



Bulletin No 131

SEPTEMBER 2018

NEW GROUP - ASTRONOMY *(see page 5 for details)*



MEMBERSHIP DATA PROTECTION PERMISSION

As we advised in the last bulletin we have now commenced the Data Protection Act exercise to obtain your permission to use the personal data you supply to us for communication purposes.

Thank you to all those that have replied already, your co-operation is really appreciated.

Please can we remind those of you who have yet to reply to go to their email inbox and open the email that has been sent to you and to action it as soon as possible.

To those of you that do not have email please could you return the paper forms that have been handed to you or posted through your house door.

Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A Committee

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Monthly Meetings

Welcome to the Wycliffe U3A. We meet on second Thursday of each month at the Methodist Church Hall. All are welcome to join.

10am – 10.30am: tea, coffee and biscuits available, and an opportunity to meet friends old and new. Book exchange, information about trips etc. Group co-ordinators will be available to answer any queries.

Speaker: 13th Sept – Steve and Carol Robson – Fools Gold Acoustic

Visitors: may come to one monthly meeting (payment of £1), after which they must become a full member if they want to come again.

Membership: to interest groups is limited to full members only.

Interest Group Dates and Times can be found on the website under [‘summary’](#)

Please contact the group co-ordinator to ask for further details if you would like to join a group. If you have an interest/hobby not covered by the existing options, why not think of joining with like-minded people to form a new group.

Contact Viv Weller (01455 557136) for assistance and advice.

Refreshments:

September 13th - Sue Hicks, Paula and Colin Beadle

October 11th - Anne Dean, Andrea Nichol and Janice Poile

November 8th - Paul Butler and Ann Hetherington

[Notices](#)

NEW GROUP!

If you are interested in joining a new ASTRONOMY group, please meet with Rawdon Bottom over coffee at the start, or in the foyer at the end, of the U3A meeting on OCTOBER 11th. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please ring Rawdon on 07596 079661 or email him. RawdonBottom@outlook.com

Early days, but some ideas are a monthly daytime meeting to discuss the night sky and also an evening meeting for viewing, dependent upon what's in the sky that month!

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WE STILL NEED YOUR USED STAMPS

Liz White of Lutterworth U3A is collecting used stamps on behalf of **Medical Detection Dogs**. They can be any used stamps but please could you ensure they have approximately a 1cm (roughly a finger's width) surround.

Please hand in your used stamps to Sue Creeden at the reception desk at the monthly meetings and she will pass them on.

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THE FUTURE OF TWO GROUPS THREATENED

Snails Pace Walking Group

Sheila announced that she would be standing down as group co-ordinator of the Snail's Pace Walking Group, after the November walk 2018. She felt, having co-ordinated the group for what will be six years by November; it was a good time for someone else to take over. The reason for giving early notice of her intention to stand down was in the hope that someone within the walking group (or the wider U3A) would come forward to run it, so it did not have to fold. Sheila stressed that she still intended to join some of the walks in 2019 and wishes to express her gratitude to all those who have led walks in this and previous years.

Sheila

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3rd Tuesday Walking Group

Having run the Tuesday Walking Group since Lutterworth U3A was formed and finding it increasingly difficult to find volunteers to run walks, I have decided that I will cease to run the group after the 2019 AGM. If anyone would like to take the group on they are welcome to do so, in the event that there is no volunteer the Tuesday Walking Group will cease to exist after the 2019 AGM.

Gordon

BOOK CHAT

Co-ordinator: Sylvie Curtis

Tele: 01455 554504

Our book for August was 'The Gustav Sonata' by *Rose Tremain*.

Gustav grows up in a small town in Switzerland, where the horrors of the Second World War seem a distant echo, but Gustav's father has mysteriously died and his adored mother is strangely cold and indifferent to him. His life is a lonely one until he meets Anton and an intense and lifelong friendship develops. The members found this a very sad tale and marvelled at how the character of Gustav seemed so kind whilst so many around him were selfish and unkind.

This book was liked by the majority of our members and they thought it well written. We all learnt a lot about the role of the Swiss during the Second World War which we had not thought about before.

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EATING OUT

Co-ordinator: Jill Graham

Tele: 01455 557117

E-mail: grahjill@hotmail.com

The “Eating Out” groups are informal. Look for the sheets set out at the monthly meeting of Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A

PLEASE let me know if you are unable to attend a meal you have booked. When we have done a “Pre-order” at a small Venue which has had to buy in food specially, we are liable to pay for the missed meal. The same would be true where the food is almost ready to serve when we arrive.

BREAKFASTS

Fourth Thursday at 9 am at Palmers Garden Centre, Ullesthorpe

No booking Sheet for this meal – just come along on the fourth Thursday morning..

