

u3a

**Wycliffe
Lutterworth**

Members Bulletin

Dec 2021



Merry Christmas Everyone

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Notices

Subject: Age Concern Lutterworth

Age Concern Lutterworth & District needs a Treasurer to serve on our Board of Trustees.

Please contact us on 01455 557116 for more information if you have a financial background plus a knowledge of Excel.

We are a friendly group and hope that you would like to join us.

Carole Harrington

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Articles, reports, news items etc. for inclusion in the next bulletin should be sent to the editor:

trudyhaddon.rylands@gmail.com

Deadline for inclusion in the next bulletin: on the last day of the month.

PLEASE SAVE THE STAMPS ON YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please cut off the stamps from your Christmas cards - and any other mail that pops through your letter box. Liz White of Lutterworth U3A is collecting used stamps on behalf of **Medical Detection Dogs**. They can be any used stamps (even just 1st or 2nd Class) but please could you ensure they have approximately a 1cm (roughly a finger's width) surround.

You can give them to Sue Creeden at the monthly meetings. Alternatively, you can pop them through her door – 25 Holly Drive, Lutterworth. Sue will then pass them on to Liz.

Many thanks.

Important Notice regarding the future of **SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUPS**

See page 14 of this bulletin.

QUIZ GROUP

Another decimated quiz group met on the first Tuesday of November. Derek set the questions; very interesting and entertaining they were.

We are thinking of moving the venue from the Denby Room of the Town Hall, as we are a bit lost in the space. However, if our numbers are likely to increase (if you're interested, please let me know ASAP) we will delay the decision. New faces are always welcome.

Derek set over 100 questions, very industrious, Of which, quote a couple:-

What was the cause of death of Tony Hancock?

What took place in Britain in 43AD?

ANSWERS

Tony Hancock committed suicide.

The Roman Invasion

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LIVELY DISCUSSION

TV Coverage Of The Olympics, How Should It Change?

The 2020 Olympics were delayed until 2021 because of the pandemic and took place from 23rd July to 8th August. The Paralympics followed soon afterwards but for our discussion we focussed on the Olympics. However everyone is pleased that disabled people have achieved so much and are ABLE to demonstrate what they can do. The point was made that trying to equate one lack of ability with another when these athletes' conditions are so different may result in unfairness in competition.

Our main concern was over the number of hours broadcast by the BBC during this 3 week period. BBC1 broadcast an average 17 hours each day and BBC2 1 hour each day.

The Discovery Channel bid successfully for European coverage and only allowed the BBC to show 2 live events each day. They also controlled the rest of the BBC coverage, meaning that viewers could not tune in to the sports in which they were most interested.

The US Company NBC has successfully bought the Olympic rights for \$7.6 billion until 2032, so it seems that from 2024 coverage may be similarly or more severely restricted.

The point was made by those of us uninterested in sport that 3 weeks of being forced to watch sport, switch off or choose another channel rather than choose programmes in the normal way was what rankled the most. Even news bulletins were mostly given over to the Olympics and other world events were overlooked. The sports enthusiasts amongst us said that they were unable to watch enough of the things in which they were most interested. Concern was expressed for those who can't afford or don't have pay channels.

All of us agreed that the Olympics and other high achieving sports events are inspirational and that many people are encouraged to take more exercise. There was lots of enthusiasm for the new sports such as BMX and skate boarding which are very exciting. It was also felt that poorer youngsters who couldn't afford to be members of sports clubs would realise that they too could participate if they were good enough.

One person was concerned about the medal tables since some countries will never be able to compete and also felt that the Olympics should be restricted to 'basic' sports such as running, jumping and wrestling so that all countries in the world would be competing at the same level. If this was accepted, all other sports would be included in World Championships.

It was felt that despite the enormous cost the BBC should cover the Olympics first hand rather than 2nd hand since it is a world event and only takes place once in 4 years. Concern was expressed that in 5 years' time there may only be pay to view channels and we will have lost the BBC anyway, so it won't matter whether the BBC can afford it or not. We all sincerely hope that this doesn't happen. It seems that the economic power of US corporations means that there is no point in us suggesting how sports coverage should change since it will be decided by the highest bidder.

