

Our April Monthly Meeting is scheduled for

Thursday 14th April 2022

doors opened at 9.45am at

Lutterworth Methodist Church

April Speaker Information :-

This month we have a presentation by Alan Cutler, a member of the Balsall Common U3A. He will present to us a murder case held in the United Kingdom towards the beginning of the last century by playing the part of the judge, and both the prosecution and defence counsels.

Your role is to play the part of the jury, carefully weighing up the evidence presented to you before deciding whether the accused is guilty or not guilty of the charge he faces.

The presentation will last for about fifty minutes, after which you will be given time to discuss the evidence in informal groups. Alan will then call the court to order and will ask each of you to show your cards to indicate whether you, as individual members of the jury, find the defendant guilty or not guilty.

You will then be advised of the actual trial jury's verdict. Did you find a guilty man innocent, or did you send an innocent man to the gallows!

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PLEASE NOTE that an up-to-date Arriva X84 bus timetable is available in the STOP PRESS section on our U3A Website

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Notices

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.

Sue.

* * * * *

LIVELY DISCUSSION

Co-ordinator: Dot

Meeting Held on 14th March 2022

What does woke mean? Free speech – where should we draw the line?

Here is a selection of the many definitions of **woke**:

DICTIONARY.com – Having a marked or active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, especially those related to civil and human rights.

WIKIPEDIA – An English adjective meaning ‘alert to racial prejudice and discrimination’ that originated in African-American Vernacular English, used instead of awake or woken

URBAN DICTIONARY – A state of awareness only achieved by those dumb enough to find injustice in everything except their own behaviour; being alert to misconceived injustice in society.

As early as 1938 Lead Belly, Black American folk singer-songwriter, uses the phrase ‘I advise everybody, be a little careful when they go along through there – best stay woke, keep their eyes open’ in his song “Scottsboro Boys”, which tells the story of 9 black teenagers accused of raping 2 white women. J.K. Rowling, who has been vilified on Twitter for her opinions on transgender women using women’s toilets, quoted George Orwell author of ‘1984’ written in 1948 - ‘war is peace’, freedom is slavery’, ignorance is strength’. From the 2010s woke has come to encompass a broader awareness of social inequalities including sexism, identity politics, social justice and left wing ideas. And more recently the Black Lives Matter movement, after the death of George Floyd, highlighted the need to be woke about racial prejudice and how little attitudes have changed. So being ‘woke’ is not new.

In the group opinions varied from those who think being woke is the prejudiced, short-sighted preserve of the young to others who felt that taken at its origins it helps us to question our own prejudices, especially on unthinking racism or sexism. Is being woke over-inflated political correctness gone mad? It seems to depend on the level of open-mindedness of the individual.

Free speech or lack of it is closely linked to woke attitudes. Here iconoclasm is pertinent. Definition: **Iconoclasm** – the action of attacking or assertively rejecting cherished beliefs and institutions or established values and practices.

The Online Safety Bill to prevent the anonymous attacks on others will make the erosion of free speech worse, although in its title we can see the good intent behind it. Many MPs support the bill presumably because they are sick of being attacked. Some of these attacks are death threats and unfortunately we've seen at least one carried out.

It appears that some British judges prioritise different parts of the Human Rights Act over other parts and this has led to eroding of freedoms without passing new laws. One member felt that now that Britain is no longer a member of the EU the Human Rights Act should be revisited and interpreted in line with our common law, our constitution and our parliamentary sovereignty.

Both the UN and Amnesty International state that along with the right to free speech comes the responsibility to take into account the effect on others. Free speech means that we should be able to give and receive information with which we might agree or disagree. There was concern over the 'de-platforming' of some speakers invited to universities because of the 'thought' police, usually a vocal group of students within the student body. Our members, who had attended meetings where politicians such as Sir Keith Joseph and Leon Brittan had spoken, noted that the politicians welcomed the questioning and often volunteered to take questions away to provide fuller answers. We are concerned that the vocal students aren't necessarily representative of most students. The silent ones may be wary of standing out and becoming the subject of online attacks.

Does free speech really cause offence, or is it that many people feel that they ought be offended as it seems to them to be the flavour of our time? Certainly some comedians have been outspoken about what they could say 10 years ago compared with what they can say now. Many still enjoy Morecambe and Wise, the Two Ronnies, Billy Connolly and Dave Allen. Interestingly Russell Kane said he's not going to change how he operates but 10 years ago it was the silver haired contingent who walked out, nowadays it's the under 25s.

One broadsheet poking fun at wokeism gave us 2 versions of a speech from Macbeth:

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,

All of which are soon replaced
For anyone of vegan taste:

Wobbly tofu, milk-free cheese,
Skin of spud and pod of peas,
Smear of hummus, husk of nut.
Save the planet, love your gut.

