



March 2024

SCUNTHORPE AND DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

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

Chair's Report - Pat Ackland

I am so pleased we now have another two interest groups operating. Local History is up and running as is Beginners Family History. Environmental and Sustainability is also ready to launch - see p 12. Unfortunately the singing group wont be starting. Only half the people responded, and they were unable to find a day and time to suit everyone and no-one was prepared to lead the group.

There is now a sheet for each Interest group at the monthly meetings where you can record your interest in any group. Quite a few are full but we will still collect names and evaluate the need for a further group. We now have 26 Interest groups, that equates to 1 for every 8 members so there's no excuse to not get involved!!!

You may have noticed the new Power point presentation that we are showing at monthly meetings. We think this is a really good way of informing members about events, news and interest groups and gives you all something to look at whilst waiting for the speaker.

Cut off date for the next Newsletter

The cut off date for the April Newsletter is Wednesday 17th April. Articles and reports as always to: newseditor@gmail.com

Registered charity number 1191994

Forthcoming events

March Meeting

Our March meeting is **Friday 22nd March** when Steve Stubbins will give a talk on 'The Changes the Iron and Steel Industry have made to Scunthorpe'. Steve has an extensive collection of old photographs and postcards of the local area. We have heard from Steve before and he always provide an informative and entertaining talk.

April Meeting

Our April meeting is **Friday 26th April**. Our speaker in April will be Alan Beadle, a new speaker from Hull.

I have chosen what some members may find a surprising subject - 'The History of Speedway and Scunthorpe in particular'. Speedway was once the second most popular spectator sport in England and with Scunthorpe producing a multi times world champion, I thought we should know about it. There is also a selfish motive. Tony & I were sponsors of a speedway rider when we lived in Sheffield so we were very much involved. As a subject I suspect few of our members will know much about, this should be a true educational talk in the spirit of the u3a's learning ethic.

June Meeting

The North Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Group are coming to give us a talk about their work on **Friday 28th June**. Their volunteers are working really hard at Hibaldstow airfield and are holding an Open day at their site on **8th and 9th June** 10.00-5.00pm. There will be military vehicles, guided tours, refreshments and much more. As well of being of interest to the Aviation and Local History Groups, other members may be keen to go too - bring your families with you!

RAF Hibaldstow, Redbourne Road, DN20 9NN

Monthly meetings are held in St Paul's Church Hall, Ashby High Street. Doors open at 1.30 for setting up. Refreshments are available from 1.45 and the main meeting starts at 2.15.

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St Paul's Open Day

This is the centenary year of St Paul's Church and as part of this we are having a display stand in the Church Hall on **Saturday 22nd June** as part of their Open Weekend Celebrations. The event runs from 11-4 so come along and support us. We are also looking for volunteers to help on the day. Contact Pat to add your name to the list of helpers.

Breaking News for 2025...

....and a real Coup. Pat has booked Jaqui Harris to come and talk to us in 2025. Jaqui is one of the dealers on the BBC programme, the Bidding Room and has a shop in Horncastle. You can see Jaqui in the most current series of the programme.

What you missed at the February Meeting - Judith Proctor

Keith Hanson RVM (Royal Victorian Medal awarded by the Sovereign for personal services to the Sovereign and the Royal Family) was a very eloquent speaker, where he entertained 80 people with details of the history, contents and use of the crown jewels.

He spoke about his time as a Yeoman Warder/Beefeater from 1997 and gave an insight into how he came to be employed at the Tower of London after serving in the Armed Forces. He became the Chief Exhibitor of the Crown Jewels holding that position for 17 years, during which time he was responsible for the security and presentation of the crown jewels.

The jewels first arrived at the Tower of London in 1303 having previously been in Westminster Abbey. There were some mishaps along the way. In 1649 after Charles I's execution, Cromwell had precious stones removed and sold and gold melted down. In 1660 Charles II had the jewels remade in the same style and restored to the Tower. In 1671 some were stolen but recovered.

