

**Annual General Meeting  
of the  
Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A  
to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 10.30am  
in the  
Lutterworth Cricket Pavilion**

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**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of last AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chair's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers and Committee Members
7. AOB
8. Date of next Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**WE'RE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT  
THE AGM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY:**

**"A COMEDY CABARET"  
by Richard Hill & 'Guests'**

This is a not to be missed experience and probably

a never to be repeated performance.

Those of you who know Richard will be fully aware that this

cabaret will be highly entertaining so, please come along

and join the fun.

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## Report from Chair for 2021 - 2022

Good morning everyone. May I wish you a warm welcome to our actual AGM. My thanks to Jeff Baxter who has made visiting this comfortable venue, which offers every facility we might need, except for space for normal attendance, a pleasure. As Covid restrictions have been eased, we will be returning to the Wycliffe Methodist Church at the start of our new term, commencing on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 9:45 for registration, coffee and the chance to peruse the forthcoming events.

Please come and support our Speaker of the day

Last year, due to Covid our AGM had to be adjusted to a virtual format and many Interest Groups successfully adopted this form of communication. It was agreed, however, that for existing members there would be no subscription payment required, as there were sufficient funds in hand to cover the capitation fee. Subscription will be reinstated as we return to normality and will be payable in April.

Talks on Zoom were initially well attended, but numbers participating gradually decreased, which led to the termination of the Zoom licence.

The Third Age Trust proposed a country wide idea to promote awareness of the opportunities within the u3a. Initially June 3<sup>rd</sup> was suggested, but Covid infections again caused its postponement to the Autumn. As a joint venture with Lutterworth u3a a Grant of £100 for each u3a was allotted and used to prepare folders, photographs and video links to be available at a stall in the Town Hall Market Place and on screen at Max Electrical. Footfall was fair which kept the volunteers busy but few decided to participate in the walking Quiz around the town. On our behalf Colin Beadle and Andrea Nichol were intrinsically involved and cooperated with Sue Hangar to organise an impressive display. Thank you to all who willingly gave their time.

A request was made by the Trust for larger u3a's to give support to struggling groups. Enderby was contacted as falling numbers there were a problem. Having spoken to their Chair, with an invitation to join our monthly talks, it was not considered feasible. Their more elderly members were not willing or able to travel and the distance proved prohibitive. We could not pursue this further.

In an effort to meet safely, face to face, a picnic at Misterton hall was arranged. Mrs. Craven kindly allowed us to walk in the grounds and play croquet etc. As we had £50 unused from the £100 Grant, we donated this to the Misterton Trust. It was a joyous occasion in sunny weather and so lovely to sample our own food in such good company. We are planning a similar meeting in June to celebrate the Queen's long reign.

Due to restriction of numbers during Covid, our options to meet safely had to be adjusted, as did our day to meet. Wednesday morning was the only free space at the Wycliffe Rooms, which were considered sufficiently spacious to be safe. Costs were higher and refreshments needed juggling and ingenuity from the new team. We thanked Maggie Rigby for her excellent organisation in past years. Attendance was good despite one disastrous speaker but we only booked 3 months and so had to find a new venue. The cricket pavilion has been a wonderful option.

Lutterworth came together on its “Big Information Day” when all groups operating for the wellbeing of residents had informative stalls in the Wycliffe rooms. This was a useful day from which we attracted a few new members.

Looking forward, we have several events planned. May 18<sup>th</sup> will be our annual lunch, planned by Nigel Burt. As yet the cost will depend on numbers participating. Please add your name to the list if you would like to participate.

Instead of our normal meeting on June 9th, I have arranged to picnic at Misterton Hall. From 11:30 to 3pm. This will be weather permitting. Please bring your own food, drinks and furniture. There will not be a Speaker on this day. Just come and enjoy the beautiful environment.

On September 7<sup>th</sup> I propose to run a Barn dance at the Wycliffe Rooms. Our wonderful Accordionist will be Fiona Maurice Smith. We are not allowed to bring our own drinks and cakes as before, but the hatch will be open for drinks to buy or the coffee shop may be visited in our break. Please sign up if interested so that costs can be calculated.

There is a plea from some Interest Groups for help in planning or leading. This could be done on a rota basis which has worked well for some. Please consider if you could take an active part. Our thanks to Peter and Penny Ross for taking on the Pub Lunches and Ethnic Dining Group.

During Covid we were pleased to welcome Sue Poulter to the Committee, which has continued to meet and plan almost every month. There is a lot of work done to keep this u3a running smoothly and my sincere thanks go to them all for their advice and encouragement.

There is still an opportunity to co-opt another member to the Committee and to date we have received an application from Hamish Paterson. In normal times a new Committee would be seeking election, but we suggest that the present Committee remains in office for a further year.

