Wishing ALL our Members a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year

NEWSLETTER - DEC. 2019
As another busy quarter comes to an end and we look forward to Christmas and those darker days when a good book, red wine and warm fires beckon.

We have had a number of notable events since I last wrote; an excellent trip to the Lincolnshire Wildlife Park and Parrot Sanctuary, thanks to Mike Harrison, a well-attended Group Leaders and Catering Staff meeting, organised by Andy Mathieson, and interesting and well-researched talks on Sleep, local explorer Sir John Franklin (thanks Chrissie) and Birds of Prey. Quite a variety of topics and I hope you enjoyed them all as much as I did.

We found the Group Leaders’ meeting most valuable in that it provided a number of suggestions for improving our club. I want to mention one now which I feel is vital for our members and that is to improve social interactions amongst the membership. It remains true that many of our members do not know each other. This could be due to shyness or natural reluctance to make the first step towards meeting others. Trust me, our members are a friendly and charming lot! I shall be asking everyone to make that small additional effort to get to know others, and for those who wish, we shall be providing adhesive name badges at our Christmas party. Nothing compulsory, but please join in.

Following The Older Persons’ Fair, we have received an invitation to go to Parliament for a tour and your Committee will be looking at how this can be organised for 2020. The last tour was nearly 10 years ago and it’s time we shook up Parliament again!

We will meet again for the Christmas Party and some rousing music from HUGS. Please come and if you can, wear something festive.

My thanks as usual go to my hardworking Committee, Group Leaders, Catering and Welcoming team.

Sincerely, Neil
MONTHLY
GENERAL MEETINGS
All members are invited to attend the U3A general meetings held at 10am on the first Tuesday of each month at the Stanhope Hall.

Guest Speakers for the next few months will be:

3rd Dec.  
Christmas Party  
“Lawless and Immoral”

7th Jan.  
Policing a Country Town 1838 -1857  
Brian Davey

4th Feb.  
Customs & Traditions of Lincolnshire  
Tom Lane,  
Nigel Creasey/Teri Clark

3rd Mar.  
Fen bank Greyhound Sanctuary and History of the breed)  
Paul Bryan

7th Apr.  
A Talk on World War 2 Entertainment  
David Barton

HORNCastle U3A COMMITTEE

Neil Carter  
Chairman  
01507- 523585

Mike Harrison  
Deputy Chairman  
01507- 522674

Graham Hutton  
Treasurer  
01507- 526677

Andy Mathieson  
Groups Co-Ord.  
01507- 522701

Robin Wilmshurst  
Membership Sec.  
01507 - 525958

Ron Fisher  
Newsletter Editor  
01507- 524450

Eileen Jackson  
Welcomer  
01507- 588273

Kathryn Thomas  
Liaison Officer  
01507- 239579

Robert Sessions  
General support Member  
01507 - 522640

Sue Stevenson  
Minutes Secretary  
01507 - 524211

Wendy Shaw  
General Secretary  
01507 - 522640

Fiona Martin  
Almoner  
01507 - 523387

You can check out Horncastle U3A’s website for details of activities, events and groups. Our web address is: u3asites.org.uk/Horncastle

if you have updates that you wish to share, please contact Neil Carter or Robin Wilmshurst
### HORNCastle U3A Groups

**Members** – If you are interested in joining a group, please check with the person listed below to ensure there are places available.

