

***HUNTINGDON***

***u3a***


***Upstream***

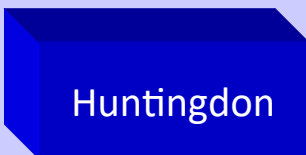
***Huntingdon Local Issue***  
***u3a Magazine – April 2023***



***Linda Dunbavan and Brian Perrett***

*Front Cover - Linda and Brian - HCR 104fm*

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## Message From the Acting Chairman 3

Hello everyone....

At the moment, looking out of my window it really does seem that Spring is on its way. A definite improvement on first thing this morning, when it was chucking it down!

On the cover of this month's Upstream you'll have seen a photograph of myself and our Acting Secretary, Linda Dunbavan, enjoying the hospitality of Huntingdon Community Radio and telling listeners about the many benefits of being a member of Huntingdon u3a. To those of you who listened in, I hope you picked up our key messages – first, that Hu3a is all about friendship and enjoyment through sharing; and second, that everything we do is brought to members through the efforts of a team of committed volunteers – your Committee; the people who run specific programmes and events; your Group Leaders; those who help by providing refreshments at Open Meetings and so on. So to all of those volunteers, a huge thank you! Without you, we couldn't exist.

Talking about events, inside you'll find photographs of members enjoying last week's highly successful Spring Lunch at Brampton Park Golf Club. I think I managed to capture everyone who was there, but if you can't spot yourself, I apologize.

And another one....some of you will be heading off in May to see the Buddy Holly Story at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury. In my early teens I was a huge fan and was lucky enough to see him perform live when he toured the UK in 1958. When the musical Buddy first opened in the West End, I took my two youngest – then aged 11 and 9 to see it.

To begin with, they slumped in their seats in a state of complete boredom, but when the opening chords of *That'll be The Day* boomed out, they perked up. By the end, they were jiving in the aisles just like Mum and Dad. Happy Days!

Which brings me back to the weather....the sun is out, the sky is blue, there's not cloud to spoil the view....and I've got to dig out the lawnmower! If you're tempted to jive, take care of your back .

Brian Perrett  
Acting Chairman



*The committee would love to hear from you. Send an email at any time, but unless it's urgent, only phone during office hours Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm*



## Annual Membership Renewal

When renewing your membership please complete and return the form including any changes to your details, to our membership secretary with your payment. Please ensure that you apply the correct Postage Stamp to the envelope, currently it is costing £2.50 for each envelope that has the Incorrect or no Postage Stamp, when collecting from the Post Office.

To avoid any unnecessary issues/problems **please do not photocopy the form or send it by e-mail**, the form is required for reference purposes.

Once processed your membership card/s will be sent to you in the post.

### **Note:**

The preferable method to pay for your membership would be by BACs, the full details are on the Renewal Form which has to be completed and returned.

If you intend to pay by Cash you will be able to pay at the Open Meetings in April and May the membership Secretary Dorothy Northwood will be available at both meetings .

Unfortunately will be unable to accept payment by bankers card.

Dorothy

Huza Membership secretary

**Wednesday 19 April - Open Meeting 2.30pm** Barbara Meyer, Wildlife Photographer will give us a presentation '*Focussing on Wildlife*' based on one of her worldwide adventures.

**Wednesday 26 April - Days Out Trip—Gordon Boswell Museum** + visit to Springfield Shopping Outlet Spalding. **Fully Booked**  
Coach departing from the Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 9.15am

**Thursday 27 April - Afternoon Cream Tea with Jacqui Long** see new events.

**Saturday 13 May - Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury - The Buddy Holly Story**  
Coach leaves Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am **Fully Booked**

**Monday 15 to Friday 19 May - Short Break - South Devon** **Fully Booked**  
(see Itinerary on the Hu3a Web page Events)

**Wednesday 17 May - Open Meeting 2.30pm** Leonard Little, Ex Police Dog Trainer will be talking about '*The Training and Use of Police Dogs*'.