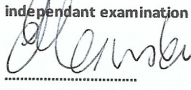

This needs to be approved at the AGM.

**Chris Brady**

**Chair**

**Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a**

# Wlu3a Accounts for year ending December 2021

U3A ACCOUNTS SUMMARY - 2021			
	2021	2020	2019
Balance at beginning of year (General Account)	£8,404.37	£6,996.59	£6,030.11
Transfer from Social Account			£2,033.34
Total at Bank as at 1st Jan		£6,996.59	£8,063.45
Receipts			
Subscriptions	£61.00	£2,876.00	£3,116.00
Visitor Fees/Donations	£20.95	£1.00	£21.00
Theatre Trips	£307.00	£194.10	
Activity Group Income	-£6.25	£122.65	£76.45
Brecon Holiday			£13.00
Whitby Holiday	£7.00	£0.00	
Day Trips			£171.00
Social Events (Skittles evening + Barn Dance)		-£33.75	£126.00
Magazine	£6.20		
Total Income	£395.90	£3,160.00	£3,523.45
Payments			
Magazine		-£6.20	
Room Hire	-£106.50	-£130.00	-£800.00
Capitation Fee	-£777.00	-£847.00	-£831.10
Speaker Fees	-£705.00	-£230.00	-£785.60
Misc Costs (capital items + admin)	-£540.86	-£538.58	-£851.44
Theatre Trips			-£187.40
Engineering Group Meal			-£897.55
Bourton Holiday		-£0.44	
U3A Annual Meal			-£237.22
Total Expenditure	-£2,129.36	-£1,752.22	-£4,590.31
Payments over Receipts	-£1,733.46	£1,407.78	-£1,066.86
Year End Balance at Bank as at 31st Dec 2021	£6,670.91	£8,404.37	£6,996.59
Liabilities/Debtors/Outstanding Cheques			
Quiz Group	-£7.00		
Table Tennis Group	-£208.00		
Garden Group	-£15.85		
French Group	£11.00		
Eng Group	-£193.80		
History Group	-£7.35		
Theatre Trips	-£299.00		
Year End Club Balance as at 31st Dec 2021	£5,950.91		
<p>These accounts have been prepared from Club records by N. Bones on behalf of the Club Treasurer R. Bones, and following independent examination have been found to be in accordance with club records and comply with good practice.</p> <p>   </p> <p> E. Hemsley (Independent examiner)      Date      R. Bones (Club Treasurer)      Date </p>			

## **NOTES**

1. There was a significant fall in the level of subscriptions in 2021 for two reasons:
  - a) to comply with a committee decision to reduce the club balance by offering a 1 year subscription holiday to members through 2021
  - b) there were fewer meetings through the year due to the covid restrictionsThe +£61 subscriptions shown in the accounts represents the annual capitation fee new members were required to pay.
2. The fall in the capitation fee reflects a slight decline in membership over the year.
3. In terms of payments (expenditure), the costs associated with room hire remained low as there were few meetings.
4. Speaker fees went up during 2021 as more use was made of "zoom" talks.
5. The club balance reduced from £8404.37 to £6670.91 over the year, a reduction of £1733.46. This was in line with expectation.
6. It should be noted that the club account holds the surpluses of individual activity groups, and as these surpluses belong to the individual activity groups and not the club, the balance available to the club reduces to £5950.91
7. The largest balance (£299.00) is "owned" by the theatre group, and this is the result of shows being cancelled during 2021 but rescheduled for 2022
8. The table tennis group "own" £208 of the club fund, but this money is being accumulated to fund the purchase of a new table tennis table.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

any questions on the accounts must be submitted no later than 5:00pm on Wednesday 9th March to [thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com](mailto:thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com)



## Junior Bake Off



Applications for the 8th series of **Junior Bake Off**, a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation, have just opened. Filming will take place from July 2022, but applications close on Sunday 13th March 2022.

With this in mind, if you have grandkids aged between 9-12 that are budding young bakers, check out the application details below.

Interested bakers can apply online at - [www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk)



## PLEASE BRING ALONG YOUR USED STAMPS TO THE NEXT MEETING

As you know, 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.

Please bring them along and give them to Sue Creeden at the monthly meeting. Alternatively, you can pop them through her door – 25 Holly Drive, Lutterworth. Sue will then pass them on to Liz.

Many thanks.



