



January 2024

SCUNTHORPE AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

<https://u3asites.org.uk/scunthorpe/home>

Happy New Year to Everyone

We start a new year full of enthusiasm and ideas. Look out for more interest groups coming along soon. Murder Mystery, Environment & Sustainability and Singing for fun are ones I know about at the moment. They will all happen if someone steps up to lead them.

Members with memories of Scunthorpe may be interested in volunteering in a new initiative planned by North Lincolnshire Museum to document the history of North Lincolnshire - see the back page.

I went to a u3a meeting at Market Rasen in December and picked up a couple of ideas there so watch out for some changes at our monthly meetings!

I hope you'll enjoy this year's speaker programme, a mixed bunch as always with, I hope, something to suit most of us.

Pat Ackland
Chair

Registered charity number 1191994

Membership fees for 2024/5 - Advance notice!

Members are reminded the annual subscriptions for the Scunthorpe & District u3a for 2024/2025 are due on 1st April 2024, but may be paid in advance. The Committee has decided this year the fee will be £16. If you are a member of another U3A, then the fee payable will be £12. (The £4 difference is the Capitation Fee paid to the Third Age Trust and U3A HQ and covers, amongst other things, insurance and your membership of the Third Age Trust and the publishing of "Third Age Matters" etc.)

Full details of how to pay will be sent out by mail merge and will be found in the February and March newsletters.

Local History Interest Group update - Pat Ackland

Following an inaugural meeting at the end of last year, 19 members expressed an interest in joining a group. Although History group members were told at the January meeting the group was unlikely to run, the good news is someone has come forward offering to organise trips out to the local area for us, although we still need a leader to run the group. More details as they become available - watch this space!

People may also be interested in the Scunthorpe Museum Society which has a local history and Archaeology group. More information on page 18 of the newsletter

Newsletter - Eleanor Wasley

Many thanks to all those people who regularly send in contributions - without them the newsletter would be very thin! The cut off date for the February newsletter is **Thursday 8th February**. This is earlier than usual as the editor is off on her holidays. The newsletter will still be sent out around the 17th of the month.

Contributions as always to:

newseditor@gmail.com

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Forthcoming Events

Festive Lunch , Heslam Park Rugby Club

Don't forget our Festive Lunch on **Wednesday 24th January**. Over sixty people have signed up for this. We meet at 12 o'clock to sit down at 12.30. Bring your purse if you want to buy a drink from the bar.

January Meeting

Our January meeting is **Friday 26th January** when Ken Moore will be telling us about the Dickin medal, the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. There will be amazing tales of bravery from our friends hoofed, furry and feathered. From mid WW11 through to the present day, he will tell us about many of those animals that have gone beyond the call of duty to serve their fellow man and have been awarded the highest honour bestowed upon the animal kingdom. From Plucky Pigeons and Heroic Horses to Death Defying Dogs and Courageous Cats, each one with a "tail" to tell.

Ken has always left us laughing at previous meetings, and I am sure this talk will follow the same pattern.

February Meeting

The February meeting is **Friday 23rd February**, when Keith Hanson, who was once a Yeoman Warder, will, tell us about the Crown Jewels and why 23,568 precious stones have become a world- renowned collection. What lies behind these ancient symbols of monarchy?

As always, meetings are held in St Paul's Church Hall, Ashby High Street. Doors open at 1.30 to set up with refreshments available from 1.45 and the meeting beginning at 2.15

What you missed at the November meeting - Judith Proctor

It seems a long time ago now since Chris Hewis took us on a detailed journey down the Foss Canal from Lincoln to Torksey. He included many photographs, mainly from the John Wilson Collection. John was co-founder of the Saxilby History Group of which Chris is the Chair. Chris is also treasurer of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and is a member of the BBC Radio Lincolnshire's "Lunch Bunch". He has written many books and articles on local history

He explained that the canal is called the Witham in Lincoln and then it changes to the Foss. Although commonly believed to be Roman, the first written evidence of the canal dates from the C12th, and its building is now attributed to Henry II. It is the oldest canal in England, and its first lock at Stampend, Lincoln has been there since 1150.

There were numerous factories and warehouses along the canal, although that began to change with the arrival of the railways. Rustons who built 2500 Sopwith Camel airplanes during World War One, closed in the 1930s. The Lindsey and Kesteven Chemical Manure Co. imported raw products through Hull and transported them down the River Trent and then the Foss to the manure company. There was also a sulphuric acid plant which was converted to a munitions factory in WW1. The Foss was also a busy industrial spot trading wool, grain and pit props.