Visitors welcome, please contact Dot Barnard dot.barnard@uwclub.net

01455 208190

We meet on the second Monday morning of each month.

2021.Topics

- September – The Olympics, what is it all about?
- October - Should boxing be banned?
- November – TV coverage of the Olympics, how should it change?
- December – Christmas meeting

- January 22 – Has corruption in government become normalised?

ART APPRECIATION

Grinling Gibbons Exhibition

This year marks three centuries since the death of Baroque master carver Grinling Gibbons whose skill at creating complex still life composition – particularly of fruit, flowers, and foliage - intricately detailed panels, has made his name synonymous with his craft.

Various very large exhibits have been removed from several National Trust properties and re-erected at the museum which illustrates his great creative talent.

Eight members of the Art Appreciation group were pleased to be able to see his famous cravat carved for Horace Walpole from limewood with raised and open work carving imitating fine Venetian needlepoint lace, which was famously worn by Walpole to fool his dinner guests.



Cravat



Lobster

Grinling Gibbons was not only an exceptional talent, but he also had good business sense nurtured his associates and garnered personal introductions to secure new work. His work continues to inspire people today. Bob Watts Created a pair of boots for Paralympian Aimee Mullins to wear on the catwalk as she opened Alexander McQueen’s fashion show in 1999.

The year-long celebration ‘Grinling Gibbons300: Carving a place in History’ was launched August 2020 at Bonhams London and transferred to Compton Vernay September 2020 until February 2022.



Horse

Above Fireplace



GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Just 7 members gathered at the Garden Barn in Cotesbach in November. Well, it would have been 8 but unfortunately one of our Group was a little late and we left without him. Oops, sorry!

After a chilly start very soon the sun came out and it was a perfect morning for a ride. We took the track down the side of the Garden Barn which goes past a quarry and landfill site. With great good fortune, neither were working so no mud and no fumes. This track took us onto the road to Shawell where we turned left and headed to Swinford. From here we rode to Stanford Hall. All very easy pedalling until we turned the corner and started to climb up the hill towards South Kilworth. Then there was some puffing – and walking! The road was a bit busy too as there seemed to be some kind of hunt going on. From South Kilworth we had to navigate steep hill number two on the way to Walcote. More puffing and walking! After a quick adjustment of our leader's chain (thank you Colin) we had a gentle ride to Swinford Corner and back towards Shawell before turning along the track to the Garden Barn. To our surprise, our missing member was there waiting for us. He had ridden 17 miles around the countryside hoping to catch us up but managed to get back before us. What a fit fella! The much-needed refreshments were enjoyed outside in the sunshine. Who would have believed it possible in the middle of November?

The next ride will be on **Wednesday 1st December**, details to be announced.

However, weather permitting we will repeat the route on **Monday 13th December** for anyone who is unable to make the earlier date. If you fancy joining us, we will be very pleased to see you. Electric bikes welcome. Just give me a call on the above number or email me - sueandpeter.creedon@taltalk.net.

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GARDEN GROUP

November saw the Garden Group move indoors for our season of talks. An encouraging number of members met at Gilmorton Village Hall to listen to a very interesting and informative talk by Ian Retson of the Woodland Trust.

Ian has been a volunteer for the Woodland Trust for over 30 years. He told us that the Charity was formed in 1972 and its aims were to create, protect and restore woodland in Great Britain. The Trust has planted over 50 million trees since its inception. It obtains 75% of its funding through its memberships, donations and legacies, the rest coming from grants and commercial sponsorships. The trees and woods are not only planted to combat climate change but also to increase biodiversity and provide havens for wildlife. The Trust owns 1,000 woods which are free to visit.

Ian went on to tell us about the work being done on the Ben Shieldaig Mountain which they own in the West Highlands. The project is to restore two ancient woods, one birchwood and the other Caledonian pinewood so that lost species of wildlife and plants can return. They are also raising funds to buy adjacent land which would double the size of the project.

