

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT

u3a
learn, laugh, live

NEWSLETTER



(u3a Day photo courtesy Bill Harrison)

JULY 2021

Website: www.u3asites.org.uk/mansfield/home

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/mu3a2016

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/349190408987691/

Words from the Madame Chair: Amanda Kingswell

We've had some wonderful weather in June, let's hope we get some in July. So, Boris moved the date again!! Please don't move it again Boris. The gardens are flourishing and it's getting to hedge cutting season!! Anybody else not looking forward to getting the hedge trimmer out??

Anyone out there braving a foreign holiday this year? We're holidaying in sunny Southampton watching the boats go by. A favourite place of ours...my husband's home town.

I wish you all the best for the summer.

Words from the Editor: Bill Harrison

As I type this, my editor's message, on this the longest day, we reflect on six months and where we are now. Feeling rather thankful and grateful for the position we are in.

We met up on June 2 for the u3a day as planned, we were blessed with sunshine and a few devoted members. My cover photograph shows, Business secretary Carole Harrison, Yvonne Kennison Treasurer, Mick Kennison, Committee Member, Lynne Payne Groups Co-ordinator, Amanda Kingswell Chair, Marilyn Jones Group Leader, Beadwork/Calligraphy.

We welcome our new members: Geoff Watkins, Mel Selby, Christine Smith, John Moore, Linda Rodgers. We hope you have many happy years with the Mansfield u3a.

So as our groups, steadily return to some form of normality, we say thank you to those Group Leaders and members who have played an incredible part in keeping spirits up during these tough times. I really hope to be receiving more group reports in the near future.

It is with great sorrow that we have to announce that Ian Blackwell passed away on Monday 21 June.

The funeral will be held on Friday 2 July at 12.00 noon, but will be private as he wished.

Ian was a stalwart of Mansfield u3a and members are invited to send any reminiscences to Mike Allen who will publish them.

In this issue:

Page 2 Words from the Madame Chair / Editor

Pages 3 - 7 u3a News

Pages 8 - 24 Group News / Zoom meetings

Pages 25 - 26 learn, laugh, live

Pages 27 - 28 Important Information



u3a Day – 2 June 2021

Bill asked me to write a review of the u3a Day and I am a little conflicted about what to say. I think we were all a little worried about holding a public meeting this soon after restrictions were lifted a bit but we were so pleased we didn't postpone it as the weather was perfect and St Philip Neri's were so helpful and accommodating letting us hire their facilities. We had received a donation from Third Age Trust of £100 towards the cost of advertising and we have spent that, and more, having posters and leaflets printed. Carole and I sewed a lot of bunting, Bill made laminated pictures of all the groups we are lucky to have. Mick put up the gazebo a couple of times to make sure he knew where all the bits and pieces went and went shopping for drinks and all the extra little bits we needed to make it a success. We bought new sashes with our name on. We blew up balloons. We advertised on Radio Mansfield, CHAD, News Journal and the Church put it in their newsletter. Bill risked life and limb handing leaflets through car windows as they waited at the lights for Tesco. County Councillor Stephen Garner and his wife Karen came to support us. We had quite a lot of interest from the public who came along to see what we were all about and we will have acquired about a dozen new members, through our efforts but did we have a good response from our Group Leaders who had been invited to come down to have a table to talk about their Groups? Well, I guess you can tell by



my question that we did not. Only one Group Leader Marilyn Jones set up a display to show off the beautiful beading work and calligraphy her groups make.

If bill had not made the pictures showing the different groups, we would have had nothing to give the public any idea of what interest groups we could offer them. A tennis racket and old typewriter, were no substitutes for proper displays. As far as I know, we only had one apology from a Group Leader to say they were too poorly to attend.

It was so nice to see those members who did turn up to support us. We have great Group Leaders and most have done a wonderful job keeping us going throughout the last year but it would have been lovely to see a few more on the day prepared to spend a little time talking about their interests and what it means to be a member of Mansfield u3a. To have enjoyed meeting up face to face with a lot more of you in the sunshine after such a long time, would also have been a bonus for all of us.