## LIVELY DISCUSSION

Co-ordinator: Dot Barnard

Lively Discussion 14th February 2022

### Should we really get rid of everything to do with slavery in our past?

We now believe that slavery is a crime against humanity and should not be tolerated. However, slavery was practised for thousands of years. The Romans and other ancient civilisations enslaved people and in the more recent past, many people in this country were involved, either directly or indirectly in the slave trade. There is also evidence of slavery in pre-Roman times where merchants and war lords enslaved the local population. Our concern is that recently there seems to be a culture that wishes to remove all traces of the slave trade – almost to try and wipe the slate clean.

Following the unlawful death of George Floyd in America in May 2020, the Black Lives Matter movement came to the fore, and there were a number of expressions of it here in the UK, most notably the tearing down of the statue of Edward Colston in Bristol. Colston was a slave trader in that city who invested a great deal of money in various charitable foundations there. Nevertheless he transported 80,000 people. A local sculptor erected a plaque which gave a more balanced view of the man. However Bristol council removed it. The statue itself was not erected until 1895, despite the fact that Edward Colston died in 1721, so perhaps one can have some sympathy for those who tore it down. Obviously, the jury in the case where they were tried thought so. Bristol was not alone in raising a statue to one of its local philanthropists many years after his death. The Victorians erected many such statues, some of questionable artistic value. A recent survey of 44 councils showed that between them they had 84 controversial statues condemned for links to slavery and colonialism – 21 of these have already been removed.

There has been a great deal of discussion about removing other statues including the one of Cecil Rhodes at Oriel College in Oxford and even one of Winston Churchill. Campaigners say that Cecil Rhodes represented white supremacy and was steeped in colonialism and racism. It seems it's still standing, because of the costs and planning requirements to remove it.

At Jesus College Cambridge, the student 'Legacy of Slavery' working party want to remove an intricate marble memorial designed by Grinling Gibbons, to a man called Tobias Rustat. Rustat was a courtier to Charles II and gave the college a donation of £2000 to fund scholarships for orphaned children of clergy. A church court is now hearing the case, although the Archbishop of Canterbury has indicated that he thinks it should go.

Some accusations are more tenuous. For example, Sir Joseph Banks who was one of the founding fathers of Kew Gardens has been branded "an enabler of slavery" because it is alleged that he

planned a mission on the Bounty which transported breadfruit plants to the West Indies to feed enslaved workers. And the statue of Winston Churchill in Parliament Square was sprayed with graffiti because some deemed him to be racist, based on somewhat tenuous evidence. His views were more likely the product of the Edwardian era in which he grew up. Other historic figures associated with slavery include Sir Francis Drake, Thomas Guy the founder of Guy's Hospital, Sir John Cass who founded several schools and Charles II.

There had been some concern about the veneration of slave traders as long ago as the 1920s but it intensified towards the end of the 20th century and now many streets, buildings and schools have had their names changed to reflect this. The National Trust conducted a survey of its properties and found that 93 of them had direct links to colonialism and slavery. A group member visited an NT property where local primary children had been asked to write poems and articles about the slave trade. All items were completely negative and didn't show the broad picture of philanthropy as well as slavery. It seems that even with more attention being paid to slavery children are only getting part of the history. Many stately homes would not exist if it were not for the slave trade.

Following the abolition of slavery in 1833, the Slave Compensation Act was passed in 1837. This enabled the sum of £20 million to be paid for the loss of slaves as business assets. A Government loan was taken out to fund this and the last of it was finally paid off in 2015. This money was shared amongst 40,000 people – some were owners of plantations, but many others had small amounts invested in these companies, so many hundreds of British families were involved, including a relative of Jane Austen and the father of William Gladstone. Are the descendants of all these people to be vilified? It should also be noted that not a penny was paid to the liberated slaves.

We cannot re-write history, nor can we escape the fact that many of our best loved institutions were funded by money derived from the slave trade, not necessarily from slave owners or slave traders, but just those who had invested in their companies, so it will take a great deal of unravelling if all connections to the slave trade are to be removed. Lloyds of London is one such institution founded through slavery.

A group member from Hull reminded us of the work of William Wilberforce who worked to abolish slavery and came from that city. The museum there is visited by all school children, and inhabitants of Hull are the most likely to know about slavery and why it was abolished, in one form at least.

Little has been said about those who were enslaved in all this, nor has there been any suggestion that compensation to them or their descendants was appropriate. There was an article by Trevor Phillips in which he says "Statue toppling may well make some, whose family histories include people they dislike, feel virtuous; in truth they are merely removing an inconvenient blot on their own escutcheon. But if we eliminate the memory of the slave owner, we forget the slave. For those of us whose ancestors lived that past, the impact of cancel culture is not liberation but

erasure.....The self-styled progressives are burying our past, to absolve themselves of their own sins.”

