



WSPU3A Newsletter

May/June
2022



The Petwood Hotel

Photo by Ced Shurben

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>

Groups News

Because our monthly meeting in June will be the **Picnic in the Park** there will be no group sheets on display. However, if you would like to join any of our existing groups, or even add your name to those we are trying to start, then please email me your details. My email address can be found on our website (see above).

There is now a **WALKING FOOTBALL** group which meets every Wednesday 10.30–11.30 at the court next to Coronation Hall. A weekly fee of £2.50 is payable for the hire of the court. If this exercise is just what you're looking for, then all you need do is be there on a Wednesday.

Val Shurben – Groups' Coordinator

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>

Chairman's Chat



No, I am not trying to recruit new u3a members. They are known as The Two Marias, but were Spanish sisters Maruxa and Coralía Fanino Ricart.

They showed their opposition to Franco's fascism by going for a walk in Alameda Park, Santiago de Compostela, every day at 2 o'clock.

Their protest took the form of an eclectic choice of fashion and makeup, contrary to the grey fashions of the dictatorship.

They also flirted outrageously with the young students, against the strict moral code of the day.

Despite fascist brutality, their protests continued throughout Franco's rule.

Surprising how a simple act by two elderly ladies should cause such a fuss.



Malcolm Capps – Chairman

Your u3a Needs YOU

Situations Vacant

Assets Manager

We are looking for someone to take on this non-Committee role, to be responsible for the storage and maintenance of equipment purchased by WSPu3a for the use of its members and guest speakers at monthly meetings.

Overview of the role

- Keeping and updating an electronic assets data base
- Arranging servicing/ repairs and PAT testing of equipment
- Support groups with equipment from store, or at members' presentations
- Support committee members at monthly meetings, and the appointed speaker by setting up and monitoring equipment

If interested in taking on the role, or for an informal chat and more detailed information, please contact the Chairman, Malcolm Capps, either by email (malcolmcapps@yahoo.co.uk) or by phone (01526 354007).

Committee Member

We are looking for someone to take on this Committee role, which has no *specific* duties.

Overview of the role

- Attendance at monthly committee meeting
- Represent fellow u3a members
- Willing to become a u3a trustee
- General help with u3a Committee, but *not* a specific office holder e.g. Treasurer or Membership Secretary.

If interested in taking on the role, or for an informal chat and more detailed information, please contact the Chairman, Malcolm Capps, either by email (malcolmcapps@yahoo.co.uk) or by phone (01526 354007).

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 WSPU3A website

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

u3a Radio Podcast

The monthly podcast showcases the amazing things happening across the movement. Have a listen here.

<https://youtu.be/--kxLjOouBw>



Creative Writing 2022

The national u3a creative writing competition returns for a third year!

<https://u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/creative-writing-2022>

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>

June 1st

2:30 pm
Jubilee Park, near
Maple Ave.

Picnic in Jubilee Park.

Free fizz and cake and voluntary games. Bring your own picnic, blanket, and umbrella. It's the Jubilee *and* the u3a anniversary so red/white/blue, and blue/yellow are appropriate colours.

July 7th

2:30pm to 4pm
Coronation Hall

'Happy Endings'. A humorous look at death and bereavement The speaker, Guy Otten, was a humanist celebrant for many years, conducting non-religious weddings and funerals. He will share some of his experiences and look at some of the different funeral options now available.

August 4th

2:30pm to 4pm
Coronation Hall

'When Birds Sing' An illustrated talk by Saffron Summerfield including some of her own recordings of bird songs and calls. She will discuss why, when and how birds sing, with tips on identifying the birds in your garden from their song.

September 1st

2:30pm to 4pm
Coronation Hall

'Alfred Lord Tennyson- Poetry and Art'. Dr Jim Cheshire, Associate Professor in the School of History & Heritage at the University of Lincoln will share some of the insights he has gained from his studies of our local celebrity.

October 6th

2:30pm to 4pm
Coronation Hall

'Masters of Mirth' An affectionate look at some favourite Music Hall laughter makers with examples of their acts and famous monologues. Our speaker, Mike Storr, is a Freeman of the City of Lincoln and has a long fascination with the Victorian and Edwardian music hall .

Around the Groups in 30 days

Dog Walking

On Saturday 7th May we met at Ostler's Plantation. It was a beautiful, warm Spring morning, just right for a walk with like-minded people. We are a relatively new group so it was good to chat and for us and the dogs to get to know each other. The dogs enjoyed the space and lots of sniffs! It was my first visit to the Plantation and I was surprised that there were so many different paths and tracks. The signs of Spring were all around us.

Judy Binks

At the end of the walk, we all felt refreshed and look forward to next month's walk.

As we are just a small group new members would be very welcome.