I wrote a less grumpy version to be published alongside this one, but I needed to let the grumpy version stand alone. Sorry if I have offended anyone, but I just feel it needs to be said.

Thanks must go to Father John Kyne for making us so welcome and allowing us the time and space to promote our u3a day.

Yvonne

2022 Chinese New Year Celebration

At

Springwater Cantonese Restaurant

7pm on Monday 31st January 2022

Dear u3a members

In February 2020 I organised a Chinese New Year Celebration event at the Springwater Cantonese Restaurant on behalf of Notts Network of u3a's. It was attended by almost 150 members from 8 individual u3a's.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to repeat the event this year due to COVID restrictions. However, good news, barring any unforeseen problems the event will be held for Chinese New Year 2022

The cost will be £5.00 deposit to be paid before the end of October, with the balance of £15.50 to be paid by the end of the 2nd week in January

As before the meal will be an eat all you can Chinese Banquet style meal, and as in the past there will be a firework display and exhibition of traditional Dragon dancing.

Last year 1 person from each participating u3a volunteered to collect the names and monies to pass over to me, which worked well. I would appreciate numbers from each participating u3a as soon as possible in case I need to book further seats. I currently have 150 seats reserved.

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you on the night.

Regards

Terry Hardman – Network Treasurer Tel - 07753 804 706

E-mail - terr_har@yahoo.co.uk

Guest Speaker: Tuesday 20 July 2021

{Speaker -We have a speaker for 20 July! Steve Dimmer
Steve's talk is titled "The Name's Bond, James Bond".

The meeting will begin at 10 am to allow time for u3a Business to be dealt with and for members to talk with each other.

Details on joining are as before, but will be sent out again before the meeting to members' email addresses.

MANSFIELD u3a NEEDS YOU



Vacancies have arisen for a Group Convenor and new Committee Members.

These posts are voluntary and very important for the future of the u3a. Duties include attending monthly Committee Meetings, held on the Friday before the Members Meeting.

The Group Convenor also holds two meetings a year with all Group Leaders. All the help and advice needed would be provided together with ongoing support.

If you are interested and would like to attend a Committee Meeting (which are held via Zoom at the moment) to see what is involved then please join us.

If you would like to know more about these positions, please contact Carole Harrison, Business Secretary on businesssec.mansfieldu3a@gmail.com or on 01623 462188.

Mansfield u3a benefits from Amazon

If anyone regularly visits Amazon to purchase goods or Kindle books, we have registered to their charitable donation fund.

Each time you purchase anything through their AmazonSmile page you can nominate Mansfield University of the Third Age Charity as your choice of charities and we should be allocated 0.5% of your net purchase price. The following is a download from their site.

How does my organisation receive the donations?

Each quarter, AmazonSmile makes donations to eligible charitable organisations by electronic funds transfer. Donations will be transferred within 28 days after the end of the following calendar quarter. To account for product returns, we may reduce the amount of donations in a given calendar quarter and add it to the subsequent quarter, subject to any reduction due to returns from prior quarters. See the [AmazonSmile Participation Agreement](#) for more details.

How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting smile.amazon.co.uk, customers are prompted to select a charitable organisation. Amazon will give 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT and other shipping fees) of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organisations selected by our customers.

Dukeries u3a Uke n' Sing Group: Linda Bond

Dukeries u3a are hoping to start a Uke n' Sing Ukulele group at the end of July. Most of us are beginners, (apart from the teacher!) We plan to meet on Thursday mornings for an hour, cost £1, venue to be finalised. If any of your members would care to join us, they would be most welcome.

Please contact Linda Bond (Dukeries u3a) Tel. 01623 861595, or by e-mail. howardbond1@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you

Linda

Strollers Group: Susan Howlett

The 9th June was a great day. The weather was perfect, bright sunshine and a clear blue sky, even better the Covid rules allowed us to walk as one large group instead of in groups of six as we had done previously.