One speaker suggested that slavery arose from our colonial past. The beginning of Empire is variously stated as being in the 12th century, the 1490s or the 1660s. At its height Britain had dominion over 25% of the World’s land mass. In today’s world that is 171 of the 193 countries in the United Nations. Even today the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean is a British Overseas Territory and its original inhabitants were forcibly removed while our Government leased it to the US as a military base. It is ironic that nowadays many people don’t want immigrants here when we stripped other nations of their people and resources!

We took people from Africa mostly between 1640 and 1807 and transported them to the West Indies and then transported the fruits of their labours, such as sugar, around the world. Without this ‘triangle’ there would have been no slave trade. Sources vary as to how many people were robbed of free lives, but one quoted 3.1 million began their journeys but only 2.7 million arrived. It is said that sharks were well aware of slave ships and followed them.

A member had visited Zanzibar, a slaving town, from where many people were taken. He was horrified by the absolute cruelty of the trade underpinned by barbarity. People were only valued as objects and how much they were worth or how hard they could work. They were detained in a cell with a low ceiling so that one had to stoop or crawl. The dimensions were about 17ft by 13 ft. If you could fight your way to the only window you would survive. Slaves who were taken to the whipping post who didn’t cry out were considered to be strong and would work harder so they were worth more.

We covered the fact that there is slavery today although the context has changed. It is likely that you have used a car wash, bought cheap clothes or had your nails done by someone who is enslaved. The difference seems to be that nowadays we pay them something but they still live and work in awful conditions. Uyghurs (Weegers) in China, garment workers in India, and sadly garment workers in Leicester are also examples of enslaved people today.

With this background it is unsurprising that racial prejudice is still very much alive. Human beings were regarded as cargo and denied the normal respect of one person for another quite apart from the loss of liberty.

Other families, whose loved ones’ lives came to an abrupt end in a German concentration camp, are at great pains to make sure that we never forget the Holocaust. They want us and future generations to remember the horror of it and ensure that it never happens again. Germany has faced its past and all children are now taught about the Holocaust. We felt strongly that this approach to keeping alive the facts should be applied to slavery.

Most, but not all of the members felt that statues should stay. A good start would be to add plaques to all statues, buildings and roads etc. commemorating these ancestors. All agreed that we should not erase any part of our history and information covering all aspects of the people responsible for slavery through the centuries must be part of education, not the selected 'woke' actions, words and feelings of minorities. Anarchy must not be allowed to rule. Our history should not be tailored to today's sensitivities but should record all known facts, allowing individuals to hold their own opinions. Michael Gove, when he was Education Minister said 'We educated the world'. However, the schooling given to children of countries in the Empire covered British history not their own local history. For an amusing but true account of some of this listen to comedian Daliso Chabonda from Malawi.

Even hundreds of years ago we couldn't make up our minds. As well as supporting slavery by accompanying slave ships, later after the abolition act of parliament we intercepted ships and set slaves free. We concluded that we should keep and explain/educate on the topic of slavery.

Dot

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Visitors welcome,

please contact Dot Barnard [dot.barnard@uwclub.net](mailto:dot.barnard@uwclub.net) tel: 01455 208190

We meet on the second Monday morning of each month.

## **2022 TOPICS**

- January – Has corruption in government become normalised?
- February – Should we really get rid of everything to do with slavery in our past?
- March – Is every criticism of Israel anti-Semitism?
- April – What does woke mean? Free speech – where should we draw the line?

Dot

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## GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

Eight members enjoyed a ride out early in February. It was a reasonably mild morning as we set off from Ullesthorpe Garden Centre in the direction of Ullesthorpe. We then headed for Ashby Parva where we turned left to ride through the village and on to Frolesworth. The route then did a right to Leire and led us back up to Ashby Parva. Travelling on, we turned right again in Bitteswell and then left up Woodby Lane to the back of Magna Park. Our journey through Magna Park to Mere Lane was much busier than when we rode this way before Christmas and the huge lorries seemed a bit intimidating, so several of us opted for the wide and empty footpaths at this point. Mere Lane, which unfortunately litter laden, took us back to the Garden Centre for welcome refreshments. This distance was roughly 12 miles.

Weather permitting, the next ride will be on Wednesday **9th March 2022**, meeting at **Ullesthorpe Garden Centre at 10.00 a.m.** The route will take us through Ullesthorpe and Claybrooke Parva then turn left into Woodway Lane and up to the A5. Crossing over we will then ride down the quiet Green Lane and Brockhurst Lane to Monks Kirby. After a brief break we will ride back up Monks Kirby Lane and Penn Lane to the A5 again and retrace our wheels through Claybrooke Parva and Ullesthorpe. We can then decide whether to take the gentler but longer route back to the garden centre via Ashby Parva or the more challenging direct route. Again, the distance is roughly 12/13 miles.

