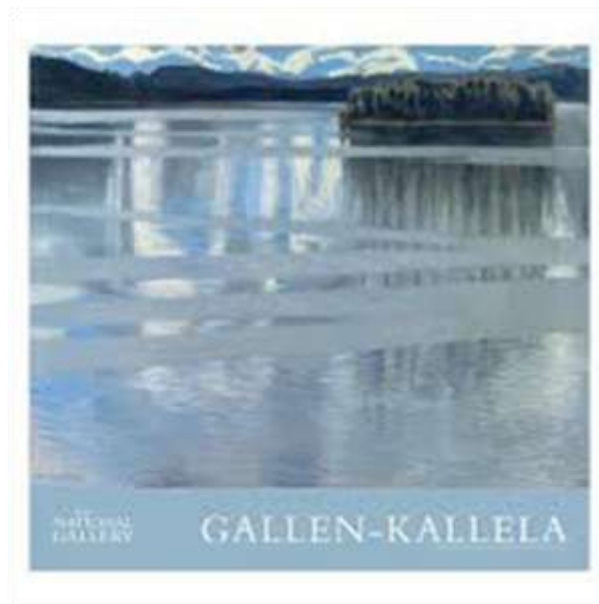
To Serve; Place the stew in dishes and add a tbsp of plain yoghurt topped with lemon zest and coriander leaves with wedges of lemon and warm pitta bread on the side.

