



HINCKLEY U3A May Newsletter

This month's main meeting was going to be a talk on Landscapes by Simon Gulliver but having suddenly been taken ill David Skillen gallantly stepped in at a moment's notice to talk about "Giants in the Sky" The Zeppelins in World War One.

A Zeppelin is a gas filled airship named after "Count Ferdinand Von Zeppelin" who pioneered airship development in the late eighteenth century. The principal feature of a Zeppelin design was fabric covering a rigid metal framework. Early Zeppelins used rubberised cotton but later changed to goldbeater's skin made from the intestines of cows. It took 200 men to get a Zeppelin out of a shed and then it had to be pushed into the air.

William Leefe Robinson was the first British pilot to shoot down a German airship over Britain in the 1st World War.

In 1915 Reginald Warneford, a British pilot, shot down a German Airship. This crashed and the explosion overturned Warneford's aircraft and stopped its engine. Warneford had to land behind enemy lines but after 35 minutes spent on repairs he managed to restart the engine and return to base.

David's talk was full of historical information accompanied by vivid pictures on the screen before ending a very interesting and informative talk.

May

The May meeting on the 21st of the month is a talk by Geoff Rowe titled 25 Years of Leicester Comedy Festival.

Trips

A visit to Sudbury Hall on the 17th June organised by the Architecture Appreciation Group

Blenheim Palace on the 19th June organised by the History Group.

Kilworth House on the 27th June to see Joseph booked by Margaret Pickering.

25th Celebration

To celebrate our 25 anniversary at the June meeting we are having a piece of celebration cake, scone, a doily of strawberry jam, a doily of Cornish Clotted Cream, 5 strawberries and a wrapped chocolate all presented on a paper plate.

The Mayor has been invited and other dignitaries to join us in our celebrations so do come along.