Should the weather not be kind on that day, we will try again on the **16th March**.

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.creeden@taltalk.net](mailto:sueandpeter.creeden@taltalk.net).

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## ART APPRECIATION

February's meeting was a presentation focusing on the design of a car's body, whether it represented function, artistic form or a combination of the two and how materials and how they could be manipulated played a part. The presentation followed the history of the car with early influences and expertise of building horse drawn carriages and bicycles. Commencing with the simple bodywork of veteran and Edwardian cars although some like the Rolls Royce Silver Ghost were luxurious in their bespoke upholstery and fittings whilst the Model T Ford pioneered mass production, (building a car in 93 minutes in 1915).

The aerodynamic designs of Paul Jaray led to the Tatra T77 in 1934 which could be seen to influence the Volkswagen Beetle and later Porsches. We saw the opulence of Bugatti's Royale and the techniques of Carrozzeria Touring's Superleggera method of construction giving the beautiful forms of 1930's Alfas, whilst Figoni and Falaschi brought increasingly outrageous, ostentatious "Goutte D'Eau" or "Tear Drop" designs to the rich. In America Deussenberg and Auburn brought curves and boat-tails whilst the Cord brought innovation but sadly not reliability. The space age brought tail fins, huge chrome 'Dagmar' bumpers and complex compound curves in metalwork, glass and plastic. Europe saw less extreme versions, the French designs providing elegance in the Facel Vega and Citroen DS.

After the "Coke" bottle styling of the 60's came the folded paper/wedge designs of the 70's like the Lotus Esprit, that also made use of glass reinforced plastic. The 1990's brought carbon fibre and with super and hyper-cars increasingly making the most of the material to influence the passage of air over and under the car with intricate and complex shapes on the front, side, top, bottom and rear of the car.

In some cases the car's design proved too bold for the public as acknowledged by the designer Patrick Le Quement, given the task of designing distinctively French cars by the then Renault Chairman he offered us the Renault Avantime and Vel Satis both were not bought in any great numbers, however, his Espace people carrier influenced a new movement in car design.

The final slide drew on how increasing safety legislation, that undoubtedly has saved lives, is now leading to increasing uniformity in the design of saloon cars.

Mel





1937 Touring Alfa Romeo 6b 2300

1938 Figoni Delahaye 165 Cabriolet



1959 Cadillac Eldorado

1999 Renault Avantime



Tatra 77 1934

## **FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP**

### **February 2022 Walk Report**

After Dudley, Eunice and Franklin the morning was a little calmer and there was bright sunshine to see 28 of us off from the start at Gumley. We made our way out of the village passed the church then joined the footpath across fields to eventually climb up to the top of Smeeton Hill. It was a little windy but nothing like the winds we had encountered on recent days. Whilst getting our breath back we admired the 360 degree panoramic view of the surrounding countryside and Saddington Reservoir. Moving on we crossed more fields to the next climb up to Saddington. By this time the sunshine had packed up for the day. We stopped at St Helens church and once recovered and fortified set off back to Gumley via the single track road. Fortuitously the road was closed due to tree felling work which meant it was traffic free. This was absolutely brilliant. Even more fortuitously the tree felling was between where we temporarily left the road to walk along the side of the reservoir and returned to the road. The road had a nasty sting in its tail with a steep final incline that doesn't initially show itself. This stretched the group quite dramatically with walkers returning in dribs and drabs back into Gumley. Once back and de booted 20 walkers enjoyed lunch at The Bell. Thank you Tony and Paul for organising and leading this walk, your efforts are really appreciated.

Peter Creeden

## **FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP**

**Co-ordinators:** Sue and Peter Creeden

(Please use your U3A website if you need to contact us)

**Wednesday 23 March 2022**

**Walk Organiser:-** George Robertson

**Meeting Point and Time (for car sharing):-** Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park to leave at 9.25am

**Start Point and Time:-** The Waterside, Rugby, CV21 2PW. Walk starts at 10:00am. Sorry, toilets will not be available at the start of the walk. Car park is large so assemble near the pub entrance for the start of the walk.

**Directions to start:-** . South on A5 towards Daventry and right on roundabout onto A428 towards Rugby. After about 1 mile, pass under two railway bridges and The Waterside is on the left. 12 miles from Lutterworth.

**Route and distance:-** Walk begins along the canal towpath to Hillmorton Locks. We then walk up into Hillmorton and down field paths beside Ashlawn School to re-join the canal towpath back to the pub. There are **5 stiles** on the walk but they can all be avoided by walking down Barby Lane and re-joining the group at the canal bridge for those who feel more comfortable doing that. It had been very wet prior to my reccie and the tow paths were slippery in places so extra care may be required.