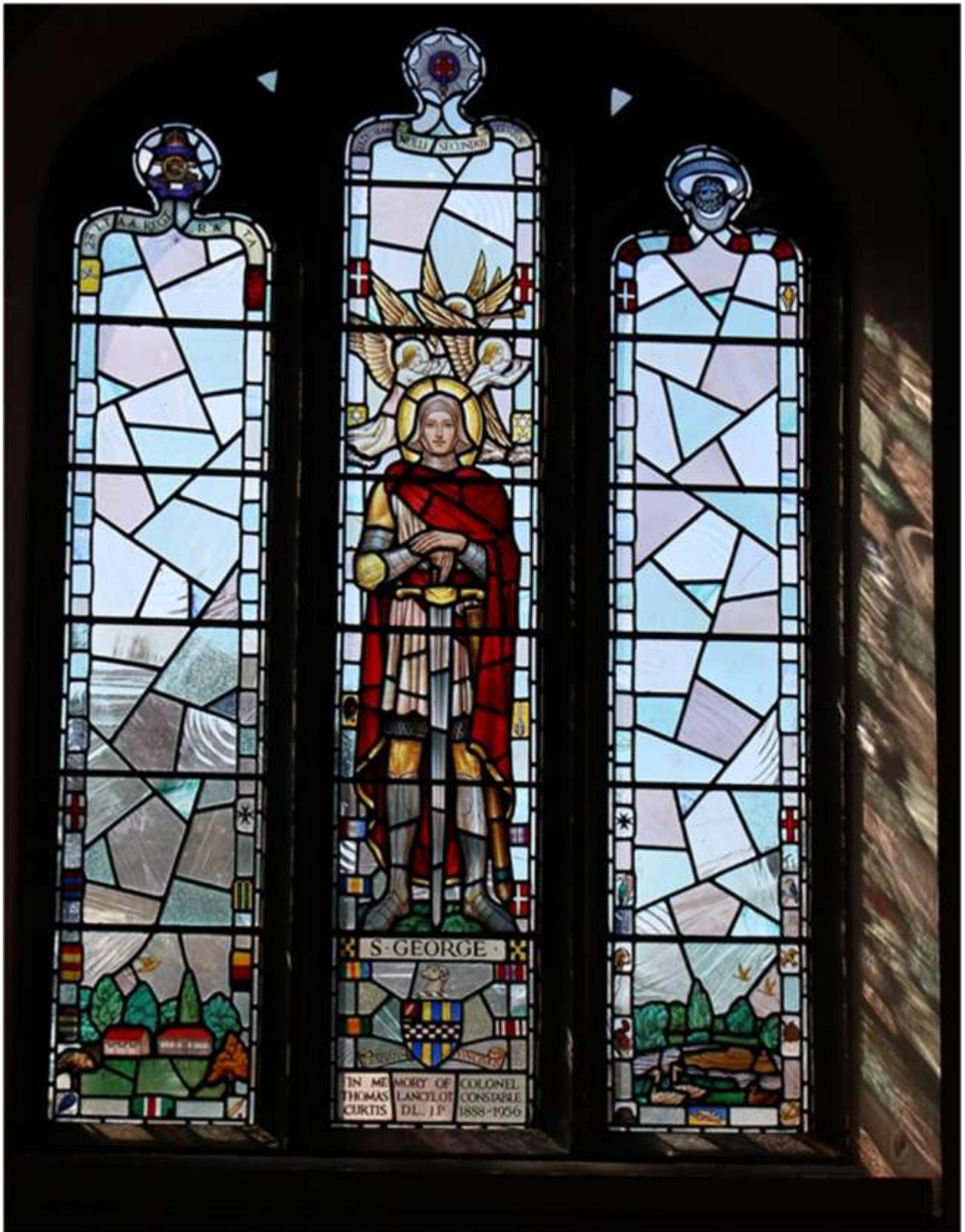
Groups

Art Appreciation

Lead: Chris Stothard, Telephone: 01636 894241
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The Art Appreciation group has continued with paintings that were loved or found challenging. Again, some were well known, such as van Gogh's Sunflowers and others less well known, like the Finnish artist Akseli Gallen-Kallela. In addition, we had two suggestions for art works that were not paintings: a stained glass window in All Saints, Collingham and sculpture that shows the emergence of polished (literally) work from rough stone.





We then had a series of views of Wittenham Clumps in Oxfordshire, which prompted the next theme for the group: Landscape, with an emphasis on looking at non-European landscapes, of which more next time.

History

Lead: Anita Maunsell, Telephone: 01636 892928

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Peter Brauer, p.brauer@btinternet.com

A Potted History of Plant Explorers

A contribution from Sue Fleet

As we head towards spring, after this long and difficult winter, those who enjoy the pleasures of gardening indulge in perusing the myriad plants on display in catalogues and magazines. But are they all British plants, and if not, how and who brought them and from where? Who were these real life 'Indiana Jones' who searched the world to bring us new exciting plants and trees to brighten our gardens? The explorer plantmen of the past few centuries before air travel not only put themselves in physical danger, but also spent huge sums of money doing so. For example, Joseph Banks spent £10,000 on his trip to Australia; transporting their finds wasn't cheap at 6s 8p per plant to send to UK and many didn't make it alive, and very few explorers gained any recognition for doing so.

Explorer plantmen like John Tradescant (1570-1638) who brought us one of the first horse chestnut trees, tulips, pomegranates and cherry trees, is remembered still in the plant named after him, tradescantia. Joseph Banks (1743-1820) who travelled with Cook to Australia, formed the Royal Society (RS) along with seven others, all of whom were later knighted, and had plants named after them eg: Henry Forsyth (forsythia) and Henry Dickens (tree fern dicksonia). Banks became President of the Society (later the RHS), Director of Kew and Sheriff of Lincoln and is remembered for the rosa banksia, eucalyptus and 80 other species.

Marianne North (1830-90) an artist, documented 900 plants in the UK and then at the age of 40 'bushwacked' her way through the USA, Canada, Brazil and Jamaica travelling alone except for locals who transported equipment. She circumnavigated the world twice in 13 years, documenting in oils all the plants as she saw them, four of which are named after her. She returned to England in ill-health and died here, unlike some of her contemporaries. For example, David Douglas (1799-1834), remembered for the Douglas fir and several other species, had a narrow escape whilst in Canada for the RS, searching for new tree species, after his canoe capsized. Once recovered he moved to Hawaii aged 31, though looking very much older having become blind in one eye, and suffering rheumatic attacks. Whilst on a long hike alone, his ex - convict support having left, he fell into a pit which had been dug to capture wild bulls and was gored to death by one already in there. He was 35. Controversy arose as it was debated whether it was misadventure or murder by the ex - convict for money.

George Forrest, (1873-1932) a pharmacist with interests in plants as medicine, was one of the first explorers to enter South China. Evading Tibetan lamas who murdered all his crew, he collected over 30,000 plants, with pieris, or 'Forest Flame' the most famous. Reginald Farrer, (1888 -1920) is remembered for bringing back the Himalayan poppy, creeping geranium and viburnums from Northern China and Burma. He spent most of his life in Tibet, and survived a fall from a high bridge into the river below whilst escaping bandits there. He died hunting plants on a hillside, where he was later found with a bottle of whisky and a box of Jane Austin novels by his side. Which one finished him off do you think?

