



# THE CRYER!

u3a learn,  
laugh  
live

The voice of Dronfield and District u3a

Issue 119 October 2023

## EDITORIAL

Morning and welcome to issue 119 of the Dronfield u3a newsletter. I am sure you will be excited to know that the sixth of October is recognised, unofficially, as 'Mad Hatter Day'. It was started in 1986 in Boulder Colorado by a group of computer technicians who were inspired by the Hatter and his antics in the book 'Alice in Wonderland'. They chose the 6th of October because in John Tenniel's illustration for the book, the Hatter has a price tag of 10/6 in the hat band. This, of course, stood for ten shillings and sixpence but it does translate nicely into October the sixth. You could celebrate this great day by reading the book, wearing a hat all day, or by organising your own Mad Hatters Tea Party. Or maybe not! Incidentally, no where in the book does Lewis Carol ever refer to the character as the Mad Hatter. Read on and enjoy. (Ed)

### THE WALKING GROUP: Bradwell, Bradwell Edge, Abney Moor, Great Hucklow, Little Hucklow, Hazlebadge

This was a walk I have wanted to lead for quite a while now. The sticking point was always the section of road walking near Hazlebadge Hall. It was two hundred yards on a busy road with heavy lorries passing and no footpath. It was just too dangerous. I eventually plotted a route via Little Hucklow and Green Dale which avoided the road. However, I could do nothing about the cows in the fields. I don't know what they feed them on at Hazlebadge Farm, but the mothers are particularly ornery. One had a go at me on the recce and another took exception to Steve Hill on the walk. Nevertheless, we were able to skirt around them and complete the walk in safety.



The walk started well enough in the pretty village of Bradwell. I don't think many of the group believed me when I said that Bessie Lane was named for Aunt Bessie and her famous Yorkshire puddings. It is a long slow climb to Bradwell Edge, but the views over Bradwell and the beautiful cement works were wonderful. Once again the weather was in our favour and we could see Mam Tor, Rushup Edge and even Derwent Edge in the distance.

There was a decided lack of conversation about

football on the walk. I did suggest after 8 minutes that we hold a minute's silence (or applause) for the eight goals conceded by Sheffield United against Newcastle, but people didn't seem keen. I have to say, if Rob Whiteley was alive and with us on the walk, his teasing would have been relentless. He is sadly missed.



Crossing Abney Moor we were treated to the sight of gliders taking off and landing from the gliding club at Great Hucklow. We had lunch in the village and encountered a strange mannequin in a garden.

From Great Hucklow we crossed to Little Hucklow and the newly restored Blind Bull pub. They have invested a lot of money in this and it shows. As you can see from the menu, prices have been tailored to the cost of living crisis:

<https://www.theblindbull.co.uk/menus/>




Our journey back to the village was enhanced by the wonderful views of Abney Edge and the rather skittish cows I have mentioned

previously. There were twelve of us again this week, and I think the walk was unfamiliar to most. Lovely company, lovely weather and lovely views.


Martin Horn

## MONTHLY MEETINGS



To access the online voting form -  written in (see below), hold down the control button -ctrl - then move the curser on to the blue words and left click on the mouse or finger pad.

### AGM - 11th OCTOBER (10 - 12)

The Annual General Meeting of Dronfield and District U3A will be held at 10 am on 11th October 2023 in Dronfield Civic Hall. 

The formal u3a business will be followed by a talk.

The Speaker will be  
Peter Gray  
on 'The Isles of Scilly'

We look forward to welcoming everyone in person this year, and apologise for not being able to offer online attendance.

### AGM - VOTING




For those who have already voted on the AGM resolutions - Thank You. No further action is required.

If you have not yet voted please do it now using the [2023 AGM Online Voting Form](#). It is very easy and will only take a couple of minutes. For those who receive a paper copy of the forms, please complete your vote and return it using the Peel Centre address.