Our stroll was to Vicar Water, a firm favourite with our group.

As the weather was so hot, we walked slowly and had many rests which also enabled us to enjoy the views. When we consider what the area was like when the colliery was fully working, we are now so lucky to have such a wonderful space where we can really enjoy the countryside and it is so near home.

Our next event is on July 14th when we are going to Creswell Crags but are starting from the Dukeries Centre Car Park. We set off at 10.30am. Hope to see lots of you there.

Garden Group Floral Media visit

Our garden visit is still on for **Tues 6th July** with just a few changes.

Steve from Floral Media has said to comply with the guidelines we must be seated (inside or outside) for morning coffee and also our lunch will be plate served at the table not at the counter. Our group size is 27 so inside the 30-govt. limit.

Does anyone have any dietary requirements that you haven't informed me about yet? So far, we have 4 vegetarians and 1 gluten free.

I hope the sun shines for us again for this visit!

I'm paying in all our money to Sheila Pegg (now that we know the visit can go ahead.)

Take care and see you soon

Marilyn Dibble

Golf Group: Paul Mann

The June fixture took place at South Chesterfield Golf Club on a drizzly day. Nine members were present and all seemed to enjoy the course. Because of the hilly course and the new handicap system all members were allowed five extra shots to their normal handicap. This resulted in better scores than usual and three members tied with the winning score.

The Group Leader will be looking at their normal handicaps for the next game!



'Japan, Bowing to Tradition'. A Presentation by Jim Holmes

Bowing to Tradition, the unexpected sides to Japanese Society. From the country that gave us 'high tech' it comes as a surprise to find that many aspects of Japanese society defy modernity. Farming with hand tools, villages of thatch and bullfighting where nothing gets hurt, there is much more than mega cities and volcanoes in Japan. Travel with me through the less expected sides of Japanese life and see how simple, handmade and contradictory it really can be.

Jim Holmes lived in Japan for two years while working on photographic projects and this talk is his personal journey through the contradictions of Japanese life.

Jim Holmes

Jim is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a professional documentary photographer specializing in worldwide humanitarian and environmental assignments from his base in Chester. Before this UK existence he lived-in South-East Asia and Australia for over 30 years, with 20 years spent in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, he has travelled in over 50 countries.

Jim's talks are unique, entertaining and informative, bringing together the best of his photographic career and the experiences his assignments have brought, all from some of the world's most fascinating locations.

Guest Speaker: Jim Homes 15 June 2019

The above information is from our speaker today, Jim Holmes. He gave us a very insightful talk about the Japan that not many tourists see and fascinating it was too.

The photograph at the top is of a couple walking through the entrance to a Shinto shrine through the traditional Torii gates. Torii is a Japanese gate found at the entrance of a Shinto shrine where it symbolically marks the transition from the mundane to the sacred. The second photograph was chosen to typify modern Japan and the people you would be likely to meet on the streets of the cities. The youth, dressed in western clothing, the traditional Japanese middle-aged lady and the Buddhist monk shuffling along at 1 metre a minute in bound feet begging for alms for his monastery.

It was sad to learn that most of the farming has now been left to the older generation because the youngsters have fled to the cities to pursue more exciting and, in their eyes, rewarding job opportunities and therefore old traditions and ways of life will soon be lost. Even the diet is becoming westernised with the introduction of burgers and chips being eaten with knives and forks as opposed to sushi, rice and noodles traditionally eaten with chopsticks.

The Japanese do still prefer home-made furniture and furnishing around their homes and many homes are wooden structures and un-engineered whereas their cars and train transport systems are precision made down to the last nut and bolt. Jim pointed out that their bullet trains have been running since the 1960's whereas we are still debating about building our HS2 train between London and West Midlands 60 years later.

However, one aspect that did, I believe, shock us all is that they dispose of their old "white" (they call them green), goods by fly-tipping. We glimpsed one of Jim's photographs of an aged farmer working his sugar-cane field, with tons of old washing machines, fridges etc just dumped behind him. We also saw a photograph of old cars heaped up along the banks of a main road all on top of one another.