Plant explorers are alive and well today, although air travel has removed much of the travelling adventure. However, the Wynn Jones family have survived landslides, earthquakes, trigger-happy Maoists and armed guards in the opium fields of South Asia. Tom Hart Dyke and Paul Winder survived imprisonment for 9 months by FARC guerrillas whilst looking for rare orchids in

Columbia. They have since retired from explorations and instead have built and opened a 'World Garden of Plants' in the UK.

As we are seduced by lovely photo's into purchasing something beautiful, it's worth remembering that 50% of the Worlds plants have been discovered by 2% of plant explorers and between 15-30% of all plants remain elusive today. Modern legislation to protect the environment, creates new challenges for explorers, but protects vulnerable nations from pirating for example. Henry Wickham smuggled rubber plant seeds from Brazil before the 1st World War; moving production to Malaysia and Sri Lanka, reducing costs and increasing productivity for the UK but bursting the boom in Brazil. More positively, Japan had a devastating loss of its famous Cherry Trees at one time, but amazingly one tree was discovered here in the UK and from that many hundreds more were able to be grown and their delightful blossoms shared.



Meconopsis betonicifolium (Himalayan Blue Poppy)
Reginald Farrer



Marianne North (courtesy A McRobb/RBG Kew)

George Forrest and dog



Pieris Japonica(Forest Flame): George Forrest

Italian for Beginners

Lead: Mary Hughes & Jannet Wright Telephone: 01636 892415

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As we reported last month we have been starting our on-line sessions with 'La settimana scorsa...' which means 'Last week'. At the beginning of February an historic moment was marked when six of our Group were keen to tell the others that, 'La settimana scorsa io ho fatto la mia prima vaccinazione'. Can you work out what Group members were saying?

Literature

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

We appear to have come to a halt with the lockdown and the library closure. Muriel Spark's most celebrated novel "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" was an excellent choice for a gloomy and very cold January.

As February offers us the celebration of St. Valentine's Day, I have turned to love poetry for some comfort in these difficult times;

"LET ME NOT TO THE MARRIAGE OF TRUE MINDS"
~~~~~

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments; love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove.  
O no, it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be  
taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lip and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

“WHEN TO THE SESSIONS OF SWEET SILENT THOUGHT”

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When to the sessions of sweet silent thought,
I summon up remembrance of things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,
And with old woes new wail my dear time's waste:
Then can I drown an eye (unus'd to flow)
For precious friends hid in death's dateless night,
And weep a fresh love's long since cancelled woe,
And moan th'expense of many a vanished sight.
Then can I grieve at grievances foregone,
And heavily from woe to woe tell ore
The sad account of sore-bemoaned moan,
Which I new pay as if not pay'd before.
But if the while I think on thee (dear friend)
All losses are restor'd, and sorrows end.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

“HINTERHOF”

~~~~~

Stay near too me and I'll stay near to you -  
As near as you are dear to me will do,  
Near as the rainbow to the rain,  
The west wind to the windowpane,  
As fire to the hearth, as dawn to dew.

Stay true to me and I'll stay true to you -  
As true as you are new to me will do,  
New as the rainbow in the spray,  
Utterly new in every way,  
New in the way that what you say is true.

Stay near to me, stay true to me. I'll stay  
As near, as true to you as heart could pray.  
Heart never hoped that one might be  
Half of the things you are to me -  
The dawn, the fire, the rainbow and the day

JAMES FENTON

Apparently, it is a tradition in Spain to give your sweetheart a book as well as flowers on St. Valentine's Day.

Best wishes  
Sheelah

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# Local History Research

Lead: Pat Smedley, Telephone: 01636 892292  
email: patsmedley@googlemail.com

## U3A Local History Research Group News

For the February meeting the group again met via Zoom and continued to look at posters created by members of the group in preparation for the proposed Exhibition : Collingham at War 1939-45 'And the sky was full of planes'.

This time we looked at a poster made by Janet Kelly on the National Registration Act in 1939 and heard why the Act was so important at that time in recording data on the civilian population used to produce Identify Cards, Ration Books and to control and direct labour in the UK. Registration of 40 million people with no computer aid at that time was a phenomenal achievement.

We next saw a poster title 'A fuelless, meatless and sugarless world...' this by Pat Morgan.