Please try and attend on the day, and get to meet the new committee. They are there for you, and want to hear your thoughts.

Steve Bradbury

### THANK YOU FROM THE EXEC


As you know all Trustees need to resign at our forthcoming AGM, some have kindly offered to stand again, but others have come to the end of their term of office and are unable to stand again without at least a year's break. 

Please join me in thanking Marion Clyde (outgoing Chair), Chris Stone (outgoing Treasurer) and Doug Emery (outgoing Groups' Manager) for all they have done over the years, a lot of it unseen.

Please also welcome (subject to our Pre-AGM voting) our new Trustees: Yvonne Bramall, Terry Goodyear, Ed (Edna) Green, George Lee, Tricia Whiting; and Tina Teather who will be co-opted on to the Exec at our October meeting.

*Julia Harris (Acting Chair)*

## OCTOBER GROUP NEWS

The **Taster Sessions** offered during the Summer have been a success. We now have several new groups and activities. We could benefit from new members so please invite your friends and neighbours to get involved. 

**Walking** have their three sections, the Strollers (easyish walks up to 3 miles), Monday walks (up to 5 miles) and the Friday walks (up to 7 miles but occasionally just over). They have an almost full programme. If you would like to join

[email the coordinator](#).

The programme this month includes Renishaw, Hathersage, Stoney Ridge from Longshaw, Bullclose Farm, Cromford, Endcliffe Park, Youlgreave, Chinly and Cracken Edge, Stannington and lots more. Its worth a try so get involved and do a bit of exercise.

**Cycling** ride from Ladybower and go over to the Derwent reservoirs.

**Garden Visits** go to Wentworth Castle Gardens on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Climate Matters** take a sharp look at the three Rs, Repair, Reuse and Recycle.

It will be a fun evening at the **60s Music Event** on 20<sup>th</sup> October. There are still a few places left but tickets are limited. [Email one the coordinators](#) for more details.

**Tenpin Bowling** is blasting those skittles. It costs £10 per session (two games) and you get a teacake and tea or coffee. The atmosphere makes it a lot of fun. Come along. It runs on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month. Click [Here](#) to email the Group Coordinator.

A **Pickleball** taster session is arranged for Wednesday on 4<sup>th</sup> October starting at 2:30 at the Sports Centre. This is in addition to the Tuesday session. [Click Here](#) if you want to know more by emailing the Group Coordinator.

**Spanish Conversation** are meeting at the Peel Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 4pm. It is a great way of improving your language skills if you have some basic Spanish.

**Geography** are thinking about Kazakhstan. Is Kazakhstan a place to visit? Perhaps you will find out if you go along to the meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Short Mat Bowls** is meeting at the Civic Centre on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:15 pm starting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October. [Click Here](#) if you want to know more by emailing the Group Coordinator.

**Croquet and Crown Green Bowls** has now finished for 2023.

**Social Studies** are considering obesity on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Maths for Fun** will focus on Euler again and his contribution to Mathematics on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**Art Activities** meet on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

The **History** group is getting bigger with a lot of members. Please join if you are interested. They have a full programme and always attract a lot of interest.

In addition to the activities listed here, there are lots more. Whatever you are interested in, please make an effort to find out about it. To start take a visit to the [u3a website, groups section](#).

*Doug Emery, (Groups' Manager)*

## NEW INTEREST GROUPS

New Groups starting in October include  
**Short Mat Bowls & Pickleball.**



Both groups will meet weekly from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30pm to 4.30pm at Dronfield Sports Centre. Cost £2 per session, payable on the day.

Spaces are available, particularly Short Mat on Tuesdays and Pickleball on Wednesdays. Please contact me if you would like to give either or both activities a go.

*Julia Harris. (Acting chair)*

## NEW TASTER SESSIONS

Many thanks to Doug Emery for a great article in September's Cryer which gave us a summary of neighbouring u3a's Interest groups - some of them sound great fun.