You can have a Full English Breakfast, a Traditional English Breakfast or a Breakfast Roll with Last 3 items of your choice in it. The Breakfast Roll is the Best Value Option as it comes with Tea or Coffee and costs under £4. **OR** you could simply join us and settle for Tea or Coffee!

I always have a book in my bag so that if I am the only one to turn up, I can get in some reading time. Very nice in cold weather with a seat next to the wood burning stove.

Last Thursday there were 3 of us and on the previous 2 Thursdays we had about 9 people turning out for a variety of breakfasts.

FIRST WEDNESDAY LUNCHESES

Wednesday 1st August – 20 of us went to The Old Royal Oak at Bitteswell. We didn't prebook but most people seemed to be so busy talking that they didn't seem to notice the wait. I know that some people feel that the area in which we eat lacks "atmosphere" but the small room near the entrance only seats about 12.

The meals were good value at 2 for £13 and only one person felt that their Lasagne could have been better. Admittedly things were very much slowed down by the waitresses serving the drinks orders before they even started taking the meals orders

Wednesday 5th September – back to a great favourite – The Shires at Peatling Parva. Twenty-one people signed up for this. I will have to miss this one as I have a mid-afternoon appointment at Walsgrave and we all know how long it can take you to find a parking space there. Report about the meal in the October Bulletin

Wednesday 3rd October – The Bricklayers at Sharnford.

THIRD TUESDAY GARDEN LUNCHESES

Tuesday 21 August – Farndon Fields – great food to eat **and** the opportunity to buy locally sourced food (wherever possible) in the store. The vegetables are fresh and very good value for money and the other goods are of excellent quality if the prices are sometimes eye-watering.

When I went to Farndon it was with a list of 17 people – however we ended up with 13 (I think!). The place was buzzing but because it was a hot day, a lot of people opted to sit outside.

In spite of me urging people to order straight away, it was quite a while before they settled down to do so, so we had a long wait for our meals as the kitchen decided to serve us together. Only one couple was unhappy with their choice and when they explained the problem to the staff, their complaint was acknowledged and they were suitably compensated and happy with the outcome.

Tuesday 18th September – Stoney Cove It is quite a while since we have been to Stoney Cove. Two visits ago we found police vans parked around and the place seemed to be swarming (well – swimming) with police on training courses. Usually it is birdlife we watch! However – once the trainees have disappeared below the surface, there is not much to see!

ETHNIC DINING

Thursday 2nd August Venue was Rossini Italian in Hinckley. It is a while since we have been there and we thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The staff are so helpful and the meals so good.

Thursday 6th September 2018 – Jan Saray Turkish Restaurant, Green Road, Broughton Astley LE9 6RA – (Park in Co-op Car Park and walk through). About 12 of us went at the start of 2018 and while we enjoyed our meal felt that there weren't as many Turkish dishes to choose from as we would have envisaged. Very friendly helpful staff. So, we thought we would try again.

Generally we try to be at the Venues for 12 noon onwards for Lunches and 6.30 pm for Dinners.

Jill

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ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Co-ordinator: Chris Ridley

Tele: 01455 209920

What the Incas had in Common with the Jet Engine

August's event planned to have a fascinating talk by Brian Poulter on the 'Gas and Oil Industry', however due to unforeseen circumstances this has been postponed, with the result that the group had a rather hurried put together presentation by yours truly on the above subject. Basically the talk was an **explanation** on how **the lost wax process used in the 11 century is still used today to produce Gas Turbine Blades**, albeit with a bit more accuracy and complication. We had a good turnout and the talk went on for the best part of an hour, surprisingly no one appeared to fall asleep so all good.

Sept event **Aviation in Leicestershire on Monday 3rd** at Lutterworth Rugby club, Ashby lane starting at 14:00 -16:00.

I will be putting an email out in the next week ref the **Christmas Lunch with the menu for you to all choose from**, also a sneak preview of some of next year's exciting events to look forwards to !!!!!

CMBR

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FRENCH CONVERSATION

Co-ordinator: Sue Hicks

Tele: 01858 880273

23 August 2018

Members filled us in on their holidays, which covered a wide range of places and activities: Hungary, Iceland, Eastbourne, Cornwall, camping, family reunions, and more. We looked at 20 French expressions, then read an article on school uniforms, which the French find rather strange.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 27 September, in the Methodist Foyer. Please start to think what you would like to do for Christmas and when (I know – it seems a bit soon!).

Sue

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GARDEN GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

Tele: 01455 5578

Unfortunately it was a cloudy day for our August visit to Bourton House Garden in Gloucestershire. We had an easy journey down the Fosse Way - until we got to Moreton in the Marsh! It was market day and we got held up for about 20 minutes. However, the journey was well worthwhile. The garden was delightful. There were several different garden areas to see, a white garden, topiary walk, 18th century raised walk, knot garden, fountain garden, parterre, fountain and ponds. The herbaceous borders were absolutely stunning, crammed full of colour. Everywhere was amazingly well cared for and very lush considering the hot dry summer. Across the road was field walk with many unusual trees. We were lucky to pick a quiet day and it was very calm and tranquil to just wander and enjoy.