As you can see this is full of colour and interest and neatly summarises weekly food rations, directions on how to save fuels in the home and useful household hints.

Pat's poster content neatly dovetailed into that of Sylvia Woodhouse who had done research on 'How Britain avoided being starved out of the war'. Sylvia summarised the many factors that saved Britain from possible starvation by 1943 when our food imports were threatened by attacks on allied merchant shipping. By protecting the merchants ships that sailed in convoy, using radar to help destroy the German U-Boats, digging up every acre of land in the country to produce food Britain managed to survive. Locally Collingham had a Village Produce Association, one of a network of such groups all over the country to help to increase the quantity and quality of the food produced. This group later became The Garden Club.

As always it is so fascinating to learn how people lived in this village around 70 years ago – a mere speck of time in reality.

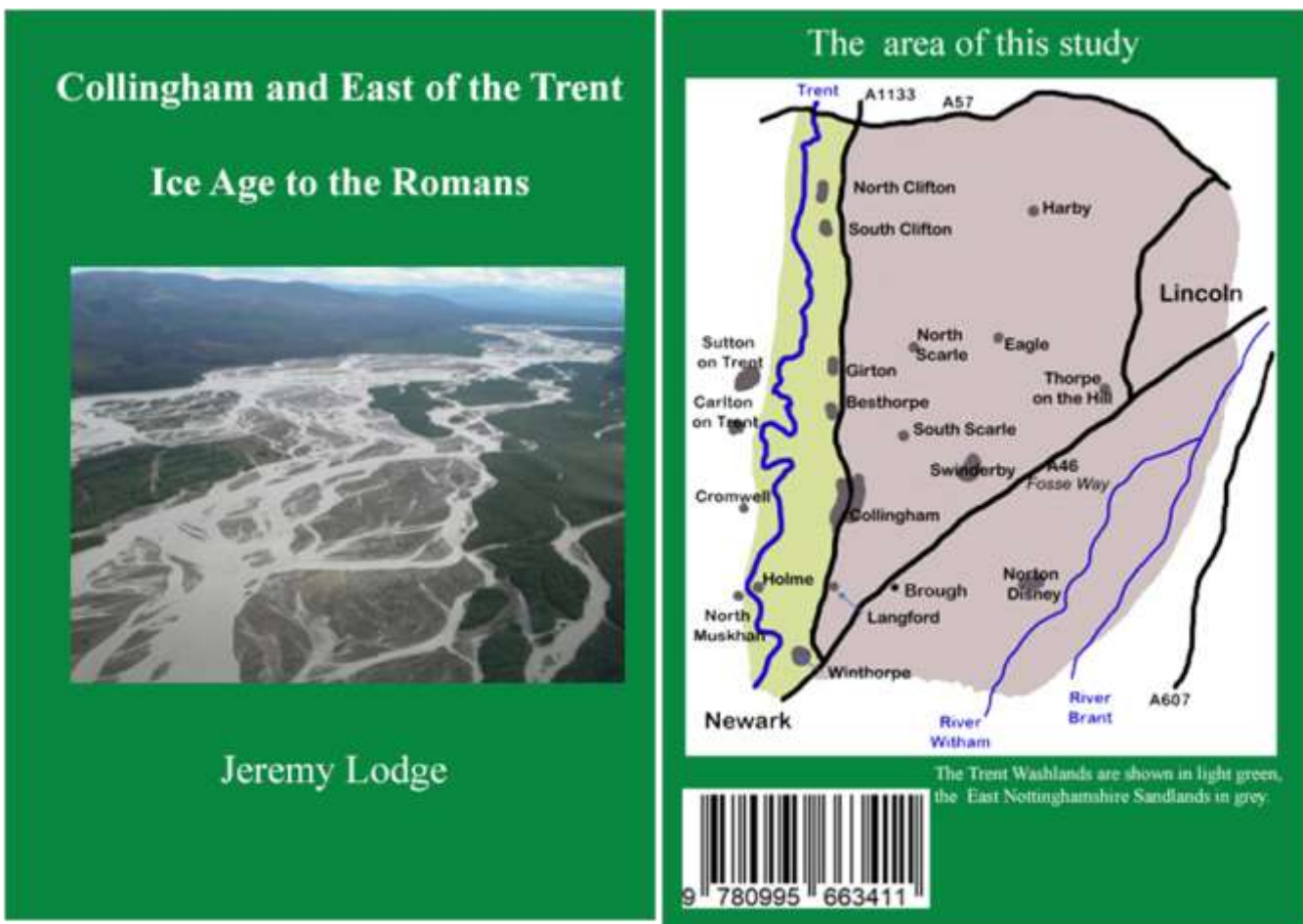
Jeremy announced the publication of his new book '**Collingham and East of the Trent: Ice Age to the Romans**' which is the culmination of several years work.