It's been suggested that we might try offering a short **Basic Cooking Course**, encouraging those who are not confident in the kitchen to make some basic, healthy meals. Could you help 'teach' this or would you appreciate the chance to learn?

One member has expressed an interest in starting a new **Sunday Lunch Group** for people who might otherwise eat alone. If you're interested in either of these ideas or have an idea for a new Taster

Session and would be happy to get involved in running it, please either email me at [chair@dronfieldu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@dronfieldu3a.org.uk) or see me at the October Monthly Meeting/AGM. NB. Please note the Line Dancing Taster (10th Oct) is fully booked.

*Julia Harris (Acting Chair)*

## NATIONAL U3A LEARNING EVENTS

We're excited to announce that the Interest Groups Online (IGO) Fair will be taking place from Monday 2 to Friday 6 October.



The IGO Fair is an opportunity to try out u3a's online learning community for **free!**

There are over 80 groups you can join covering a wide and eclectic range of subjects. You can join IGO as an addition to your ddu3a membership and participate in many groups mostly via Zoom.

Membership is only £6 from October to April 2024  
Here is a link for more information  
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online/igo-online-fair-schedule>

*Steve Pyke*

Can you help with U3A publicity?  
Are you free on October 30<sup>th</sup>?



We have booked a space in the Baptist church, from 10 am to 2 pm to let local people know about our U3A. If you have helped at events like this before, just for an hour or so, or if you would be interested to find out more, please contact me.



For this event we're linked with Dronfield2gether. Thank you.

E: [membership@dronfieldu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@dronfieldu3a.org.uk)

T: 01246 900201 M: 07890 921759

*Phine Wright. (DDu3a membership secretary)*

## RIDDLE-ME-REE

1) Why is it impossible to take a picture of a man with a wooden leg?

2) A cowboy rode into Tombstone on Tuesday. Two days later he robbed the bank and left on Tuesday. How?

3) If you have a five litre jug and a three litre jug and an endless supply of mulled wine. How can you pour exactly four litres of mulled wine?





## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will be held at St John's parish church from Friday 24th November until Sunday 3rd December.

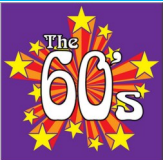
It is always a magnificent and breathtaking event, so please find some time to come and enjoy all the glitter and heart warming messages which each tree offers.



The organisers are looking for volunteers to act as stewards during this period. Usually it is two or three people standing at the entrance for an hour (or two if you can spare it) to direct visitors as required.

If you would like to volunteer, please could you get in touch with *Steve Bradbury* on 01246 419490

## 60s Music Evening



### COMING SOON!

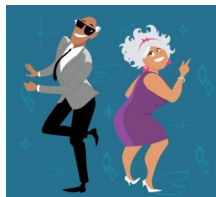
*Our 60s Music Evening*  
Friday 20th October at Coal Aston  
Village Hall 7.30 till 10pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

*There are still some tickets available for this event so this is your last chance to buy, either at the Monthly meeting on October 11th or by contacting the 60s music group coordinator via the Groups page on the ddu3a website.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Tickets are £5 each which includes a free raffle Prizes for the best dressed Guy and Gal and a 60s themed quiz. Bring your own food and drink.*



*Note that it's for Dronfield u3a members only*

### STOP PRESS

*You may have noticed in the latest Dronfield Eye that there is another event at the village hall that evening - don't worry as they have booked the side rooms.*

*Steve Pyke*

## Le voyage francais septembre 2023

### (THE FRENCH TRIP SEPTEMBER 2023)

No, we haven't started a new Group embracing the joys of rugby union nor is it a new Trips & Visits to the Rugby World Cup in Paris. This is a personal journey to a place that I never thought Dry Stone Walling would take me. FRANCE!!



Imagine my surprise, when through a contact, I was asked if I would like to take my newly acquired walling skills to a village in Eastern France that is described as "amongst the top four most

beautiful villages in France". The village is Noyers-sur-Serein and is situated 150 miles south east of Paris in Burgundy. Dating back to the 10th century the village is now famous for Chablis wine and being close to the Champagne region.