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 10am. Come and join us if you would like to walk, chat, and enjoy the open air with a group of friendly people and dogs!

The Dog Walking Group sheet will be on the groups' table at the next U3A meeting.

Bridge



We are a relaxed group who meet to play social Bridge at The Cottage Museum every Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

Now Covid restrictions have been lifted we have space for new members. Maybe you played Bridge in a past life and would like to take it up again or you might enjoy playing cards and want to learn Bridge? We have varied proficiency and experience, but we are insufficiently skilled to do any teaching.

If you have never played bridge before it might be helpful to try some beginner Bridge lessons online. Familiarising yourself with basic ACOL bidding would be a good start. You are very welcome to join us to observe and practise. You don't need a partner.

There is a selection of online lessons for beginners, many of which are free:

- www.funbridge.com
- www.nofearbridge.co.uk (free Acol bidding crib sheet used by some of us)
- www.bridgebase.com
- www.60secondbridge.com
- and many more

If you would like to come along and meet us or have any questions please text or ring Bev Bennett on 07989 406313

Hilary Betty – Group Co-Leader

Outings

Grimsthorpe

On arrival we were welcomed by our tour guides, Phillipa, Gill and Ruanne, who were keen to show us around the 500 year old home of the Willoughby de Eresby family. The tour coincided with an exhibition for the Platinum Jubilee, which was being set up as we walked around. (The exhibition called 'The Crowning Glory; 400 Years of Fashioning Kingship' runs from 22nd May till 29th August). Despite the distant sounds of drilling, workmen, and some of the new exhibits being covered, there was plenty for us to see and admire.



Grimsthorpe houses one of the largest collections of royal thrones and furnishings outside the Royal Palaces. The thrones of George IV, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were on display as well as numerous portraits of past members of the Willoughby family.

Towards the end of the tour we were led to the Chinese room, or 'Tea room', which was beautifully decorated with blue flora and fauna wallpaper dating from 1811. The ceiling decorations of different gold designs were a sight to behold.

Once the tour was over it was time for lunch at the Marquee, which had a good selection of cakes..... plus the usual sandwiches, salads etc. The Ladies who served us did a sterling job as we all queued up together.



Lunch over, the sun came out and we headed for the gardens and grounds of Grimsthorpe. The park extends to almost 3,000 acres and we had the opportunity to walk and walk and walk. The gardeners must have known we were coming as the grassed areas were freshly mown and the topiary was perfect.

[Continued](#)





Grimsthorpe – Continued

The two very different walled gardens were lovely to walk around as was the lake, and the countryside views in the bright sunshine were just stunning.

Finally at the end, time for yet another slice of cake for some of us and a cup of tea before saying thank you and goodbye to Grimsthorpe.



Oh and by the way..... on the coach travelling back to Woodhall, I heard that several members of our group had just happened to meet the Baroness herself out walking with her dog.....a Willoughby Pug of course ! Well I never!

Jan Smith – Group Co-Leader



Find out more:

You can use this link to see what other trips are planned this year:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/page/114125>

Five Mile Walking

Washingborough to Lincoln, Return

We assembled at Ferry Lane, Washingborough, and set off via a left turn to walk towards Lincoln along the drain path. The Metheringham to Lincoln Railway was in the distance to our left.

Swallows and Martins had made a welcome return and were swooping low over the River Witham. The sky was mainly cloudy with a little sunshine, which increased as the walk progressed.

Although a linear walk we enjoyed the fresh spring green colours and the white hawthorn and cow-parsley. We had views of Lincoln Cathedral all the way on the outward leg.



As we approached Lincoln the landscape became more industrial. Many of the old factories have been converted into smaller uses for a wide variety of businesses. Our refreshment stop was at Waterside South with take-away coffees from Jamie's Café; we sat on wide steps on the banks of the Witham.

[Continued](#)

Washingborough to Lincoln – Continued
Retracing our steps for 100m we followed a footpath to the Water Railway path and followed this back to Washingborough.



In places the path was a tunnel of hawthorn blossom and we enjoyed views across the countryside to Greetwell Church.



The A15 bypass crossed over our path and afforded a framed view back to the Cathedral.

Soon we arrived back at Ferry Lane crossing over a footbridge to return to our cars. We all agreed it was a very enjoyable walk.

Les Wylde

Science



Polypipe, Horncastle

The newly formed Science Group had their second monthly meeting on 23rd of May and visited the Horncastle plastic manufacturer Polypipe.

The company manufactures 700 products mainly for use underground to carry all the services used by the civil engineering companies. The original site was set up to manufacture plastic land drainage pipe and has progressed to the 29 acre site it is today.

One of the most impressive features of the day was realising that 90% of their output is made of **recycled plastic**. A large part of the site was taken up preparing bales of plastic from recycling companies into high grade plastic pellets for manufacture of any product. The process was that good they even sold off types of plastic not suitable to them for use by other manufacturers.