This 250-page paperback starts with the last Ice Age which shaped the land and formed the basis for the development of early plant, animal and human life in this area. The focus then moves on to local evidence of early human habitation culminating in the Celts and Romans. The impact of the River Trent, climate change and the regional perspective are recurrent themes throughout. The book is richly illustrated with diagrams, maps and photographs of local archaeological finds and frequently links the issues covered with what can still be seen today. In addition, there is a compendium of these ancient artefacts and local archaeological reports. This book will be of interest to both the general reader and those specifically interested in this locality.

'**Collingham and East of the Trent**' is being sold by **Gascoignes** (Collingham Post Office) and by Pat at 21 High Street (Collingham) for £10. It is also available from '**The Bookcase**' in Lowdham and [www.nottinghambooks.co.uk](http://www.nottinghambooks.co.uk) both of which also stock Jeremy's '**Lowdham Grange. Borstal!**' which is on its 3rd print run.

ebooks of both publications can be purchased from Amazon.

A further book which takes the 'Collingham and East of the Trent' story up to the Domesday Book of 1086 is being prepared for publication in 2022.



# Photography

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

"The photography group continues to operate virtually and it looks like this will continue for some time yet. We still hope that, this summer, restrictions will have eased enough for us to meet and have photo shoots together. Our theme this month was "Cutlery and Utensils" and some of our images are included for your viewing. Next month our theme will be "Signs of Spring".

Stay Safe.