Ferries were used to transport children to school, as well as milk churns from farms, fish and coal. Steam packets were used as water taxis and there were boat trips between 1948 and 1960s. The "Mary Gordon" was the first boat to be electrified in England.

Bridges were built over the canal. High Bridge in Lincoln has a gap underneath called the Glory Hole. This dates from 1160 and is the oldest bridge in England with buildings on it. It was extended and widened and had a chapel on it between 1235 and 1762. The chapel was later replaced by an obelisk. The Mayfield Bridge built in 1958 over the Witham is now a Grade 2 listed building. There was a swing bridge built at Brayford Head, an inland port since Roman times, which was replaced in the 1980s.

The river was used as a source of water for drinking, washing clothes and as a sewer. Inevitably there was an outbreak of typhoid in 1904/5. There was a small hospital along the canal which was later used during WW2. Torksey Lock has a lock-keeper and also a castle which was burnt down in 1645 by the Royalists when fighting the Parliamentarians.

Chris reminded us that the Museum of Lincolnshire Life is a useful place for information.

Fool's Gold - Judith Proctor

We went out on a real high for our last meeting for the year. We had enjoyed Fool's Gold on Zoom during lockdown and today they had travelled down all the way from County Durham to entertain us. They were even better in person!

We were welcomed with hot drinks, mince pies, biscuits and chocolates while we waited for the performance to begin. Dean was busy taking pictures and Andrew prepared a picture montage for the newsletter.

Carol and Steve entertained us with music, singing and stories throughout the afternoon.

Songs and stories were backed up with animated videos, movie clips and pictures on a large screen. Santa's sleigh and reindeer slowly sliding off a snowy roof was priceless.

They sang old favourites including In the Bleak Midwinter, Walking in a Winter Wonderland, Silent Night, Let it Snow, Do they know it's Christmas? and many others.

It was a great show, with a little learning on the way. St Nicholas is the patron saint of not only bankers but merchant sailors, archers, children, pirates, butchers, and even repentant thieves!

Did you know, the most famous Christmas song "White Christmas" was recorded in just 9 minutes?

We also know why tea towels mysteriously disappear during December and what happens to them, which nicely led us into Away in a Manger.

There was audience participation starting with us all shouting "Humbug!" and joining in the carols. Particularly poignant was the story of Christmas in the trenches in 1914 and the football game that ensued, while we all joined in with a medley of popular songs from the time.

Members left with a sense of Christmas around the corner having had an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment. Hopefully they will come back again!



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Up coming dates for your diary

24th January - Festive lunch at Heslam Park Rugby Club

25th January - Volunteer Recruitment Open Day at North Lincolnshire Museum

9th February - Coffee and Chat at 20-21 Visual Arts Centre, Scunthorpe

23rd February - Monthly meeting 'The Crown Jewels'

8th March - Coffee and Chat at Brigg Garden Centre

22nd March - Monthly meeting 'The changes the iron and steel industry have made to Scunthorpe'

12th April - Coffee and Chat at Lindsey Lodge Hospice

As always, there is more information on our website.

Trip to Beverly Christmas Market on 10th December - Pam Murphy

Fifty people attended the day out to the market. It was a busy day and the weather rained a little but it did not dampen the atmosphere as we had plenty of stalls to look around, entertained by the reindeer and dogs pulling small carts lit up with Christmas lights.

Everyone was punctual getting back on the bus, so thank you all for that.

As we are a not profitable organisation, we had a raffle which four persons won £5 each. We enjoyed sweets going and coming home and we paid our lovely driver Andy a tip.

If anyone has any suggestions for further trips they would like us to do, myself and David will sit at our table with a suggestion box. We try and keep the cost of the trips as low as possible so that everyone can afford them for an enjoyable day out.

So from David (treasurer) and myself we wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2024.