He also highlighted work being done in the Yorkshire and Lancashire M62 corridor. The Northern Forest is a partnership project with several organisations joining forces and supported by the Government to increase tree cover over the next 25 years. This will help wildlife, absorb millions of tonnes of carbon, and reduce the risk of flooding.

He also talked to us about a more local project at Willesley Wood in the heart of the National Forest near Ashby de la Zouch where millions of trees have been planted. This was a mining area for hundreds of years but was finally abandoned in the 1950s. The wood is now an area of maturing woodland, flower meadow and wetland and home to many species of birds, wildlife and fauna. There are around 5 miles of managed footpaths with benches along the way and visitors are very welcome.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday afternoon 25th January 2022 at Gilmorton Village Hall. Details to follow in next month's Bulletin.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

November 2021 Walk Report

A dampish November morning did not deter a magnificent total of 28 walkers arriving for the walk from Bouskell Park in Blaby. Vicky Davis led us around a flattish route first through the park and then across fields to The Ford. We then passed The Manor at Glen Parva and joined the Grand Union Canal towpath eventually to pick up the track along the dismantled Midland Counties Railway Line. Leaving the track we made our way back via Hospital Lane and Mill Lane to pass the cemetery and return to Bouskell Park passing the recently renovated ice house. Well, that is where I think we went but I have to admit I was too busy chatting so my recall might be a bit inaccurate. However, a really pleasant and enjoyable walk. Thank you Vicky.

Peter Creeden

U3A WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUPS DECEMBER WALK

Date of Walk :- Wednesday 15th December 2021

Joint Leaders :- Peter and Irene Moore. Tel.- 01455 552594 Mob:- 07931 568792

Meeting Point and Time : Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 9.10am to leave at 9.15am.

Start Point : Old Crown, 466, Aldermans Green Road,(B4109) Near Bulkington. CV2 1NP. Leaving at 10.00am.

Toilets available.

Directions to Start :- At Magna Park A5 island take 3rd exit to Wolvey and straight on towards Shilton, after 1 mile turn right into Bulkington,(B4112) Van Garage on corner continue, s.o. towards Coventry, after ½ mile turn left onto B4109 Coventry Road. After 2 miles Pub on left, corner of Lenton,s Lane. Car Park before Pub. To return home, in Bulkington follow B4112 Rugby, turn left at crossroads into Wolvey and back track home. Return distance from Lutterworth 24 miles

Route and Distance. Turn right from Car Park , after 300 meters, right at Place name board on to footpath, continue to junction of paths, turn left over 2 large fields and exit onto Main B4109 road, s.o. through Hollyhurst fishing lakes to join canal, turn left towards Hawksbury Junction. This is a very interesting place with the junction of canals, bridges and pub on the tow path. Take the bridge to cross the canal and continue almost in the opposite direction, exit at the next Canal bridge, turn left and return to the pub for a well earned Christmas Lunch.

Approx 4 stiles. 4.75 Miles.

A pleasant walk through farmland. The canal puzzle is interesting

Lunch Arrangements: Pre booked (and paid for) Christmas lunch at The Old Crown

SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUPS

THE FUTURE

I hope that you have enjoyed the walks that have been led this year (and of course the last one to be led in December).

As you know this year`s programme has been influenced by Covid and a shortage of walk leaders. This has meant that the Second Wednesday Walking Group had to be suspended.

Also, the future is not looking too bright. Mike Chapman, after several years of stalwart service, is standing down as co-ordinator of the Second Wednesday Walking Group.

So where do we go from here to keep the opportunity to walk with others going?

Well, you will be pleased to know that Peter Moore intends to carry on co-ordinating the First Wednesday walks. Thank you Peter.

I would be happy to continue co-ordinating the Fourth Wednesday Walking Group but will need the support of walk leaders. If you would be prepared to lead a walk then please contact Peter Creeden (Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A). If finding a route is a problem don`t be deterred as there are regular walk leaders who will be willing to raid their libraries of previous walks that they have led and give them to you.

Also, should there be a volunteer who is prepared to take over from Mike as co-ordinator of the Second Wednesday Walking Group then that would be absolutely brilliant. If there is someone I can guide them through the responsibilities to help them but it is not a particularly onerous task (except when postcodes are involved!!)