In contrast to the August trip, on Tuesday 25th September we shall be visiting a small local garden, Westview, 1 St Thomas's Road, Great Glen, LE8 9EH. This is the home of Gill and John Hadland and is open under the NGS Scheme. It has a small walled cottage garden, formal box parterre herb garden, courtyard garden, herbaceous borders, woodland garden and more.

The minibus will leave Lutterworth Leisure Centre at 1.15 p.m. and the cost, including refreshments, will be £8.50 (£5.00 for visit and £3.50 for the minibus). If you would like to come, please let Paula Erett know on 01455 550413 or email p.ere@talktalk.net as soon as possible. **Unfortunately the group size for this visit is limited to 20 members.**

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GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

Tele: 01455 557888

We had another successful 13-mile ride on a warm day in August. Just five of us set off from the village shop in Gilmorton and headed towards Ashby Magna. We then took the quiet back road to Willoughby Waterleys and then on to Bruntingthorpe. The views across the countryside along the way were stunning. From there we rode via Upper Bruntingthorpe to Walton and Kimcote and back to Gilmorton for a well-earned coffee.

The following Sunday some enthusiastic U3A members completed various distances in the Rotary Big Bike Ride. (The picture shows just some.) It was a good day and a great turnout. Well done to everyone who took part.

The next ride will be on Wednesday 19th September. Meet at the Black Horse, Walcote at 10.00 a.m. The ride will go down Swinford Road but then turn off left along a bridle way towards Stanford. It's a bit bumpy but OK at the time of writing. From there the ride will go towards Yelvertoft and turn off right to Lilbourne, then on to Catthorpe, (stop at Manor Farm). Shawell next and back to Swinford corner returning down Swinford Road to the Black Horse. Just over 13 miles. If wet it could be shortened to go directly from Swinford to Catthorpe which would take off about 4 miles.

* * * * *

Everyone is very welcome, the more the merrier. Our rides are very leisurely, (if there is a difficult bit we walk) so why not give it a try.

If you would like to join us just email Dave Hunter at davehunter19@gmail.com or phone 07941 371880 to let him know you will be there.



Rotary's Big Bike Ride

JOINT GOLF GROUP (Lutterworth & Wycliffe U3A)

Co-ordinator: Peter Moore

Tele: 01455 552594

e-mail :- peter79moore@gmail.com

Next Golf Day will be at – Birstall Golf Club on Friday 28th September 2018

Meet 12.00pm in club house for coffee and bacon sandwich

12.30pm – Draw for playing partners

1st Tee time – 13.00 hrs.

18 holes of golf – full handicap Stableford

Prizes:

1st + Hartopp Trophy

Etc.

Ladies Prize

Nearest the pin – 17th hole

Cost: £36.00 per player all inclusive (**dependent on numbers**)

Guests welcome to join us for 3 Course Dinner @ £11.00p per person, in Clubhouse.

To confirm your attendance and for full itinerary, contact Peter Moore by Tuesday 25th September 2018, include meal choices and extra dinner places.

YOUR FULL SUPPORT PLEASE FOR THIS QUALITY COURSE

Used regularly for Leicestershire & Rutland Golf Union Inter County fixtures.

Result at Lutterworth Golf Club 19th July 2018:-

1st Marian Wass 40 Points

2nd Penny Grimwood 39 Points

3rd Mick Barrows 35 Points (on countback)

4th Pete Williamson 35 Points

NTP Carl Barton-Harvey

Result at Ullesthorpe Golf Club 23rd August 2018

1st Pete Williamson

2nd Ray Godfrey

3rd Peter Reeves

NTP Ray Godfrey

On countback. All with same score.

HISTORY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Viv Weller 01455 557136

email: vwellerz@aol.com

'Hardwick Hall, more Glass than Wall'

In August, we visited Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire. It is a spectacular house dating from the late 16thC and, unusually for the Early Modern period, it was built by a powerful and wealthy woman, the famous Bess of Hardwick, Countess of Shrewsbury.



Built to impress, it is notable for its massive windows which were a statement of wealth and good taste at the time but Bess also made sure to emphasise her importance by placing her initials on the parapet of the house, E. S. (Elizabeth Shrewsbury). These can be seen for miles around.

Many people will have heard of Bess of Hardwick who not only directed much of the architecture but also filled the house with many fine treasures. No expense was spared in making this a beautiful home. Bess rose through the ranks via a succession of advantageous marriages and eventually became one of the most important women in Elizabethan England, second only to the Queen in wealth and influence. The top floor of the house was designed to be a suite of public rooms, including a large presence chamber where she held court.



