

# Collingham & District



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

## NEWSLETTER - July 2020

### Welcome to the July Newsletter

Dear All,

Welcome to the July edition of the Newsletter. We would like to thank the Group Leaders who submit information to Liz and Martin so that they are able to put together our newsletter.

We have now had our second Executive Meeting by Zoom and again reviewed the current situation in the light of the advice from the Third Age Trust and the Government.

We discussed what is happening with buildings in the village that we use for some of our meetings. These include the Phoenix Centre, the Youth and Community Centre and the Memorial Hall. Those managing the first two buildings have indicated to us that they are unlikely to open until late September. The Memorial Hall Committee are looking at their risk assessment and requirements regarding the cleaning and maintenance of the building in line with government guidance. However, I think it is still unclear as to when we might decide it is safe to go back and use their facilities.

On the day before the Committee meeting, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, we received an update from the Third Age Trust. I have reproduced part of their statement here in order to share this with you directly. The full text can be read on the Third Age Trust website under the section 'Running your U3A during Covid-19'.

*"On 19 June, the UK CMOs changed the COVID-19 alert level in England from level four to level three following a recommendation by the Joint Biosecurity Centre. This means that the virus is considered to be in general circulation but transmission is no longer high or rising exponentially. As a result, the UK Government is continuing to ease restrictions in a manner that is safe, cautious and consistent with its plan. However it is important to follow the general government guidance about keeping safe personally when outside your home.*

***This meant that from 4 July***

*You can meet in groups of up to two households (anyone in your support bubble counts as one household) in any location - public or private, indoors or outdoors. You do not always have to meet with the same household - you can meet with different households at different times. However, it remains the case - even inside someone's home - that you should socially distance from anyone not in your household or bubble.*

***This means it is unlikely that a U3A can operate indoors.***

*When you are outside you can continue to meet in groups of up to six people from different households, following social distancing guidelines.”*

In keeping with these current recommendations, the Third Age Trust is holding its AGM at the end of September on-line. The already postponed first U3A National Day, which was planned for this summer, has now been scheduled for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

The Collingham & District U3A continues to be creative in maintaining contact and group activities where possible. This Newsletter, like the previous editions, provides clear evidence of this.

With best wishes to you all,

Jannet Wright, Chair, Executive Committee

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# Upcoming event

There is an exhibition of Jo Slone's ceramics at  
The Willoughby Memorial Trust Gallery  
Moreleys lane, Corby Glen  
Grantham, Lincs. NG33 4NL  
15th July to 12th August 2020  
12 noon to 5 p.m.  
Admission free.

Just some of her beautiful pieces



# Lockdown Activities

John and Linda Geeson have shared with us the painting they have doing during lockdown. First they did the door then the dart board cover then the 3 windows it took them about a month it was good fun. It just show you what you can do in lockdown and it was all done with no falling out.



# Groups

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## Art Appreciation

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

The art appreciation group has continued to receive weekly emails about different pictures/artists. Recently we've considered Klimt and what influenced his golden period courtesy of Sue Brauer, Nicholson a Newark artist who mixed with some of the greats of his art world, courtesy of Linda Geeson and a Belgian pointillist whose name is hard to remember and harder to say, but who produced stunning work, thanks to Jannet Wright.

As it looks as if we'll be meeting in this format for some time to come, this is how we'll continue to keep in touch, hopefully with yet more contributions from other members.



**Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer 1**  
By Gustav Klimt



Nicholson



Pointillism—Coastal Scene 1892 by Theo van Rysselberg

# Gardening

Lead: Ingrid Wiggins, Telephone 07805 975456  
email: [ingrid.wiggins@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ingrid.wiggins@yahoo.co.uk)

The garden group continue to share garden photos. One of our members, Maureen, visited RHS Rosemoor Devon and shared the photos with us which was a further treat for all of us still at home..



Pictures of Members gardens



# Circle Dancing

## Play Reading

“Circle Dancing and Play Reading – (plus Art Appreciation).

In the absence of news to report going forward at the time of writing, I attach photos of happy group memories from times past, many of which include our dear friend Helena. Here is a sample of what we have been up to over the last 5 years. We have variously been dancing to The Beatles, reading/performing plays and going to the cinema. Plus appreciating art at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the York Art Gallery, and making a Christmas Advent window picture.

