

Edition No 27

January 2022



Sunset over Poole Harbour (Anne Parker).

Committee Members

Chairman	Gerry Wiswould
Co-Chairman	Charles Parker
Secretary	Kevan Chippendale
Membership Sec'y	Josie Taylor
Treasurer	Mike Saunders
Speaker Organiser	Julie Stocks
Front of House	Maxine Taylor
Web Site Organiser	Josie Taylor
Ordinary Member	Charles Rawding
Ordinary Member	Vacant

Programme for January to June 2022

17 th February	Neil Curtis	A Taste of Lincolnshire
17 th March	Barbara Myers	Seals in Lincolnshire & Norfolk
21 st April	Dereck Harris	Up to the Cut
19 th May	Richard Harries	The History of Radiology
16 th June	Fools Gold	Bang Up to the Elephant

All meetings commence at 10.30 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month at Cherry Willingham & Reepham Village Hall. Doors open and refreshments are served from 10.00 a.m.

Chairman's Ramblings –

Well, just when we thought that normality might be in sight, along came the Omicron variant. The committee reviewed the current position nationally and more locally the 'critical incident' declared in Lincolnshire hospitals due to staff absences. Unfortunately, we had to decide that the January monthly meeting must be cancelled.

I hope you all had as good a Christmas as the circumstances would allow. Due to our granddaughter testing positive the day after term ended, (negative the day before that) we had to cancel two get-togethers with old friends, in case we were infected. We had collected her from school on the last day and sat in her home for a couple of hours. The interesting thing here is that her parents and older brother never became infected and neither did we, which testing showed, and I think, proves the effectiveness of the vaccines. We had to test on Christmas Eve and that allowed the green light for our other son to come up from London for the Christmas period. We finally met his girlfriend, Jean, who should have come with him the previous Christmas but due to the one day of family meetings allowed by the government, because of the prevailing circumstances, they stayed at home.

This brings me back to something that I mentioned in the last magazine. I said that I had been studying languages (French and German) with the Open University's free-to-use Open Learn scheme. Among all the subjects that they cover, (see last mag) I mentioned that they offer an introduction to Chinese, and I said that I wouldn't be getting around to that for a while as I had enough to work on with the European languages. Jean, is from Taiwan and on Christmas Day we had a WhatsApp chat with her mother in Taiwan. This was while

we were preparing lunch, so there was me in my Christmas apron, moving around the kitchen talking to Jean's mother with her very limited English and Jean translating what I was saying. As this relationship has lasted more than a year and all of that with them working from their joint homes, I think I might have to re-evaluate my linguistic priorities and move Chinese up the list!

Take care of yourselves and 'We'll meet again'... sounds like a good title for a song.

Gerry

Secretarial Life

After a couple of unpredictable years, it's back to mundane secretary duties. Well, that's what I hope anyway. I expect that many of you have now signed up to receive the national U3A's regular monthly newsletter direct. If you haven't, then I recommend that you do so, it's always good to see what other groups are doing. Who knows, maybe you'll get some ideas on new groups and activities for Witham U3A? Anyway, that's enough secretary stuff.

As you may recall from my last magazine entry I've been walking (a lot) so I'm really glad that the short walk group is now back and walking regularly thanks to Viv and John Fotheringham. Additional walkers are always welcome so why not see the convenors and sign up at the monthly meetings. You won't be disappointed.

I always try to include extra interest on walks that I lead. Susan and myself recently walked along the Humber bank from Barton to Barrow. It was a really windy day (Humber bridge closed to high sided vehicles – you get the picture). We parked for

free at The Water's Edge Visitor Centre (good café, interesting information displays and clean toilets). "Won't it be too windy?", I was asked. "Certainly not! We won't walk far and obviously we'll be able to find shelter where we can eat lunch." It's about 2.5 miles from Barton to Barrow Haven and the views from the elevated Humber bank were, even though the wind was behind us, eye wateringly spectacular – bridge, river, mud, birds, tile factory, industrial estate, I could go on. The view from the draughty, open fronted, miniscule wooden hut on Barrow Haven station was impressively industrial. The noisy, flapping plastic bag in the litter collector added much to the ambience. The silence from my walking companion was resounding. Is this your idea of lunch in a sheltered spot? Why did we have to walk so far in this weather? More silence.