This and the long gallery and other rooms of this floor, conveyed her high rank to everyone who visited her. Centuries later, the décor still survives in remarkably good condition, including detailed decorative plaster friezes, inlaid furniture and gorgeous hangings. The National Trust has restored the famous tapestries which still adorn most of the walls throughout the house but perhaps the most impressive wall hangings were the amazingly intricate embroideries, many using recycled silk church vestments as the base for impressively fine stitch work in vivid colours. The place is still impressive today but how it must have glowed when it was all new.

After a short introductory talk, the NT allowed us to wander around at our own pace and this more laid back approach made the visit very enjoyable. Afterwards, we had time to stroll round the gardens and also see the ruins of Hardwick Old Hall which is currently being restored. It was a very pleasant and enjoyable day out.

Viv.

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LIVELY DISCUSSION

Co-ordinator: Dot Barnard 01455 208190

dot.barnard@uwclub.net

August 13th 2018 - Topic: **HS2**

My impression of HS2 from listening to the news was that it is a bad idea. So I thought I would read the HS2 Ltd annual report published in July to see if my impression is wrong. The report comprises 102 pages; thankfully some are graphs and photos.

Basic Facts

1. There are 3 phases:

Phase 1 London to Birmingham

Completed by 2026

Phase 2a Birmingham to Crewe

Completed by 2027

Phase 2b Crewe to Manchester & Crewe to Leeds Completed by 2033

2. Main Construction expected to start in 2019 costing £6.6 billion

3. Full cost expected to be £56 billion

4. It will cover 343 miles (553 kilometres) at speeds of up to 250 mph

5. Euston will be the London Terminus

6. Tracks and stations will be completed in phases

7. It is expected to link up with existing transport routes

8. HS2 Ltd is owned, controlled and funded by the Department for Transport (DfT)

9. It has a single member, the Secretary of State for Transport, currently Chris Grayling.

10. This means that acts of parliament are required to authorize the various stages of HS2.

11. It is classified as a Non-Departmental Public Body by the Cabinet Office – is this a quango?

12. They have a vision to launch a green corridor for wildlife, and amenity spaces alongside the railway.

HS2 Ltd states that it agrees to deliver an operational high speed railway to the specification, cost and timetable set by DfT. They say it's more than a railway and is a catalyst for growth and a key part of an integrated transport network providing a seamless passenger experience. This report seems very bland. For example the section referring to their Community Engagement Strategy gives numbers for members of the public they have reached or contacted through a variety of mediums including public meetings, online, local digital platforms etc. and it covers the upgrading of their complaints procedure which was much needed. However, it doesn't say how many contacts from the public were pro or anti HS2, nor does it say how many were just requesting information and whether there were further contacts pro or anti from those people.

It was at this point that I was unable to limit my scepticism as researching comments in various newspapers including The Times, Financial Times, The Guardian and Daily Express revealed all sorts of problems:

- The Eddington Report in 2006 dismissed high-speed as out of date, voracious of energy and providing a poor rate of return
- The Treasury and others expect the real costs to be £80 – £100 billion
- Passengers arriving at Euston to catch the Eurostar will have to trundle their luggage along Euston Road to St Pancras.
- Euston is not on Cross Rail or the Central or Metropolitan Lines.
- Eurostar platforms at St Pancras are under-used.
- Almost all the proposed new stations are in the suburbs some distance from the main hubs in the key cities along the route - requiring car, bus or coach journeys to reach them.
- The route will not go to Birmingham New Street, and HS2 has recently moved its HQ to Birmingham Snow Hill.
- 2% of people use rail vs congested motorways and the amount of freight going by rail is negligible.
- HS2 has failed every National Audit Office and Treasury viability test.
- Eurostar called it ‘away with the fairies’.

So what do the commentators say would be better, cheaper and more effective than HS2?

1. It makes more sense to upgrade the existing East Coast Line to Scotland and link it to HS1 at St Pancras.
2. Upgrading or building a line across the North from Manchester to Leeds.
3. Trains could run at an acceptable 140 mph meaning that the existing Great Central Tracks could be used and connected to newer stretches, otherwise businesses and lifeblood will be drained from the Midlands as people travel to London for work.
4. Improve signalling across the North and make new links.

5. Upgrade tracks nationwide and have Trans-Pennine electrification.

In my opinion an interim fix now would be to extend the length of trains and platforms so that at least travelling would be more comfortable for everyone.

We have seen what HS2 say and what knowledgeable commentators say; so why does the Government press ahead with this project? The current Chancellor, Philip Hammond, was Transport secretary in 2010 and approved HS2. Is he worried about losing face? He and Lynn Truss at the Treasury have authorized payments to HS2 so far. Is this a political vanity project?