Sue Brauer



Circle Dancing

Play Reading





Christmas Advent window



Trip to the Cinema



Sculpture Park



Trip to the York Art Gallery



Lesley and Helena performing in a play,  
December 2019

# History

Lead: Anita Maunsell, Telephone: 01636 892928

email: marriott40@live.co.uk

Peter Brauer, p.brauer@btinternet.com

**History Group member, Sue Brauer, has contributed the following:**

## Woad and Lincolnshire

The story of Lincolnshire woad may be well-known to our local historians but was new to me when I discovered the association by chance in a lovely book titled *The Story of Colour* by Gavin Evans.



The woad plant, flowers and shades of dyed wool.

There has been an historical association between the blue dye extracted from the woad plant and East Anglia which goes back to Boudicca and the Iceni tribe in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. They, together with the Picts further north, have traditionally had a reputation for daubing themselves in blue before battle in order to terrorise the Roman invaders. The Romans would certainly have found this alarming and odd, but a more mundane explanation might be that the Iceni knew that the antiseptic properties of the plant extract would help heal any wounds they received.

Woad, *Isatis tinctoria*, is in the cabbage family of plants and is native to the Middle East and Central Asia. It was cultivated throughout Europe in Medieval times as the most important source of the blue dye indigo, valued for its ability to add colour, which didn't wash out, to woollen clothes. Toulouse and Carcassonne in particular became prosperous from the woad trade.

The earliest evidence of woad in England is from an excavated Iron Age pit at Dragonby, North Lincolnshire and there is evidence of its use, other than to colour the skin, in blue ink from the Lindisfarne gospels of the turn of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, a dye workshop in Viking York and in the unfaded blue threads of the Bayeux tapestry.

However, it wasn't until the 16<sup>th</sup> century that the indigo was commercially produced here in the UK, almost certainly due to the increasing price of imported dye, and Lincolnshire – mainly around Market Rasen and the South Holland region - became the main growing areas. In fact the farming of woad became so successful towards the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century that there was real concern at a time of famine that it was being grown at the expense of cereal crops, and therefore in 1585 Elizabeth issued a "Proclamation against the sowing of woade", which limited where and how much woad could be grown. This was overturned in 1601, but growing woad close to Royal palaces was still illegal.

The latter is not unreasonable as the extraction of indigo, from the woad plant is laborious and very pungent. The dye is extracted from the woad leaves, which are crushed, dried,

rolled into balls and then when ready to use, moistened with water, potash and urine and left to ferment in vats. When wool is immersed in this soup it initially comes out a yellow colour, but once the dye is oxidised in air it becomes characteristically blue and permanent. At the height of production in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Lincolnshire provided all the blue dye for police and military uniforms. But in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the manufacture of cheaper, more easily available synthetic indigo led to the collapse of the industry; the last harvest of woad was in Algarkirk, Lincolnshire in 1932.

However, the association and the name lives on in the Woad Farm Estate and the Woad Man Inn in Boston and Woad Mill Lane in Algarkirk. There is also now a cottage industry and small museum in East Anglia run by a farmer and his wife who grow the woad and extract the indigo for crafters, and larger scale production in the UK on the increase for use in printing inks as the natural indigo is biodegradable and non-toxic.

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## Italian for Beginners

Lead: Mary Hughes, Telephone: 01636 892415  
email: mea.hughes@ @gmail.com

Lead: Jannet Wright, Telephone: 01636 892415  
email: jannet.wright@ @gmail.com

We have continued to maintain contact during these strange times. The Third Age Trust advice continues to be that we follow government recommendations and so will not be meeting face-to-face in the near future. In the light of this we have decided to hold a planning meeting using Zoom. However, to save any further confusion over the easing of lockdown the meeting will be held in English !

We continue our study of the Italian language by various means. A particular favourite of the Group Leaders is to see how many words they can understand while watching 'Young Montalbano'. Sometimes we can even spot when the English subtitles do not match what is being said on screen. This ability would not have been possible without the benefit of what we have learnt as part of this U3A Group.

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# Literature

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

Our choice for reading this month is 'The House Behind the Cedars' by Charles Chesnutt. It is set in the period just after the American civil war when slavery had been abolished. Next we shall be moving on to read 'The Girls of Slender Means' by Muriel Sparks. A short novel, said to show her 'early and enduring genius.'