Generally, Jim painted a picture of a very peaceful and easy-going nation, unlike the image we may have from TV and film, and he wholly recommended a trip for anyone who has never been, the best time to visit being Cherry Blossom time at the end of March and the beginning of April, when everyone comes out to socialise amongst the stunningly beautiful trees.

I believe everyone who joined the meeting (28) enjoyed the talk very much and again, we have Philip to thank for finding such an interesting speaker.

Yvonne

Gardening Group: Marilyn Dibble, Janet Whitlam

Felley Priory Underwood Nottingham

Big thank you to Marilyn for arranging the visit to Felley Priory.

A short journey to Underwood as the sun followed us on our journey.

The setting was impeccable as were our 20 members, who all had a fabulous time.

The gardens looked stunning and very well planted. The afternoon light lunch was also very well presented, thanks again Marilyn for arranging our very own tables.

It was so lovely to be back in the presence of our gardening group members once again. It would have been naughty to have not visited the plant sales before departure, (you can always find that gap in the garden somewhere), very realistic prices and very healthy plants.

Here are a few pictures from our day at the Priory.



(Photograph's courtesy of Bill Harrison)







JUNE 2021

Hello everyone and hope you are all keeping well?

After a cold and very wet May, June's got off to a much better start with plenty of sunshine and warmer temperatures and it certainly feels like summer has arrived. The garden is now in full growth, green and lush and you can almost see some plants and lawns growing before your very eyes! Weeds are also shooting up at an alarming rate and need sorting out before they flower and seed.

It was good to see some of you at the Harrogate Spring Essentials Show a couple of weeks ago. Despite the weather, everyone seemed to enjoy the show and to have the opportunity to catch up with some of their favourite nurseries and exhibitors.

For me it had been around 20 months since I was last working at a show giving talks and answering questions. I must admit I did feel a little nervous about being around lots of people again and at having to stand on a stage, but everyone was so friendly and the talking side is a bit like riding a bike! My next show will be the RHS Harlow Carr Summer Garden Show on 24th-27th June where Jonathan Moseley and I will be alternating our talks through the day. If you are there, come and say hello.

For now, keep safe and enjoy being out in the garden.

Best wishes

Martin & Jill

The gardener's diary with Martin Fish

After a record-breaking wet May, fingers crossed the weather in June will be dryer and warmer to help plants catch up after a slow start to the season.

The ground is still wet in places, but once it dries enough to work on, now is a good time to apply a mulch of compost or fine bark around shrubs, perennials and fruit bushes. This helps to conserve moisture for the summer and to reduce weed growth.

As the weather starts to warm up, tender vegetables such as runner beans, French beans, sweet corn, courgettes and squashes can be planted out into the garden in a sunny spot. Remember though to check the weather first to make sure that no late ground frosts are forecast.

The grass is growing like mad now and can soon get out of hand, so, if possible, try to mow little and often to keep the lawn in trim. This approach also helps to build up a thick lawn, making it more difficult for weeds to establish.

Dead head tulips growing in the garden by snapping off the old flower heads and seed pods and allow the foliage to naturally die down to build up the bulb for next year.

Feed roses to promote healthy growth and lots of flower buds and keep an eye out for diseases such as mildew or blackspot. If spotted, spray with a fungicide to protect the new growth and keep it healthy.

Hanging baskets and summer containers need to be watered to keep the compost moist and as soon as they start to flower, feed weekly with a liquid fertiliser to keep them growing and flowering.

Stake tall growing perennials in borders with twiggy sticks or by using wire or plastic plant supports pushed into the soil around the plants.

Make sure that potatoes growing in the garden are 'earthed-up' to form ridges of soil around the plants. Use a spade or hoe to draw soil up around the stems to encourage more tubers to develop from side shoots in the ridges.

Keep sowing vegetables such as lettuce, carrots, beetroot, spinach and spring onions directly into the garden in shallow drills.