**Group Leaders** – If a new leader or deputy is appointed or there are other significant changes, please inform Andy Mathieson, our Groups co-ordinator. W=Winter   S=Summer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appliqué</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Wed</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Ann Duncan</td>
<td>01507 527723</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bells</td>
<td>1st Thurs</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Karel Jonkers</td>
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<td>Book Worms</td>
<td>1st Mon</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Brenda Mumford</td>
<td>01507 522447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowls (Summer)</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Colin &amp; Kathy Fisher</td>
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<td>Chess Group</td>
<td>2nd/4th Mon. of month</td>
<td>2 – 4 pm</td>
<td>Vaughan McKay</td>
<td>01507 527318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Photography</td>
<td>1st Thurs</td>
<td>7-9pm</td>
<td>Andy Mathieson</td>
<td>01507 522701</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Writing For Pleasure</td>
<td>1st Tues</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Annette Wilmshurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croquet (Summer)</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Mon</td>
<td>1.45-4pm</td>
<td>Pauline Donner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cryptic Crosswords</td>
<td>4th Fri</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Hazel Crook</td>
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<td>Edible Gardening</td>
<td>1st Mon</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Robin Wilmshurst</td>
<td>01507 525958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploring Churches</td>
<td>Tues – dates vary</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Pam Browne</td>
<td>01507 526267</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Forum</td>
<td>2nd Thurs</td>
<td>10 – 12 Noon</td>
<td>Neil Carter</td>
<td>01507 523585</td>
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<td>Five Milers</td>
<td>4th Thurs.</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Debbie Ridyard</td>
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<td>Genealogy &amp; Family History</td>
<td>2nd Mon</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Colin Gascoyne</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>History</td>
<td>4th Wed</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Malcolm Baxter &amp; Sheila Jonkers</td>
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<td>1st Tues</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Colin Gascoyne</td>
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<td>Nine Milers</td>
<td>3rd Fri</td>
<td>9.10am</td>
<td>Edward Jones</td>
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<td>Pilates</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11-11.50</td>
<td>Stefan Urbanowicz</td>
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<td>Prose &amp; Poetry 1</td>
<td>1st Thurs</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Phyll Durow</td>
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<td>3rd Tues</td>
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<td>Alan Baulch</td>
<td>01526 353137</td>
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<td>Reading 1</td>
<td>3rd Mon</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Clare Crick Margaret Dickson</td>
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<td>2nd Fri</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Sylvia Knight</td>
<td>01507 525028</td>
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<td>Strollers</td>
<td>2nd Thurs</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Pauline Maddinson &amp; Diana Darley</td>
<td>01507 622064</td>
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<td>Sunday Lunch Club</td>
<td>4th Sun</td>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Margaret Harrison</td>
<td>01507 588298</td>
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<td>Supper Club 1</td>
<td>1st Tues</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Bridget Barker</td>
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<td>Supper Club 2</td>
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<td>Every Tues</td>
<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Malcolm Baxter</td>
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<td>Talking Heads</td>
<td>2nd Tues</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Doreen Sanderson</td>
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<td>Topical Discussion</td>
<td>2nd Wed</td>
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<td>Stephen Holdaway</td>
<td>01507 526565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Gardens</td>
<td>3rd Thurs.</td>
<td>Times vary</td>
<td>Eileen Jackson</td>
<td>01507 588273</td>
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TOPICAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Was life better in the old days?
Should we opt out of organ donation rather than opt in?
Should drivers be assessed during their driving life?
Our Society is increasingly divided – is that inevitable?

These are just some of the topics that the Topical Discussion Group have discussed in their monthly meeting. The topics are chosen by the members themselves and we meet in our various homes on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

It’s great fun. We usually start with an ice breaker – a silly game or quiz and then one of our number introduces the topic and another puts the opposite point of view (whether they personally agree or not!). That gets us into a good discussion with airing of views. All views are listened to and respected and the hope is that we come away with a broader understanding of the topic and sometimes we might even have changed our mind!

It’s a friendly group and we are always looking for new members to join us and bring their particular points of view. If you would like to join us, contact:
Stephen.holdaway@btinternet.com or telephone: 01507 526565

GREAT NEWS – A NEW GROUP HAS STARTED !

This is a new Group for anyone who wants to play or learn to play the game of chess. Whether you are a complete beginner or experienced player this group will provide an opportunity to play others and to improve your game. The emphasis is on enjoyment, rather than competitions.

Meeting at Ancaster Court, from 2–4 pm on 2nd & 4th Monday of each month.

For more details, contact: Vaughan McKay on 01507 - 527318
Five Milers – City Walk

The Fossdyke Navigation’s excellent waterside path was the first part of the route for 10 members of the Five Milers on their August walk. Having parked at the Pyewipe Inn, to the west of Lincoln, the group set off past the colourful narrow boats towards the city and left the Fossdyke to walk up through the horses grazing West Common. Those not so keen on the horses took the fenced off Alderman's Walk path running parallel. Once in uphill Lincoln, we walked beside The Lawn, through the Castle grounds, stopping for coffees and cold drinks, and, once in Bailgate, took in views of the Cathedral, the city spread beneath us and the holiday crowds.