Lord Andrew Adonis, Transport Secretary in the Blair Government, was a non-executive director on the HS2 Board until April 2017 receiving around £23K per annum. He championed HS2 when he was in office. Why did he step down last year? Is it as the press report, the power of the private sector to lobby for available public funds and Ministers haven't dared to stop it? The unbuilt can be stopped and we will only have lost relatively little. The commentators suggestions would not only save much and provide a more integrated transport system, but funds could become available for other public services.

There are questions to be asked about HS2 Ltd. News in the past few days has highlighted the size of salaries being paid. The FT reported that the previous CEO, Simon Kirby, resigned because of board room governance not being up-to-scratch and conflicts of interest. There are questions about the current CEO, Mark Thurston. He worked for CH2M, an American Engineering company who had been awarded an HS2 contract for work on Phase 2. This contract was cancelled due to conflicts of interest and now he's CEO of HS2 Ltd.

It seems to me that companies and individuals should focus on making a living and returns for shareholders, not on making a fortune! Sir Rod Eddington, formerly head of British Airways said
'Ambitions and dreams will only ever make marginal improvements to connectivity in Britain. We should avoid wasting time and money on grand projects with speculative returns.'

Everyone in the group agreed that HS2 is a bad idea and should be stopped now! In addition to the reasons above they explained their views:

- Private companies built the Great Central Railway which was completed in 1899 to form links to London. In 1923 the company became LNER; in 1948 it passed to British Rail and was closed in 1969. From the beginning it could travel at 80 mph. As mentioned above the remaining tracks from GCR can be brought back into use to increase connectivity between North and South.
- The distance between Euston and Birmingham is around 100 miles. The proposed 250 mph would barely be achieved before trains would have to slow down!
- Interns were used to calculate the cost of acquiring land and property and have been shown to be 10 times out with their figures, yet these are still being used by the company.
- The increased costs either cannot be controlled, or the board is refusing to control them.
- A quarter of current employees, have been and are being, paid far too much.
- The use of consultants is out of control - £600 million last year. If architects or other professionals are needed, why not employ them directly?
- Sir John Armitt, (formerly of Network Rail), produced his report as chairman of the National Infrastructure Commission which informed

the Government that costs are certain to rise by at least £43 billion above the original £56 billion.

- The Infrastructure and Projects Authority produced a report which said HS2 was flawed and should not go ahead. It was hidden until after Parliament had voted to go ahead! This makes it doubly scandalous.
- The Government and the Company are ignoring advice from Sir John and other railway and transport specialists –why?
- HS2 was first ‘sold’ to David Cameron in 2009, as a glamorous alternative to a 3rd runway at Heathrow, which he pledged to build. The outgoing Labour Government knew that HS2 was a white elephant, and are reputed to have ‘tricked’ the Tories into going ahead with it.
- 18 trains an hour have been promised. Who will travel on them outside the rush hour? The ticket costs will be astronomical.
- Why not employ Japanese bullet train companies? Their trains have been running successfully since 1964. Tokyo to Osaka originally took 4 hours, and now takes 2.5 hours. It is speedy and punctual with very few interruptions to service. In 2015 the average bullet train delay was 54 seconds.
- Victims of HS2 compulsory purchases have been treated abominably. Craig Douglas was landlord of the Bree Louise pub in Euston for 17 years and lived above the premises. In January he was evicted and hasn’t received a penny. His elderly neighbours were also evicted and had nowhere to go. The wife is staying with their daughter and her husband is staying with their son as the younger family members don’t have space for the couple. These people haven’t even received an offer of compensation let alone any money. A farmer on the outskirts of NW London has been forced to sell half his herd of Jersey cows as half his land has been compulsorily purchased and he cannot make a living from the rest. These and many other people have lost homes and businesses but

are almost at bankruptcy. They think this is deliberate action by HS2 so that their remaining property will become almost worthless and can be purchased at very low prices.

- A member knows of a group of people in Coventry who have been paid properly for the compulsory purchase of their homes and who are installed in new homes with which they are very happy.
- We know from the annual report that there are plans to create a green corridor alongside the railway. The Woodland Trust said that the green corridor announced by HS2 was like 'smashing a Ming vase and replacing it with bargain basement crockery.' HS2 said 40 hectares of ancient woodland will be destroyed and they will provide 220 ponds and 7 million new trees. The Woodland Trust says these 40 hectares of ancient woodlands have existed since 1600. Some 98 beautiful, rare and irreplaceable ancient woodlands will be destroyed or damaged by this scheme. None of this new planting will replace the 30 hectares of ancient woodland destroyed in Phase 1, and the £2 million they are making available on Phase 2a will not replace the 10.2 hectares of ancient woodland they are destroying there.
- HS2 are advertising for an arts curator at a salary of £35,340 for a part-time role. The successful candidate will manage an innovative and high quality programme of new commissions along its route. Philip Davies, Conservative MP, said the new role was unjustifiable. WE AGREE!

