



# WSPu3a Newsletter

March/April  
2024



Arnhem Way

Photo by Geoff Noel

## The Committee's Briefs

### Chairman's Chat



I hope you were able to see "Vindication", about Mercedes Gleitze, the first known person to swim across the Straits of Gibraltar. It took her eight attempts to swim the English Channel. What has that got to do with the u3a? Well the film makers asked the u3as from Brighton, Worthing and Sussex to be extras. A u3a Film Extras Group, now there's a thing....



On a more serious note, dementia, in the UK, affects 1:14 people over the age of 65. Soon that will be one million people. Social interaction is important to everybody. We welcome people with dementia and their carers to our meetings. If we can do anything to make them more dementia-friendly please let us know

Malcolm Capps – Chairman

## Groups News

The **LINE DANCING GROUP** will have its first meeting in April with what appears to be a good number of members ready to don their cowboy boots.

**WINE TASTING GROUP 2** will also be having their first meeting in April. We have been able to form this group from the waiting list of Wine Tasting Group 1, so you see it's always worth putting your name on the waiting list of any group that is full. We will always start a new group once we have sufficient members.

We now have enough members to start a **CRAFT GROUP**. It is anticipated that members will '*do their own thing*' but we are due to have a meeting to decide how the group should be run, and what crafts will be

involved. If you like the sound of this then contact me – or speak to me at the April meeting – and come along to have a coffee. It is the u3a ethos that our groups should be *self-help*, and this group might be just that in showing other members just how to enjoy a particular craft.

Two of our newest members have asked if we could have an **ANTIQUES GROUP** and a **FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP**. We are always happy to have suggestions from members when there's not a group covering their interest and so the descriptions will be shown on the board at the next monthly meeting. If you share either, or both of these interests, then please complete a form, which you'll find on the table.

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:  
[WSPu3a Groups Page](#)

### Contact the Committee

You can use this link to send a message to any of our Committee:  
[WSPu3a Committee Page](#)

## Monthly Meeting Volunteers

### ROTAS Tea and Coffee and Mics and Speakers

At every meeting we expect there will be tea and coffee and biscuits. We expect we will be able to hear the speaker.

This is only possible if we have volunteers to help serve and wash up and set up and check the speakers and the mics. We need a few people each meeting to help do these things. There are members who know what needs to be done but they require help and assistance. Please think about volunteering for at least one meeting.

Rotas for Teas and Coffees and Mics and Speakers will be available at the April Meeting.

Malcolm Capps – Chairman

## AGM and Committee Vacancies



### WOODHALL SPA u3a AGM

**Notice is hereby given that the AGM of Woodhall Spa u3a  
will be held on:  
Thursday 2nd May 2024 at 14:30  
at St Peters Hall, Woodhall Spa**

There are vacancies on the Committee. If we do not have a Chairperson, Treasurer, and Business Secretary, our u3a will cease.

Committee Nominations to be submitted by **12 April 2024** to the Secretary, Dave Bennett at: [secretary@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk) or 32 Kirkby Lane Woodhall Spa.

You will find details of current Committee Nominations and vacancies attached. Members are invited to submit agenda items by **12 April 2024** to the Secretary, Dave Bennett at: [secretary@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk)  
No business will be accepted after this date.

**Please ensure that you have renewed your membership for 2024/25.**

#### Current Committee Vacancies:

- Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Business Secretary
- Speaker Secretary
- Assets Manager

*Please note that if the positions of Chairperson, Treasurer, and Business Secretary are not filled our u3a will cease to exist.*

## Obituary

This obituary acknowledges members who have passed away recently.  
We remember them for their contributions and for sharing something of themselves with us.

### Stef Lorenz

*It is with great sadness we have heard of the sudden death of Stef Lorenz. Stef had been a very active member of Woodhall Spa u3a for several years and for the past two years had served on the Committee in the role of Speaker Finder. She made a great success of this and we all enjoyed the many varied speakers who Stef managed to book. Stef also led the Art and Cribbage Groups, and for a while she also ran a Knit & Natter group. She will be greatly missed, and we send our condolences to Stef's family.*

*If you are aware of the recent passing of one of our members, please inform one of the Committee, lest we miss the chance to honour them here.*

[Woodhall Spa u3a: Committee and Contacts \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://u3asites.org.uk)

## 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 website](#)

[WSPu3a Web Page](#)

[u3a – Online Learning Events](#)

[u3a Online Learning Events Page](#)

[u3a Radio Podcast March 2024](#)

[March Podcast](#)



Hear from a former professional ballet dancer, a US Air Force Pilot who now leads a national online u3a aviation group, and two u3a members dedicated to introducing more members to mindfulness and meditation.