**Sunday 11 June - New Theatre, Peterborough. Six the Musical** **Fully Booked**  
Coach leaves Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11 am

**Wednesday 21 June - Open Meeting 2.30pm**, Author of "The Posthumous Adventures of Harry Whitaker" - Bobbie Darbyshire's talk will be '*Where do novelists get their ideas?*'

**Thursday 29 June - Days Out Trip - Visit Aldeburgh and Southwold.**  
*There are a few places available. Coach departing Bridge Place Car Park at 9.15am*

**Saturday 8 July - Tolethrope + picnic (not included) - Lady in the Van**  
(based on Alan Bennett's encounters) **Fully Booked** - Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 9.30am

**Wednesday 19 July - Groups Fayre**

**Wednesday 16 August - Open Meeting 2.30 pm**, Dr Pat Doody. Following his very interesting talk on Portholme last year, Dr Doody will entertain and inform us with another presentation.

*Continued next page*

**Thursday 17 to Monday 21 August 2023 — Short Break — Durham and the North**— (see full itinerary on the Hu3a Web page *Events*) - or ask Roger Tacq for full details. **Places Available!**

**Wednesday 30 August — Milton Keynes Theatre - 42nd Street - Fully Booked** - Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am

**Thursday 7 September—Novello Theatre Aldwych London - Mamma Mia - Fully Booked** - Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 10am

**Wednesday 20 September- A.G.M.**

**Thursday 21 September— Milton Keynes Theatre - The Life of Pi - Fully Booked** - Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am.

**Wednesday 18 October - Open Meeting 2.30 pm**, Brian Bagnall Professional Photographer of the Stars of the 60s, will remind us of the famous faces and their music in his talk 'Folding Back the Years'

**Wednesday 25 October— Milton Keynes Theatre - The Drifters Girl - Fully Booked** - Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am.

**Thursday 9 November—Milton Keynes Theatre - The King & I - Fully Booked** - Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am

**Wednesday 15 November - Open Meeting 2.30 pm**, David Duker, of 'The Tally-Ho Project' will be telling us the story of local WW11 hero, Victor Ekins, and about the inspiring project David runs for schools.

**Sunday 3 December 2023— Thursford Christmas Spectacular - Fully Booked** - Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 10am.

**Wednesday 27 March 2024—Milton Keynes Theatre - Pretty Woman the Musical - Fully Booked** - Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am

**Wednesday 27 March 2024—Milton Keynes Theatre - Disney's Aladdin** - Huntingdon u3a members £48; non-members £51  
Coach will leave Brampton Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am

**NB:** All **Open Meetings** are held at the  
**Methodist Church, 17 High Street, Huntingdon.**  
Meetings start at 2.30 pm and doors open at 2 pm (not before please!).

Group Coordinator  
Clive Chandler

## ***New Group Interests:***

**Architecture** - Carol and Mike Gunton are leading this Group, if you would like to join please contact Carol Gunton:

**Wine Appreciation** - Our first group has proved very popular and is now full. But do not despair all you budding wine aficionados, because we now have a **Second** group. Learn about the different grape varieties and the regions they come from, Karen and Helen assure us that there will be plenty of wine to taste as well. Contact Helen Claydon:

## ***Proposed New Groups:***

**Caravan and Motorhome** - If you are interested in Caravans and Motorhomes? 2 new members would like to set up a **Caravan and Motorhome Group**. Exchange ideas, where to go, where to stay etc. Contact Mal and Linda Jackson:

**Handicrafts** - If this may be your interest contact Alan Fox:

**Astronomy** - If you are interested in this fascinating subject contact me, Clive Chandler

**German Conversation** - If you are interested in getting to grips with the lingo contact me, Clive Chandler .

**Gardening** - It's that time of year again, when the grass requires cutting, weeds to be removed and new plants to go in. If you are interested in gardening whether it is visiting gardens or getting your hands dirty contact me, Clive Chandler

*Clive Chandler*

***Only paid-up members of Huntingdon u3a may participate in  
Groups and Courses***

## Rail Interest Groups visit to March Railway Station Monday 13 March 2023



Peter Wright, who had previously given our group a couple of interesting talks, met us at March Railway Station.