After just one sandwich and half a flask of tea it was decided that we would return to Barton in order to finish our lunch. This time we were walking into the wind. More eye wateringly spectacular views! Our, by now, very late lunch was finished in a more comfortable place (the car) and was followed by a visit to the Water's Edge Centre. Well worth a trip. ~~We~~ I should have picked a better day (apparently).

An interesting walk and one that we'll repeat when the measurement on the Beaufort Scale is in low single figures.

Kevan Chippendale

Notice is hereby given that the 2022 Annual General Meeting will be held at the April main meeting.

Nominations for Committee membership are invited and encouraged. Please contact the Secretary or other Committee member if you wish to join the Committee.

Witham U3A Annual General Meeting

Agenda

Meeting Date: 21st April 2022 at 10:30

Venue: Reephams and Cherry

Willingham Village Hall

- 1) Approval of Minutes of The Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 21 October 2021
- 2) Matters arising
- 3) Chairman's report
- 4) Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts
- 5) Appointment of Auditor
- 6) Election of Officers and other Committee Members. Candidates are listed below. NB The list

of candidates will be updated as and when others come forward.

- a) Chairman 1: Gerry Wiswould
- b) Chairman 2: Charles Parker
- c) Treasurer: MikeSaunders
- d) Secretary: Kevan Chippendale
- e) Membership Secretary: Josie Taylor
- f) Front of House: Maxine Taylor
- g) Speaker Finder: Vacant
- h) Committee Member: Charles Rawding
- i) Committee Member: Rosemary Seal
- j) Committee Member: Vacant
- k) Magazine Editor: Charles Parker
- 7) AOB

We need a new speaker finder!

Witham U3A Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 21 October 2021

**Venue: Reepham and Cherry Willingham
Village Hall**

Present: Approximately 69 members attended the meeting

1) Previous approval of the minutes of the 18 April 2019 AGM was ratified. Proposed: Lesley Rawding, Seconded: Josie Taylor

2) The minutes of the Extraordinary AGM held on 4 August 2020 were approved Proposed: Charles Parker, Seconded: Charles Rawding

3) Matters Arising - none

4) Chairman's Report

This will be the briefest of my annual reports. The ten months of our normal activity prior to the first lockdown were dealt with at the Extraordinary AGM, held in August last year and that report was reproduced in the July 2020 magazine. Since that time, our secretary was kept up to date by the Third Age Trust and our Treasurer continued

to receive some subscriptions and make payments when necessary. The committee members kept in touch, the magazine was produced, speakers were cancelled and rescheduled, the members were kept informed and a small amount of group activity carried on. This brought us to August when our monthly meetings, natural history group and short walks resumed. So, I thank Kevan, Mike, Josie, Chas, Julie and the other committee members who have sustained our organisation through this strange time and enabled us to be brought out of enforced hibernation smoothly. I hope all our activities can now move forward and that we do not have to be restrained in the future.

Gerry Wiswould

5) Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for the year 2020 show an excess of Income over Expenses of £1,162. This is a result of the Pandemic which meant that there were no meetings after March 2020 and no corresponding costs for hall rental and speaker fees. The overall financial situation of Witham U3A is healthy and therefore the 2022 Membership Fee will remain at £15 for a full year.

Mike Saunders

6) Appointment of Auditor

Nigel Manders has again agreed to act as Auditor for Witham U3A

7) Election of Officers – List of Candidates

- a) Chairman 1: Gerry Wiswould
- b) Chairman 2: Charles Parker
- c) Treasurer: Mike Saunders
- d) Secretary: Kevan Chippendale
- e) Membership Secretary: Josie Taylor
- f) Front of House: Maxine Taylor
- g) Speaker Finder: Julie Stocks
- h) Committee Member: Charles Rawding
- i) Committee Member: Rosemary Seal
- j) Committee Member: Vacant
- k) Magazine Editor: Chas Parker – member by invitation

No further candidates offered themselves for election and all were re-elected un-opposed.