Indeed a beautiful location, the village and it's 700 inhabitants sits beneath an ancient 14th century castle beside the River Serein. My involvement was to look at repairing a wall at Chateau d'Archambault just outside of the village.



A small group of us set off for the long drive to see what was involved. Being a keen driver I volunteered to do the long drive in France. This was no problem as the French motorways are largely unoccupied (apart from Brits). Pricey, but fast. Waking at the chateau next morning we were met by temperatures in excess of 30C which is not ideal for walling but we set about our task.



We immediately discovered that the chateau owner had underestimated the work involved and from his description of it so had we. So we therefore decided to demonstrate our skills to show what we could do on a small stretch of wall overlooking a local road.

It was so hot we had to work under a parasol! You will notice the similarity with our own Derbyshire gritstone walls of two supporting walls with smaller stones filling the middle but the difference is that in France there is mortar on the top instead of upstanding coping stones.



Despite our reluctance we finished off the wall as requested so it matched with the other walls on the stretch. The owner, a Brit married to a very charming French lady, was impressed with our work and described it as "beautiful"; that's the first time that expression has been used about our walling! We

have been asked to return and complete the wall and will do so in November as the very hot conditions made progress slow. Even with a swimming pool to cool off in. So it's back to La Belle France when conditions are cooler after which we will return with more Chablis. Well, you have to don't you?

A neighbour of the chateau owner, at Le Prieure de Noyers Hotel, has asked us to look at repairing their walls. Fame at last but we have to finish the chateau walls first! I'll report on progress in The Cryer, I bet you can't wait?

### POST NOTE

After a few days walling in France with my mentors Terry Page, Tom Lewis and Matty Greenam, it was a relief to get back to the gritstone walls of Stanage Edge in the Peak District.



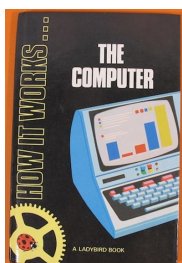
Unfortunately, the heat we had experienced in France had travelled back with us and now there was no relaxing swimming pool to cool off in nor a glass of chilled local Chablis to quench our thirst.

The photos you see are of a before and after roadside repair beneath Stanage Edge. It was probably caused by inquisitive sheep. We are grateful to a fellow waller, Ian Mateer, for the shots. Compare them with the pictures from France and see the similarity in build but the difference in Finish. French wall topped with lime mortar and the English one with coping stones. Both have the same purpose, that is to keep the rain out.



*Mike - have hammer will travel - Baker*

### **FACT OR FICTION?**



For a collector of Lady Bird books the Holy Grail is the book 'How it Works' - The Computer (series 654).

It is *alleged* that in 1971 the Ministry of Defence ordered a 100 copies in plain brown covers, presumably to prevent the staff realising they were learning from a Ladybird book.

The M.o.D. say they have no record of the order. No collector has ever admitted to owning one. No one has ever claimed to have seen one. But the publishers say they were printed. So find one in the attic and you can name your own price!

## **GARDEN GROWERS GROUP**

The Gardening Growers group have been meeting all summer and have visited members' gardens regularly. It is always interesting to watch how gardens we have become familiar with change and develop over time. We also have some new members and have been able to offer advice and plants for the development of their gardens.



Our plant sale in June was a huge success for the Growers and we thank you for your support in making donations for the plants. We hope they give you pleasure in your gardens. The donations from the plant sale are enabling the group to plan a 'gardening talk' in the New Year. The date is to be confirmed but it will be open to any member of our U3A who wishes to attend. Details of the talk will follow later.



From October we will return to meeting at the Fred Hopkinson Memorial Hall in Unstone. We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 2pm through to March 2024. This will allow those members currently on our waiting list to join us temporarily and other members who would like a taster session to come along-and give it a try before they buy!