Up to 1967 the jewels were stored in the Wakefield Tower. Then tourism gathered pace and the jewels were moved to the Waterloo block for ease of access. Tourists would descend 57 steps to the lower chamber, where they were secure behind a 2-ton door, view the jewels and ascend the steps, which was not accessible for everyone.

In 1986 they were re-located within the Tower. The jewels were put in individual cases where tourists did not have steps to contend with and moved along a travelator which Keith called a “line of anticipation” and not a queue.

The crown jewels consist of jewels and plate some used only for coronations and state occasions such as state opening of parliament. St Edward’s Crown was used in 1953 at Queen Elizabeth 11’s coronation and again in 2023 for Charles 111. The crown weighs 5lbs with 434 precious stones. The Imperial State Crown is used at the state opening of parliament.

The Royal Maces are a seventeenth century weapon and were used for clearing a pathway for the sovereign. The Sergeant at Arms travelled in a coach in front of the sovereign with the mace sticking out of the window to clear a path. The mace is laid in the House of Commons every day at the dispatch box to signify a royal representation in Parliament.

The solid gold orb weighs 3lbs and the 2 sets of bracelets for the coronation, made of gold and gifted to the Sovereign, by the Commonwealth, are engraved with all the countries of the Commonwealth.

Among the jewels is a jewelled Sword of Offering with 2280 diamonds inlaid in gold, and a scarab with 1000 diamonds and sapphires forming flowers of each country. There is a Sword of Spiritual Justice, a Sword of Mercy and amulets with holy oil used at the coronation.

The Cullinan diamond, from the Kimberley mine in South Africa, was gifted to the King of England by PW Botha as reparation for the Boer War. It was shipped to England in a secure safe then sent by post to Amsterdam for cutting! 9 stones were made out of this diamond including a 530.2 carat white flawless diamond.

The Queen Consort Crown is platinum and houses the Kohinoor diamond, a 105.6 carat stone said to be cursed. In 1849 the Treaty of Lahore gave this diamond to Queen Victoria.

Plate includes salt and spices containers, 5 Maundy dishes, flagons, punch bowl, bottles and labels and christening pots. Prince Albert designed the christening pot in use now by the Royal family, which contains water from the River Jordan.

Keith’s talk was a comprehensive look at the Crown Jewels complete with excellent images of each jewel and explanation of its use. It will certainly be interesting to see some of those mentioned at the next state opening of Parliament.



Paying your Membership Subscription 2024 - Gordon Green

Thank you to everyone who has already paid next year's subscription.

For those of you who haven't yet, the 2024/5 subscription for Scunthorpe & District u3a is due on 1st April 2024, but can 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. Written confirmation of the additional membership will be required. The £4 difference is the Capitation Fee which is remitted to the u3a HQ and covers, amongst other things, insurance, your membership of the Third Age Trust and the publishing of "Third Age Matters" etc.

There are Three ways of paying:

1. By post
2. By bank transfer
3. At the monthly meeting

1) By post

Contact Gordon via the website to ask about details for this.

If you do not include a self addressed envelope, your membership card will be made available at the next monthly meeting or, if you have an e mail address, it will be e mailed to you as an e-membership card.

Cheques should be made payable to Scunthorpe & District u3a. Please write the full name of each member together with their membership number on the reverse of the cheque.

(This is on last year's membership card, or can be found on the attendance tick list used before the start of a monthly meeting.)

If you want to subscribe to Third Age Matters then simply add on the £3.80p. So if a full member makes a cheque out for £17.80 we would know they want the magazines as well.

2) Paying by bank transfer

We have a business account with Lloyds Bank. For details, contact Gordon via the website. With the payee's detail: include your membership number (if you can locate it!) and as much of your name as is allowed in the box.

Once the treasurer has confirmed with me your renewed membership (plus optional payment for TAM magazine) I will email you with your 'e card' with your membership number as confirmation for you. This may take a couple of weeks!

3) Paying at the February or March monthly meeting

If you intend coming to the March meeting, you can pay then. Make a cheque out (as in paragraph 1) or put cash in a sealed envelope with all your details on the envelope and put it in the collecting box. I will make your membership card out before the next meeting for you to collect then.