8) AOB - none

9) Date of next AGM – 21 April 2022

Business concluded and the Annual General Meeting
was closed at 10:45

Membership Fees

As far as membership renewals are concerned you can either pay via BACS using the information below or come to the February meeting and pay by cheque (preferred) or cash. Whichever way you choose, we shall continue to use your existing Membership form. If your details have altered since filling in the form in 2019 please let Josie the Membership Secretary know, by reply to this email or at the next meeting.

By bank transfer to Lloyds Bank **Account number**
00380601 Sort Code 30 95 05

1 If paying by bank transfer **PLEASE REMEMBER** to include your **NAME** as the transaction **REFERENCE**.

2 Fees for members renewing (due in January) and for new members joining between January and March are £15.00 per person.

3 If Paying by Cheque, these are payable to 'Witham U3A'.

Best regards, Kevan Chippendale, Secretary, Witham U3A. Registered Charity No 1180721

Website

Our Witham U3A Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/witham-lincs/welcome> has been administered for the last six years by Ian Young and a terrific job he has done keeping it up-to-date, informing us of News, Groups and Events. Thank you Ian.

After six years though, Ian had asked for someone else to take over the administration and I have volunteered. For the past few weeks I have read and absorbed the administration help guide allowing me to update the pages and add a few more photographs to the website. Clicking on a Group name now, within the Groups Page, allows the display of further information for that Group. For instance, if you wish to join the Walking group on the Thursday morning but don't know the location, the website should now tell you that information.

Any feedback for the Website or any information you wish to add to it, please do let me know.

Josie Taylor, Membership Secretary

Short Walks

The Short Walks Group has got off to a good start in 2022. The first outing was from Dunston Village Hall in January and this was followed by a gentle tour of Whisby Nature Reserve in February. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 10.15 am for 10.30 am. and the

walks are approximately 4 – 5 miles long and last two to two and a half hours. The group is organised by Viv & John Fotheringham and if you are interested in joining us, see them at the meeting or email for details of the next walk.



November's walk coincided with Remembrance Day and the Group observed a minute's silence at 11.00 a.m. (Kathryn Wiswould)

If you enjoy being a member of the Short Walks Group and would like more 4 – 5 mile walks and share pleasant company then you can join the Lindsey U3A Walking Group which meets on the first Monday of the month at 10.00 a.m. They have a similar programme to our group and several members of Witham U3A already take part in their walks. For details of their next walk contact Kevan Chippendale.

Architecture

The start of a new year and reflections on 2021 a year probably best forgotten. For much of the period activity was severely restricted, the group only managed two events at the beginning of the year, a talk on Flixborough by our own Charles Parker and a visit to the Lawn organised by Christine Dawson. Then came our enforced 19 months shut down and it wasn't until we were double jabbed and boosted that any thought was given to starting visits again. Once our main meetings started in August a trip to Stow Minster was arranged for the September. We learnt that in the far distant past it was more important in the church estate than Lincoln. This was followed in October by a visit to the Walled Gardens at Baumber and an insight into how the gardens formed a part of the wider Stourton Estate. Unfortunately Stourton Hall was demolished in the 1950s. How many

times have we driven along the Skegness road and not realised what lies behind the roadside hedge? The Architecture group year was rounded off in November with a meal at the Carpenters Arms in Fiskerton.

On to this year and usually January is set aside for a planning meeting but enough of the group's members have stepped forward and we have visits and our meal pencilled in for what should be a full programme. My thanks go to those in the group who have agreed to arrange a visit. The leaflet giving all the details for the year will be available at the main meeting in February and you will be able to see there those who have contributed to ensuring we have that full programme.

Finally, I wish everyone a belated Happy New Year and if you are curious as to what the Architecture Group has to offer come and check out our desk at the monthly meetings.

