

Edition No 28

July 2022



*Admiring the poppies near Nettleham; a recent outing for the
Short Walks Group in beautiful weather. Ed*

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 July to December 2022

21st July	Vicki Dennison	Dr D's Science Days and Social
18th August	Fran Sandham	A Solo Walk across Africa
15th September	John Hope	Extra Time
20th October	Tony Dixon	Life in the Falklands now
17th November	Steve Lovell	Head in the Clouds, Feet in the Mud
15th December	Peasants Revolt and Yalla Bella	

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

The u3a movement in Britain is 40 years old. Now, there are more than 1000 u3a's with a combined membership of 400,000. Eric Midwinter, one of the three co-founders of the u3a in this country, regularly reminds us in the national magazine 'third age matters' that the original concept of the institution, self-help, is at organisation's core and must be preserved. He says 'The danger of the co-operative, self-help motif is that, without due care, the some become the very few and the others become the almost all. The u3a is not, nor should it ever become, a service charity in which a few provide a programme for the many. Everyone should be an involved member. Nobody should be a customer being served...' On another occasion he reminded us of the terms of membership which state 'Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a'. Then he said 'Not the chair, not the committee: the MEMBERS.' (his capitals).

But we do need a committee, and at the next AGM three important roles will need to be filled - Speaker Organiser, if not filled before then, as Julie would like to step down prior to the AGM if possible - Chairman, I will have held the position for five years and our constitution states that a person should hold it for no more than three years and Secretary - Kevan, will have held that post for seven years.

On a lighter note, it is nice to see that we have quite a few new members who are joining in activities and hopefully as time moves on and people are getting more happy to mix that even more new members will come and join us. If you know of anyone who you think might be interested or might benefit from the social interaction

please bring them along. In some parts of the country GPs are prescribing u3a membership to their patients. Remember that anyone's first visit is free.

Gerry

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.

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 continued to meet and enjoy a ramble and convivial company each month. Recent walks have been held around Skellingthorpe Old Wood, Scampton and Nettleham. The Old Wood walk proved particularly fascinating with a number of rather novel woodcarvings and a most unusual 'No Trespassers' sign!





Orchids were also identified by members of the Natural History Group. 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.

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

Well into the year now and we are already deep into our programme. We started off in February with an in-house presentation by our own Charles Parker on the legacy of the Great War in Lincoln. This topic usually concentrates on tank manufacture in the city and although this was covered the presentation went on to concentrate on aircraft manufacture with many of the buildings used for this purpose still standing and in use to this day.



Our first outside visit of the year, in March, was to the Cathedral Workshops; because of the numbers involved we had to split into two groups and the picture above shows one of these waiting for the start of their tour.

This was a most interesting visit headed up by the Workshop's own Director of Works who gave us an insight into the day-to-day activities of his department

and the plans for the future. The team are presently working on the Chapter House and then plan to go onto the East End with its gigantic stained glass window. A fascinating fact was that during WW2 all the stained glass was placed in storage to protect it from bomb damage but the wood shavings used in the storage caused major damage to the glass anyway.



Inside the Chapter House

Staying on the church theme April's visit was to Southwell Minster where we were given a comprehensive tour by two expert and knowledgeable guides. The Minster is a superb building and a brief description here would not do it justice, however we were entranced by the RAF chapel and war memorial area which features several items from redundant airfields in Nottinghamshire. The east



Members in the RAF Chapel at Southwell Minster (Ed)



*Airmen's Chapel Altar Table, made from propeller blades
brought back from the Western Front (Ed)*

midlands was a base for several Polish units during and after the conflict and this part of the Minster is also dedicated to these brave men and women who fought with the Allies.

When the Churches Visit Group was active, I was a little apprehensive about church visits under the Architecture Group umbrella as I did not want to encroach on their territory so to speak but now that group has gone it leaves us a little more leeway and another church visit is planned for July to Heighington and Washingborough. The May visit was an oddity, in the nicest possible way, a guided tour around the Humberston Fitties a fascinating area dating back to the

First World War when the area was used to house the soldiers who manned the nearby Haile Sands Fort and their families. It is a protected site today and our enthusiastic guides walked us round the site and kindly supplied us with tea and coffee served from one of the chalets owned by our guide. As are most of our trips a memorable day.

Thankfully, now that we have all been jabbed and booster jabbed, we seem to be getting back to some sort of normality and it is good that attendance for the Architecture Group visits seem to be as well attended as before the virus hit us. We have always had a loyal group of about 20 members who attend most visits and I thank them for keeping faith and making it all worthwhile.

As always, I finish on a general note and say if you have not been on an Architecture visit and are curious as to what the group has to offer or you just like visiting interesting places in the county come and check out our desk at the monthly meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

Phil Stanyon

Family History

Max Kitchen has received some enquiries about restarting the Family History Group. Would anyone who is interested please contact Max on 01522 750589 or preferably email kitchen_max@yahoo.co.uk to assess the potential viability of the group.

Natural History

The Group met at Willingham woods, in March. It was a short walk around and a get together. There were some noisy geese, on the pond, getting it together or falling out, as they do

In April we met at Rigsby woods to see the British bluebells. We had a warden here to conduct the walk, point out interesting things and give out information. It was well worth the small donation to the area. We came upon a carpet of white anemones and some pink catchfly. He showed us a secret area of early purple orchids (Which I also saw recently in Skellingthorpe old wood). We heard chaffinch and skylark and a frog call, but it was Sue's phone!

We visited Langar wild flower farm, in May. The owner told us the history of how he started and had to get more land as the business grew. He provided wild flowers for the British Olympics and poppies for the London displays. He has a no dig policy as this disturbs the soil causing all sorts to grow. He does hoe though, back breaking. Some wild flowers are perennial and some annual; some move about, some need frost. If we went again at a different time of year, it would be a different display. He was trying to grow a green winged orchid and showed us one success. There was a cafe and a toilet and we were content.

Liz Inder runs a successful and popular group here and we plan our year at the beginning of the year, everyone having suggestions and involved.

Maxine Taylor

Craft Group



This friendly group meets at the Church Hall in Cherry Willingham and our creative crafters continue to produce new projects for the rest of the group to try out.

Since planning the programme in January, the projects have been varied; woolly Easter chicks, silk painting, attempted a variety of origami projects and tried Sashiko embroidery (Japanese quilting).

In February we made 'wiggle bags', or, more correctly Hickman Line Pouches for use by children and teenagers. They are used in various treatments, especially cancer, to keep tubes clean and safe. The colourful creative results were amazing! We sent a large number to hospitals for distribution.

There is always time for plenty of chatter and a cuppa, and we have welcomed a number of new members recently, but currently are at capacity for the size of the hall.

Pam Peace

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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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	



Two photos from the meeting in June. The first one is of Fools Gold who entertained us with a superb themed presentation called 'Bang up to the Elephant' which was based in the late Victorian period. They had travelled down from Durham.

The other is of our newest project started by Sue Chippendale which is a book exchange and appears to be very popular.

Kathryn Wiswould