**Walk distance 5 miles.**

**Coffee Break.** We will stop at the 13th Century St John the Baptist Church where there are several bench seats.

**Lunch Arrangements:-** We will eat in the pub where the conservatory area has been reserved for our use. No pre ordering is possible but the carvery is good and ranges from Small £5.29 to Large £8.99. All other menu choices can be viewed by downloading the Green King app. to your phone or tablet. Order and pay for your meal when ordering your drink.

## FRENCH CONVERSATION

24 February 2022

The January meeting was cancelled as a mark of respect following the unexpected death of John Hicks. Pearl kindly hosted a Zoom meeting in February with a general discussion on Christmas, holidays, Covid and other things. The next meeting will be at the Methodist Church on Thursday, 24 March, when we can again use the kitchen to make tea and coffee.

Sue

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## POETRY GROUP

The topic for February was "Buildings, Cities and Monuments" so fairly easy for everyone to find suitable poems. As usual these ranged from the amusing, such as poems by Roger McGough and Spike Milligan, and tales of moving house written by one of the group, to the more serious such as Philip Larkin and Holly McNish. Also John Betjeman's "Slough" which manages to be both funny and horrifying at the same time. There was plenty of discussion, both about the poetry and more generally.

As we are currently experiencing war, plague and storms we thought we would have "Happiness and Joy" as March's topic, as a kind of antidote .

Next meeting March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2pm my house.

Sylvia

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## GARDEN GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden  
01455 557888

In February we saw the return of Karen Gimson who presented our January talk on 'My Life as a Landscape Gardener'. At short notice she kindly agreed to come back, this time to tell us about the History of the National Garden Scheme. She explained that she was a very keen supporter the NGS charity as it was established to raise funds for nursing and health charities. Her family accessed the assistance of the Macmillan nurses to care for her Father and both her daughters were in the nursing profession.

Karen told us that Miss Elsie Wagg of the Queens Nursing Institute (QNI) launched the idea of opening gardens to raise funds for the Institute in 1927. It was a great success and in the first year 609 gardens opened at a charge was one shilling to visit. The total raised that year was £8,191.00. The idea grew and by 1930 the number of gardens open increased to 900, including Winston Churchill's garden. In 1932 the first guide was published. This was green (not yellow at first) and cost was one shilling. In 1948 the National Health Service was formed but funds were will required by the QNI for training new nurses etc. The first 'Yellow Book' was published in 1949.

In 1980 the National Garden Scheme became independent from the QNI so that it could raise funds for other health charities such as Macmillan, Marie Curie, Parkinsons UK and many others. Prince Charles became patron in 2002 and Mary Berry became president in 2016. A total of £3 million was raised for the first time in 2017 and even in 2020, when we were in lockdown for part of the year, the Charity still achieved funds of £2.88 million.

There are now 3,500 gardens open to the public and the total raised to date is £63 million.

Karen then went on to show us beautiful photos of some of the gardens, many of them in Leicestershire. There are very many different gardens to visit, some large estate gardens and some quite small 'back gardens', formal gardens and cottage gardens, even allotments. She also gave us some very useful growing tips.

Our final indoor meeting will be on **Tuesday, 22nd March, again at Gilmorton Village Hall starting at 2.30 p.m.** Our speakers will be Sue Graham and Robb Doyle, and the talk is entitled 'Managing Wildlife at Bradgate Park'.

The cost will be £5.00 including refreshments, payable on the day.

If you would like to come along, you will be very welcome. Please just let me know by email: [sueandpeter.creeden@talktalk.net](mailto:sueandpeter.creeden@talktalk.net) or the phone number above.

Sue

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## SNAIL'S PACE WALKING GROUP

**March Walk: Friday 18th March**

Dot Barnard and Judith Godfrey will be leading this walk.

**PLEASE Contact Dot or Judith IF YOU WANT TO COME ALONG.**

### **WATERMEAD COUNTRY PARK – MEMORIAL WALK**

Meet at 10.45am at the Hope and Anchor Pub, Wanlip Road, Syston LE7 1PD

0116 260 1963

The walk is mainly on asphalt paths, but there is also some grassland. Due to the recent rain paths often have puddles, so waterproof boots or shoes are recommended.

We will be passing by King Lear's Lake, the River Soar and the Grand Union canal and other bodies of water as we go. The walk is almost completely flat except for a slight hill at the beginning of the walk. The Memorial Walk was





set up to remember those who have died from COVID in Leicester and Leicestershire. New trees have been planted and a series of benches show plaques with literary quotations. We will cover between 2 and 3 miles.