The Government and HS2 Ltd seem to have a very short-sighted view in proceeding with this project. They have completely ignored the fact that many people communicate with each other through technology in the UK and around the world. There is no longer the need to meet in board rooms and offices. Many employees and entrepreneurs work from home. The move to electric cars is designed to help mitigate climate change. Already we need a new Thames Barrier as sea levels

rise. Her Majesty's Government should stop this nonsense and equip us with super-fast broadband in every corner of the UK and upgrade and integrate the whole existing transport system to give us the best chance for our new life outside Europe.

INVITATION TO ATTEND AS A GUEST

THERE IS A VACANCY FOR A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE LIVELY DISCUSSION GROUP

Would you like to come along to the Lively Discussion Group occasionally? The maximum number of people that I can accommodate is 12, and sometimes regular members are unable to attend. We meet on the second Monday in the month at my house 10.30 – 12.30. Please phone or email me if you wish to attend and I'll let you know if there is a space on your chosen date. 01455 208190 or dot.barnard@uwclub.net

Topics 2018

Mar 12th – In the 21st century are we in danger of forgetting our history, heritage and British values?

Apr 9th – How attitudes have changed, is respect a thing of the past?

May 14th – What is the future of the high street?

Jun 11th – Is the lottery a good idea?

Jul 9th – The future of British farming

Aug 13th - HS2

Sept 10th – What makes a successful marriage?

Oct 8th – The pros and cons of mass air travel

Nov 12th – What is the effect of mass media on the young?

Dec 10th – Xmas meeting

MOTOR CYCLE INTEREST GROUP

Co-ordinator: Colin Beadle

Tele: 01455 558013

E-mail: paula_colin@btinternet.com

The group has had a couple of outings this month.

Taking advantage of the good weather an early morning ride took us to Hoar Park Craft Village near Nuneaton. On Wednesday mornings bikers gather to enjoy a chat, to look at the wide selection of motorcycles ridden there and probably most important - the opportunity for a full English breakfast.

The plan had not been for anything beyond Hoar Park. However, the day developed and Peter led us on a very enjoyable ride which took us to Burton on Trent, Ashbourne, Buxton, Bakewell, Matlock and home. We stopped in Bakewell where the uninitiated were introduced to Bakewell pudding and custard – delicious. A very enjoyable trip with 183 miles clocked on the day.



Bakewell Pudding with Custard.....and an eager hand

Our second outing was unfortunately on a rather damp day. In support of the Air Ambulance we joined a “ride in” to the Brackley Festival of Motorcycling. The departure point was Triumph Motorcycles at Hinckley where a few hundred bikers met. Organisers were disappointed that numbers departing Triumph were down on previous years - probably due to the weather. With a police escort we headed off down the A5 and A43 to Brackley. An enjoyable day was had with opportunities to meet motorcycle racing stars from the past and see them demonstrating their motorcycles (at slightly over the speed limit) on the High Street.

An arena on the school fields displayed a multitude of attractions and trade stands.

Our return home – unfortunately without a police escort – ended in rather wet conditions. The joys of motorcycling!

Colin

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POETRY GROUP

Co-ordinator : Sylvia Hitchen

Tele: 0116 247 8353

email: Sylvia.hitchen@btinternet.com

The topic for the month was “stormy windy weather”. Most of the poems were of course descriptive, but it was interesting to hear the different approaches – some described the sheer power of nature, and the response of fear. Ted Hughes “Wind” and Seamus Heaney’s “Storm on the Island” are examples of this. Others describe the impact on the landscape and the animals, for example John Clare’s “Snowstorm”.

In some cases storms were presented as a good thing – useful rainfall (very topical of course) or a happy thing, Philip Larkin’s “Wedding Wind”. The wind was personified in Matt Simpson’s “Autumn Gale” and William Howitt’s “The Wind in a Frolic” where the wind is a force deliberately causing mischief.

Interestingly, we read three poems which all quoted from the shipping forecast which is known to many of us, especially the insomniacs – “Rockall, Malin, Irish Sea....” , we had a light hearted take on Global Warming by Pam Ayres and a trip through the months of the year describing how wind changes, “A Year’s Windfalls” by Christina Rossetti.

The topic for September will be “School Life and Work Life”, October’s will be “Autumn”, and November’s “Food and Drink”. The November session will be held at Dot’s house.

Sylvia.

QUIZ GROUP

Co-ordinator: Joan Coiley

Tele: 01455 558658

At the start of the August meeting of the quiz group, Dot presented us with outline maps of Northern Ireland and we were invited to name the six counties shown on the diagram. Most could identify the border counties, from memories of the troubles but the others resulted in guesswork answers.