[u3a Festival \(18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024\)](#) [u3a – Festival 2024](#)

Plans are already underway for u3a Festival '24 which will take place in July 2024 in the beautiful city of York.

## Coming Soon

### Upcoming Events list

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

[WSPu3a Events Page](#)

## Monthly Meetings

**Thur 4<sup>th</sup> April**

2:30pm to 4pm  
Coronation Hall

**The Mystery of Richard the Third**

Dave Andrews is currently Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire



## Group Noticeboard

### Outings

#### A Midsummer Night's Dream

*There are still a few places available for our trip to Toilethorpe to see A Midsummer Night's Dream on Saturday 27th July. The coach will leave at 9am giving plenty of time for coffee/snack before the 11.30am performance. At the end of the play (approx 2pm) the coach will take us to nearby Stamford where we will have free time until we return home at 5pm.*

*The price is £35.50 and will be collected at the April meeting.*

Sue Pollitt – Group Co-Leader

Contact us:

[Outings Group Page](#)

### Bridge



*The Bridge Group has relocated to the Cricket Club Pavilion in Jubilee Park. We now have plenty of space and no longer need to restrict membership.*

*We play every Wednesday afternoon from 2-4 pm and there is a charge of £20 for ten sessions to cover costs.*

*If you have a basic understanding of bidding and want to have a go, why not pop in one afternoon and try a few hands? You can bring a partner but it's not necessary as we invariably change around. We are a friendly and relaxed social bridge group who play for pleasure, pause for tea and biscuits, and talk and laugh a lot!*

*Please contact us via the u3a website (see below).*

Bev Bennett and Hilary Betty – Group Leaders

Contact us:

[Bridge Group Page](#)

## Croquet

*It's that time of year again when the weather is improving and you're getting yourselves ready for some outdoor activity.*

*The u3a Croquet Group could be an answer to that little exercise you require to get yourselves going again following the cold winter weather.*

*If you've never played Croquet this could be an excellent opportunity to try your hand at something new.*

*Our group has been running now for a number of seasons from April till October. Group numbers have gradually improved to our present register of approximately twelve regular players.*

*We meet up every Tuesday morning in Jubilee Park at 10.00 am at the croquet pavilion whereupon new members are welcomed and regulars enjoy a friendly reunion.*

*For any newcomers who want to try their hand, coaching is arranged and presented by the group leader who is a qualified croquet coach.*

*Playing Croquet can be a most enjoyable experience, it's as friendly or competitive as you want to make it.*

*Watching Experienced players can be confusing to a novice as tactics play a major part in making croquet an enjoyable experience, so to play croquet it's a challenge to your normal activity.*

*If you fancy the outdoor life and would like to experience the excellent facilities available in Jubilee Park and walking the pristine lawns which are a challenge in themselves, please come along any Tuesday morning and make yourselves known to the group leader who will make you most welcome and get you started on the pathway to a new experience.*

*To conclude, Croquet will commence on Tuesday 9th of April at 10.00 any newcomer will have their first session free, thereafter it will be £5.00 a session, which will include free coaching through the season. All the necessary equipment is supplied by the Croquet Club.*

*There will also be the option for you to join the Woodhall Spa Croquet Club, if you get bitten by the croquet bug.*

*Regards to all u3a members*

**Bob Potter – Coach**

## Play Reading

### **THE PLAYREADING GROUP PRESENTS**

**Why ???**    **"Ask a Silly Question"**    **How ???**

A light-hearted comedy

May 2nd at St Peter's Hall (after the AGM)



*We hope to see you there*

## Around the Groups in 30 days

### Wild Flowers

#### Boston Cemetery

For our first trip of the year, we went to Boston Cemetery in the grounds of the crematorium. Although the weather was lovely in the morning, it started raining before we had left Woodhall but this did not dampen our enthusiasm. Six of the group met at the cemetery.