Tomatoes need side shooting regularly to remove the shoots that grow in the leaf joints and once the first fruits have set, feed weekly with a high potash liquid fertiliser.

Protect newly planted cabbages and all members of the brassica family with fleece or fine netting to keep off pigeons that peck away at the young leaves and to help protect against cabbage white butterflies.

For more weekly gardening tips and advice from Martin visit
"Pots & Trowels"
on Facebook or subscribe on
YouTube for free.

Happy gardening

Martin Fish. www.martinfish.co

Mansfield u3a Zoom Quiz / Tracks of her years, Wednesday 9 June

The ever-popular online quiz and Tracks of our Years

Terry Whitehead hosted yet again another brilliant and taxing quiz, Terry treated us to a multiple choice with the answers, making for a very interesting quiz.

Ken Gilbert, our resident u3a egghead saw his crown slip as Sue Ford compiled a healthy 47 points. Well done, Susan. Ken took a commendable second place with 45 points with a close third place going to Jacqueline and Hayden with 44.5 points. Very well done to you both.

Thank you, Terry, for your time in composing a very interesting set of subjects.

As always after a brain storming session, you need a bit of musical therapy.

This was provided by Jean Hatton with the now ever popular Tracks of our Years.

We were transported back to 1961, through to 2010 as classic songs one after the other, bought back some very fond memories for Jean and her listeners.

- Track 1, Moon River by Nat King Cole (1965)
- Track 2, Rhinestone Cowboy by Glen Campbell (1975)
- Track 3, It's only a paper moon by Ella Fitzgerald (1961)
- Track 4, She wears my ring by Solomon King (1967)
- Track 5, I'm not in love by 10cc (1975)
- Track 6, Crystal Chandeliers by Charley Pride (1975)
- Track 7, Rock a Hula Baby by Elvis Presley (1961)
- Track 8, Do you hear the people sing from Les Mis (2010)
- Track 9, I won't forget you by Jim Reeves (1964)
- Track 10, Blue Moon by Frank Sinatra (1961)

Thank you, Jean, for transporting us back with some wonderful memories in the tracks of your years.

Thanks to Mick Kennison, for the power point presentation.

Mansfield u3a Zoom Quiz / Tracks of their years, Wednesday 23 June

The ever-popular online quiz and Tracks of our Years

And so, our resident Egghead Ken Gilbert, took time off to compile yet again another fantastic quiz. I must say Ken's questions are amongst the best we have to answer, once again a diverse range of subjects, so well-done Ken on hosting yet another quality Quiz night.

1st podium place went to Sue and Bob Longdon with 44 points. Well done Bob & Sue

2nd podium place went to Jean Hatton with 43 points. Well do ne Jean.

Thank you to all those who tuned in once again, to make these quiz nights special.

Tracks of their years, hosted by Sue and Bob Longdon.

Once again, our ears were treated to some fantastic songs that meant so much to Sue & Bob's first meeting in Hardwick 1966, a journey through their married life together which brought us all closer together with their choice of songs.

Sue commenced proceeding with the tracks of her years.

- Track 1, My Best Friend by Elvis Presley (1960)
- Track 2, Monday Monday by Mamas and the Papas (1966)
- Track 3, Out of Time by Chris Farlow (1966)
- Track 4, Going in with my eyes open by David Soul (1977)
- Track 5, My eyes adored you by Frankie Valli (1875)

Bob continued with the tracks of his years.

- Track 1, On a carousel by The Hollies (1967)
- Track 2, When I'm sixty-four by the Beatles (1967)
- Track 3, The eve of War from War of the Worlds by Jeff Wayne (1978)
- Track 4, More than a feeling by Boston (1981)
- Track 5, Jerusalem, England R.U.F.C Anthem

So, we were transported back in times of greatness, creating great memories.

Many thanks Bob and Sue Longdon.

Thanks to Yvonne and Mick for setting up the Zoom meeting.