Seasons Greeting to you all

Peter Creeden

SNAIL'S PACE WALKING GROUP

November Walk – Thornton Reservoir



For our final walk of 2021, fourteen of us met at the Bricklayers Arms in Thornton. It was a lovely morning as we trekked down the path at the side of St. Peter's Church - on a hill overlooking the picturesque reservoir.

The autumn colours of the neighbouring woodland were beautiful, the atmosphere tranquil – and the company great!

What a contrast with our March 2020 pre-Covid walk when the steady downpour converted to a positive deluge!



No Walk in December.

January Walk, Friday 21st January 2022

Gated Road between Sutton Cheney and Market Bosworth

Further details of this walk will be emailed to you in the New Year and will be placed in the January 2022 bulletin. **Any new walkers can contact me on 01455 251809.**

Schedule of Walks for 2022

I have emailed you all with details and plan to send you a schedule for the next year in January 2022.

Best wishes, Mandy.

1st WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Joint Co-ordinators :- Peter and Irene Moore. Tel.- 01455 552594

Mob:- 07931 568792

Date of Walk :- Wednesday 5th January 2022. email - peter79moore@gmail.com

Driving distance:- 8 Miles each way.

Walk leaders :- Peter & Irene Moore. email.- peter79moore@gmail.com

Tel.-01455 552594

Meeting Point and Time : Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 9.15am to leave at 9.20am.

Start Point : Friendly Inn, Frankton, SE of Rugby, Warwickshire. CV23 9NY.

Leave 10.00am. **Toilets available.**

Directions to Start :- Take A426 into Rugby, at the Tee junction after the large bridge turn right signed Princethorpe, after the large offset Island filter left towards Princethorpe, at Tee junction turn left (opposite Garden Centre) after 1 mile on straight road ,turn left to Bourton and Frankton, turn right into Frankton. Pub at far end of village on right. Car park at rear of Pub.

Route and Distance.

Exit the car park into the main road, turn left after $\frac{3}{4}$ mile turn left, after $\frac{1}{4}$ mile turn right onto footpath to Hill Farm, turn right head towards footpath (old Railway) exit at bridge, turn right and return to Pub via footpaths.

Distance. 4.85 Miles 1 stile.

Good and varied choice of Food , extensive Lunch time menu. Gluten Free Food available. Order before Walk.

Summary:

Varied Walk , mostly field paths, some quiet road walking , Fairly flat walk.

Next Walk:- Crick, Northants. 5 Miles. 2 Stiles.

Peter and Irene Moore

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FRENCH CONVERSATION

Meeting Held on 25 November 2021

We had a Christmas meeting at Tony and Pearl's and watched "Maigret tend un piège" with delicious refreshments at the interval! Thank you both.

There will be no meeting in December

The next meeting will be on 27 January, conditions permitting.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Sue

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PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

14 members joined the Zoom meeting for our monthly review of the topic "Night Scene". A good selection of subjects were presented, with the overriding comment that taking low light subjects, particularly with bright lights or fireworks requires patience and practice to get the right camera settings. Together with the fact you can't see the camera controls in the dark, it's quite a challenge.

Notwithstanding this, an interesting set of pictures were revealed.

After a coffee break, Mike Chapman gave a talk on "Resizing Pictures", particularly prior to emailing, where today's cameras have outpaced email restrictions.

As there will be no meeting next month, the next meeting will be on Friday 28th January, hopefully at the rugby club, assuming COVID doesn't intervene. The topic for this month is "Winter".

Mike Chapman

And Finally

A PUZZLE FOR YOU

Using the clue below, can you identify the name of an English music band which was formed in the late 1970s (yes, I know - most of you weren't even born then). Here's the clue:

Bloke with two birds of prey does vacuum-cleaning with the lights off.

Answer at bottom of page

Sent in by Trevor (Stott) with request to include in December bulletin.

PUZZLE ANSWER

Hawk kestrel man hoovers in the dark → Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark (a.k.a. OMD).