



WS u3a Newsletter

January/February
2022

Quick Note from a Short Editor

Feedback

You can use this link to view past issues of the Newsletter, or to send a note to the Editor:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/page/113917>

Newsletter's new format

You will have already noticed that the Newsletter is looking a little different.

Helen's exemplary tenure as the Editor has come to an end, and I know how much we all enjoyed reading her articles, puzzles, etc.

This new format, however, is going to be filled with contributions submitted via the Group Leaders and Committee members, which will make it easier for me to compile.

I hope you'll still enjoy reading about what's happened 'Around the Groups' in the past month, and will find the other 'Coming Soon' and 'u3a Online' information useful, too.

Feedback is always welcome.

Happy reading,

Tom Sefton - Editor

The Committee's Briefs

Contact the Committee

You can use this link to send a message to any of our Committee:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/contact>

Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the new format. Thanks Tom, we wish you well.

The other day I was invited to join the new members for tea and a chat. I was keen to point out that the motto of the u3a is

learn, laugh, live, but most of all we like to have fun. They had a wide range of interests and we look forward to the formation of new groups and the revival of old ones. Spring is on its way!

Malcolm Capps - Chairman

Special Note: Please let the leaders of your groups know if you are not going to attend a group session. This helps in organising the group and its future activities.

Groups News

Sheets were put out last month for two new groups, and I'm very pleased to say that there is already interest being shown. **Knit & Natter** is meeting on a weekly basis, but Stef Lorenz, the leader, says this is so members can drop in when they have free time. If you like to knit, crochet – or just natter – then Stef will be pleased to see you.

The **Movie Group** was very popular, but sadly when the leader left the group it folded. This has now been resurrected and will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Kinema in the Woods for the morning screening. If you would like to catch up on a film you may have missed with other u3a members and then head off for a coffee or lunch then do sign up.

The **Jazz, Blues and Big Band Group** members have been enjoying the music for some time now, but as it is held in a member's home numbers are limited. However, enough members have put their names on the waiting list to start a new

group, and I will be organising this in the very near future.

I did mention a **Financial Forum** a few months ago as this is a very successful group in Horncastle u3a. It is simply a group of members who are interested in anything finance, be it investments, finding the best credit card or the best broadband provider. They get together and have discussions often based on their own experiences. If this appeals, then please add your details to the list.

We currently have in excess of 30 groups, but if your interest isn't included then please use one of the blank sheets to name a group. Who knows how many other members might have a similar interest? After all, this is how all our groups initially started.

I can be found around the tables with the groups' sheets at our monthly meetings, so please come to have a chat and ask any questions you may have. I look forward to meeting you.

Val Shurben – Groups Coordinator

Online u3a

Find out more:

You can use these links to search for ways of furthering your interest in specific subjects, or even take part in some competitions:

Our own WS u3a website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/welcome>

u3a National programmes

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>

Coming Soon

Upcoming Events list

You can use this link to find more details on all the events in our diary:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/events>

General Meeting at Coronation Hall
February 3rd at 2:30 to 4pm

Speaker, Jo Minchin will present
[Understanding Autism](#)

General Meeting at Coronation Hall
March 3rd at 2:30 to 4pm

Speaker, Steve Lovell will present
[Lincolnshire a Naturalist's Paradise.](#)

40th Anniversary

The u3a turns 40 years old in 2022, and there's plenty to get involved with...

Find out more

You can use this link to find out more about all the events being planned:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/40th-anniversary>

Just some of the events, in brief

Picnic In the Park Live Cookery - 16th May

A live online cookery demonstration to prepare vegetarian food for the [Picnic in the Park](#) event.

u3a Science Network Anniversary meeting - July

We are planning to attract a key speaker to talk at the July science network meeting.

Picnic in the Park - 1st June

On Wednesday 1 June, u3as are being encouraged to hold picnics to celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

One Foot in the Future - September /October

Members are being asked to provide ideas to be translated into short plays to be recorded as videos and then produced live in 2023.

Reveal of the Anniversary Quilt - June

We have started the plans for an event for the 'great reveal' of the Anniversary Quilt during June.

Celebrating u3a Week - 17th to 25th September



Michaela Moody - Chair of Anniversary Working Group

Around the Groups in 30 days

Groups List

You can use this link to find a current list of the groups we support, and how to join up:
<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/groups>

Gardening

The **Gardening Group** will be recommencing on **8th April** with regular trips to various gardens on the **second Friday of each month** until October. After this date the Leaders will decide whether to have a programme of events over the winter months. Because we will be visiting

gardens there will be mileage involved, and also there is often an entrance fee to be paid. We will all meet before the journey when car sharing can be arranged. Please remember that if you are being driven it is an unwritten rule that a donation is made to the cost of fuel.