The press can be guilty of weaponizing current memes. (*A meme is an element of a culture or system of behaviour passed from one individual to another by imitation or other non-genetic means.*) It doesn't seem to matter which side of the political spectrum the publications support as both the Guardian and the Daily Mail have done so.

It is very worrying that the Police and Crime Bill currently going through Parliament will criminalise peaceful protest because it is noisy or a nuisance. The recent protestors who glued themselves to the M25 definitely need to be prevented from doing so since so many people were adversely affected. It is unknown if ambulances were held up or vital meetings and appointments were missed. So it is easy to think the new law would be a good thing until one considers what happens in Hong Kong, China, Russia etc. So we agreed it's not simple.

In summary we felt that if we allow free speech with no regard to responsibility then its curbing will continue. However, if all age groups consider comments on their merits and allow others to hold points of view with which they disagree our society will be the richer, the more developed and freer. Simply put everyone needs to be kind and well mannered.

Perhaps we should all keep in mind the famous quote – some say by Voltaire, others by Evelyn Beatrice Hall:

'I disapprove of what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it'.

We also covered transgender issues and will discuss this in full at a meeting later in the year.

Visitors welcome, please contact Dot Barnard dot.barnard@uwclub.net 01455 208190

We meet on the second Monday morning of each month.

2022 TOPICS

- March – What does woke mean? Free speech – where should we draw the line?
- April – Is every criticism of Israel anti-Semitism?
- May – Do women's and trans rights have to be in conflict?

GARDEN GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

Our speaker for March was Sue Graham, a Community Champion and volunteer at Bradgate Park and her talk was entitled 'Managing Wildlife'.

Sue first explained that the original parkland was bequeathed to Hugh de Grandmesnil in the 11th century as a reward for assisting William the Conqueror in the Battle of Hastings. It passed to the Grey Family in 1445 and stayed in the family for 500 years. As there was no surviving heir the estate was broken up and sold off in the 1920s. Charles Bennion bought the part we know today and gave it in trust "to be managed in perpetuity as an open space or public park for the purposes of recreation by the people of Leicestershire and visitors to the county".

Sue went on to tell us that there were several different types of terrain in the Park and each provided habitats for different animals, birds, snakes, fish and plant life.

The ancient woodland was home for many birds and insects. There were many trees that were more than 500 years old and some needed artificial supports to preserve them. The woodland areas are surrounded by drystone walls to protect them from the deer. The drystone walls themselves provided safe havens to birds, lizards and insects and it was important that they were maintained.

There are vast grazing areas for the deer. The Park has around 550 fallow deer and red deer which have to be carefully managed. Over time large parts of these grazing areas had been over-run with invasive bracken. However, over the last 20 years the plan has been to extensively reduce this bracken to enable grasses and other plants to survive.

There is also an area of marshland which provides home for dragonflies, newts, moths and insects and it is important to ensure that this part of the park does not dry out.

The river Lin runs through the Park. The water is particularly clean and provides home to many fish. However, this too has to be managed to prevent it from silting up as it bubbles over weirs and rocks.

Sue told us that the management team consists of 7 full-time rangers, young trainee rangers and many volunteers. Her talk was accompanied by many amazing photos of the wildlife found in the Park, quite a number of which were taken by Sue herself and her Husband who is also a volunteer.

Garden visit on 26th April 2022

Dear All,

Val Ridley and I are organising the first garden visit of the year on **Tuesday 26th April**.

We will be visiting Throsby House, 65 Lutterworth Road, Leicester LE2 8PH which is owned by Andrew and Yvonne Dickinson. They have been working on it for decades and used to be part of the National Garden Scheme but now do it for the charities which they support which include the Air Ambulance and a cancer charity. Usually there are plants for sale too. The cost is £5 per person and includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Some of us visited this garden with our WI and thought it was lovely with lots of interest and various sections for you to explore.

If you wish to travel on the minibus it will cost £3 making £8 in total. The minibus will leave Lutterworth Leisure Centre at 1.30pm to arrive by 2pm. We will leave at 4pm for the return journey.

The next U3A Main meeting will be back at the Methodist Church in Lutterworth on 14th April and I will be collecting money then, or you can pay on the day.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY EMAIL BY 10th APRIL IF YOU WISH TO BE INCLUDED?

Directions by car:

- From Lutterworth follow the A426 all the way to the cross roads/traffic lights at Soar Valley Way (A563)
- Continue across Soar Valley Way into Lutterworth Road towards Aylestone
- Throsby House, 65 Lutterworth Road is on the left by the bus shelter, just past the left turn into Buckingham Drive.