If anyone has changed any contact details, including email addresses, please let Gordon know so that accurate records can be maintained.

Remember you need to be a fully paid up member to join Interest Groups.

Finally, it would be really helpful if any member who does not wish to re-subscribe for next year could let Gordon know.

Third Age Matters magazines - Pat Ackland

Please can you let us have any copies of magazines you have finished with. They are great as promotional material when we attend events. Pat will be happy to receive any copies at the monthly meetings or you can give them to any committee member to be passed on. Thank you!



Advance Notice - AGM 2024 Graham England

The 2024 AGM will take place at 13.45, before the monthly meeting, on **Friday May 24th** at St. Pauls Church Hall.

Any proposed motions for consideration at the AGM need to be emailed to me or handed to me at the March or April monthly meeting. Motions must be proposed, seconded and signed accordingly only by fully paid-up Scunthorpe and District u3a members. These must be with me by the April monthly meeting at the latest to be included.

Please consider standing for committee membership. Nomination forms can be obtained from me at the March or April general meeting. Completed forms must be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up members of Scunthorpe and District u3a (but not committee members). Again, completed forms must be with me by the April monthly meeting at the latest to be included.

In April, I will be sending out:

- The agenda for the AGM
- The minutes of last year's AGM
- Trustee's Report
- Financial Report
- Documentation for any AGM business to be discussed.
- A list of those standing for committee membership.

Graham
Secretary

Day Trip to Bridlington, Monday 29th July - Pam Murphy

North Lindsey u3a are arranging a day trip to Bridlington and Scunthorpe u3a members are invited to join them.

PICK UP POINTS AND TIMES:- MORRISONS SCUNTHORPE. At 09.00hrs

DFS BRIGG At 09.15hrs

(If getting on the coach at DFS it is OK to park in their car park as long as you park at the bottom end away from the entrance.)

Drop off will be near the Harbour. Pick up will be at 4pm where you are dropped off.

COST:- £14.50 per person cash only please, which will be collected at the U3A meetings by the trip treasurer David Holmes and Pam Murphy trip organiser, Unfortunately this money is non refundable if anyone cancels, although another person could take your place but you would have to arrange that and let me know. (u3a Members can take family or a friend with them but non members will not be insured by the u3a.)

The day is yours, but here are some suggestions you may like to do:-

Take a stroll around the Harbour, maybe take a boat trip to Flambrough, have a fish and chips lunch, shopping, walk along the promenade, sit on the beach (English weather permitting) and have a ice cream, or take the land train to Sewerby Hall at a small charge - 2023 prices were £3.60 return. There is something for everyone.

Contact Pam Murphy, Trip Organiser on the North Lindsey u3a website with any queries.



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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 FAMILY HISTORY	First Tuesday	10-12	Bowl's Club	Kath Allen
BEGINNERS FRENCH	Third Monday	10-12	Scawby Village Hall	Pat Ackland
BOOK CLUB	Last Thursday	10.30	The Arc, Westcliff	Sonia Czabaniuk
CARD AND BOARD GAMES	Every Thursday	11.30-2.00	Crosby Collective	Rosemary Barratt
COFFEE MORNING	Second Friday		Various	Margaret Lambert
FRENCH GROUP	Fridays	10.30-12.00	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
LOCAL HISTORY	Various		Various	Eleanor Wasley
LUNCH CLUB	Fourth Wednesday	12.30	Various	Ann Owen
MURDER MYSTERY	Third Saturday	2.00	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*

MONDAY		
am	3 rd week of the month	Beginners French
pm	Varies	Local History
TUESDAY		
am	1 st week of the month	Beginners Family History
	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
SATURDAY		
pm	3 rd week of month	Murder Mystery

Two new groups - and another about to launch!



Beginners Family History Group - Kath Allen.

There has been considerable interest in joining a family history group for beginners. We have an established Genealogy Group but it can be confusing for those who are very new to family history. I have started a beginners group which I plan to run for 6 months at least to get people up and started. They can then carry on at home and/or join the Genealogy Group when there is space.