We have been told that this would be a good place for a visit for people interested in wildflowers and birds. The cemetery was opened in 1855 by Sir Herbert Ingram MP, whose statue is sited in the marketplace in Boston in front of Boston Stump.



The cemetery comprises of 40 acres with many varying species of mature trees. The older area of the site has been left to develop into a wildlife conservation area.

Originally there were two chapels in the cemetery, but only one survives. The remains of the old town mortuary can also be seen.

Continued



*Boston Cemetery – Continued*

We saw many species of flowers such as:

Violet; lesser Celandine; crocus; Siberian Squill; Lungwort; Bugle; Bluebell; Wood anemone; Italian Arum; Dogs Mercury; cowslip; cuckoo flower and snakeshead.



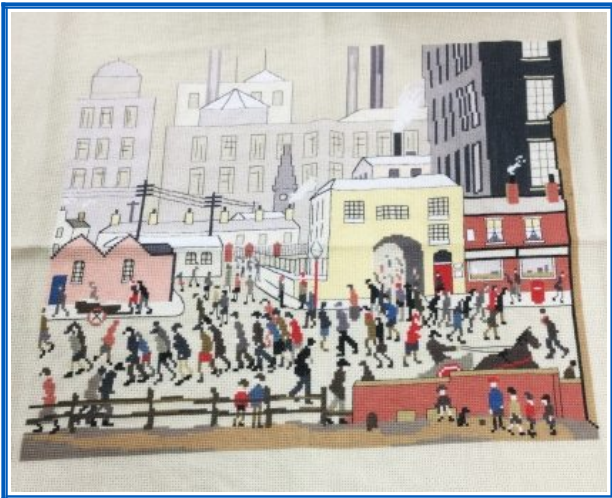
Although this may seem a strange destination, we all found it very interesting and enjoyable. We would recommend a visit even if you are not interested in Wild Flowers.

Ann Fletcher



## Sew &amp; Sew

I usually provide photos of our completed projects, but this month I have also included a photo of Bev preparing for her next quilt. Quilters use an acrylic ruler which provides accurate measurements and a straight edge for the rotary cutter which cuts through the fabric. This is done on a self-healing mat to protect the blade and the table!



Using William Morris fabric from her stash, Barbara has completed a large medallion quilt. A medallion quilt has a central motif surrounded by at least one border. In this instance, the 'medallion' is an appliqued Morris design which has then been hand-quilted. The rest of the quilt has been machine quilted with a fleece backing. I was pleased to hear that Barbara will be keeping this one.

[Continued](#)



Katherine has already finished her cross-stitch rendition of Lowry's *'Coming from the Mill'*. I can only marvel at the exquisitely executed neat stitches.



*Sew & Sew – Continued*

Another small lap quilt will be delivered shortly to my sister who feels the cold.

Carmel Sefton

Two special small people will soon be the recipients of Joan's hard work, as Heidi's quilt now has pride of place alongside Poppy's companion piece. Once again, Joan has used a duvet cover to provide the extra-wide backing.



## Gardening

### Anwick Garden Centre

The March meeting was the first gardening group meeting this year. Nineteen keen gardeners met at the Anwick Garden Centre. A member of staff gave the group a small talk and told us they use as many UK nurseries as possible for their supplies, we were then shown around the centre informing us of any new arrivals they had just received in stock.



When we came to the rose section many of us were surprised to learn that there are two rose varieties with a Lincolnshire link. One being named Yellow Belly (left) and the other Lincoln Cathedral (right).



Many questions were asked regarding a big selection of gardening difficulties and met with helpful answers.

After viewing all the areas we found ourselves in the cafe area, tea and cake were most welcome. We left with some purchases to help us start our gardening year.

Elizabeth Leech

## Birdwatching

### Chapel Six Marshes

At 10.00 am. on 22nd March nine members of the Birdwatching Group assembled in the carpark at Chapel Six Marshes in overcast conditions with a chilly NW wind. Many birds seek cover in that sort of weather but we and they were lucky in that it improved as the morning progressed and we ended with broken sunshine and excellent light. We explored the reedbed area first and recorded species such as reed bunting and Cetti's warbler along with a number of other small passerines in the buckthorn, chiffchaff being the sole spring migrant. Several larger species were seen overhead here and during a short foray on to the beach and along the path

towards Anderby. The highlight was a pair of ravens mobbed by a carrion crow while croaking constantly. After about seventy five minutes at this location we moved on to the hide at Huttoft Pit to check on the reedbed and extensive open water habitat there. Nothing remarkable was seen but the birds present added to a tally for the morning of thirty-four species recorded by sight or sound or both, as listed below in alphabetical order.