Continued

Polypipe – Continued

We at Woodhall Spa u3a are helping in this process by supplying milk bottles, which you have been putting in the barrel situated on the footpath by the Tea House in The Woods. This photo shows the first load leaving for Horncastle which went straight into manufacture at Polypipe, being a great environmental success to all who have contributed so far.

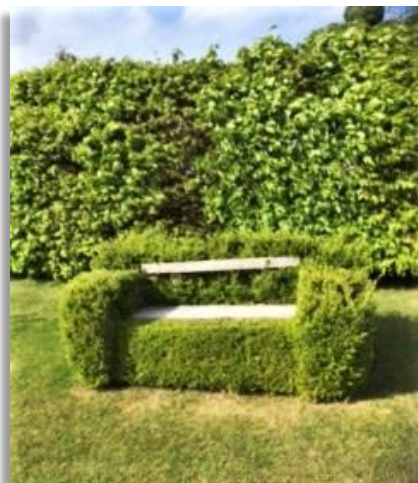


David Leech

Gardening

Mill Farm, Grasby

The group went to Mill Farm, Grasby, near Caistor for their second meeting. It was a lovely sunny afternoon but a little windy. Our hosts met us and gave us an outline to the history and development of the garden. A beautiful varied garden with wonderful views of the Wolds. A 3 acre site with a huge variety of plants and garden styles, with a pretty pond, an open mill-ruin full of ferns, and even a display of indoor plants.



So many interesting and fun items around the grounds, the place had many clever designs, which certainly gave us plenty of ideas.

Lots to see.

After tea and cake we headed for home with several plant purchases in the cars.

Next month will find the group off to visit a garden in Sleaford.

Elizabeth Leech

Home Computing for Fun

Search Engines

Not surprisingly Search Engines have nothing to do with trains!

In fact, I suspect that they are more reliable and helpful than most trains.

A Search Engine is a software system that allows you to search for things on the internet. They operate within a browser. You will have heard people say that they are going to "Google" something to find out about it.

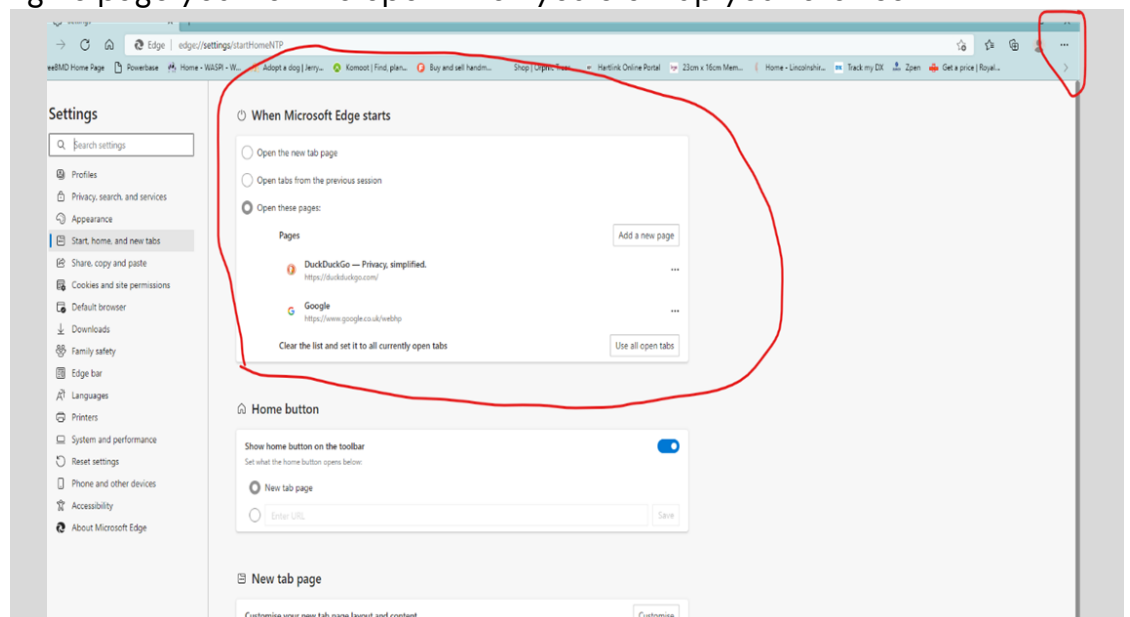
Google is probably the best known Search Engine, but it is by no means the only one. Others include:

- Bing
- Yahoo
- Ask.com
- DuckDuckGo
- Brave Search



You can use whatever Search Engine you want. You can either access it from your browser by putting the URL in the address bar or you can go into the Settings of your browser to select the search Engine page you want to open when you start up your browser.