We will meet at the Bowls Club* in Scunthorpe on the first Tuesday each month from 10-12. There is some parking, but there is always space on the road outside as well. The cost is £1 per person plus 50p for tea/coffee and biscuits. This is a joint group open to both Scunthorpe and North Lindsay members. You do not need a computer or tablet for these meetings.

Proposed meeting dates are;

2 April 2024

7 May 2024

4 June 2024

6 August 2024

3 September 2024

1 October 2024

(There is no meeting in July).

For more information, contact Kath via the website.

*Scunthorpe Bowls Club clubhouse is on Lloyds Avenue DN17 1BY. The drive is between what was Grafton House nursing home and the first house on the left, just past the bus stop.

Registered charity number 1191994



Local History - Eleanor Wasley.

The local history group had its first meeting in February. There were fourteen members with four apologies, so we have decided the group is full at the moment. It was a very successful meeting and we agreed the focus of the group will be on trips out in the local area. We really do mean local, concentrating on North Lincolnshire with the occasional foray into the top end of Lincolnshire. A timetable of trips for the year was quickly agreed which includes trips to Scunthorpe Museum, Guided walks of Brigg and Kirton Lindsey as well as trips to Alkborough with Julian's Bower and the church, St Pauls' Church, Bottesford Church and Gainsborough Heritage Centre. We have plenty of ideas for 2025 too!



Environmental and Sustainability Group - Karen Nassehi.

Following the interest shown in the New Group Survey a few months ago, we are now ready to launch your Environmental and Sustainability Group. This will be a joint group open to both Scunthorpe and North Lindsey members.

Do you have ideas, information, concerns that you want to share with others? Do you have a passion to clean up our little bit of the planet? Or, would you be interested in teaming up with U3A groups nationwide to target global issues?

Our first get together will be at St Paul's Church, Ashby High Street, Ashby, DN16 2JR, on **Friday, 22nd March**, at 3.15pm.

For you very observant people, yes, in a truly sustainable and environmentally-aware fashion, this is right after the Scunthorpe monthly meeting. If you are not attending the monthly meeting, please enter using the side door and we will be in the small hall to the left.

During this initial meeting we hope to be making arrangements for further meeting days/times/venues. So, if you are unable to make it this time, but are still interested, please let us know via the website. This will help us to assess the level of interest and we'll be able to update you on how the first meeting went.

And some disappointing news...

Singing Group - Pat Ackland

When we did the recent survey, this was a fairly popular choice with 16 members expressing an interest. In an attempt to get this started, an inaugural meeting was planned with the interested members. Disappointingly, only 8 of the 16 people contacted responded.

While this is enough to form a group we have been unable to find a day/date that suits those interested and no-one is available to lead the group. So this group will not happen at the moment.

It is now up to you and whether one or two people are willing to take responsibility for getting this off the ground. Help and support is available and you won't be left to flounder. Many groups start small and have grown into popular thriving groups.

Contact Pat if you can help get this started.

What is happening in the rest of the groups...

Coffee and Chat - Margaret Lambert.

Our next get together is Friday 12th April when we will meet at Lindsey Lodge Hospice at 10.30. Come along and join us with lots of chat and laughter as we put the world to rights and catch up on all the news and gossip.

Future dates for the diary are :

10th May – Blue Bell Wetherspoons Scunthorpe

14th June- White Horse Wetherspoons , Brigg,

Please can you let Margaret know if you will be there..

Qi Gong - Mel Ogden

Get into shape for the warmer weather by coming along and enjoying gentle exercise with a group of friends to the sound of soothing music!

We meet at St Paul's Church Hall on the first and third Thursday of the month, beginning at 2.15. All are welcome.

Contact Mel Ogden if you want to join and for more information.

Murder Mystery - Wendy England

It was our third trip to Meddleton Manor and the 60th birthday party for the despicable Barbara Page Turner's son. It was the same cast but a different murder scenario. This time Barbara was killed by a motor car when going for a walk in her garden after the meal. It was definitely murder as she had been run over fourteen times! All of the guests had a motive but which one was the murderer?