Current Interest Groups

ARCHERY/AIR RIFLE SHOOTING	Second Thursday	11-1	Trackside Archery Club, North Kelsey	Richard Charlesworth
ART APPRECIATION	Second Thursday	10.15	Heslam Park Rugby Club	Maureen Ellis
AVIATION	Flexible; see page on website		Various	Tony Ackland
BEGINNERS FRENCH	Third Monday	am	Scawby Village Hall	Pat Ackland
BOOK CLUB	Last Thursday	10am	The Arc, Westcliffe	Sonia Czabaniuk
CARD AND BOARD GAMES	Every Thursday	12.00-2.00	Crosby Collective	Rosemary Barratt
COFFEE MORNING	Second Friday		Various	Margaret Lambert
FRENCH GROUP	Fridays	10.00	Member's homes	Liz Copperwheat
GARDENING	Fourth Tuesday	2.00	Various	Jenny Winterburn
GENEALOGY GROUP	First Wednesday	1.00-3.00	Central Library	Mel Ogden
HISTORY GROUP	Third Tuesday	2.00-4.00	Heslam Park Rugby Club	Pat Ackland
I PAD & TABLET GROUP	Second Tuesday	10-12	Crosby Collective	David Holmes
LUNCH CLUB	Fourth Wednesday	12.30	Various	Ann Owen
MURDER MYSTERY	Second Saturday	2-4	Bowls Club	Wendy England
PLAY READING	Second Wednesday	PM	Crosby Collective	Robin Poole
PHOTOGRAPHY	Second Thursday	1.30-3.30	Visual Arts Centre	Graham Ellwood
QI GONG	First and third Friday	2.15	St Paul's Church Hall	Mel Ogden
QUIZ GROUP	First Thursday	10.00	Bowls Club	Andrew Bullen

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	Third Thursday	1.30 -3.30	Visual Arts Centre	Alan Keen
SPANISH	Every Friday	10.30- 12.00	Morrison's supermarket	Maria Sikora
THEATRE GROUP	Flexible; see page on website			Administrator; Robin Poole
WHATSAPP SOCIAL GROUP				David Holmes
WOODLAND WANDERERS	Third Wednesday	2.00	See website or newsletter	Robin Poole
UKULELE	Every Friday	1.00	St John's Church Hall, Brigg	Mike Sadler

Joint groups are marked by an asterisk •

Or View by the week...

MONDAY		
am	3 rd week of the month	Beginners French
pm		
TUESDAY		
am	2 nd week of the month	I-pad and tablet group
pm	3 rd week of month	History
	4 th week of month	Gardening
WEDNESDAY		
am	4 th week of month	Lunch Club
pm	1 st week of month	Genealogy
	2 nd week of month	Play Reading
	3 rd week of month	Woodland Wanderers
THURSDAY		
am	1 st week of month	Quiz
	2 nd week of month	Art Appreciation
	2 nd week of month	Archery/Rifle Shooting
	4 th week of month	Aviation
	Last week of month	Book Club
pm	2 nd week of month	Photography
	3 rd week of month	Science and Technology
12-2	every week	Card and Board games
FRIDAY		
am	Every week	French
	Every week	Spanish
	2 nd week of month	Coffee morning
pm	1 st and 3 rd week	Qigong
	weekly	Ukulele

What is happening in the groups...

Murder Mystery Group - Wendy England

An initial meeting before Christmas indicated an enthusiasm for a Murder Mystery group. We held our first meeting this month and 16 intrepid people turned up - some had attended a session before so knew what to expect. For the rest of us it was a step into uncharted territory... Would we be up to the challenge?

It was the 1930s and family and friends had gathered to celebrate the 60th birthday of Barbara Page Turner, a very wealthy, outspoken and decidedly nasty character. Any of the ten guests could have had a motive to kill her, but which one? It was up to us to find out...

Ten volunteers were given their 'scripts' and Andrew explained the procedure. After a break for coffee and chance for people to get a feel for their character, we were ready to begin.

Each of the characters took it in turn to reveal facts about what they had been up to during the evening, while the rest of us tried to remember who they were, what they had said and what might be relevant or a red herring.

We then came to the denouement - where, when and how the unpleasant Barbara had met her end.

After scratching of heads and rapid searching through notes, we all had to decide who we thought was the murderer... Six guessed correctly.

It was a most enjoyable session with a lot of discussion and laughter. A big thank you to Andrew and Wendy for organising this. We all agreed we wanted another session, using the same characters but with a different murderer.

Join us on **Saturday 10th February** at the Bowls Club from 2-4 for more mystery mayhem! More information and details contact Wendy via the website.



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Lunch group - Ann Owen

SCUNTHORPE u3a LUNCHEON GROUP

Are you tired of turkey and brussel sprouts?