The following rounds covered the usual wide selection of subject matter including this time; food and drink, literature, politics, and the ubiquitous general knowledge.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our time burrowing into the brain-box and look forward to next month. It's amazing to discover how much we do know that is buried under the debris of the years.

Joan

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ANNUAL LONG WALK

Co-ordinator: George Robertson

Tele: 01455 559725

email: george9high@hotmail.com

George's Long Walk

The walk leader stood at the toilet block in the Whitwell car park at Rutland Water awaiting the group's arrival so that he could start the 12 mile walk. He tried not to look like a pervert as he hovered outside the men's loo and scanned anxiously around hoping to see the dozen or so walkers he was expecting to turn up. A phone call came to the rescue explaining that the group were waiting at a totally different toilet block in a totally different car park! Problem solved we set off in warm sunshine on the first leg of the walk. We stopped for a coffee break on the benches outside The White Horse in Empingham with the landlord's kind permission. We then headed on to have a picnic lunch sitting on the banks of a lake looking across at Fort Henry which was built for Henry Noel the 6th Earl of Gainsborough in 1786. After lunch we continued through Greetham golf course and on into the village of Greetham where we spent some time at the Wheatsheaf Inn having a refreshing drink. The final leg of our walk took us through the lovely thatch roofed village of Exton where we had a last refreshment stop before returning to the car park via the village of Whitwell. The 15 group members looked to be in remarkably good shape at the end having endured the walking, the warm weather and the leader's various attempts at humour!



Picnic Stop at Fort Henry Lake

Interested in walking? Join us on our much shorter monthly walks (two opportunities each month). Walk co-ordinators can be found in this section of the bulletin.

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SNAIL'S PACE WALKING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sheila Eggleton

tele: 01455 554287

email: sheilaeggleton@yahoo.co.uk

On the morning of Friday 21st September we will walk around the very beautiful village of Monks Kirby, set in a conservation area, and the surrounding fields. The walk covers approximately 3 miles, it is easy walking with no stiles! Mandy, who will be leading this walk, has revised it since we last did it the last time, so it is a circular route.

We will leave 'The Denbigh Arms' at 11.00 am. We will order our food on the day before we set off, so arrive at 10.30 am. See their website for the menu, including the specials.

'The Denbigh Arms' is at 1 Main St, Monks Kirby, Rugby CV23 0QX. Parking is possible in 'The Denbigh Arms' car park and there are plenty of roadside parking spaces in the village.

Directions: Lutterworth to Monks Kirby (CV23 0QX), 7 miles, 15 minutes in general traffic.

Go to the Magna Park A5 roundabout.

Take the second left, the B4027, to Pailton.

Drive through Pailton, taking the Coventry Road out of the village.

At the Street Ashton junction turn right - Monks Kirby is half a mile ahead.

In Monks Kirby, 'The Denbigh Arms' is first left as you approach the village.

Please let Mandy know if you are going on this walk, as Sheila will not be going. mandycutler@sky.com

August Walk:

Our thanks to Anne for organising and leading our walk on the 17th August which started off from The Barley Mow Inn at Newbold upon Avon. We walked via the churchyard of St Botolph's, where we saw a very moving installation in memory of those who have given their lives in war. From the churchyard we struck out across a number of fields where we encountered some very "friendly" four legged friends, those of us who are wary of overly noseey horses beat a hasty retreat over the stiles. The walk took us through some lovely scenery via the old mill and ford before we headed back along the canal towpath to the pub. All in all this was a very enjoyable walk in ideal weather.

Important Postscript

Sheila announced that she would be standing down as group co-ordinator of the Snail's Pace Walking Group, after the November walk 2018. She felt, having co-ordinated the group for what will be six years by November; it was a good time for someone else to take over. The reason for giving early notice of her intention to stand down was in the hope that someone within the walking group (or the wider U3A) would come forward to run it, so it did not have to fold. Sheila stressed that she still intended to join some of the walks in 2019 and wishes to express her gratitude to all those who have led walks in this and previous years.

2nd WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Mike Chapman 01455 209972

Last minute updates see “Stop Press” on the website.

(Final update 8:45 on day of walk.)

DATE OF WALK: Wednesday 10th October 2018

WALK ORGANISER: Tony Allen 01455 552087 mob 07770 580 828 Paul Butler 01455 699437

MEETING POINT: Coventry Road Recreation Ground at 9.25 to leave at 9.30. Car sharing is recommended, see below.

START POINT AND TIME: The Village Hall Husbands Bosworth. Walk starts at 10.00am

DIRECTIONS TO START: Drive to Husbands Bosworth, turning 1st right onto the Welford road and within yards right again (just past the bollards) into the gravelled Village Hall car park. This has limited spaces and a one-way system operates, so park carefully to maintain free flow. Should the need arise there is extra parking at the Scouts Hut/Playground car park by heading back towards Lutterworth and taking the 1st gateway on the left. Return mileage 14.5 miles.