Mansfield u3a Tai Chi Group: Lorna Pye

With the Coronavirus restrictions due to end in July, I have taken the plunge and booked our qualified instructor Ken, to start Tai Chi lessons LIVE on **Monday 6th September at The Bethel Chapel Nottingham Road Mansfield.**

At 10.30am, for one hour, and every Monday onwards.

Car parking is in the Sainsbury's car park opposite.

I have spoken to them, there is no problem provided you do not exceed 3 hours

There are many who would not go onto Zoom but are looking forward to starting face to face Tai Chi again. It is a lovely way to keep fit.

We would be delighted to see some new faces joining us.

The cost is £25.00 per person per term.

If you are interested do, please get in touch.

Lorna Pye

Tel 01623 636060

E mail harry.pye@ntlworld.com

Soft Tennis Group: Yvonne, Mick Kennison

GOOD NEWS – DATE FOR SOFT TENNIS TO RESUME – INDOOR CURLING

We have had confirmation that the Maun Valley Leisure Centre will be able to accommodate us on the **second and fourth Thursdays 2-3pm starting 8 September.** Although the Leisure Centre re-opened this week, they are only allowed two people on the court at the same time, and after the school's break-up they are going to be feeding school children four days a week through the Marcus Rashford scheme so will be booked up.

We have therefore booked **8 September** as our starting date.

We have also asked for an extra hour to be added on to try and get the Indoor Curling Group off the ground. It will be lovely if someone will come forward to take charge of this fledgling group which will be a great hour's entertainment. Please give it some thought.

Looking forward to seeing old and new members. Yvonne & Mick

Family History Group: Valerie Wood

Family History on 22/6/21

Thanks to the 6 people who joined our meeting via Zoom this month, it was a very interesting meeting. The topic was, your family home and its history, so from our 6 members we had one ancestor living in Archway lodge in Clipstone, another lived in a home with a butcher at the back, then the Stocking Homes built for managers of the Quortex hosiery factory on Sutton Rd, and trying to find out if the family home built in the grounds of Blue Brick brickyard in Oldbury, Staffordshire was still there, however further research is needed.

During our discussion one of our members told us they had a relative who was part of an expedition on the Endurance with Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton which ended up trapped in pack ice and was slowly crushed pleased to say they lived to tell the tale.

It was a friendly and productive meeting with everyone taking part, please come and join in our Family History group, **our next meeting is 27/7/21 at 10am via Zoom**, so if a member of your family was in the military, try doing a little research into their military history going back as far as you can and see what you can find and share it with us.

Links for the next meeting will be sent via Yvonne the week before. Valerie Wood

R.I.P Janet Hartley

It is with great sadness, that we announce the death of Janet Hartley.

Our dear friend, Janet Hartley, died on the 2nd June 2021 - her funeral service was held on the 23rd June 2021 at Big Barn Lane Methodist church - where Janet has been a much-loved member for many years. There will be a Memorial Service for Janet later when restrictions are lifted.

Janet's daughter Louise, and Grandchildren: Max and Georgia have lovingly looked after Janet during many months of illness. Brave soul that Janet was, she wanted to have as much time as possible with her loved ones.

As many of you will know Janet had many interests - as a long standing member of Mansfield U3A she belonged to several U3A groups over the years, including: Gardening; Chat & Stitch; the Antiques group, Local History; Writing for Pleasure; Theatre visits, the holiday group & Mini-Breaks.

Janet always gave generously of herself in supporting so many other charitable causes too: The Hospice - weekly (with Bessie) and with its annual Christmas sale too for many years. As well as doing the Home Visits to ensure newly discharged hospital patients got home safe and sound - and with plenty of food in too.

Our/My dear friend - Janet - we will miss you. May you rest in peace...you have certainly earned your angels' wings. God bless you.

Mini Breaks: Jacqui Hampshire

The Chesford Grange, Warwickshire

20th May-23rd May 2022 (Friday-Monday)

Historic Manor House surrounded by 17 acres of countryside

River room restaurant overlooking the River Avon, bar and outdoor terrace
Spa and Gym, free Wi-Fi

Meal Basis. Dinner, bed and breakfast (please note tea / coffee isn't included at the evening meal).