Depending on the weather, some may wish to walk right to the end of the Memorial Walk and back which is about 5 miles in total, some of which is on grass. We can show you how to do this when we reach that point, or you can return with us.

## **LUNCH**

- Please arrive by 10.45 at the Hope and Anchor. You will be able to order and pay before we leave for the walk at 11am. They have reserved the back room for us, also known as the Stables, for 1pm.
- The toilets in the park are closed so please make use of those at the pub.
- The menu can be found online and, as well as individual meals, also offers 2 main courses for £10.49. If you prefer, you can wait till you arrive to order. The pub is open from 8am.

Please can you us know if you wish to come **BY THURSDAY 10TH MARCH.**

**Map – Google: Watermead Country Park Map and you will be able to download one.**

Email: dot.barnard@uwclub.net or jugod@btinternet.com

Tel. 07969 798095 or 01455 208190

## **Directions from Lutterworth**

It's about 22 miles and about half an hour from Lutterworth

- Follow the A426 to Soar Valley Way (A563) traffic lights and turn left for Fosse Park and the M1
- Follow the signs for M1 North and get on the M1 at Junction 21
- Exit the M1 at Junction 21A onto A46 and follow the A46 until you reach the traffic lights with the A607
- Turn right onto the A607 and travel along the dual carriageway to the first roundabout and complete a U-turn around the roundabout to come back on the other side of the dual carriageway.
- Take the entry road to Watermead Country Park on your left just past the layby

- At the roundabout take the second exit and the Hope and Anchor is on your right.

**IF YOU PREFER YOU CAN TRAVEL FROM M1 JUNCTION 20, if so here are the directions:**

- Take M1 Junction 20 at Lutterworth and exit the M1 at Junction 21A
- Exit the M1 at Junction 21A onto A46 and follow the A46 until you reach the traffic lights with the A607
- Turn right onto the A607 and travel along the dual carriageway to the first roundabout and complete a U-turn around the roundabout to come back on the other side of the dual carriageway.
- Take the entry road to Watermead Country Park on your left just past the layby
- At the roundabout take the second exit and the Hope and Anchor is on your right.

**PARKING**

**We will only take as many cars as we need to get everyone from the pub to the King Lear's Car Park in the park itself. We can arrange that when we've ordered lunch.**

**The parking charge is a flat £2 .50 which lasts all day. Cash or cards accepted.**

**Once through the barrier drive straight on for King Lear's Car Park.**

## FIRST WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

**Joint Co-ordinators** :-Peter and Irene Moore. Tel:- 01455 552594.email:- [peter79moore@gmail.com](mailto:peter79moore@gmail.com)

**Walk Organisers** :- Peter & Irene Moore. Tel :- 01455 552594 :- email:- [peter79moore@gmail.com](mailto:peter79moore@gmail.com)

**Driving distance**:- 8 miles each way

**Meeting Point and Time** : Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 9.20am to leave at 9.30am.

**Start Point** : Bulls Head, Main Street, Wolvey, Leicestershire. LE10 3LB . Leave 10.00am. Toilets available

**Date of Walk** :- Wednesday 6th April 2022

**Directions to Start** :- At Magna Park A5 island take 3rd Left onto Cloudsley Bush Lane into Wolvey . Bulls Head at top of hill opposite Church.

Toilets available.

Order lunch before starting walk

**Route and Distance** :- Starting from Car Park . Via Bramcote Fishing lakes onto Burton A very good winter walk mostly on Pasture land and firm Farm tracks

5.2 Miles. 2 Stiles

Good Choice of Food on the Lunch menu. Gluten Free Food available

Nice pub and excellent food . The Desserts at £2.00 must be tried .What could be better. Enjoy.

### Summary

Interesting walk in the River Anker valley, Good Pub & Excellent food, only needs your support.

**Peter and Irene Moore**

**Next Walk** Bluebell Walk 5 miles No Stiles Ratby 11thh May 2022. Not to be missed Good Pub and Food.

The date of this walk has been moved 1 week to ensure there are Bluebell due to early frosty weather .

## HISTORY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Viv

Report for the U3A History Group. February 2022

### Eleanor of Aquitaine

After so long, it was nice to return to our old venue, the Rugby Club for our February meeting. Our topic examined the extraordinary life of one of the most famous female characters in Medieval History, Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine.



Viv's presentation traced her long life from her birth in 1122 to her death 1204, in Aquitaine (now part of France). At that time, Aquitaine was a large independent state and so Eleanor became the most eligible heiress in Europe. At first it seemed likely her life would be typical of the powerless subordinate role that most high-born girls experienced; doomed to marry and become a pawn in the complicated web of alliances in European politics. However, Eleanor proved herself to be anything but a pawn. Eleanor was unusually well educated and regarded as a woman of great beauty, piety and many accomplishments. She was certainly someone with a strong mind!