Next, we wandered down Steep Hill, under the Stonebow, and, at High Bridge, went down the Glory Hole steps to walk by the River Witham to Brayford Pool. We rejoined the path alongside the Fossdyke, straight on to the Pyewipe, then sharing the final stage of our route with plenty of walkers and cyclists. A table for 10 awaited us at the pub and we all enjoyed a lovely lunch.

(Contact Debbie Ridyard 01507 – 534111)

The Strollers Group:

On September the 12th the strollers gathered at the Seal sanctuary in Mablethorpe. We crossed the sand dunes onto the vast expanse of wonderful sand. We strolled along the beach for approx. two miles into the centre, where we all enjoyed a coffee and snack and of course the chatter. Time to go, some of the group set off to walk back, the others waited for the sand train, which stops several times on the way back. Ann had recommended the walk and it was enjoyed by all.

Contact:

Pauline Maddinson 01507 - 622064 or Diana Darley 01507-524954
Victoria Atkins MP sponsored this event to publicise local activities, and the various organisations available to assist with advice and activities for the over 50’s. Many of the stallholders were linked to Regional and National Organisations giving advice on avoiding “scams” – finances – social care and health services. Our U3A Committee Members were there to give advice about our U3A and to encourage interested people to “come along” to a Meeting, and (hopefully) join us. Although attendance by the public was disappointing – hopefully it helped to spread the word of the benefits of joining Horncastle U3A.

The offer of a guided tour around the House of Commons was made by Victoria Atkins – and the Committee will be looking deeper into this as a “possible” trip In the New Year.

It was also mentioned that she would also be willing to come along to give a talk about the broad workings of Parliament – but specifically NOT any form of political promotion or discussion of any sort.
Visiting Gardens Group

In September the Visiting Gardens group visited two gardens on the same day. We started with the walled garden at Baumber. A favourite garden for many of us and it is getting very popular. There is always something new to look at, it has been, and still is work in progress. The weather was very kind, like a Summers day, and we indulged ourselves with the lovely scones, sandwiches, cakes etc on offer. At 2.00 we arrived at Goltho nursery. The large garden there has been developed over the last few years. The outstanding feature on this visit were the carpets of pink cyclamen in the woodland area. Plants were purchased, and of course the inevitable tea and cake again. Another lovely day out for 23 members.

Contact :

Eileen Jackson 01507 - 588273

Nine Milers Group – Contact: Edward Jones 01507 – 524721

"The Nine Milers Group like a good walk, and they also enjoy a Big Birthday Celebration. This one started at Kirkby on Bain. Here they are pictured at Wilksby enjoying a sip or two of Prosecco to celebrate with Margaret Grant. The walk had had to be postponed for a week (due to awful stormy weather the previous Friday), but spirits were high and the weather was kind for the new date. Next month’s walk is intended to be another attempt at the walks at Frampton Marsh. Hopefully the paths will have been maintained by this time (Edward checks constantly with the powers that be) so there should be no need for machetes and secateurs to make a way through the undergrowth."
Visit to Friskney Wildlife Park

On the 8th of October a group of 18 members of the Horncastle U3A were treated to a guided tour by the owner of Lincolnshire Wildlife Park near Friskney. On arrival we were given a brief overview of proceedings over a cup of coffee. We then went on a tour of the park, during which time we were given a wealth of information about the animals and their histories. The owner Steve, is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about the animals in his care and entertained the group with many interesting anecdotes. The highlight of the tour was the behind the scenes access to the living quarters of the Tigers. This park is home to eleven Bengal Tigers, the largest collection in Europe and approximately 1% of the total population in the world! We were able to get very close to the magnificent creatures and find out about the many steps taken to give them the very best quality of life possible. They work closely with Lincoln University carrying out many strands of research to find out more about how to better enrich their lives. The other unique selling point is that the park contains the National Parrot Sanctuary. Steve set this up around 20 years ago and they now are home to around 2,000 parrots which have been donated or rescued.