We began with a visit to The Friends of March Railway Station Exhibits, who had several displays of model railway layouts, an extensive library and various memorabilia such as paintings, crockery, rules and regs' handbooks,

expired train tickets and timetables, photographs of railway buildings, scenes and staff over the years.

Initially March was a very busy junction, eventually with lines to Ely, Peterborough, Wisbech, St Ives and Spalding ensuring the town's prosperity for 100 years and its place at the national forefront of railway operation. At one time some 2,000 railway families lived in March.

A windy vantage point from the station footbridge saw the site of the original 1847 station, and the horse stables now a Social Club. There was a room constructed for the use of the March Railway Band.

The present station opened in 1884 with seven platforms, two for trains to and from the north, two for local trains Wisbech/Kings Lynn, two for Midlands/East Anglia and one platform for local trains to Peterborough. It was a very busy station with all the usual facilities including two refreshment rooms and a newsagent. Nowadays two platforms for Cross Country trains and for considerable freight movement.

We then progressed in an orderly car convoy passing several terraced houses – a railway dormitory for overnight accommodation for visiting train crews. We stopped at March South Junction, an area of March's railway layout virtually unchanged since steam days, including a semaphore signal box 1926.

We saw the triangle site of both March North Junction and March West Junction as well as evidence of the original line to Wisbech of which there is some possibility of reopening.





# Rail Interest Groups visit to March Railway Station Monday 13 March 2023 (continued)

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Our next halt was near a former public house, '*The Great Northern*' a reminder of the GNR's independent facilities at March. A nearby bridge afforded a view of Whitemoor marshalling yard and the site of Whitemoor junction signal box with 144 levers one of the largest boxes on the LNER.



To reach our next stop we travelled along *Hundred Road* which runs the whole length of the GER/LNER servicing facilities where steam engines had their fire, ash pans and smoke boxes cleaned. This was also the site of '*the hump*' where in former times goods wagons were, with the aid of gravity, distributed to their respective marshalling points for onward travel. Upon leaving we almost had a police car escort bearing in mind the proximity of Whitemoor Prison and the number of cars. However the officer did give us a passing grin and wave.

Our final rail tour location was along *Twenty Foot (Drain)* on the route of the Spalding line. Staff cottages and a rusty semaphore signal are still in evidence. We then walked to the Memorial of a November 1941 Wellington bomber crash, when the bomber hit coal wagons on the Whitemoor yards. Regrettably all the RAF personnel were killed, two local railway men received awards for their attempts to rescue the air crew.

Our final stop was at the home of Peter where his wife Maureen had prepared a most welcomed and delicious home cooked soups ( seconds available !), cake, fruit, tea and coffee.

Peter is a most enthusiastic and knowledgeable railway expert and thanks go to him – and Maureen – for a most enjoyable outing the financial proceeds of which will go towards the B17 Steam Locomotive Trust of which Peter is a member.

Alan Butler

\* 2 main photos taken by David King (the photo of the Station entrance page 8 was taken from the archives)



## Walking Tennis

Huntingdon Tennis Club runs Walking Tennis sessions every Tuesday 1- 2.30pm.

It is suitable for people of all ages and aimed at those with mobility issues or recovering from long term injury or surgery. The sessions can be adapted to accommodate all abilities.

£1 per session for the first block of 10 sessions and consists of 1 hour coaching followed by coffee/tea and biscuits afterwards.

Contact: Jasmine Smith



## **Threads Through Creation**

A touring textile art exhibition at Peterborough Cathedral will be on display until the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

It is touring 20 cathedrals and consists of 12 huge silk panels re-imagining the story of the Creation from the bible. It took the 3 years, for the artist Jacqui Parkinson to produce the project.

