

Collingham & District



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

NEWSLETTER - June 2020

Welcome to the June Newsletter

Dear All,

During May your Executive Committee held its first meeting by Zoom. We all felt it was successful and we were very pleased to see each other. Prior to this we had conducted business by email and telephone.

We plan to have our next Executive Meeting on the 14th July also using Zoom. At this meeting one of our priorities will be to review the Third Age Trust and Government advice in relation to U3As. Until then we are following the information provided at the end of May by the Third Age Trust and the Insurers. Below is a copy of the relevant paragraph.

"All U3A activities should have an appropriate risk assessment / checklist to ensure they are safe for U3A members to participate in. Government input about Covid19 is central to any risk assessment and given the advice remains "stay at home as much as possible" and "limit contact with other people" it follows that face-to-face U3A activity should not be undertaken at present. The government reasons for leaving home remain very limited and do not include for leisure activities such as provided by the U3A".

I am sure many of you will have continued to enjoy online activities within your groups or been impressed with what other groups have achieved when you read this newsletter. The Third Age Matters magazine, delivered recently, also has some interesting information about how other U3As have been managing in these unusual times. In fact the Third Age Trust is planning to hold its AGM online in September which is another example of how we are all adapting to these different times.

Sad News

Sadly some Group Leaders reports in this newsletter contain heart-felt comments about the passing of several of our U3A members.

Here I want to acknowledge the recent death of Helena Narracott on Thursday 18th June. Helena jointly led the Art Appreciation Group from the time Collingham & District U3A started. Her knowledge and enthusiasm for the topic created stimulating and enjoyable sessions. She encouraged and supported all members with modesty and warmth and I for one will very much miss her presence. Helena also belonged to other Interest Groups.

In these strange times when we can't meet up in person, I know members were pleased to share their thoughts and appreciation of Bea after we announced her death. We passed these on to her family. If members wish to send any thoughts or appreciations of either Alan or Helena, please send these to the Collingham U3A mailbox from which you receive this newsletter. We will then ensure that your thoughts are passed on to their families.

With best wishes to you all,

Jannet Wright (Chair)



A picture of the planter in the north of the village that is maintained by the U3A.

Helena Narracott

Nick, Andrew, Katie and family are devastated by the sudden death of Helena. She has been such a part of the life of Collingham over 40 years and has kept us all on our toes.

We will hold a memorial service at a later date when the current restrictions are eased further.

Thank you to all who have expressed their condolences.

[NMN](#)

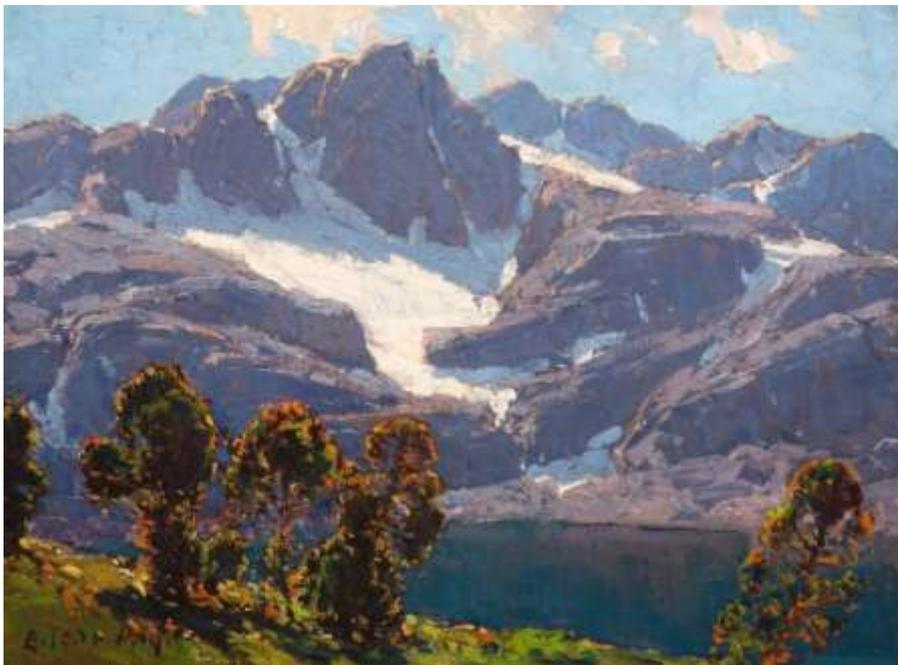


Thomas Cromwell



Anne of Cleves

Jannet Wright chose an American artist, Edgar Payne and showed us two beautiful landscapes, one of a mountain with snow and the other waves crashing into a rocky coast, echoing the appreciation of nature that has been so helpful to many people during this time.