Following a lovely buffet lunch we were then free to further explore the park at our leisure. The weather was kind to us and a fantastic time was had by all.

With appreciation to Mike Harrison for organising this trip!
Editors Note: This is not the usual feeding regime at the park, and all participants in the meal were safely returned to their cages afterwards!

With thanks for additional photos by: Richard D’Arcy
5th November - Stanhope Hall - “Birds of Prey” Meeting

“Falconer” - Derek Tindall gave a very interesting talk on Birds of Prey. He had with him several, including “Lilly” a very pretty Barn Owl, and several varieties of Falcon. He gave a great insight into their habitat, feeding habits and lifespan, and his long association with them.

Derek attends Weddings, Birthdays, Shows and Fetes as well as visiting Schools and Nursing Homes, Flying Displays and Photographic sessions.

If you want to learn more, the very interesting website is:

derektindallbirdsofprey.co.uk

Croquet Group News

As September draws to a close we put away our croquet mallets and reflect on another successful Season. Again, we entered a team into the Woodhall Spa Croquet Club’s Jubilee Park Challenge Tournament. Represented by Jim Forgham, Roy and Pauline Donner, we brought home the trophy once more. This year has seen new members join our existing regulars. All seem to have enjoyed our sessions and we hope will join us again next Season. The countdown to April begins.......  

Any questions - Contact Pauline Donner 01507 - 622741

Bowls (Summer) Group

Another very successful bowls Season, only two Friday mornings when the green was unplayable.. All members of the group enjoy the fun and thrills of the game and are looking forward to next year. The Season starts mid April to mid September and games are played on the Outdoor Bowls Club green, behind the Admiral Rodney Hotel, Fridays 10 - 12.

Contact Kathy or Colin Fisher 01507 - 523941
Yes, it is true!! 1 500 years and therefore, hopefully worth listening to. The question was posed to our 20 members “What advice would you give to your children and grandchildren”? We thought that our suggestions would resonate with the broader membership and the main suggestions were as follows:

1. Be flexible and continue to learn new skills. Be prepared to be mobile and flexible.
2. Keep credit cards to a minimum (and that includes credit limits) and only use if you can repay the total or have a plan to do so.
3. Keep all passwords safe and have a number of them.
4. Plan for retirement – it comes around too soon. Maximise your pension, both occupational and State.
5. Keep your Experian credit rating high.
6. Keep 6 months expenditure in cash as an emergency.
7. Only borrow to fund a home or an investment. Don’t borrow to finance consumption.
8. Ensure that you end your career by owning your own house, mortgage free, if possible.
9. Employ or find a good financial adviser.
10. Ensure that you consider the costs of medical care in old age.

This is all motherhood and apple pie, I know but sensible nevertheless. There was one wit however who suggested.......................... “don’t listen to your parents (or grandparents!) – what do they know about the modern world?” This was soundly rejected but we all know this can happen at least in the early years.

One last comment which is so important…” copy your forefather’s successes and avoid their failures.”

How many of these suggestions do you follow? If you answer any of these in the negative, isn’t it time you came along to the Forum??

Contact Neil Carter: 01507 - 523585

? Why do they call money “dough” - because we all knead it.

“If you want to double your money - fold it in half”
Exploring churches
A magnificent church only a few miles from Horncastle was first stop on the Exploring Churches Group's last morning out of 2019. The only church in the country dedicated to St Cornelius needs to be searched out as it is tucked away in the trees off the main road in Linwood, a couple of miles south of Market Rasen. It dates back to the late 12th century and underwent alterations in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries.
The Rev Steve Johnson, who was on his last week in the parish before moving to Gainsborough All Saints, gave us a guided tour. Highlights included 13th century stained glass windows, 14th century bells and memorial brasses dating back to the 1400s of the ancient Linwode family.
Next we travelled on to Market Rasen where Steve guided us round St Thomas's church. Finally, some of the members enjoyed drinks in the church's own tea and coffee shop next door.
***We have almost 40 members in the group and I am grateful to all who come along to explore the delights of Lincolnshire's beautiful churches, their history and their architecture. We have had some fascinating days out in the Lincolnshire countryside, often finding the finest gems in the tiniest villages.
This year we enjoyed visits to eight churches and one Cathedral and work has started on the 2020 programme. Details will follow in another newsletter.