Through her two Royal marriages, first to the King of France, Louis VII and then to Henry II of England and afterwards in the pivotal role she played in the reigns of her sons, King Richard the Lionheart and King John, Eleanor lived a long and eventful life. She was mother to several children, had a dramatic escape from kidnap and a forced marriage, went with Louis VII to the Holy Land on Crusade, instigated a rebellion against her second husband, Henry II, endured 12 years of house arrest and later effectively became the regent of England for King Richard. She wielded real power as a key political adviser not only to both her husbands but also to both her sons. Eleanor was very unusual because she was able to keep control of her lands in Aquitaine and so she remained a powerful woman. Such a measure of independence was rare indeed. Eleanor's tomb and effigy can still be seen in her abbey of Fontevrault in Poitiers in France.

## **MARCH**

**Please note a date change. Our next meeting will be on MARCH 15th instead of the 1st.**

Our topic will be about Education. Firstly, a look at the life and impact of Dorothea Beale and Frances Buss, influential pioneers in education in the 19thC and, secondly, we'll be thinking about memories of own school days. You might like to bring any old school related photos or items along.

## FUTURE PLANS

Viv has arranged 2 trips

April 5th, a visit to Lichfield Cathedral

May 3rd, a visit to the Manor house at Donington-le-Heath

Mandy is arranging a trip in August to Sezincote House in August (details to follow).

Viv has also arranged a joint outing to Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens with the Garden Group on June 28th.

Viv

## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

### PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP FEBRUARY 2022 REPORT

As we continue our process of returning to 'normal', our February meeting was held in the Lutterworth Rugby Club, a venue that we are now starting to feel more comfortable in. We had a good attendance, including a couple of guests.

Our photographic topic for February was 'New Pictures' which we renamed to 'Taken in February 2022' as the purpose of the topic was to encourage the group to submit pictures taken during the month. We had a tremendous response and rather than selecting one or two from the submissions we viewed all 58 images submitted. Being new images, we were able to see how many of us have improved or otherwise, based on previous submissions of older pictures from individual archives. It was interesting that when viewed collectively the harshest critic of each image was from the member who had submitted them. Group review and comment are the best ways to improve your photography.

To keep up the momentum of submitting new pictures, the March topic is simply 'Taken in March 2022', and we hope to get another batch of interesting pictures.

In the spirit of new pictures, we were treated to a short time lapse video from Rawdon, taken from his upstairs window, during storm Eunice. The video started in the morning and continued with still shots taken at short intervals until dusk. The video lasted for about 60 seconds, and we estimate that this must have involved taking about 1500 separate images, quite an undertaking to collate for the video. The most dramatic scenes were of clouds scudding across the sky. Rawdon had hoped for a bit more drama but fortunately his neighbours had prepared for the storm, disappointing for Rawdon but good for the neighbourhood.

We rounded off the meeting with a short presentation on the work of the famous French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson. His work was what we know today as 'street photography' but his work was more subtle than how we understand the genre today. Cartier-Bresson was from a rich family, and he could indulge himself in his 'hobbies', initially studying art and literature before taking an interest in photography which eventually became his passion and 'job'. We looked at a rather eclectic selection of his work which stimulated some interesting discussions. When asked why he took up photography, Cartier-Bresson is quoted as saying *"I suddenly understood that a photograph could fix eternity in an instant"*.

Inspired by the presentation we are thinking of 'street photography' for our April topic. Coupling with the need to take some new pictures for March we may have the time and opportunity to indulge in our own take on 'street photography'.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 25th March 2002, 10.00 am at the Lutterworth Rugby Club.

As usual, our meetings are open to all U3A members as regulars or as a guest. If you would like more information e-mail us at the address below.

[wlu3acamera@outlook.com](mailto:wlu3acamera@outlook.com)

Michael Bates





Chris Ridley

David Hanger





## Committee Members

Office	Name
Chairperson	Chris Brady
Vice Chairman	Colin Beadle
Treasurer	Ruth Bones
Secretary	Nigel Burt
Membership Secretary	Ann Hetherington
Minutes Secretary	Anne Dean
Speaker Finder	Andrea Nichol
Interest Group Co-ordinator	Colin Beadle
Membership Records	Andy Hetherington
Committee Member	Nigel Bones
Committee Member	Peter Ross
Committee Member	Sue Poulter

**Note:** Any committee member can be contacted via our email address:

[thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com](mailto:thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com)

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

[trudyhaddon.rylands@gmail.com](mailto:trudyhaddon.rylands@gmail.com)

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

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