We are also planning our regular Christmas Wreath making session in November. Again, being in the hall will allow us to have some of the extra members who have expressed an interest in joining us to learn a new skill.

We look forward to the opportunity for making some new friends and sharing our expertise during the winter months. If you would like to join us for either session, please do not just turn up. Contact Gill Middleton first. She can be contacted via email at :- [growers@dronfieldu3a.org.uk](mailto:growers@dronfieldu3a.org.uk)

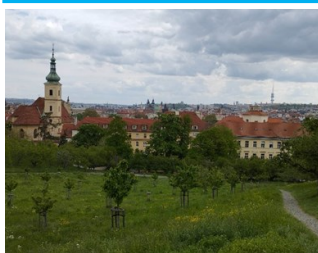
*Sue Horn*

### **TO RECYCLE OR NOT RECYCLE...**

Kelvin Symonds, an avid recycler from Bath, was driving his wife mad with his 'recycle everything' mania. When she won the right to have a 'green' message put on a 10x20 foot hoarding by the Lower Bath Road her message read, "*To my recycling mad husband. Please, please, bring the tea bags in off the line. Your very embarrassed wife, Pauline.*" (from the Bath Chronicle)



## GEOGRAPHY GROUP—PRAGUE



The weather was glorious as we arrived in Prague on 8<sup>th</sup> May, and was to remain so for the next few days we were there. Not only was it a bank holiday in the UK (King's coronation...

remember?) but it was also one in Czechia...VE Day is very important to the Czechs. Thus we struggled to find an open eatery in the early evening as we strolled around this elegant central European capital, whose architecture suggests a wealthy and cultured history. However, I happily recall quaffing some pleasant Moravian wine in balmy sunshine.

We had rented a splendidly appointed apartment at the junction of the Old Town and the Jewish Quarter. (Until the late 1930s, there was a large Jewish population here.) The location was excellent for accessing most of the "sights" of this city of a 1000 spires and over 290 museums. (We did not visit them all!) There were a number of magnificent buildings, churches and synagogues within easy walking distance.



We gawped in wonder at the enormous Wenceslas Square, but were slightly under-awed by the Famous astronomical clock though it is a "must see". We were even more under-awed by the so-called "dancing house" (the building looks like a couple ballroom dancing), but we were enchanted by everything else.

We reached the (Vltava) river and crossed over the notorious Charles Bridge which took forty five



years to complete and has been damaged several times by floods and rebuilt. It has been used to display the heads of the executed leaders of a revolt and it was the scene of heavy fighting during the Thirty Years War. It has played an important part in the history of

Prague and is really a testament to Prague's glorious past and, at the time of our visit, was besieged by tourists.

We visited the very imposing castle and its

whereabouts (free for the over-70s), with the stunning St Vitus Cathedral and pleasant previously artisan Golden Lane. Then it was time to bask in the sunshine with some beer (Czechia is famous for its beer so it would have been rude not to) and applecake. The beer here, incidentally, is traditionally served with a big "head" (unlike the UK)

We enjoyed the John Lennon graffiti wall, to which you can add your own contribution. Also near the Charles Bridge is the story of Prague museum...all you need to know about Prague in 20 minutes. It was excellent, informative (but obviously not overly -so), and often quirky ...Prague has thrown up some interesting characters in its noble history. To the delight of the 2 men, we visited Europe's only floating brewery (Pivovar). I managed to trip up the entrance (on entry not exit!) and landed rather unceremoniously on the gangplank so felt I deserved some comfort!

It was good to view the city from the Petrin Tower (although we did not go up the tower itself---hordes of school kids put paid to that plan), and enjoyed a beautiful walk back down the hill, where we came upon the Strahov monastery and partook of an obligatory glass of Pils which was probably the best we've tasted. We walked it off by meandering around the sights and churches of which there are many.