Contact Pam Browne, Group Leader 01507 - 526267

Don’t forget
Horncastle Christmas Market
(WITH SHOPS, STALLS & ENTERTAINMENT)
AND
Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary’s Church
ON
SUNDAY, 8TH DECEMBER
Nine Milers Group

Quite often, walkers from Woodhall Spa U3A join the Horncastle walkers. In October, it was vice versa, and our walk started in Woodhall Spa, where we had the pleasure of watching Woodhall Spa street life, while waiting for the Brylane A8 bus (delayed, due to Horncastle traffic problems). A short but friendly ride delivered us to the Blue Bell at Tattershall Thorpe for the start of our excursion. Woodhall Spa leader Pat Budge led us past and across some lovely lakes. Plenty of water, wildfowl and fish, according to the fishermen we passed. They return their catch to the water and take nothing away. We posed by Spitfire Lake, continuing through the gravel workings. You would never imagine that a gravel extraction site could also contain such attractive woods and hedgerows. A field crossing and a few bridges let us to the River Bain, flowing strongly after recent rains. We enjoyed civilised mid-morning and lunch stops at churches in Kirkby on Bain and Roughton. The weather improved throughout the day. We did have a surprise late arrival, Edward, who joined at Roughton to walk the return leg which was via Moor Lane and the Spa Trail through the golf course. Tea followed at the Woodlands Cafe, ending a pleasant and sociable day.

Our November walk, on Friday 15th November was led by Margaret and Keith from the Wong car park as usual. Heading to the start at the Southern entrance to Hubbard’s Hills car park, on to the permissive path, across the A157 to the Welton Vale Woodland. Many points of interest en route. The track was once main entrance to South Elkington Hall. ‘Whalebone Arch’ is a reminder of the fishing industry in Grimsby. In the late 19th century the river valley was quarried and this is now a reserve. Lunch at All Saints, South Elkington. SE through the woods, past the lakes, along the boardwalk, by the stream. Crossing the A 631 to Cow Pasture Wood, Pasture Farm, and crossing the Bypass to Deighton Close Farm to the outskirts of Louth. Back to Hubbards Hills and Dog Kennel Farm for tea etc

Contact Edward Jones 01507 - 524721
One of the creative Photography group's projects for this month was to produce a series of photographs that represented a part of your life. The results were outstanding. I have attached just a few of the final selection. One of the other tasks set was to edit a couple of photographs in any way you thought would improve the originals. Again, I have selected just a couple of the final entries. After the group's visit to Morton's printers last month, members were asked to produce the cover of a fictitious magazine. This proved to be a most satisfying creative exercise.
Did Horncastle Ever Have A Castle?

It has long been debated whether Horncastle or Hynracestre (fortified place built on a horn of land between two rivers) had a castle and if so where was it built. For members to decide I offer the following case.

When Henry I died on 1st December 1135 Stephen of Blois reneged on his promise to support Henry’s daughter Matilda, his cousin, as rightful heir to the throne and on 22nd December appointed himself as King. This prompted the start of the first English Civil War, a period of violent unrest known as ‘the Anarchy’, which lasted until 1153.

It was a feature of the reign of Stephen that a large number of castles were erected by powerful lords to create a power base from which they could protect their family and possessions.

During this turbulent period Horncastle and its surrounding land was owned, along with other large estates, by Adelias de Cundi who had inherited them from her father William de Cheney, the Lord of Caenby and Glentham (amongst many other titles). During 1138-42 as a widow with a small daughter Agnes, it is recorded that Adelias had built a castle on her Horncastle demerse in which she lived ‘in considerable style’ as befitted her position in society. The extent of the buildings and exact location are now lost but it has been suggested that one side of the outer wall would have been comprised of the old Roman fortifications.