Since we all like eating well as much as birdwatching we finished in the cafe by Huttoft Terrace for a pleasant lunch.

#### Species recorded:

<i>Blackbird</i>	<i>Black-headed gull</i>	<i>Blue tit</i>
<i>Buzzard</i>	<i>Canada goose</i>	<i>Carrion crow</i>
<i>Cetti's warbler</i>	<i>Chaffinch</i>	<i>Chiffchaff</i>
<i>Coot</i>	<i>Cormorant</i>	<i>Goldfinch</i>
<i>Great tit</i>	<i>Greylag goose</i>	<i>Herring gull</i>
<i>Jackdaw</i>	<i>Kestrel</i>	<i>Magpie</i>
<i>Mallard</i>	<i>Marsh harrier</i>	<i>Moorhen</i>
<i>Peregrine</i>	<i>Pheasant</i>	<i>Raven</i>
<i>Reed bunting</i>	<i>Robin</i>	<i>Rook</i>
<i>Shoveler</i>	<i>Skylark</i>	<i>Teal</i>
<i>Tufted duck</i>	<i>Wood pigeon</i>	<i>Wren</i>

John Watt



## Aviation and Military History

### RAF Woodhall Spa Then and Now

Yours truly was the speaker at our March meeting in the Woodhall Spa Parish Council Offices. The subject was 'RAF Woodhall Spa Then and Now' and we looked at what remains of the WW2 RAF airfield itself, and what can still be seen of it in the surrounding area.

The most obvious reminders are at Thorpe Camp in Tattershall, where much wartime history is preserved, but there are many other reminders to be found in and around our village.

For example, most of you will know that RAF Woodhall Spa's gymnasium was rebuilt as Coronation Hall and many will have seen the prototype 'bouncing bomb' in the grounds of the Petwood Hotel. Those familiar with the Petwood will certainly know that it was used as the Officers Mess of the famous 617 'Dambusters' Squadron and contains many reminders of that time. Unfortunately, few photos of wartime Woodhall Spa exist, as taking one could have constituted spying.

The Lancaster Squadrons based at RAF Woodhall Spa (617, 97 and 619) plus 627 Mosquito Squadron were loaded with bombs stored in a dump still to be seen in Ostler's Plantation off Kirkby Lane, where there are also several derelict RAF buildings.

The bomb dump itself was resupplied from a vast open-air bomb storage area in the Wolds, centred on Market Stainton village. The bombs were delivered there by railways serving the area at the time and stored initially on the wide grass verges of many lanes in the area.

Next time you drive that way, imagine the sight of probably thousands of bombs stored alongside the roads, destined for many of the Lincolnshire's 46 RAF airfields.



A sadder reminder of the effect on our village of having an RAF airfield nearby is illustrated by these photos. The one on the left was taken from about where the village War Memorial now is, showing the road frontage of The Royal Hydropathic Hotel and Winter Gardens (aka The Royal Hotel) not long after opening in 1907, looking down Station Road. The right-hand photo was taken from about where Sainsbury's now is, sometime after 17th/18th August 1943 when the Royal Hotel was destroyed by a parachute mine. By some freak of the blast wave, the Mall survived.

We consider ourselves lucky to live in a village with so much military history to be seen, if you know where to look.

Malcolm Perks – Group Leader

## 5 Mile Walking

### Mareham Le Fen

The walk this month (carried forward from last month which was called off due to very wet weather on that day) went from Mareham Le Fen, which was chosen due to the sandy nature of the soil in that area to make the walk dry underfoot in these very difficult times of such persistent rain fall.

Fifteen walkers set off from Mareham Le Fen community centre car park in good dry weather and headed out of the village up to the new kiln log drying plant on the top of the hill next to the Wilksby turn. Heading then across Toft Grange Farm we had excellent views of the surrounding area from the ridge top that we walked along looking at the planes taking off and landing from R.A.F. Coningsby.



The only shelter from the wind of any merit was a piece of unfarmed land on the back lane with a large laurel hedge so we had a coffee break there..