After a lot of scratching of heads, pouring over notes made and discussion we all had to decide who had committed the dastardly deed. It was Jacqueline. Barbara had never thought her good enough for Clive and had given them a rough time after their marriage. Not only did this get rid of Barbara, Clive would also benefit under her will and inherit her considerable wealth.

From next month, we are moving from the second Saturday to the third Saturday of the month (although the July meeting will revert to the second Saturday.)

Come and join us on **Saturday 20th April** at the Bowls Club off Lloyds Avenue from 2-4. We have a change from Meddleton Manor and Sylvia will be hosting a new "Murder by Candlelight"

Contact Wendy for more information and if you are interested in joining us.

Luncheon Group - Ann Owen.

The February lunch was at Carver Fish and Chip Restaurant in Ashby. A good time was had by all!



SCUNTHORPE u3a LUNCHEON GROUP

Our next venue will be at

THE BIRD IN THE BARLEY
on Northfield Road. DN17 3SQ

Wednesday 24^h April 2024

Meeting from noon to eat at 12.30pm.

If you would like to join us, please put your name down at the monthly meeting on Friday 22nd March at St Paul's Hall.

Registered charity number 1191994

History Group - Pat Ackland

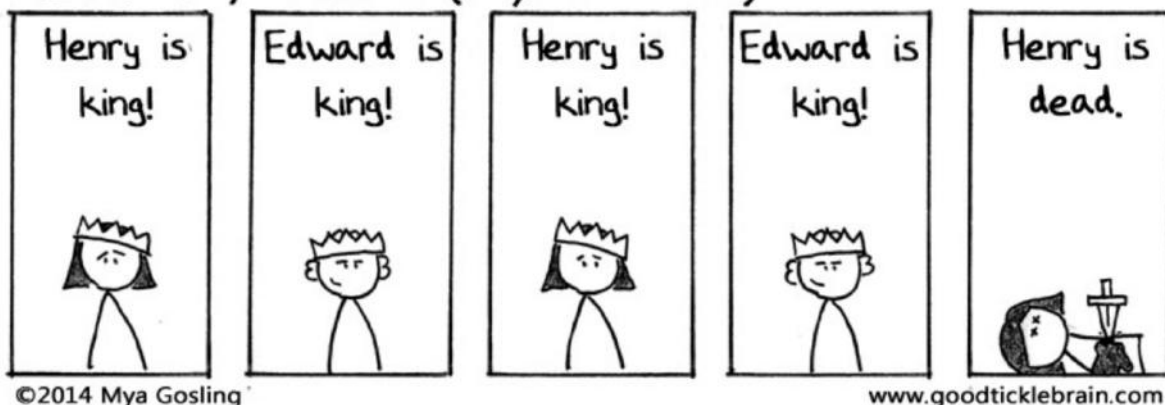
We are now onto Henry VI, the end of Hundred Years War and the Wars of the Roses.

It was all the fault of Edward III had too many power mad sons. Henry IV having usurped the throne had already set the precedent, sending out the message that it was fair game for anyone to have a go. It wasn't helped that Henry had inherited bad genes from his grandfather, Charles the Mad of France which lead to periods of mental health and incapacity.

Joan of Arc came blazing onto the scene and galvanised the Dauphin into taking up arms against the English. Although she was burned at the stake as a heretic, this resulted in the loss of all English held properties in France apart from Calais. The Hundred Years War was at an end and all hopes of an English king on the throne of France vanquished

It was a confusing time at home with a series of hard fought battles between groups of nobles who regularly changed sides depending on who had the upper hand... Warwick the Kingmaker was the prime example of this, being involved in the setting up and deposition of two monarchs. The Wars of the Roses only came to an end after the death of Edward, Prince of Wales, followed soon after by Henry himself.

HENRY VI, PART 3 (in 5 Panels)



Next month it is Edward IV and in May, Angie Clay is back with a talk about the Wars of the Roses, which will be good revision of all we have learned this year.