Click on the three dots on the top right of your browser and page down to **Settings**. Choose *Start, Home and New tabs* from the menu, and add the Search Engine you want in **When Microsoft Edge starts**.



Because some browsers like Google retain your data, some people prefer to use a Search Engine that doesn't, such as DuckDuckGo or Brave Search. However, you will get a wider search with the larger ones.

Although most people will only use a Search Engine by entering one or two words, the best results can be obtained by actually asking a question. For example:

- *How can I edit my photos?*
- *Are there any reviews for the retailer xxxxxxxx?*

Continued

Search Engines – Continued

- *What is the best price for a xxxxxxxx?*
- *Where is my nearest Chiropodist?*
- *What is 2lb in grams?*

It can be particularly useful to find genuine independent reviews on products or services as often reviews on retailers' sites are written by the retailers themselves.

My group members will tell you that "Google" is my friend and often the answer to their problems does not come from me alone!

Often searches that you do will bring up a written response, but also explanatory videos which can be very helpful. Once your search results appear you often have the option to narrow them by choosing Shopping, Images, Videos, etc.



Your monthly guide to what it means....

Chromebooks

A Chromebook is a portable computer that runs on the Chrome operating system or Chrome OS as opposed to a Windows or Apple's Mac operating system.

Chromebooks are often cheaper than other laptops and because of this are becoming very popular.

However, if you are considering buying a Chromebook it is important that you are aware of the differences. You will normally need at least one Google account.

This is very easy to set up.

Chromebooks have a lot less storage as much of their functionality involves use of the internet. The latest models can run Android Apps, which you can download from the Google Play Store. If you have an Android smart phone you will be familiar with these.

They're not great for the games you would normally run on a desktop. But there are many Android game Apps that you can run.

Although there is some storage on these devices it is minimal, with the understanding that you would store your data, documents, photos etc. on the Google Cloud.

You will get 15 GigaBytes (GB) of free Cloud storage for each Google account that you have.

This will be plenty if you are not planning on storing loads of photos.

There are plans if you want to pay for more storage starting from £1.59 per month or £15.99 a year for 100 GB.

You can also use external USB hard drives or flash drives for your storage or an SD card if your model has an SD slot. You can't run Windows on a Chromebook or use Microsoft Office applications as you would on a Windows PC. However, you can run web versions of Word, Excel, etc. from the Google Play Store.

Continued

It's Just Jargon - Continued

Google has many Apps that perform functions that you may be used to running in Windows. If you are prepared to adjust to this, a Chromebook may be for you.

You can watch films, You Tube, catch up TV, or listen to music, all on the internet.

Because of this if you have a poor WiFi connection a Chromebook may not be for you.

Also they rarely have ethernet sockets so you cannot connect directly to your router.

Most social media will run on a Chromebook and so will Skype.

On the plus side, the battery life of most Chromebooks is better than on a similar Windows laptop.

Please note storage pricing information was correct at time of writing.

Factory Reset

A Factory Reset or putting a device into its factory settings is something you need to do if you are selling, recycling or in any way disposing of your device.

During its use your device stores a large amount of personal data. A lot of this you may not be aware of and it is not possible to manually delete it all.

When you perform a Factory Reset the device is put back to the status it was when you purchased it.

This allows for the new owner (if there is one) to input their data and start using the device.

A Factory Reset does not remove any original software or functionality of the device.

It is very important that you perform a Factory Reset when you stop using a device to prevent any of your personal data getting into the wrong hands. You do need to make sure you have removed any data, photos, etc. that you want to keep before you do this as there is no way to recover it once the Factory Reset has been actioned.

How Do I Do It?

On an android phone or tablet:

1. Go to Settings
2. Go to General Management
3. Go to Reset
4. Go to Factory Data Reset

On a Windows PC:

1. Go to Settings
2. Go to Update and Security
3. Select Recovery from the menu
4. Go to Reset this PC

On an iPhone or iPad:

1. Go to Settings
2. Go to General
3. Go to Reset or Transfer/Reset

Heather Maslen – Group Leader

Find out more

If you have any questions about these articles, follow this link and click on the bird on the Home Computing for Fun page on the Woodhall Spa U3A website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/page/115109>

The Final Word

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>

Feedback, please

I've been editor of the Newsletter for 5 months now, so you will be getting a flavour of how i do things. However, i would very much like to hear from you about what you like and don't like about the Newsletter. All constructive feedback is always worth listening to, so please feel free to tell me your opinions. Please use the link above to get in touch.

I am indebted to those who have taken time to contribute to this edition of the Newsletter, especially those that have contributed for the first time.

Many thanks.

Take care out there,

Tom Sefton – Editor