Continued



### *Mareham Le Fen – Continued*

Walking over the A156 we headed down to the junction of Mareham Beck and The Catchwater drain to see a buzzard sitting on a distant post and a pair of swans on the Drain, we then headed back toward the village.

The site of twenty or more people dressed in bright orange suits hand pulling leeks by the village was in quite a contrast to the landscape around them.



Crossing the main road again one of our more observant members noticed the Royal Oak was open serving food. This was not published on their website so a quick phone call found it was lunch club that day and we would be welcome. Nine of our group went and had an excellent lunch at a very reasonable price, then returned to the community centre to return home.

David and Liz Leech  
Photos by Les Wylde

## Poetry

## Celebrations

This month our theme was all things we can Celebrate.

Perhaps it's because of the gloominess of the news from around the world that we are trying to find things to be happy about. Certainly, our meetings are usually light-hearted on the whole, but we often find ourselves discussing more serious and uncomfortable subjects. Our two representatives this month have both chosen to turn their gaze away from the near-ubiquitous images that often cast long shadows on our thoughts, and instead serve to remind us that perhaps happiness is in the eye of the beholder.

Lets Celebrate	Celebration
<p><i>Here's the day I've waited for Shout hip, hip hooray Is it the relief of Mafeking Perhaps Armistice Day</i></p> <p><i>Has someone traced Lord Lucan Has Shergar's body been found Has the ozone layer been mended Is a first class stamp now a pound</i></p> <p><i>Maybe it's the last day of winter Or has someone given up booze Is the bridge at Short Ferry now open Rocket Ronnie has started to lose</i></p> <p><i>No, I'll tell you the reason I'm smiling Why the sun shines down my way Why the gloom and the clouds have all lifted I'm going on holiday</i></p>	<p><i>I listen to the news, every morning at eight. That's an oxymoron for it is never, ever new. Our members of parliament simply debate, About all our problems and what we should do. Opposite sides, when all that is needed is just one. Words, opinions, fall like cold winter rain, Collecting in lakes of useless wishes, never to be done. The fabric that's our civilisation, only in name. Uncivilised in hate and choking, bitter shame. Then, just as the last of my golden cornflakes Brighten up my depressing day A sudden burst of sunshine breaks And takes my gaze away from confining walls. A blossoming Magnolia, splendid in its blooms The gloomy curtains of misery dissolve and falls. A frivolous butterfly of hope skitishly recalls A brighter future and confidence resumes For there is a vision, and perhaps fate Has, amid the wintry thoughts it does dissipate For another day, another anniversary that I can celebrate.</i></p>
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Tom Sefton – Group Co-Leader

Read more:

Use this link to see what else the group has written this month:

[Poetry Group Celebrations](#)



## Home Computing for Fun

### File Format by File Extension

A file extension is the name by which files of a particular type are saved. When you save a file it is given a full stop and a suffix that tells you what sort of file it is.

#### Image files

There are dozens of different image types and image file extensions that can be used when creating and saving images on the computer.



Below is a list of the most common image file extensions:

- |                 |                        |                 |                               |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| • .ai           | Adobe Illustrator file | • .png          | PNG image                     |
| • .bmp          | Bitmap image           | • .ps           | PostScript file               |
| • .gif          | GIF image              | • .psd          | PSD image                     |
| • .ico          | Icon file              | • .svg          | Scalable Vector Graphics file |
| • .jpeg or .jpg | JPEG image             | • .tif or .tiff | TIFF image                    |

### Text and Document files

Creating text files and using word processing software is one of the most common tasks on a computer. Below is the most common file extensions used with text files and documents.

- |                  |                                 |                 |                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| • .doc and .docx | Microsoft Word file             | • .tex          | A LaTeX document file |
| • .odt           | OpenOffice Writer document file | • .txt          | Plain text file       |
| • .pdf           | PDF file                        | • .wks and .wps | Microsoft Works file  |
| • .rtf           | Real Text File                  | • .wpd          | WordPerfect document  |

### Video files

Today, there are dozens of file types associated with video files to add different types of compression, compatibility, and DRM to video files.