Our first meal of 2024 will be at
CARVERS FISH & CHIPS RESTAURANT
ASHBY HIGH STREET

Wednesday 28th February 2024

Eating at 12.30pm.

If you would like to join us, please put your name down at the monthly meeting on Friday 26th January at St Paul's or contact me through our luncheon WhatsApp group.

Quiz Group - Andrew Bullen

We have now settled into our new venue at the Bowls Club. It's the same format with questions covering a wide range of topics - general knowledge features regularly but this month's offerings varied from Radio 4 to sport, along with films from the 1960s and 70s, famous people from Nottingham, animals, minimums and questions on winter. We now know what 'Thankful villages' are and the meaning of the idiom 'from soup to nuts'.



Not knowing an answer doesn't matter. There is a lot of discussion, laughter and also arguing with the question master over answers.

The next meeting is **Thursday 1st February at 10 am**. Come along and join the fun.
Contact Andrew via the website to add your name to the list.

Qi Gong - Mel Ogden

A reminder to all those members who expressed an interest but haven't yet built up the motivation or those who haven't given it a thought but fancy doing something a little different and relaxing following the excesses and stresses of Christmas, don't forget the Qi Gong sessions that take place at St Paul's hall in Ashby on the first and third Friday of every month starting at 2.15. Come along and join us! Contact Mel Ogden via the website if you want to join and for more information.

Coffee and Chat - Margaret Lambert

Eight members met up at the White Horse in Brigg for the December and there was a lot of talking and laughter.

The next meeting is on **Friday 9th February** at 10.30 in the cafe of 20-21 , the Visual Arts Centre in Scunthorpe . Please can you let Margaret know if you will be there.

Card & Board Games Group- Rosemary Barrett

The group continues to thrive and there are regularly between 10 and 13 members at each weekly meeting. We still meet on Thursdays at Crosby Collective Café on Avenue Vivian. Meetings now start at 11.30am for some social chat and refreshments, with play starting at 12o'clock. Current favourite games are Canasta, Crown 5 and Rummikub. All welcome.

I-pad and Tablet Group - David Holmes

The group welcomed a new member this month. It is a very friendly and supportive group. There is still space for new members, so come along and join us asking all those questions you've wanted answered, but have been too shy to ask.


Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 13th February** at Crosby Collective cafe. Please let me know if cannot make the meeting.



11 January 2024

Well, here we are in 2024 and 9 members attended full of enthusiasm and ready for another year. Initially we had an open debate upon how we should progress this year, which included member presentations, internal and external photo shoots, and an interesting Photo Challenge from Alan which involved taking one photo a day from a pre-determined list !! This is quite engaging as it gives the photographer chance to show different interpretations from one subject title. It also encourages the use of our camera or phone.

I suppose the good thing is that at the end of the year, Alan

will present the winner with a four finger Kit  Kat. I will have to try my best for this one. From this discussion we know that later in the year John will present 'Street Photography' and Marian will present 'creative macro photography'



London

We then moved on to Federation of International Photographic Art and the very involved methods of entering such lofty and professional exhibitions which cover 85 national associations over 5 continents and represents the benefits of nearly One million members.

Alan and Dean showed various shots of Warwick Castle light trails, night shots of the Vulcan and Victor bombers from Yorkshire Air Museum, plus some phone shots on a Christmas theme.



Berlin

The afternoon ended by watching a video by Gary Gough a professional photographer in his January presentation of nature and landscape shots, finishing with some terrific drone shots taken on Harris & Lewis plus oil rigs rising out of the sea fog.

A good start to the year.

Next meeting 1.30pm February 8th.

Book Club - Sonia Czbanuk

The next meeting is on **Thursday 25th January** at 10.30am at The Arc, Westcliffe.

Ukulele group - Mike Sadler

The group meets weekly in St John's Church Hall, Bigby Street, Brigg, on Fridays at 1pm. If you can play a ukulele, even at the level of knowing three chords, then do come along and have fun learning to play popular songs and tunes from the Rock and Roll era onwards.

New members are very welcome, although the group is not currently offering tuition to absolute beginners. Please contact Mike Sadler via the website to let him know you want to join and for any further information.

Art Appreciation - Maureen Ellis

2023 was a successful year for the Art Appreciation Group as we gained several new members who have contributed a great deal. We were sorry that a long standing member, Sheila Lands Thornley, retired from the group but she very kindly paid the room hire for our November meeting as a parting gift.