Sierra Nevada 1921



High surf along the Laguna Coast

Now that lockdown is easing slightly, Mary Hughes gave us two pictures of people embracing, which I'm sure resonated with all of us, as this is something we all long to be able to do. Hopefully more members will share their art work in the weeks to come.



By Jacopo Da Pontormo



By Bill Viola

Family History

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

Meetings take place on 1st Thursday, 10am-12 at the Phoenix Centre

Some members of the group have been carrying on with individual research using the resources available on-line. Unfortunately obtaining original documents to confirm research is still difficult as the General Record Office which would normally supply copies of original certificates (such as Birth or Marriage Certificates) is working with reduced staff. Nottingham Archives and similar are all still closed and although they have an on-line catalogue, a visit is necessary to view the actual documents.

However, now that we have a bit more freedom, several members are continuing their involvement with an ongoing project being undertaken by Collingham and District Local History Society. This is to record the inscriptions on the gravestones in Collingham churchyards. A database of all the names recorded at All Saints can be found on the CDLHS website and recording is now being done at St John the Baptist.

Recorders are working individually but it does give an opportunity for members to restart some group activity in the safe environment of the extensive churchyard.

As can be seen on the photographs we have also been favoured with some glorious weather. It is not a fun activity in the rain!



Gardening

Leads: Ingrid Wiggins, Telephone 07805 975456
email: ingrid.wiggins@yahoo.co.uk

The garden group were extremely saddened to have received the news of Bea having lost her battle following a long illness. A testament to Bea is the Garden group itself. We thought so highly of Bea that we have retained every part of the format of group meetings set up by Bea. She is greatly missed and we were so pleased she was able to join us last Christmas for our Christmas meal at the pub. She was a very special person.

The garden group continue to send photos and news of our gardens to one another by email. Thanks go out to Ann who put out bean plants at her driveway for members to collect. Gardens have become a vital part of our daily lives for those of us shielding and self isolating and we are all thankful that we have private outdoor space available to us.

Our thoughts go out to members who may be currently ill and we wish them a speedy recovery. Hopefully we will all come through this and enjoy future meetings in sunny gardens together. Stay safe and well.





Circle Dancing

Play Reading

Helena has been such a lovely, kind, generous and supportive member of these groups, as in everything else she has been involved with. We shall sadly miss her, but have many happy memories of dancing, reading, laughing and chatting together.

Sue Brauer, Sue Fleet and Sandra Howarth

History

Lead: Anita Maunsell, Telephone: 01636 892928
email: marriott40@live.co.uk
Peter Brauer, p.brauer@btinternet.com

Sheelah Reynolds contributes this reminder of the origins of contact tracing.

Cholera Outbreak 1854

In 1854 a mysterious disease killed hundreds of people in London in a matter of weeks. A SoHo physician named John Snow was determined to ascertain its cause. He began by recording on a map the address of every case and interviewing the victims' families to understand their daily habits.

Snow quickly noticed that nearly everyone infected had used the same water supply. Theorising that there was something in the water, he had the pump removed and there was an immediate drop in cases. John Snow had just invented contact tracing. His discovery revolutionised personal and workplace hygiene, leading to new practices including hand-washing, use of protective equipment and the quarantining of affected persons and materials.

The 1854 cholera outbreak was followed by investments to improve public health, in research and developments of new medicines, vaccines and technologies to treat and cure the disease and related illnesses; and international co-operation to prevent another catastrophic economic downturn accompanying a future outbreak.

Literature

Lead: Sheelah Reynolds, Telephone: 01636 892348,
email: sheelahreynolds@btinternet.com
Meetings take place on 3rd Friday, 10:30-12:30 at Royal Oak

We have arrived at the last of Elizabeth Strout's novels, 'Olive Again', and are able to enjoy the excellent mini series 'Olive Ketteridge' available on Sky/NOW or Amazon (dvd.) Our choice for June is 'Staying On' by Paul Scott, author of the 'Raj Quartet'. "This is a rich and joyful book written by a man who has known and loved another country well enough to be brilliantly disrespectful of it."

Occasionally a piece of prose or a poem is like looking at a painting, but the following passage from Hilary Mantel's latest novel *The Mirror and the Light* magically turns a fresco into a piece of literature.

"In Sienna you may see a fresco, where Good Government is set out on the wall, so that everyone can see what peace looks like. Peace is a woman: she is a blonde; her hair is braided, and her head leans upon her hand, which is turned so that you see the tender white skin of her inner arm. Her dress is of a fabric so fine that, when it falls away from her breasts, it skims the length of her body and drifts into graceful pleats and folds, into an area of mystery between her relaxed, parted legs. Her feet are bare: they look intelligent, like hands.