Direct coaching from our pick-up points, 3 nights' accommodation with dinner, bed & breakfast en-suite rooms, complete luggage handling (government guidelines permitting).

Full day (Saturday) spent in Stratford upon Avon.

Visit to Simms Antique village, another visit to be arranged nearer the date
Plenty of attractions close by.

£359 per person and limited single rooms.

Deposit £50 per person due 16th August 2021. We have an extension on this until we know our meeting dates.

Balance Due 25th March 2022.

Just for groups can provide optional insurance for £25 per person. This does include cover for COVID-19. Hopefully it will have moved away by then!!

Please contact Jacqui either by email jhampshire09@talktalk.net or mobile should you like more information prior to our meeting.

Thanks in advance

Jacqui



Birdwatching Group: Ken Gilbert

u3a Nightjar & Long-Eared Owl Hunt

A good evening which delivered the goods and more!

As expected, "roding" Woodcock were first on the scene, several sightings of at least 4 individuals.



Woodcock

Then the Nightjars starting churring and several individuals kept up the concert for the best part of an hour.

Flying included wing clapping and the "twisting cork in bottle" call.

Depending on eyesight up to 3 individuals could be seen, including the characteristic white wing patches.



Whilst all this was happening, we listened to the "rusty swinging gate " calls of the Long-Eared Owl, maybe more than one individual, probably young calling for food.



And then, returning to the cars in pitch black darkness we were scolded by a Tawny Owl as we disturbed its peace.

Long-eared Owl

A good evening had by Ken & Mary, Val, Barbara, Liz and Tony, most of whom would only get home just a little before midnight.

Our next outing is to Bempton Cliffs and Flamborough Head on the Yorkshire coast on Thursday 8th July, more details to follow soon...

Regards

Tony Wardell



Mansfield u3a Birdwatching & Wildlife Group

Frampton Marsh Visit

Hello

all,

Following our visit there with the Ravenshead Wildlife group, Tony Wardell the leader has kindly provided the report below together with some of my photographs...

10am and we are all ready to set off on a glorious sunny day. The plan was to walk out to the sea wall, turn left, leave the wall and return to the centre for lunch via either the 360 hide or the longer route to look for Corn Bunting. And Frampton did not disappoint. Butterflies, Dragonflies, Damselflies, Beetles, Flies and of course Birds, what a truly wildlife group we are.

Red Crested Pochard was the first of the target birds listed on the sightings board, loafing amongst the Pochards and Tufted Ducks. Whilst admiring a Common Tern's lazy feeding flight the word went up SPOONBILLS. And there, high in the blue sky, were a group of at least 10 birds, showing off their characteristic paddled bill, kinked neck, flight silhouettes, as they wheeled around above us.



The Avocets had had a good breeding season and juveniles of all ages could be seen pecking at insects and swishing their upturned bills in the shallow pools.



Redshank were few in number but not so Knot. A huge flock of up to 4000 birds (RSPB estimate) were busy feeding. Most were non breeding adults but a few birds were displaying their brick red summer plumage --- magic!

Not to be outdone a large flock (RSPB estimate 1000) of Bar Tailed Godwit were also busy in the shallows. Similarly, a few were in their stunning sunlit summer plumage, giving great telescopic moments.

One could argue this was Sedge Warbler city as adults continued to sing out loud from all directions. A few juveniles were about and adults could be seen carrying food for the young.



Those returning via the 360-hide reported nothing new but the small group taking the longer route struck gold.

'A singing Corn Bunting took some time in being located but there was no chance in seeing the bird of the day.

A calling Quail in the field beyond the Corn Bunting was really the icing on the cake.

CAKE, CAKE, I THINK I HEARD CAKE MENTIONED EARLIER.

Butterflies were few and far between with Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, and Common Blue being the main suspects during the morning session.