Below is a list of the most found video file extensions:



- |         |                               |                 |                            |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| • .3g2  | 3GPP2 multimedia file         | • .mov          | Apple QuickTime movie file |
| • .3gp  | 3GPP multimedia file          | • .mp4          | MPEG4 video file           |
| • .avi  | AVI file                      | • .mpg or .mpeg | MPEG video file            |
| • .flv  | Adobe Flash file              | • .rm           | RealMedia file             |
| • .h264 | H.264 video file              | • .swf          | Shockwave flash file       |
| • .m4v  | Apple MP4 video file          | • .vob          | DVD Video Object           |
| • .mkv  | Matroska Multimedia Container | • .wmv          | Windows Media Video file   |

Heather Maslen – Group Leader

## Your monthly guide to what it means....

### Bandwidth

Bandwidth refers to the amount of data that can be sent over a network or modem. Measured in 'bps' or bits per second, bandwidth is a bit like a road and the bits are like cars on the road. A two-lane road can't carry much traffic and is slow. A six-lane motorway is much faster.



### Cache

A cache is a storage area that gives you speedy access to information you've recently used. If you've ever noticed that the second time you visit a website it seems to load faster, it's probably because some of the

information on the website has been 'cached' somewhere on your computer or device. However, sometimes if your cache on a particular program or application fills up it can slow your device and you need to clear it.

### Mega/Tera/Gigabyte

The word gigabyte, along with megabyte and terabyte, refer to the amount of space your computer, mobile phone or hard drive has to store data – otherwise known as its memory. A megabyte is 1,000,000 bytes; a gigabyte is 1000 megabytes (or 'megs'); and a terabyte is 1000 gigabytes (or 'gigs'). In other words, lots of space.

### RAM

When you purchase a computer, your sales assistant is bound to tell you how much 'RAM' (pronounced ram, like the sheep) the computer has. RAM stands for Random Access Memory. It's important because when you use your computer, RAM gives you quick access to 'random' information. The more RAM a computer has, the faster it will run. To

find out how much RAM your computer has go to 'Settings>System' and page down to 'About' at the bottom of the system menu. You will find your installed RAM under 'Device Specifications'. It is generally thought that 8GB RAM is required to run WINDOWS 10 or 11 unless your use is minimal.

Heather Maslen – Group Leader

### Find out more

If you have any questions about these articles, **or have topics you would like me to cover**, please contact me by clicking on the bird on the Home Computing for Fun page on the Woodhall Spa U3A website:

[Home Computing for Fun Page](#)

## Visiting Churches

### Coningsby St. Michael and Tattershall Holy Trinity

The March visit was to Coningsby St. Michael and Tattershall Holy Trinity. We were met at the 15th Century church of St Michael by the churchwarden, who gave us a talk on the history of the church.

This included the story of the tragedy at Culverthorpe Hall in January 1733, when the 3-month old son of Margaret, Countess of Coningsby and Sir Michael Newton KB, was snatched from his cradle by the family pet monkey who carried the baby to the roof of the house and dropped him, with fatal consequences, which also ended the earldom of the Coningsby title.



As well as the original font, they have a mini font, something none of us had ever seen before but apparently while most baptisms take place at the main font in a parish church, this has not always been the case. For centuries, miniature fonts have enabled baptism to occur elsewhere in the church, and far beyond its walls.

By the altar in this chapel is a Dutch flag. It was brought to Coningsby 1983 by members of the family of Dutch resistance worker, Coba Pulskens. She hid RAF officers from Coningsby at her home after their plane had been shot down. The flag was used to cover their bodies when they had been discovered by the SS and shot in her garden. She was arrested and sent to a concentration camp, where she died. The remembrance book is still signed by Dutch visitors to this day.



The church has undergone quite a few changes in its history. Though the roof had been raised when the clerestory was added, it still has some of the original medieval roof timbers. This church is also famed for its 400-year-old one-handed clock painted on the wall of the tower (now in the colours of the RAF). It is the largest of its kind in the world and it is said it can be seen and read from two miles away on a clear day.