On the opposite wall, Bad Government has taken Peace by the hair. She is panicked, screaming, jerked to her knees."

Local History Research

Lead: Pat Smedley, Telephone: 01636 892292

email: patsmedley@googlemail.com

Meetings take place on 3rd Wednesday, 2-4pm at the Mayfield Room

The group had a very successful Zoom meeting in June where we discussed the local ordnance survey map sheet SK86, showing Collingham village and neighbourhood. It was amazing just how many small historic details on this area the group had discovered. I was obvious that the group found this exercise really interesting and rewarding. Our next meeting will be by Zoom, back in our usual slot, the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We will carry on meeting now 'as normal' at this time, and hopefully manage a couple of local field walks in between Zoom meetings. We are all now using the excellent mapping system available on www.nls.uk [National Library of Scotland]. We hope to address such fascinating problems of 'where did River Trent flow originally' with the use of this map and with reference to the words of Rev.E.V.Wake our local antiquarian historian. This should give us much food for thought over the summer before we return to Exhibition planning in September.

Motorsports

Lead: Dave Watson, Telephone: 07826 848214

email: watsonswb@hotmail.co.uk

Meetings take place on 1st Thursday, 10am-12 at peoples homes

The motorsports group has been hit very hard by the lockdown. At this time of year we would normally be out and about going to car shows, race meetings and karting but all such events have been cancelled and we can't, as yet, have a full meeting amongst the group. We have events planned for later in the year involving car shows, a race meeting at Cadwell Park and a return to karting. At the time of writing we are optimistic that at least some of these will go ahead.

One of our members suggested a WhatsApp group and those of us with smart phones have all signed up. It's early days yet but seems to be taking off well.

Music Appreciation

Lead: Nick Narracott, Telephone: 01636 892938

email: n_narracott@yahoo.com

Meetings take place on 3rd Monday, 2-4pm at the Mayfield Room

In June I have fallen by the wayside with the weekly offerings of music chosen by members to keep us entertained. Hopefully we will start up again in July so compliment the non-event of the holiday season.

I am very sorry that this will be without the input of Helena, who was always helpful in listening to choices and offering advice.

Music Making

Lead: Phil Leckenby, Telephone: 07483 296822

email: pjleckenby@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 1st & 3rd Monday, 10am-12 at
Methodist Church, High Street, North Scarle

I'm struggling to say anything useful this month. The latest government update on the war with COVID-19 was really quite depressing. The fact that the track/trace app doesn't work properly doesn't come as a surprise. Our history of rolling out large IT projects doesn't read well and this one is no exception. Anyway, enough. I'm now desperate for a link to music.

Talking of apps, we still haven't lost our Zoom virginity. The Photo Group, of which I am an enthusiastic member, has tried a couple of online meeting apps, neither of which would be suitable for 'virtual band sessions'. The main drawback seems to be the poor sound quality. How does Gareth Malone do it? Well I suppose with the mighty resources of the BBC behind you, most things are possible.

That is not to say the group has been inactive. We send performances to each other and our repertoire is expanding at a gentlemanly pace. What is noteworthy is the improvement in the quality of home recordings. Probably like everybody else, I can't wait for the resumption of real rehearsals.



Photography

Lead: Paul Bass, Telephone: 01636 892057

email: bass.ps@gmail.com

Meetings take place on 2nd Wednesday, 2-4pm at peoples homes

The Photography Group had its first monthly meeting in lockdown on Wednesday 17th June. We used Google Meet for its ability to share our images. However the general daytime internet capability seems to be somewhat reduced due to the surge of hoe working during these difficult times. Despite this difficulty, we intend to continue meeting using this format until we can meet face to face again. Images to the theme "Yellow" were reviewed and examples included in the next pages.



Dipstick by Colin Smith



Spoons by Jenny Macpherson



Fore! By Roger Davis



California Poppies by
Phil Leckenby



Primula floating by Paul Bass



Smiley flowers by Jannet Wright

Wine Appreciation

Lead: Graham Eaton, Telephone: 01636 893895

email: eastlound@btinternet.com

Meetings take place on 4th Friday, 7:30pm at peoples homes

I am very sad to inform U3A members that Alan Douglas, one of our group, died recently as a result of Covid 19.

His vast knowledge of wine, particularly that of France, could have been daunting but Alan was not one to make others feel uncomfortable. Instead, his enthusiasm and fund of self-deprecating anecdotes made him a marvellous companion, never more so than during the group's 2019 jaunt to Champagne, Chablis and Sancerre.

Alan was a much loved and valued friend who we will miss greatly. We will be raising a glass to him at our next meeting.