Phil Stanyon

Witham U3A Reading Group

We all looked forward to meeting together but, as we have all experienced, nothing is straight forward. During the summer we had been able to meet , on two occasions in gardens but then it became too chilly. Members felt it was important to sit socially distanced but this limited the homes we could visit for the twelve of us and then came Omicron. Perhaps “ hybrid” is a good

description as we have had a mixture, home deliveries, smaller numbers and spaced out inside. We live in hope that more of us can meet together, inside, soon.

Recent books have included “The Tattooist of Auschwitz”, “Birdcage Walk” and “The Carer” all of which have provided interesting discussions. It is perhaps fair to say that “Girl, Woman, Other” by Bernadine Evarista and Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein” were the most challenging. For very different reasons the style and structure of both books provoked discussion whilst the content of the former enabled us to digress and relate to our own experiences of youth, working lives and families. Malcolm’s contribution was particularly sorely missed here.

At our last meeting we chose a selection of books from the Library Service for the next year so we look forward to the opportunity to meet together.

Lesley Rawding

And while on the subject of reading

Susan Chippendale has suggested a book exchange for U3A i.e. one for contemporary novels. She'll bring a box or two of books every month so people can take them FOC and deposit a book if they wish to do so.

(It is emphasised that this is novels only and other types of material will not be accepted.)

Bene ‘n’ ‘ot



The green bottle was unusual, green with a long neck and on the front an embossed red seal and the letters D.O.M.

My grandfather poured himself a small glass of the amber liquid, sniffed, took a sip and with a nod of the head offered the glass to me. I sniffed and took an apprehensive sip. Sweet, sticky on my lips, tingling on my tongue, I swallowed. A warm feeling crept down my throat and warmed the very middle of me giving a cosy inside glow. I was about 7 years of age.

My grandfather lived in the Burnley area where much of the Benedictine sold in this country is consumed, why? During the First World War, the East Lancashire Regiment was stationed near Fecamp in Normandy where the liqueur is made. Being readily available, it soon became a favourite with the troops especially with hot water as it warmed them up and they brought this tradition back with them.

At Burnley Football Club, the very same “Bene ‘n’ ‘ot” is still sold as it has been for over 100 years. The club can sell up to 1500 bottles in one season alone. As a child at the football matches, I never knew of this but as an adult, in 2019, I sampled this for myself – delicious, I recommend.

PS Benedictine is also an ingredient in a Singapore Sling.

Susan Chippendale

Group Convenors

Architecture	Phil Stanyon
Book Reading Group	Lesley Rawding
Bridge	Tricia West
Calligraphy	Chris Bayson
Craft	Pam Peace
Family History	Max Kitchen
Natural History	Liz Inder
Scrabble	Thelma Britz
Singing for Fun	Sue Young
Short Walks	Viv Fotheringham
Storytelling	Kath Manders

Editor – Charles Parker

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*Unless otherwise stated, all views expressed in this publication
are those of the contributors.*

*Visit our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/witham-lincs/groups>
and the Third Age Trust website <https://u3asites.org.uk/>*

WITHAM U3A GROUP TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 a.m.		Committee meeting every other month			Bridge
Week 1 p.m.		Storytelling			
Week 2 a.m.				Short Walks	Bridge Singing
Week 2 p.m.		Scrabble	Craft		
Week 3 a.m.		Natural History	Family History	10.00 a.m. Main Meeting	Bridge
Week 3 p.m.					
Week 4 a.m.			Calligraphy		Bridge Singing
Week 4 p.m.	Scrabble	Reading		Architecture	



I'm boosted now, still careful though, but feel safer. Bring it on!

The Natural History group recently met at Whisby for a walk around. There were quite a few of us and some new members, so we were able to have a chat with them as we meandered around. We finished up in the café there, for a hot drink and a snack. Socially distanced, lots of chat and laughter, which we all need.

The Craft group also had a well-attended meeting before Christmas to make Willow Wreaths. Something most of us had not done before (see photo above). Jayne taught us how to make them and as usual, everybody's was different. We enjoyed this new project and look forward to our next meeting when we will plan the next year's schedule. *Maxine Taylor*