Before flying home, we did visit the Museum of Senses, which kept us entertained (and often confused) and the Franz Kafka museum. Kafka was a Czech-Jewish writer who wrote in German. The museum was fascinating if a bit depressing, like his literature. A surreal statue of Kafka can be found in the Jewish quarter, where he was born. In the courtyard of the museum, however, is a statue by the "irreverent" David Cerny, known as "Golden Showers", or the "Piss Statue". His sculptures can be found elsewhere in Prague.

All told, the 4 of us had a fabulous time. We escaped as hordes of hen and stag parties arrived. Plus the first time we encountered rain was about ten minutes AFTER we arrived at the airport!

It is a lovely and fascinating city to visit and we loved every minute. Hopefully you would too.

*Jan Bradbury*

## ART APPRECIATION GROUP



As a variation to meetings at the Peel Centre, our members made their way to Hardwick Hall, which is perched on a hill overlooking the M1. After refreshments we approached the building through well-maintained gardens and admired the enormous letters E.S. (Elizabeth Shrewsbury) on top of the four corners of the edifice.

I feel sure that most people in this area know some of the history of Bess of Hardwick. She was born in 1527 and started her working life in service to a local household. She married her cousin, Robert Barlow, but he died after a short while, and she was left with just a widow's pension. Her second marriage was to the elderly Sir William Cavendish, who being a Commissioner at the time of the Dissolution of Monasteries came into possession of many properties. They lived at Chatsworth House at that time. He pulled down Chatsworth and started to rebuild it. He died leaving Bess much wealth. Her third marriage was to a Captain of the royal household, Sir William St. Loe but after five years of marriage he also died.



At the age of forty Bess married for the fourth time, to George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, possibly one of the richest men in the country. He had interests in coal, iron and even shipbuilding. Gradually their marriage disintegrated partly due to having to pay for the incarceration of Mary Queen of Scots, for which they received no compensation from Queen Elizabeth. George died whilst Bess was still looking after Mary Queen of Scots in Chatsworth House but she inherited all his wealth. Selling a lot of his land, Bess built what is now known as The Old Hall and after a short while obtained the services of Robert Smythson to build Hardwick Hall on land opposite.

Our group entered the building through the Great Hall with its magnificent long table and the

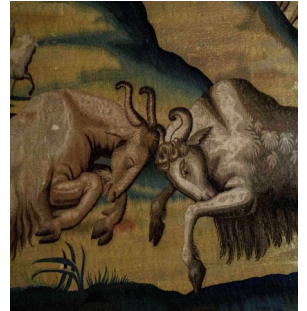


Cavendish coat of arms adorning the massive fireplace. We then climbed up two flights of stairs to the Great High Chamber. The stair walls had tapestries on them which had been produced at Mortlake. On one side were depicted the

story of two lovers, Hero and Leander.

In the Great High Chamber, a visitor, who happened to be an official guide at another NT property, gave us an explanation of the eight tapestries adorning the walls. These depicted the story of Ulysses, who returning home after fighting in a war became shipwrecked and was finally reunited with his wife only after fighting and killing her suitors. A magnificent frieze surrounded the room which depicted a forest with Diana, the virgin goddess, surrounded by many animals.

Nearby we entered the Long Gallery which is 167 feet long and 26 feet in height. Here we were met by a most interesting guide who explained another group of thirteen tapestries which depicted the story of Gideon and the Midianites.



We were shown the thirteenth tapestry which had recently been returned after major restoration. Our guide positively radiated as, in response to one of our questions, she explained how the massive tapestry had been wound around a large spindle, which was gradually unrolled as the conservation repairs were carried out. She showed us pictures on her phone of how it was done.