## **Huntingdon Library 1st June 2023**

### ***Engage: Guinevere Glasfurd***

Join us for an entertaining afternoon as author of the Words in My Hand, The Year without Summer and Privilege. Guinevere Glasfurd discusses why she writes historical fiction, and her experience of being nominated for the COSTA prize.

Free entry - donations welcome. Adults only. Booking required. Tickets from Huntingdon Library 0345 045 5225

## Brampton Pie Night

**When:** 22 May 2023

**Where:** *The Black Bull*, Brampton

Meet 6pm for 6.30pm - £12 per person

Includes pie meal and a drink, (example: A pint of beer, glass of wine or a soft drink)



PIE CHOICES must be pre-ordered 2 weeks before

Steak and Stilton

Steak and Ale (**Only 1 week required**)

Steak and Kidney

Steak, Red wine and Mushroom

Chicken and Mushroom

Chicken and Ham. (**Only 1 week required**)

All orders for choice of pies must be confirmed by 10th May 2023, otherwise limited to on the day choice.

Numbers required on how many going including Pie Choice for each.

*Jacqui Long*



## ***Afternoon Cream Tea.***

The next afternoon tea will be a Creamed Tea at Jacqui's on Thursday 27 April at 3pm.

The cost will be £5 per person (max 12)

Weather permitting it will be in the garden or conservatory if wet.

For further information and to book your place please contact Jacqui Long

## Sunday Dining

- Where:** The White Swan  
Elsworth Road  
Conington CB23 4LN
- When:** Sunday 30 April 2023
- Arrive:** 12 Noon to eat 12.30 pm.



*Dear Sunday Diners*

*The White Swan was established by 1765 and rebuilt in brick, in its present position the squire of Conington Hall in 1850. It has gained an excellent reputation, with menus being regularly changed. All food is freshly prepared, on site, using local quality produce.*

*At the moment the Sunday Dining menu is not available so if you wish to add your name to the list, please contact me, after April 17 and I will supply you with the details, this can be done by:*

*Doreen Lynn*

## New to Huza—Save the Date

Thursday 29 June 2023. Days Out Team have arranged a day trip to Aldeburgh and Southwold. Price £20 for Members, £25 for Non-Members.



Aldeburgh



Southwold



The Indoor Bowls group held its season end Target Bowls competition on Wednesday 5 April which was won by Tony Brown. The season's Champion League winner was John Holden and they were both presented with their trophies by Nick Brett, who is the England's top ranked indoor bowler and a member of Huntingdon Indoor Blows Club. Group Leader Barry Ward said that this year had been the best attended with the majority of last season's bowlers returning for more fun and games. It is hoped that the Group will reform for the 2023/24 season in September and further details will be posted in the magazine in due course.

*Barry Ward*



**John Holden**



**Tony Brown**

**Champion League Winner John Holden and Target Bowls Winner Tony Brown**

**Trophies being presented by**

**Nick Brett England's Top Ranked Indoor Bowler**

**(Group Photo page 15)**



Hu3a Indoor Bowls Group Led by Barry Ward

*Huntingdon u3a Local Notices*

**~Are You Aware~**

If you know of any member who is unwell, has been in Hospital or who has passed away. Please contact me and I will send out an appropriate card to them or their Family from Huntingdon u3a.

*Pat Milne*

**Your Upstream Magazine**

*The next Upstream will be published in May  
The copy deadline is **Friday May 5th**  
**Mike Glendinning***

H	W	E	T	O	P	T	Y	U	P	A	R	A	D	E
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S	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	J	W	R	T	A	X	U

Easter    Bunny    Daffodils    Chocolate    Eggs    Hotcrossbuns

Primrose    Cards    Tulips    Flowers    Holidays    Parade

**Upstream** is available on the **Organisation** page of our website. Access to the website can now easily be made by scanning the QR code or by accessing it by: <https://u3asites.org.uk/huntingdon>

Click on the **Upstream** link on the right-hand side of the page. The magazine is only accessible to our members, so this part of the website is **password protected**.



Please contact a member of the Committee for the password.