ROUTE AND DISTANCE: A walk of approx. 5 miles comprising bridleway, track, road and canal towpath (variable see note). 2.5 hours incl break and no stiles.

Crossing the main Market Harborough road and walking North through town streets we reach a footpath/bridleway and head downhill to join a 1.5 mile very broad part-surfaced track. Diverting from this uphill for a short distance we emerge on the Mowsley Road and follow this downhill for 0.45 miles to a bridge over the Grand Union Canal, where we join the towpath to take our break.

Heading back towards Husbands Bosworth, the towpath varies from wide and level to sloping and narrow and there are places where anyone with a walking stick will appreciate the extra security. On reaching the town we take several of the character side streets and re-cross the main road to arrive at our start point.

* * * * *

August walk report

22 walkers and one dog set off from Claybrooke Magna in much better walking temperatures than we have had for the last few walks. After passing Claybrooke Mill we came across a field where a combine harvester had been working and which had left a 2 foot high pile of straw every 5 yards which we had to get over, not exactly an easy task!. After the coffee break at Frolesworth we had a half mile path through maize fields which had grown up to 8ft high. Fortunately the farmer had made a nice path across the field for us. On reaching Fosse Meadows we had an uneventful walk back to the cars.

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4th WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Co-ordinators: Sue & Peter Creeden 01455 557888

26 September 2018

Walk Organiser:- Roger Watmore Tel:01455 552431

Meeting Point and Time:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 9.25 am to leave at 9.30am.

Start Point and Time:- The Bulls Head, Brinklow CV23 ONE. Start at 10.00am

Directions to the Starting Point:- From Lutterworth to Magna Park and the B4428 to Brinklow. At the 'T' junction turn right and The Bulls Head is immediately on the right.

Route and Distance:- The walk includes the Coventry Way, the Centenary Way, Stretton under Fosse and a canal walk, and is 6 miles but no styles

Lunch:- Food orders before the walk with a Senior Citizens main course at £4.95

* * * * *

August 2018 Walk Report

15 Walkers and a dog repeated the wet and soggy walk of last year but this time in perfect conditions - light 20C breeze, good clarity and only a little direct sun at the end.

We started by following the Leicestershire Round past St Ediths Church and through meadows to climb steep Smeeton Hill and pause for breath and the excellent 360 deg views, before dropping down to Langton Brook. Departing the Round at the brook we continued past a rookery and then under a pristine engineering-brick bridge dated 1919 which supports the Grand Union Canal. Well, they definitely don't make bridges like this any more and if it had turned up at the U3A Monthly Meeting I would definitely have hugged and kissed it! Clambering up and then over the walk's only 2 stiles (well 1.3 really) we then followed the canal's well-mown curving towpath to No.70 Long Hill Bridge where we took our break.

Resuming the walk, we passed Debdale Wharf where coal was previously landed for the defunct Gumley Hall and then followed an immaculate hard-surfaced towpath to re-join the Round at and over a modern wooden footbridge. After the easy going of the towpath, the hugely cracked harvested field immediately in front of us presented quite a challenge and confirmed that we should have either left our high heels at home (but not the dresses) or stuck to the field edges. However after this we only had a couple of meadows and a short climb around the edge of Gumley Wood to make before returning to the village and the Bell Inn.

Once there 12 of us tucked in to excellent meals for £5.95, with fagots being a very popular request (good job this wasn't the 'States when the shout went up for "2 fagots in the corner"), and most of us had puds for £1 and/or coffees.

Tony Allen

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Committee April 2018– March 2019

Office	Name	Contact
Chairman	Nigel Burt	01455 554498
Vice Chairman	Tony Allen	01455 552087
Treasurer	Jan Newman	01455 209179
Membership Secretary	Sue Creeden	01455 557888
Interest Group Co-ordinator	Viv Weller	01455 557136
Speaker Liaison	Mike Perry	01455 556724
Bulletin	Trudy Haddon	01455 552905
Committee Member	Linda Goy	01455 554497
Committee Member	Andy Hetherington	01455 203498
Committee Member	Ann Hetherington	01455 203498

You can join the Wycliffe U3A at one of the monthly meetings or you can apply online at www.wycliffelutterworthu3a.org

Contributions for the website should be sent to Mike Chapman
email: wlu3acmte@gmail.com

Articles, Reports, News items etc. for inclusion in the next bulletin should be sent to the editor: e-mail trudyhaddon.rylands@gmail.com

Deadline for inclusion in the next bulletin: on the last day of the month.
Interest Group Dates and Times can be found on the website under ‘[summary](#)’

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