Woodland Wanderers - Robin Poole

February is snowdrop time. Twelve of us braved the elements on a cold, blowy and wet Wednesday morning for a guided walk of Manton and a walk through private woodland for the snowdrops. It was a large group as we were joined by a members of the Charity, FERN and started off with drinks and very good home made biscuits before setting off round the village. Spring was early this year and the snowdrops were getting past their best. Last year the ground had also been covered by winter aconites but these had finished. Daffodils were coming into bloom early too.



April's wander is **Wednesday 17th April**. Location to follow

Quiz Group - Andrew Bullen

This was another entertaining and lively meeting. with sixteen present including two new members. Questions covered a wide range of topics from Spring to a connections round on the phonetic alphabet. Throw in questions on the 1950s, books made into films or TV programmes, original names of countries (did you know Spain was called the Land of the Rabbits and Brazil comes from red hot embers'? We didn't). Andrew even managed to find a whole round of questions on jelly babies...

Come and join us at our next meeting on **Thursday 4th April**. Contact Andrew for information.

Registered charity number 1191994

Book Group – Sonia Czabaniuk

Greetings to all bibliophiles and welcome to this month's book group report. We met, once again, in our new 'home' of The Arc in Westcliffe. After being admonished for being the last to arrive, the meeting was called to order. The first order of business was to discuss the nominated books for February. It had been decided that the members would be given a choice of either *The Lido* by Libby Page or *I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. Two very different genres – the first a modern novel set in London, the latter, an autobiography set in the 1930's deep south of USA.

First off - *The Lido*. A book which explores the theme of friendship and relationships with the backdrop of the fight to keep the local outdoor swimming pool open. Around half the group read this book and opinions ranged from 'sentimental' to 'very uplifting', with no real surprises, but an enjoyable read. (One for the holiday suitcase?)

Moving on to *I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings*, this book generated mixed feelings. Not everyone read this, but, those of us who did, agreed that this was quite a disturbing tale and, all the more so, as it was a true record. In fact, one of the group asked 'is this a novel?'. This is the first book of a series of three which document the life of the poet and activist, Maya Angelou. We all agreed that it is a very well-written, at times dark, account of life in the USA in the 1930's, but not without humour.

Both books are recommended.

Then it was a round up of the other books we have been reading. Once again, it was an eclectic mix of genres and authors – everything from Ken Follett to Richard Osman. A full list of all the books we have read will be available at the end of March. (Over 80 at the last count!)

And so, to March. Once again we are switching genres and moving to an author we have all heard of but not discussed in previous meetings – Stephen King. The novel we have chosen is 'Holly', which is a crime novel rather than the classic horror associated with this author.

Looking forward to the discussion at our next meeting – **Thursday, 28th March**, 10.30 at The Arc, Westcliffe. (Sorry, no new members at the moment).



14th March 2024

Unfortunately for the few who were unable to attend, they missed an excellent meeting! Alan as usual opened the meeting, this time with a venture into AI, this is a controversial subject but Alan talked about and showed various images which could be created by using a free Microsoft Image Creator (Copilot)

Very briefly, we were asked to write a couple of sentences depicting an item, such as "a brass candlestick" or "horse jumping over a fence", etc. This sentence was then entered into the programme and shortly afterwards 4 versions of that image were created from the written word !! I accept that my explanation is a simple description, but it was very impressive and I will be trying it out at home.



Spring

We then moved to our '**365 Photo Challenge**' where the members had the chance to show images taken over the last month and corresponded with the subject headings for each day of the challenge. It was quite fascinating to view each person's interpretation for that particular heading, such as 'M is for'. This challenge was well received by the members and it was agreed to be stimulating.

Our last subject matter of the afternoon, was to watch a short video presented by Gary Gough, a professional photographer who created a stunning video of 'light trails', plainly after sunset using a household whisk, some wire wool, some string and a disposable lighter!! (see below)



Micrometer



Light trails



Light trails

Next meeting Thursday 11th April

"Whosoever possesses a camera should never know boredom."

Science and Technology - Alan Keen

The Science and Technology group continues to meet and has welcomed several new members recently. Topics cover a wide range of scientific subjects and always promote a lot of discussion. You don't need to be a Nobel scientist to join or have done any science since school, just come with an open and enquiring mind.