PLEASE NOTE - Even if you were a member of the Gardening Group in the past you will have to add your name to the sheet once again, as we are starting with a blank page.

If you have any suggestions for gardens to visit we'll be happy to hear about them.

Elizabeth Leech
 Heather Colebrook
 Margaret Cole



Gardening Group Leaders

Country Dancing

We are beginning our Country Dance sessions again after a too-long break inflicted, of course, by the Covid crisis. Happily, we are now able to look forward to seeing our members return to **St. Peter's Hall**, on **Wednesday 16th of February**, starting at 2pm through to 4pm.

Margaret Cole – Group Leader (01526 353560)

We are still operating under some restrictions so please bring your own drinks and hand sanitiser.

The fee to cover costs is £2.

For anyone else who would like to join our group, please add your name to the list that you will find at the Monthly Meeting at Coronation Hall.

Five Mile Walking

Minting to Wispington

It was a bright, sunny, winter's morning when we gathered at Minting for our January walk. It is a piece of country populated by small villages, criss crossed by quiet country roads and a jumble of small woods.

Due to the recent rain it was decided to walk on the lanes rather than on footpaths.



Setting off from Minting



Leaving Minting

Crossing fields behind Minting church we walked towards the crossroads before walking up the hill to Wispington.

In Victorian times these villages grew, and it was thought necessary to restore their churches for the growing congregations.

Minting church was built near to the site of a Benedictine priory. It has medieval origins with additions in the 15th century and was restored in 1863.

Minting to Wispington, continued:

A new church was also built at Wispington in 1863 but Wispington declined and the church was declared redundant in 1975. Walking out the back of the farmyard, we were greeted by an outstanding view towards Bardney Woods and the horizon beyond with a bright blue sky.



Rest stop at Wispington Church



Winter skies in Lincolnshire

The road now snaked back towards Minting with Waddingworth to our left. This is another village that has declined and the church now stands alone in a farmyard.

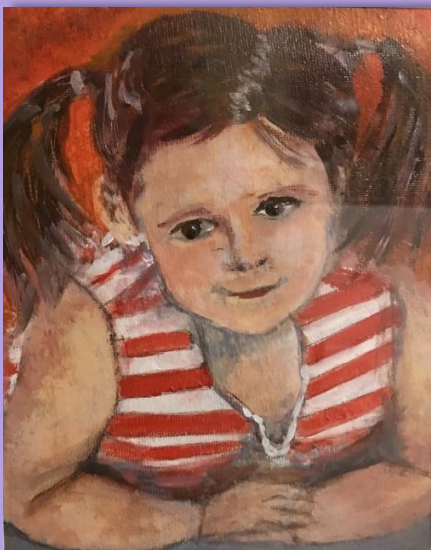
On our way back we came across heaps of cockle shells, which, it was suggested, were used for laying drainage pipes.

A gentle stroll of just five miles in the best of weather, let's hope it stays that way.

Malcolm Capps – Group Leader
Photography – Les Wylde

Art

January Gallery



Granddaughter Ava (6)
Artist – Stef Lorenz
Stef Lorenz – Group Leader



Gelmeroda IX, after Feininger
Artist – thom Sefton

Croquet

Our new season will be starting again at the beginning of April, depending on weather and lawn conditions, although come rain or shine the group leader will be in attendance.

Our regular members had a good 2021 season enjoying the company of like-minded enthusiasts; we had our ups and downs regarding attendance but generally those attending made it worthwhile in running the group.

The playing fee of £4 per session will be continued again this coming season for those members of the u3a who are NOT members of the Croquet Club

The u3a members who have also joined the WSCC will continue to enjoy complimentary play.

Last season's fees collected amounted to over £300 and was paid into the WSCC's

account, which goes towards the lawn's upkeep and loan of the equipment. It was commendable that a number of our group bought their own mallets last season indicating their continued interest in playing the game of Golf Croquet.

As your group leader and coach I'd like to thank those who joined our group last year, and hopefully there may be a few more joining the growing enthusiasm within the Woodhall Spa u3a. For members who may be considering joining our group, why not come along to one of our Tuesday morning sessions? You may be surprised at how enjoyable the game can be.