On 25th October 1154 Stephen died and was succeeded by Matilda’s son Henry FitzEmpress becoming Henry II. He immediately ordered the ‘slighting’ of any unauthorised castles / fortifications and the estates seized of individuals he considered could represent a threat to his throne. Unfortunately for Adelias de Cundi the King ordered her lands to be confiscated. However, he reconsidered his decision and restored them to her on the condition that she demolish the fortifications and on her death all her estates would revert to the crown.

In conclusion it is my humble opinion that her castle was built on the land between the Roman Wall down to the river by the old Manor House but can any member suggest another location? (Richard D’Arcy)
EXPANDING WORLDS THROUGH COMPUTER SKILLS

WE are told that the world is contracting due to advances in the technology of communications - the speed of this development can often leave us behind. There are many, for whom this is a worrying trend as these developments require changing basic skills in operating computers - whether laptops, I-Pads or Tablets. Understandably there is resistance to learn these new skills, for fear of not being able to cope with new technology. For those who are challenged in this way, a basic understanding of how to operate computers would be a way to access communication channels and to open up whole new worlds. Being able to write e-mails, have internet banking and shopping online as well as access to a vast amount of information would be a life changing, and experience.

To this end, U3A with the help of Richard Avison of ELDC have set up a series of computer learning courses for absolute beginners. Richard has run a number of successful courses for similar groups and the first is offered for 6 weeks commencing 6th January 2020 in the Stanhope Hall. Courses are FREE, all equipment is supplied, so please watch the notice board and announcements from the Chairman regarding this initiative, and future courses. First course is for I-Pad users, with laptops next, if required.

Update on Bomber Command Memorial on the A46 towards Lincoln

This tribute to the 56,000 Bomber Command Crews lost is going well. Foundations are laid, and it will be depicted heading towards RAF Swinderby, and is situated on the A46 towards Lincoln. The structure will be approximately 85’ long with a wingspan of about 100’ and will be mounted on a frame around 50’ high. The concept is managed by the Bomber Gateway Trust, who have a website: Bombergatewaytrust.co.uk.

Donations continue to be required to complete the project, and details can be seen on the website.
THE TRUTH

The truth might well be likened to a weed
In that it grows from a very small seed,
If well nurtured it becomes deep rooted.
Its veracity cannot be refuted.

Youngsters are exhorted to maintain it
And learn to use it in a way that’s fit.
We all have the truth deep in our being,
There all the time, like a key on a ring.

The truth is a matter, not seen by our eyes
Which, with ease, our ears and minds recognise.
“The truth of the matter” – a term well used,
But are things cleared or just further confused?

The truth that errant clergy try to hide
Leads to valid allegations denied.
The truth that our leaders fail to transmit
Will surely lose them seats when we commit.

So what is the truth? We all want to know,
It’s something we instinctively follow,
It’s a gem of a gift from our maker,
With us from midwife to undertaker.

Poem written by a 95 year old gentleman regrettably now deceased - called Brian Eley and submitted by: Kath Thomas

A Biker & his Babe arrive in Skegness for a weekend break!!
For Newsletter contributions from Members and Group Leaders.

Contact: ronfisher142@gmail.com
Phone (01507 – 524450)

Apologies for two “typos” in the last issue – on the Committee photo, the Deputy Chairman is MIKE Harrison – NOT MILE - Sorry Mike. And on the back page photo caption is should read “bush” NOT ‘bus’ (I have suffered greatly as it was my wife’s picture !!). Apologies to both !!

As another year draws to a close – I realise that it is my third year of producing the Newsletter, having taken over from John Dumelow and Pam Browne. Whilst not possible to please everybody, I do hope that Members have found it interesting and varied, and suggestions or criticisms are always welcome.

Once more, I would like to thank those few Group Leaders that regularly send me contributions about their Group activities, and request, yet again, to those that do not contribute, to make that small effort in the New Year to do so, for the benefit and interest of all of our Members.

Meanwhile, may echo the words of our Chairman (Neil) in thanking the other Committee Members for their support throughout the year. Without their hard work and time voluntarily given, there would be NO Horncastle U3A !!