We have enjoyed sharing some of James Fenton's poems. Here are a few lines he wrote for a departed friend:

I think the dead would want us  
To weep for what they have lost.  
I think that our luck in continuing  
Is what would affect them most.  
But time would find them generous  
And less self-engrossed.

And time would find them generous  
As they used to be  
And what else would they want from us  
But an honored place in our memory,  
A favorite room, a hallowed chair,  
Privilege and celebrity?  
And so the dead might cease to grieve  
And we might make amends  
And there might be a pact between  
Dead friends and living friends.  
What our dead friends would want from us  
Would be such living friends.

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# Local History Research

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

## Collingham U3A Local History Research Group News

### Summer Mapping Project using OS Sheet SK86

The group have continued to meet once a month at our designated slot [3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 1400] via Zoom to continue with our Summer Mapping Project. At the last meeting in July we discussed the settlements shown on the map, their place names, geographical position and design. This produced a discussion around the origin of local place names : how many were Anglo Saxon and which were Danish in origin. Of course there are many examples of both. locally depending on whether they terminate in 'ham' or 'ton' [Anglo-Saxon] or 'by', 'thorpe' [Danish]. The River Trent has been an obvious attraction for settlement, with our Trent side villages lying on the flood plain terrace along the 50 foot contour. Rich alluvial soil, water and a means of transport all essential pre-requisites for settlement. While the area is low lying there are high spots [i.e. Eagle] where settlement took place. As to village design, our chief query was whether we could spot 'toft and croft' patterns of housing in our local village with open field systems at the back of the main village structures.

While so much can be surmised from looking at the map, the quest for certainty about settlement during this early period remains tantalizing. Many questions cannot be answered fully. But it does not stop us trying!

We will meet again in August for another Zoom and hopefully manage a mini field trip to help us bring this map to life sometime before the summer ends. It has been a fascinating way to 'open up' local history. Indeed one could say that local history is all about looking around you, questioning why building, industries, farming developed in certain areas. How did national events impact on our community? Many fascinating lines of research are opening up as we pursue this task.

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# Music Making

Lead: Phil Leckenby, Telephone: 07483 296822  
email: [pjleckenby@gmail.com](mailto:pjleckenby@gmail.com)

The group continues to rehearse, albeit in a fragmented way. There are a number of projects currently underway to add to our eclectic mix, including: Feelin' Good (Nina Simone version), Rainy Days and Mondays (Carpenters), Osceola's Revenge (Bob Leckenby), It Ain't Necessarily So (Gershwin) and Your Mother Should Know (Beatles).

No doubt in common with all the other groups, we can't wait to resume proper sessions as soon as circumstances allow.

Phil Leckenby



Trumpet

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# Photography

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

This month, the Photography Group had its first monthly video conference meeting using Google Meet. This system was used, since it is currently not time restricted and allows document sharing. The meeting went quite well, which reflects the benefit of our practice sessions in sharing images. It was also great to have the opportunity to have lighthearted conversation with other group members.

The images displayed this month are from the theme "Taken in Lockdown". Next month's theme for the group is "Food".

Paul Bass



Bombers Moon by Phil Leckenby



Lilac by Jenny Macpherson



Crocosmia Lucifer by Paul Bass



Hebe and Bee by Jannet Wright

Time for tea by Colin Smith



# The Bucketees

Lead: Lesley Piper, Telephone: 01636 892795  
email: [lesleypiper48@gmail.com](mailto:lesleypiper48@gmail.com)

By their very nature members of The Bucketees are lively, curious, energetic, enigmatic and extremely sociable.

Also, by the very nature of The Bucketees group we have been unable to engage, explore and delight in each others' company as we usually do.

However, with the possible lifting of lockdown in sight we may be able to look to the future and think of new adventures. It may be a long way off (sadly) as this group likes to get "out and about" -visiting the unusual and quirky, but I live in hope that we will resume as soon as it is absolutely safe to do so.

Please note that I now have a new e-mail address  
[lesleypiper48@gmail.com](mailto:lesleypiper48@gmail.com)

If all Bucketees could please e-mail me we can resume contact and plan our new future.

keep safe

Lesley

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