I look forward to the new season and maybe some new faces joining our group. Best wishes to the group and to a new season 2022.

Bob Potter – Group Leader

Reading Group 2

The ten members of **Reading Group 2** were able to meet on Zoom during the lockdowns, but are now together again face-to-face – thank goodness! We read a new book each month, rotating book choices & home venues, with the member choosing the book leading the meeting each time.... and providing the *essential* tea & biscuits. We enjoy each other's company immensely, disagree with good humour & our reading provokes some very interesting discussions.

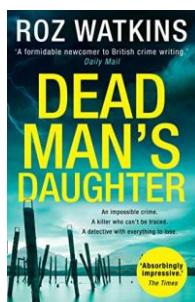


Four group members enjoying a great discussion on our latest book, 'The Kindness of Strangers' by Kate Adie.



We always end up with a truly eclectic mix of reading & since our last newsletter report have tackled such diverse choices as:

- 'Hold on Edna' by Lucinda Riley
- 'I am, I am, I am' by Maggie O'Farrell
- 'Northanger Abbey' by Val McDermid,
- 'A Skinful of Shadows' by Frances Hardinge
- 'The Girl with the Louding Voice' by Abi Daré
- 'A Five Year Sentence' by Bernice Rubens



And you really couldn't get more opposite than 'The American Ground' by Nathan Dylan Goodwin and 'British Summer Time Begins' by Ysendra Maxtone Graham.

Our book for February is *Dead Man's Daughter* by Roz Watkins. Enjoy your reading everyone.

Barbara Michaelides - Group Leader

Woodhall Wanderers

Two articles from the Wanderers this month:

December Drift

The Wanderers do not normally wander in December as the walk day, 4th Wednesday, usually falls on or very close to a bank holiday. However, in 2021 it fell 3 days before Christmas Day and a walk was planned!

Lynn offered to lead it with a shorter local walk. We all agreed it was local, but shorter??

We set off from the roundabout and walked to Green lane, turning to go past the new development at The Petwood and then on to the footpath through the trees by the golf course. This brought us out by The Tea House, where we had to walk past without stopping!

On to Manor Road and up past The Manor House and The Golf Club to the footpath on our right. This took us across the golf

course, where we barracked the golfers, and out on to Horncastle Road. Here we turned towards Horncastle for a short way before turning into the woods next to Juniper Court.

We all know this track and how wet it gets and were dreading the impending wet feet. However, Lynn took us in a totally different, dry, direction and we came out opposite Woodlands Drive on Kirkby Lane.

From here an easy walk down Woodlands Drive, the snicket and out on to Tor O Moor Road, through Tor O Moor Gardens, another snicket and Horncastle Road.

For those needing replenishment we dropped into The Inn and sampled the food and drinks.

Many thanks to Lynn for getting us out and about.

January Jaunt

A change from our usual Wednesday, we set off on the 4th Tuesday to Brinkhill and our first venture into the Wolds of 2022.

Brinkhill is on the Prime Meridian and has several listed buildings, not what we would normally expect as they are the earthworks for moated buildings!

Due to the day-change, numbers were low, the weather was cold and damp or as the Scots would say, *dreich*.

Setting off across the fields we encountered our first stile. There were several, all of a different type and each a challenge; it was as if there had been a stile building competition.



January Jaunt, continued:

Onward around field edges and then through woodland to Driby. Here there are just a few houses and the church has been converted to a residence.

Following the bridleway up hill out of Driby we spotted two Red Kites in a tree, which promptly took to the air on our approach. Magnificent birds to watch wheeling around the sky.

At the top of the slope we were halfway on our walk and paused for refreshment

before starting our descent back to Brinkhill.

As we past the woods, American Holt, we noticed that there had been a lot of work done in the past couple of weeks, clearing out dykes and drains of undergrowth and overgrown trees. Crossing the fields we found the really sticky cloying clay and were now a pound or two heavier and an inch or so taller!



On the verge by the church we noticed that the snowdrops were just opening and further along the hedgerow yellow aconites were brightening up the ground – a real sign that spring is on the way. When we did the recce for this walk we had stunning views, but unfortunately not today!

[John Cotton – Group Leader](#)

The Final Word

Many thanks to all the contributors to this, the first edition of the Newsletter for 2022. If you'd like to see *your* group represented in the next edition, let your Group Leader know, and maybe between you the seed of an idea might take root.

Take care out there,

[Tom Sefton – Editor](#)