The next meeting is **Thursday 18th April** at the Visual Arts Centre, 20-21 in Scunthorpe from 1.30-3.30. Contact Alan via the website for more information.

In the meantime, Alan Gosling has sent in this cautionary tale of what happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object...

A captain notices a light in the distance, on a collision course with his ship. He turns on his signal lamp and sends "Change your course 10 degrees west"

The light signals back "Change yours, 10 degrees east"

The captain a little annoyed signals "I'm a US Navy Captain. You must change your course, sir"

The light signals back "I'm a Seaman First Class, you must change your course, sir"

Now the Captain is mad. He signals "I'm an aircraft carrier. I'm not changing my course"

The light signals back a final message "I'm a lighthouse. Your call"

Art Appreciation - Maureen Ellis

Our March meeting got off to a bad start when we arrived at the Rugby Club to find our room was not available. However, we decamped to The Arc where we were made very welcome and had a most enjoyable meeting in a warm friendly atmosphere.

Our topic this month was Lincolnshire and we looked at a wide variety of paintings from landscapes by contemporary artists to works by Turner, Stubbs and Lowry.

Earlier in the month some members of the group attended the Gainsborough Arts Society meeting for a very interesting talk about Georgia O'Keeffe.

At our next meeting we will be looking at Cityscapes.

Gardening Group - Jenny Winterburn

The gardening group is awakening from its hibernation and our first meeting will take place on **Tuesday 26th March**, at the Bowls Club on Lloyds Avenue at 2pm.

We will discuss our plans for the year, so come along and find out what is planned.

Our first outing will be on **Tuesday 23rd April** to Ashfield House near Lincoln.

Beginners French Group - Pat Ackland

Do you want to learn to speak French? The group now has a vacancy and room for a new member! If interested, contact Pat either via the website.

French for Fun - Liz Copperwheat

This is a small friendly group meeting in people's houses on a Friday morning from 10.30-12. They currently have space for a couple of new members. Contact Liz via the website if you are interested in joining.

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.

Card & Board Games Group - Rosemary Barratt

The group continues to thrive, with plenty of laughter and good humoured rivalry. We welcomed another new member last month and so the group is now near capacity. During the winter months there have regularly been 12 or 13 members each week, who then split into 3 groups to play. Popular games currently are Canasta, Crown 5 and Rummikub.

Following a suggestion from members, the group now meets at 11.30am to enjoy some refreshment and chat before we begin playing at 12 and finishing at 2pm.

I-pad and Tablet Group - David Holmes

This 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 9th April** at Crosby Collective cafe from 10-12. Please let me know if cannot make the meeting.

WhatsApp Group - David Holmes

This group is designed to help members keep in touch and is particularly popular with the lunch group and theatre visits. If you want your name added to the group, please contact David via the website.

Remember you need a smartphone to be able to use this app. Please only download the app from Apple Store or Googleplay, as other sites may not be secure.

Scunthorpe Museum Society - future dates

U3a members are very welcome to attend their meetings. These are held at Old Brumby United Church on Ashby Road and begin at 7.15. There is a £3 charge for visitors. There is more information on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/scun.museum.society/>

Natural History and Geology Section

Monday April 8th - Moths and Butterflies

Local History and Archaeology Section

Monday 25th March - Victorian Music Hall (includes a sing along chorus too...)

Monday, 22nd April, 2024 - 11th Century Building in Stone and Timber

A request...

Does any one have a working reel to reel tape recorder that Andrew can borrow please? Contact him through the contact page on the website.

And finally, a heartfelt plea about responding to emails - Pat Ackland

Please, please, please can you respond to emails! It is really frustrating when members don't reply when asked to do so. We are quite a large organisation and rely on email communication so much. We try very hard to keep all members informed by both newsletter and mail merge messages and I personally try to acknowledge all emails I receive, even if it's only to say 'Thank you for responding'! Not only is it upsetting when people can't be bothered to reply, it also wastes time chasing up when a response is needed. I'm pretty sure that we wouldn't leave letters lying around unopened so why are emails left unanswered?

Please help us - especially as many emails only take a moment to open and respond to!