Likewise, dragonflies and damselflies were also very shy, but a female Black Tailed Skimmer on the path on the long route was further reward for those more adventurous souls.

A cracking Golden-bloomed Longhorn Beetle was the best of the morning insects.

A warm and sunny lunch with much discussion on the morning events and we were away again. A short walk to the reservoir to search for the reported Green Sandpiper and to augment the insect count.

A great start of a basking Large Skipper was soon enjoyed by all. The path to the reservoir was graced by several Speckled Wood butterflies. Moths were not to be outdone, a Riband Wave showing well whilst resting in the shade on nettles.

A stonking Grey Dagger, a lifer for all, failed to blend itself into the post where it was resting.

Dragonflies now put in a strong appearance. Hairy dragonflies were in the sunlit drenched hedgerow, male chaser dragonflies were busy on the muddy slope to a wide ditch which was patrolled by a male Emperor.

Flies are wonderful and much varied members of the insect world. A Snipe Fly, Noon Fly and Scorpion Fly were cracking representatives of this family.

The green sandpiper took some finding (thanks to Sarah who had the only telescope). 2 were eventually found on the very far bank of the reservoir, but only those with the best of eyesight were able to locate, via the telescope, this cryptic wader. A very low overhead Buzzard gave excellent photo opportunities.

And so came the end of a good day at Frampton, bringing the group year total of birds to 90, enjoyed by Ken & Mary, David & Veronica, Sarah & Tim, Ivan & Carol, Liz, Megan, Val, Barbara and Tony.

Oh yes, CAKE!!! It was Ken's birthday and cake was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mary for starting this custom. Who will be next?

Tony Wardell

More photographs can be found on the Mansfield u3a Facebook page and on the Ravenshead Wildlife website at: <https://gpayzegg.wixsite.com/ravensheadwildlife>

learn, laugh, live

**If we put doctors
receptionists in
charge of our
borders. no bugger
would get in !!**

**Being a little older, I am very
fortunate to have someone call
and check on me everyday. He is
from India and is very concerned
about my car warranty.**

We should train all
Amazon delivery
drivers to give the
vaccine. The whole
population would
be immunised by
Saturday. Thursday if
you've got Prime.



IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FROM YVONNE KENNISON

First of all, here's hoping that everyone is keeping safe and well. If anyone is struggling or needing any help in any way, please don't hesitate to let me or any of the Committee know. We will do our best to help in any way we can.

Subscriptions 2021. New members: £17. Associate members £8.50.

Cheques payable to *Mansfield and District u3a*

The Membership Renewal Form can be downloaded from the website or will be available from the Treasurer at the monthly meetings.

Please Note: All current members must complete all sections of the Membership Renewal Form to comply with Data Protection laws when paying their subscriptions. Thank you.

Online Banking is now available to members to pay their subscriptions online. As publishing details for this facility has compromised its security, members are asked to apply to the Treasurer.

treasurer.mansfieldu3a@gmail.com

Event and Visit Payments

Members are reminded that deposits and payments for events and visits organised by Mansfield u3a and its interest groups are non-refundable, but places may be offered to others.

Please note: if you go on a trip/visit organised by a company, cheques for the event must be made out to the company, not Mansfield u3a.

Changes of Address, etc. Please contact the Membership Secretary, Jean Hatton on (0793 5707582) if you've changed your address, phone number or email recently so that she can update our records.

Disclaimer

The views expressed here are those of the contributors only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Committee of Mansfield u3a or the Third Age Trust. Nor can any responsibility be accepted for members' announcements or any errors that may occur.

Please send contributions for the next issue to bill20newsletter@gmail.com or by hand to Bill Harrison as soon as you can and by the first of the month at the latest. Thanks!

Editor: Bill Harrison: 01623 462188 / 07849 966962

The Third Age Trust
Registered Charity No. 1164177

Family isn't
always blood. It's the
people in your life who
want you in theirs;
the ones who accept
you for who you
are. The ones who would
do anything to see
you smile & who
LOVE YOU
no matter what.

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