[Continued](#)



*Coningsby St. Michael and Tattershall Holy Trinity – Continued*

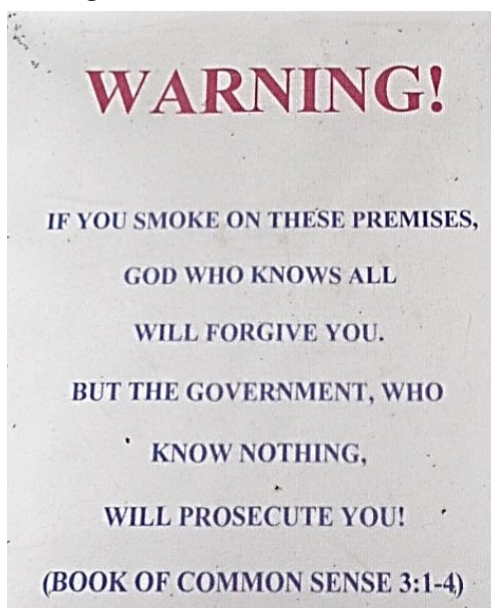
Leaving Coningsby, we went on to Tattershall to the Collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity, which has an impressive numbers of saints to its name, starting with St Peter and St Paul. We were given a wonderfully comprehensive history of the building.

Holy Trinity Church stands next to Tattershall Castle, both commissioned by Baron Ralph Cromwell, Lord High Treasurer of England in 1439. Unfortunately, Baron Cromwell did not live to see it finished.

In its heyday the church had seven priests, one of which was the warder, six secular clerks and six choristers. The church provided at least one chorister for Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and mother to Henry VII.



The church is very large and flooded with light from enormous windows. It was originally filled with brightly coloured stained glass, some of the finest examples in England, but in the 18th century, a vicar claimed that the stained glass made the church too dark to read his sermons and it should be removed and replaced with clear glass. By 1754 all the stained glass was gone. At this point there was a misunderstanding or dispute over how much the new, clear glass would cost, with the result that the chancel windows were left with no glass or bricked up. The chancel then lay open to the elements for many years and became almost a ruin. Today, some of the original stained glass can be seen in the east window of the restored chancel. Other pieces can be found in St. Martin's Church, Stamford and Warwick Castle Chapel. We were told some of the eye-watering amounts that the restoration and preservation of this historic building will cost.



Holy Trinity is home to over 600 bats. No other place in the county known to support as many species including soprano pipistrelle and Daubenton's. The bats are used as a visitor attraction, and ways have been found to limit the damage they cause. Bat-themed activities and events are run throughout the year, to engage visitors and reach new audiences.

In the porch is one of my favourite church notices: –

Cilla Darvill



## Jazz, Blues, Big Band Sounds

### Diana Krall

Diana Krall is a Canadian jazz pianist and singer, born in 1964 to musical parents. She started playing piano at the age of just four and was drawn to jazz. She later studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music, and then at Berklee College of Music, in Boston.

She has enjoyed the mentorship of Rosemary Clooney (George's aunt), and has sold more than fifteen million albums, which has contributed to her being considered Billboard's 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest jazz artist of the decade, 2000–2009.

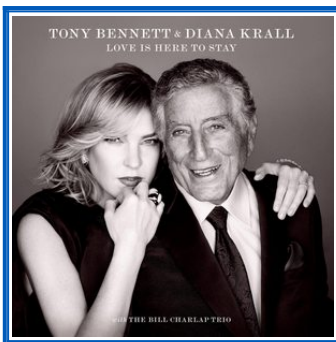
She married singer/song writer, Elvis Costello in 2003, at Elton John's estate just outside London, and they have twin boys.

### Live in Paris

We listened to a number of tracks\* of this superb live album, which won the 2003 Grammy award for best Jazz vocal album.

Her voice and sublime piano playing is beautifully supported by a guitar/bass/drums combo.

\* 'I Love Being Her With You', 'Let's Fall in Love', 'Just the Way You Are'.



### Love is Here to Stay

An album of Gershwin songs, with Tony Bennett's 92 year old voice perfectly complementing DK's lighter vocals, all beautifully underscored by a piano/bass/drums combo. We listened to 'I Got Rhythm', 'They Can't Take That Away From Me', and 'A Foggy Day'.

### Val Ladyman

## Classic Cars

### Bubble Car Museum

Sixteen members and friends attended the combined Classic Car Group March visit to the [Bubble Car Museum at Langrick](#). An interesting and enjoyable visit was topped off with tea, talk and cake in the café. A somewhat odd feeling when some of the tins and boxes in the vintage garage display were newer than some in my garage!