Entering the Chapel, we encountered yet another enthusiastic guide who used her torch to illuminate the wall hanging consisting of oil painting on cloth as a cheaper version of tapestry. Near the chapel were possibly the most valuable works of art. Bess's second husband had collected many copes and vestments from the time when he was involved in breaking up the monasteries and Bess (and Others), using the materials from these items created other wall hangings. The central character, depicting the mythical figure of Zenobia, had two smaller figures either side. These hangings were set behind glass for protection and are due for restoration. After lunch in the Old Stables we returned to see more of the treasures but even so did not see all the rooms. Thus we may return next year, as it really was a most fascinating visit.

*Ramsey Hertzog*

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We are all here on earth to help each other. What on earth the others are here for I don't know."

*W. H. Auden*



## TRIP TO LINCOLN

The last 'Trips and Visits' outing of the year was a day trip to Lincoln on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September. We did not have a full coach but were blessed with a beautiful warm day as we set off from Dronfield. When we arrived in Lincoln our coach driver Chris Ellender dropped us off near the cathedral but arranged to pick us up near Brayford Pool at the bottom of 'Steep Hill' so we would not have to walk back up the hill when it was time to depart home.

The two main attractions at the top of the hill are the castle and the Cathedral. The castle is a well preserved historic monument that has in its grounds a Victorian Prison, a museum with a copy of the Magna Carta and



when we were there, a dragon! The dragon is called Lucy and is a seasonal attraction that has 'burst' through the castle walls. She is quite big as



her tail is in one section of the wall and her head in another. She has

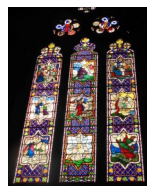


been known to breath smoke to surprise visitors and to prove she is alive and active.



Across from the castle is Lincoln Cathedral. Work started on it in 1070 and continued for many years. For four hundred years it was where the

Lincoln copy of the Magna Carta was kept until it was moved to the castle. Several of our members visited it to look for the Lincoln Imp and admire its impressive stained glass windows.



Those of us who had visited the castle and the cathedral now walked down Steep Hill following the rest of the group who had already taken a relaxing stroll down towards the main part of town. On the way down we explored the array of independent shops and eye-catching buildings that lined the way.

Quite a few of our party ended the afternoon with a trip on the *Brayford Belle*. She offers a delightful 50 minute cruise up and down the Fossdyke canal. This was a very pleasant way to see Lincoln and its surroundings and was a delightful end our day in Lincoln.



*Glenys Sharman*

## CLIMATE MATTERS

The topic at September's meeting was Fly tipping and Littering. From the 'Keep Britain Tidy' site we looked at the legal situation for fly tipping. It's a very serious offence under the Environment Protection Act 1990, with serious penalties – huge fines, imprisonment and loss of vehicle.



We explored the responsibilities, both official and personal, learning that a landowner is responsible for removing any material illegally tipped on their land! The cost of legal removal per ton is great. Advice given recommends reporting to the local authority, but in a safe way. This was a rather grim picture. It's the authority versus the experienced criminal.

Littering is a different matter. One of our members is part of a local group who make regular commitments to tidy Lea Brook Valley. Authorities like NEDDC want to share these tasks with individuals and groups, and give equipment to encourage this.

Locally the amount of litter varies with the weather and other factors. One (very wealthy) authority spent £3.5 million following professional advice – and achieved at least 80% reduction in litter. Groups may need permission to litter pick and safety is important. This is a matter where anyone can be involved, though publicity is scant and an individual may need to look hard to find the necessary information.

At our October meeting we are considering Repair, Reuse, Recycle (and Upcycle). Our group has joined the National u3a Climate Change and the Environment Network which sends out a monthly newsletter and has many useful links.

*Steve Pyke*

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

### Riddle-Me-Ree

- 1) You can't take photographs with a wooden leg.
- 2) The cowboy's horse is called Tuesday.
- 3) Fill the five-litre jug. Then, fill the three-litre jug from the five-litre one, leaving two litres. Pour out the wine from the three-litre jug. Transfer the wine from the five-litre jug to the three-litre jug. Fill the five-litre jug and use it to finish filling the three-litre jug. You will be left with four litres of wine in the five-litre jug.