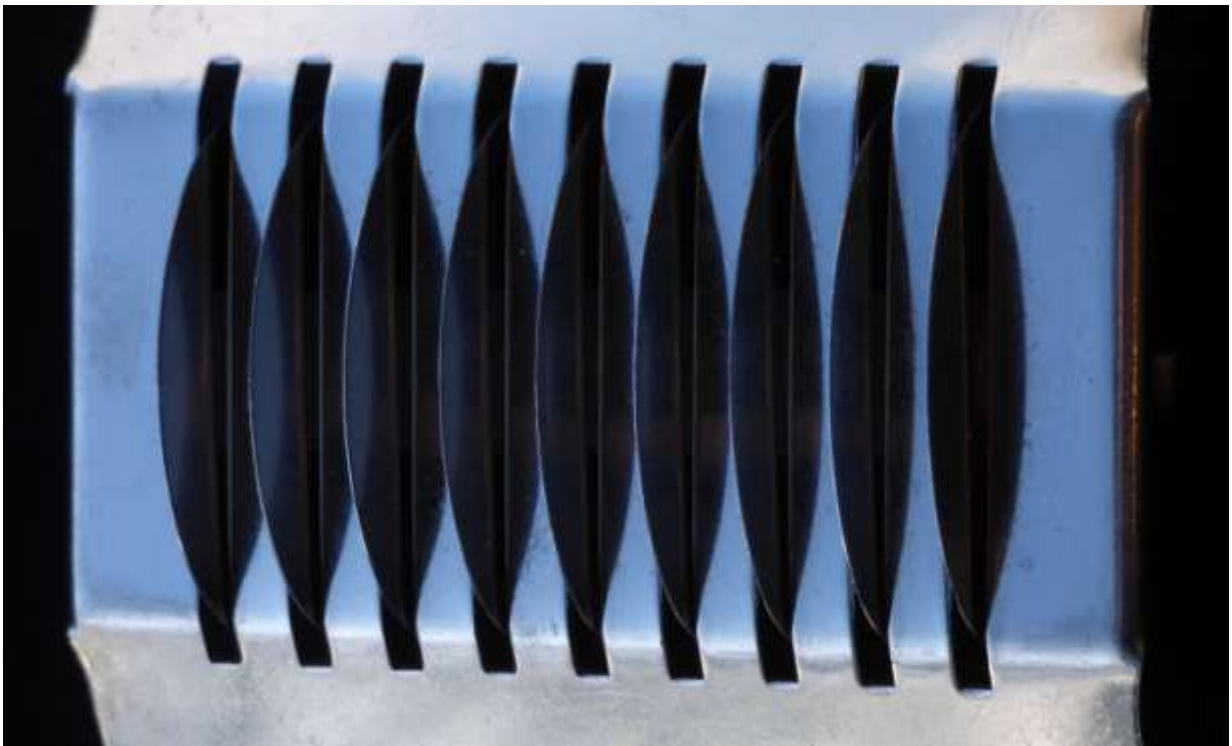
Paul Bass



A Pressing Matter by Phil Leckenby



Beater Reflection by Gill Bass



Pastry and Pasta Cutter by Colin Smith



How much do you need by Jannet Wright



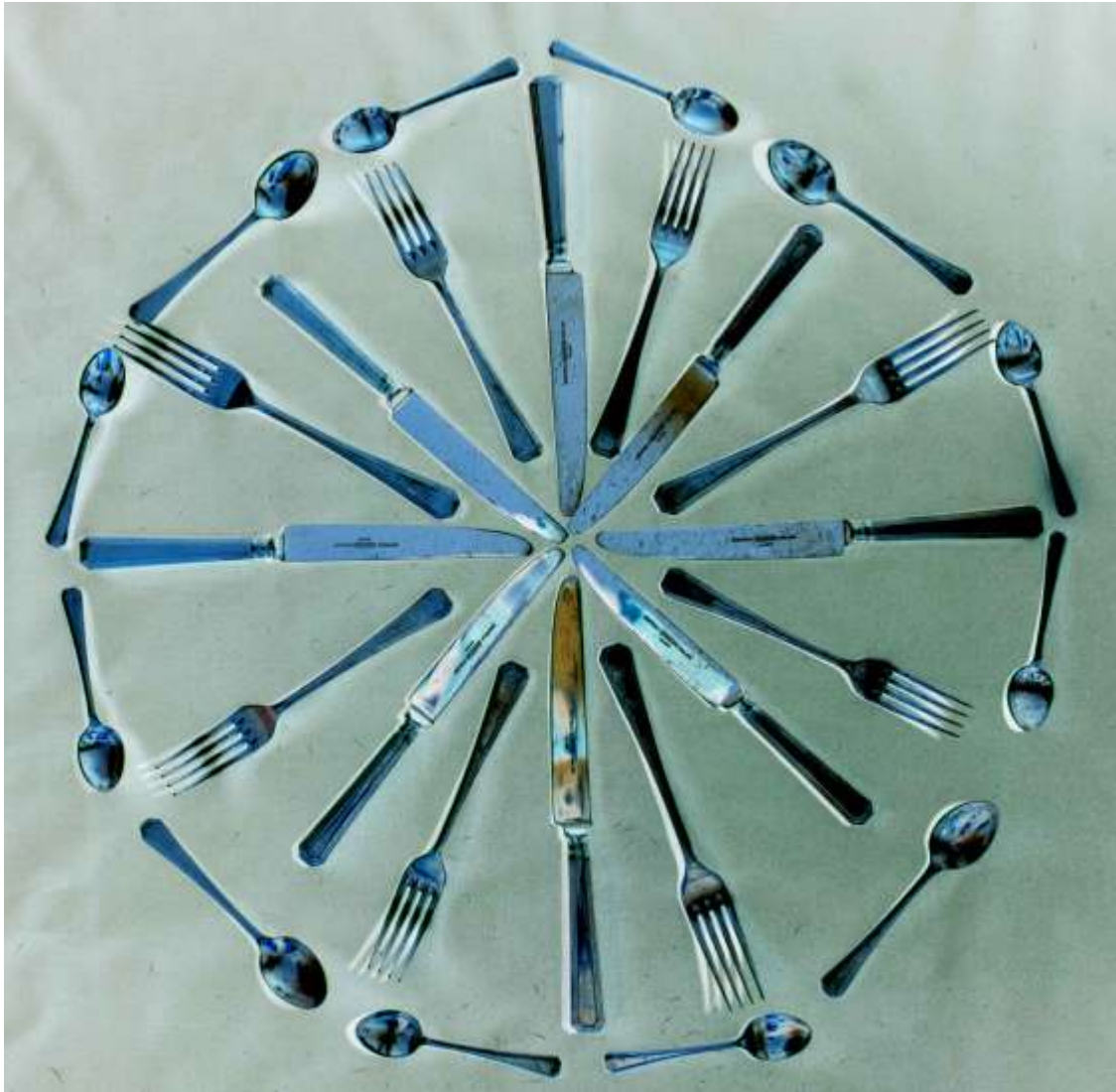
Ouch by Paul Bass



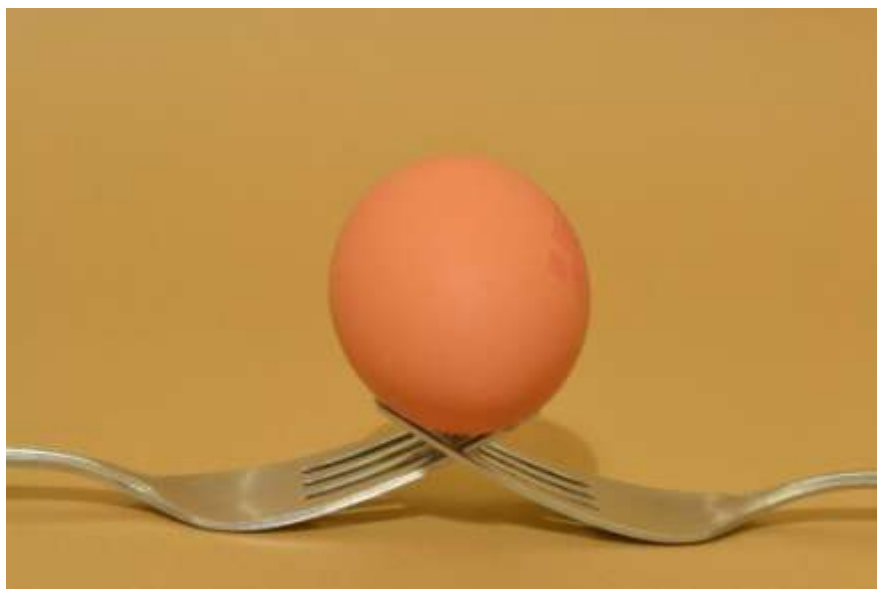
Opening Time by Les Murray



Spokes by John Geeson



Star Burst by Roger Davis



Supporting an Egg by Jenny Macpherson

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# Scrabble

Lead: Margaret Orchiston, Telephone: 01636 894027  
email: m.orchiston@btinternet.com

Five of us are now playing weekly on a Thursday afternoon via Zoom. If anyone is interested in joining us we can set up a second session. You just need your own Scrabble set and access to Zoom.

We are continuing with our Brain Teasers.

What is special about the following words: revive, banana, grammar, voodoo, assess, potato, dresser, uneven.

Answer at end of newsletter.

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# The Bucketeers

Lead: Lesley Piper, Telephone: 01636 892795

## **Bucketeers report for February 2021**

There seems to be so little to report as we haven't taken to zoom or tried any other ways of collectively communicating with each other.

But the amazing spirit which is so strongly within all The Bucketeer members continues nonetheless.

I've heard of members who have painted wonderful pictures during lockdown. Others are going on long walks, doing distance learning courses, learning new languages and keeping in contact with friends and family via newly discovered technical skills.

The spirit of adventure lives on.

Take care and keep on with your own individual adventures.

As for me? I'm distance walking almost every day in and around this wonderful village of ours. I'm also writing again with Bowness U3A (run by a distant relative of mine) and enjoying life immensely. Life is different but still great.

Lesley Piper

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# Wine Tasting

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

It has taken perhaps too long for us to feel confident with the technology, but the Wine Group could cope no more without meeting. So, on Wednesday February 03, we met via Zoom. We tasted three very moderately-priced wines purchased from The Wine Society. First, a red from Southern France which was rather young (!) and the group decided it was best consigned to the back of the freezer and resurrected for culinary use. The other two wines were whites. An Italian Pecorino proved very popular but the favourite was a Roter Veltliner from Austria (which none of us had heard of) and which some members immediately re-ordered. All agreed that meeting in this way was successful and highly enjoyable and another session has been arranged. We will be tasting three half-bottles of white wine – a Portuguese from the Douro region, an Italian Verdicchio and a French Muscadet.



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Answer to Scrabble brain teaser— take the first letter of each word, place it at the end. It will spell the same word backwards.

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