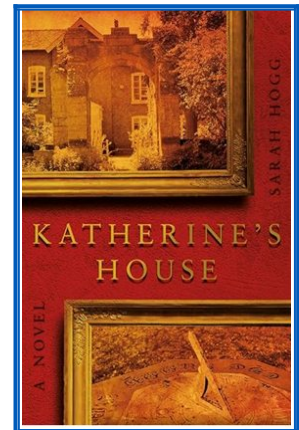
Peter Ellis – Group Co-Leader

## Reading

For the New Year in January, our book was [Katherine's House by Sarah Hogg](#).

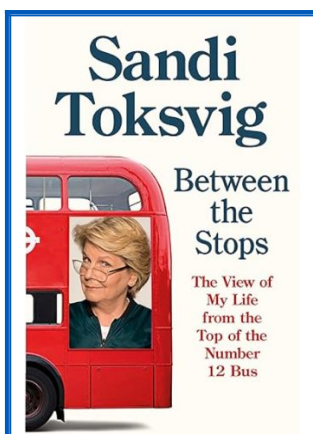
Katherine's House is actually our local Kettlethorpe Hall, in the small village of Kettlethorpe to the west of Lincoln. It is famous as the home of Katherine Swynford, lover and the third wife of John of Gaunt, who was the Duke of Lancaster and of Bolingbroke, and also the youngest son of Edward III.

This very special story takes you through the history of the Hall from the Viking raids to the Second World War, giving colourful scenes of life and times within these eleven hundred years.



It reminds us of the part our beautiful, 'unknown' county has played in English history and of the fact that it still contains the homes and family names that have been there for centuries. It also makes us think that some recent changes to our local environment are just part of the many things that never change, like the flooding of the farmland.

Sarah Hogg, the author, lives in the present day Kettlethorpe Hall and tells its story very well. The book was enjoyed by the group as it is both entertaining, enjoyable and, most of all, informative. We will be visiting Kettlethorpe as a group in the near future.



Our February meeting discussed something quite different in [Between the Stops by Sandy Toksvig](#) – a funny, thought-provoking, down-to-earth account of the thoughts of the author while she travelled around London on a no 12 bus. The whole is a random and unusual memoir – jumping around through events, anecdotes and ideas, using bus stops, local landmarks and sights to trigger the writing. Sandy Toksvig is often angry at what she perceives as injustice, but in spite of that the book is well worth a read – or better still, listen to the author reading it herself on one of the 'talking book' platforms.

In complete contrast, our reading in March was [The Keeper of Stories by Sally Page](#). We all loved it!

This book is Sally Page's debut novel, published in 1923. The main protagonist, Janice, is a domestic cleaner and a collector of stories. Generally she likes the people she cleans for, except for Mrs Yeah, Yeah, Yeah and Mr No Not Now. But she loves Decius, their dog, who (in her mind) swears like a trooper and who befriends the lonely son of another of her clients. The characters are beautifully drawn and the whole thing comes to a very satisfactory conclusion. Definitely recommended.



Barbara Michaelides – Group Leader



## Woodhall Wanderers

### Martin

On 27th March 14 members of the Wanderers group risked getting wet as they set off at Martin for their monthly walk. Luckily the rain held off but the wind blew quite hard, fortunately not dampening the spirits of the very chatty and friendly group on the varied walk.

Starting point was the car park on Metherringham Airfield from which we headed down to the Carr Dyke on the fen road joining the canal. We followed the canal on track and grass paths until it came to the nearest point to Martin village.



Coffee break was taken here as we were sheltered by some magnificent flowering Blackthorn bushes in the hedge. The walk left the canal at this point taking us up to the village and along the main street for a little way before turning off at the village school to head out along quiet paths back to the airfield.



Joining the airfield we were near the monument for the airmen that flew with 106 Sqn during the war so a detour was taken to it for a description of its history given by at least three members of the group with their combined knowledge.

Following the walk seven members of the group went for a good lunch at The Penny Farthing at Timberland as the others had other commitments so we said our goodbyes.

David Leech – Walk Leader

## The Final Word

### Feedback

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

[Newsletter Page](#)

If you have any suggestions or comments about the Newsletter I'd be happy to read them. You can email them to me via [newsletter@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk), or use the link above.

I am indebted, as always, to all those who have taken time to contribute to this edition. Many thanks.

Tom Sefton – Editor