We rounded off the year with a meal at The Gamekeeper in Scotter, which we all enjoyed and, in our final meeting, in December we looked at paintings of children and how they were presented through the ages.

Our first meeting of 2024 got off to a bit of a rocky start as the Rugby Club had double booked the room but, fortunately, they found space for us in the bar! Despite this our meeting was as lively and interesting as usual as we looked at paintings with a connection to music. We looked at a fascinating selection of Art from Old Masters to Twentieth century Abstract painters.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday February 8th.**

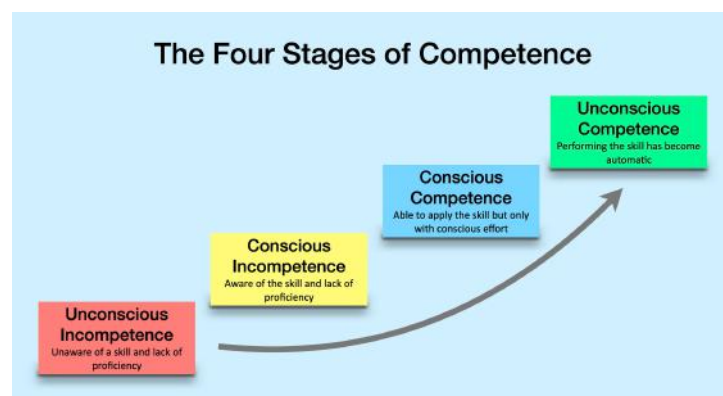
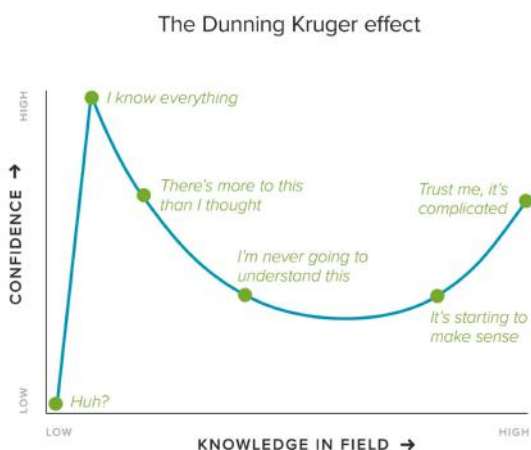
French Group - Liz Copperwheat

This is a small friendly group meeting in people's houses on a Friday morning. They currently have space for a couple of new members. Contact Liz via the website if you are interested in joining.

Science and Technology group - Alan Keen

It was another good meeting covering many different topics. Giles began with a hilarious account of the different methods of personal electric transport from the Sinclair C5, recumbent electric bicycles to different types of Skegway, as well as the electric scooters currently being trialled in North Lincolnshire. It is even possible to make your own motorised unicycle at home. Many of the latest models can achieve speeds of up to 30mph and Giles showed a video of one being used on roads in London - it was a scary and as a pedestrian you wouldn't want to be in collision with one.

This lead nicely into Dean's input entitled 'A little knowledge is a dangerous thing' He began with the Dunning Kruger Effect graph and lack of knowledge resulting in over confidence. We are all aware of the effect, particularly with some of those on those electric scooters in Scunthorpe....



This then lead to the effects of lack of knowledge, particularly when trying to present your beliefs. We all enjoyed Graham's Hierarchy of Argument and could recognise many of the different stages. This naturally led into a discussion about avoiding tactics used by politicians and others when giving interviews. Have a look at the table "Thou shalt not commit logical fallacies" and see how many you recognise....

<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/oerfiles/Public+Speaking/FallaciesPoster24x36.pdf>

Graham's Hierarchy of "Argument"



We then had a complete change. Following up on a comment from Alan last meeting about the Three Sister System of agriculture used by Native Americans, Eleanor described how the Pre Incan method of agriculture could produce enough food to support the city of Tiwanaku, on Lake Titicaca and its surrounding villages (a population of over 100,000), using a system of raised beds separated by canals, known as sukacollus. At altitudes of over 12000' this is now regarded very much as marginal land. Archaeologists revived some of the ancient sukacollus in the 1980s and found productivity was twenty times greater than the surrounding land. We still have a lot to learn from our forebears.

Alan finished the session with an update on the proposed Tween Bridge Solar Farm and the amount of information and publicity they are producing to support their proposals. He then went on the talk about new proposals for using geothermal energy and the two pilot schemes. These involve drilling to greater depths with the heat melting the surrounding rock which then solidifies and seals the rock. Water can then be pumped down to be heated by the temperature of the earth's core. The steam produced could be used to power traditional power stations instead of coal, oil or gas. Creating sealed channels won't cause the structural damage of fracking and has the potential to produce electricity cheaply.... An interesting thought.

The next meeting is **Thursday 15th February**. Meetings are in the Visual Arts Centre and begin at 1.30. New members welcome - you don't need to have done any science since school, just have an enquiring mind!

History - Pat Ackland

For our last meeting of the year, living historian, Angie Clay, gave us a talk on Medieval Medicine, along with examples of the kind of implements and instruments used. Some were surprisingly like their modern day equivalent. Medieval medicine was very much based on superstition as they had little knowledge of how the body worked or understanding of how disease was caused. It was all blamed on an imbalance of one of the four humours.

The **doctor** had studied for seven years and could only be afforded by wealthy patients. His healing power was very much based on astrology and did leave a lot to be desired. To cure the plague, molten gold was mixed with crushed emeralds and the mixture drunk...

The **Apothecary** mixed potions which he sold. The **Herb wife** was the wise woman (or witch) who dispensed potions and poultices made from herbs. Recipes were handed down from mother to daughter and many are still recognised cures today - willow bark extract (aspirin) for reducing fever, ginger for easing stomachs.

The **barber surgeon** followed the army and dealt with trauma injuries. In times of peace they doubled up as barbers and dentists. We learned about the tooth worm, different anaesthetics, how to amputate limbs quickly along with the importance of cauterising wounds (molten pitch was the preferred method), trepanning and how to remove arrowheads...



It was a fascinating session and we look forward to welcoming Angie back in the future.

Scunthorpe Museum Society

Several u3a members belong to the Museum Society. You may not have heard of them, but their meetings may be of interest to many of our members as they complement our interest groups. They meet fortnightly during the winter months with a talk and run field trips during the summer months. New members and visitors are very welcome.

The Society has two sections. The Natural History and Geology Section meets on the second Monday of the month. The Science and Archaeology section on the fourth Monday.

Meetings are held at Old Brumby United Church on Ashby Road in Scunthorpe and begin at 7.15. Annual membership runs from September and is currently £15. Meetings are free for members with visitors being charged £3 per meeting.

New members can join at any time. If joining after the month of December, then membership into the following year is offered. A good reason to join now!

There is more information on their Facebook page and, if you are interested in joining, you are asked to contact them using the email on Facebook. They will send out details and a membership form to you.

https://www.facebook.com/scun.museum.society/?locale=en_GB

Dates for the Local History and Archaeology Group

Monday 22nd January

Talk by Dr Kevin Leahy on some of the research findings from the Anglo Saxon settlement excavated in Flixborough in the 1900s.

Monday 26th February

Martin Taylor will talk about the history of Hull's coat of arms, the Three Crowns

Dates for the Natural History and Geology Section

Monday 12th February

Graham Catley a wild life photographer from Barton on Humber, will talk about "A Quest for Owls"

Volunteer Recruitment Open Day at North Lincolnshire Museum

Thursday 25th January from 10.15am-1pm

Jenny Kirton, Dynamic Collections Project Officer with North Lincs Council has asked us to bring this to the attention of our members as many will have long memories of Scunthorpe and are just the kind of people they are hoping to help with their new project: Documenting Northern Lincolnshire's History. Although the Local History group is on a back burner at the moment, this may be something that members would be interested in participating in.

They are hosting a volunteer recruitment open day at North Lincolnshire Museum on **Thursday 25th January from 10.15am-1pm**. This will offer a chance to learn some more about the Documenting Northern Lincolnshire project and explore some of the collection materials involved. This is a drop-in session and no booking is required.

The Documenting Northern Lincolnshire's History project will focus on the museum's photography and ephemera collections. The overall aim is to bring audiences a closer look at the region's history and uncover some of the many untold stories discoverable across the collections. Volunteers will assist with aspects such as collection documentation, research, digitisation, and curation. All training will be provided so no prior experience working with collections is necessary.

More information can be found here.

<https://northlincolnshiremuseum.co.uk/service/volunteering/>



Any questions about the project can be directed to:
jenny.kirton@northlincs.gov.uk

Registered charity number 1191994