PARKING

- Parking by the house is limited but you can park in Buckingham Drive, just before 65 Lutterworth Road, or Morcom Drive which is a new development on the left just beyond 65 Lutterworth Road.
- If you prefer you can park in Monsell Drive which is the first right turn after you cross Soar valley Way.

If you are driving yourself please let us know if you are able to take others. In these difficult times we ask that car passengers give the driver the same as the cost of the minibus.

Dot

My phone numbers are 01455 208190 and 07969 798095

GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden
01455 557888

Seven gallant members gathered at Ullesthorpe Garden Centre to brave the blustery wind in early March. As we set off downhill to Ashby Parva and then left to Ullesthorpe the wind was behind us and all seemed relaxed and calm. We cycled through Ullesthorpe and Claybrooke Parva then turned left into Woodway Lane and up to the A5. Crossing over (all made it safely!) we rode down the very quiet Green Lane and Brockhurst Lane to Monks Kirby. The sun was shining and the roads were quiet. 'This is very pleasant' we said. However, after a brief break we had to ride back the other way straight into the wind, up Monks Kirby Lane and Penn Lane to the A5 again. This was a lot more challenging. The stretch back to Claybrooke Parva was downhill and not too bad but the hill up into Ullesthorpe beat nearly all of us and we were walking. By the time we got back to the Garden Centre we were exhausted and hot drinks were very welcome. The distance was roughly 12 miles.

The weather was warm and sunny the following Monday and so four ladies were available for a second outing. Again, we met at Ullesthorpe Garden Centre. This time the route went to Ashby Parva and then down the quiet Dunton Mill Lane to Dunton Bassett. We turned left here and cycled up and down the hills through Leire to Froslesworth. We then headed for Ullesthorpe but turned right at the top of the hill to Claybrooke Magna. Turning left again we made our way through the both the Claybrookes and then we had to face that hill again up into Ullesthorpe. It was no easier this time! Having recovered we took the longer way back to the Garden Centre via Ashby Parva. The sun was so warm we enjoyed our refreshments outside. Not bad for the middle of March!

The next ride will be **on Wednesday 13th April**, details to be confirmed. Should the weather be inclement, we will try again on Wednesday 20th April.

If you fancy joining us, we will be very pleased to see you. Electric bikes welcome. Just email me - sueandpeter.creeden@taltalk.net or call me on the above number.

Sue

ART APPRECIATION

Co-ordinator: Ursula

For our March - Session we went to the New Walk Museum in Leicester to see "ART AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT".

This is a touring exhibition from the Arts Council, featuring works created between 1950 and 2020. It shows how city dwellers have engaged with their built-up surroundings.

We looked at paintings, sculptures, photography and films, exploring different aspects of urban life, from architecture, crowds, neon lights and noise to migration, using the Council's helpful suggestions: I see — I think —I wonder.

The lively discussions during and after the visit showed our total engagement in the topic.

Next meeting: 7.4.2022 at Bitteswell Village Hall, 14.00 - 16.00

Visiting Artist from The Coloured Pencil Society

Ursula

CARD GAMES GROUP

Co-ordinator: Cynthia

To all Members of the Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a:

We are starting up our Card Game Group again. We play Rummy, Whist, UNO, Canasta, what ever people prefer. We are having our first meeting on Friday 8th April, from 10am - 12noon at my house 2, Riverside Road. Lutterworth.

Cynthia Griffith

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue

24 March 2022

Due to the high incidence of Covid locally, we met on Zoom again. We had a general newsy discussion, an interval of ten minutes for coffee, and then another 40-minute session. Pearl had provided an interesting article about the introduction of the euro 20 years ago which we translated. The next meeting will be on 28 April.

Sue

POETRY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sylvie

March's topic was "Happiness and Joy" and interestingly this wasn't considered to be an easy topic for all in terms of choosing poetry that was familiar.

Nevertheless we celebrated love, nature and just having a good laugh, for which I recommend Roger McGough's "Survival" and Martin Armstrong's "Mrs Reece Laughs".

Next month we have an easy topic, "Easter and Springtime". We are meeting at my house 2pm April 28th.

Sylvie

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

March 2022 Walk Report

There were 27 walkers, including four newcomers that we were very pleased to welcome, who met up at the Waterside pub in Hillmorton. The weather was showing its best side. It was dry and sunny and after a short while layers were being peeled off because it was so warm.

George Robertson led the way off down along the towpath of the Oxford Canal towards Hillmorton Locks. He elected to go for an early break stopping at the 13th Century St John the Baptist Church where there were several bench seats that allowed us to sit and bask in the sunshine.

Refreshed we set off again up into Hillmorton and then down field paths beside Ashlawn School to re-join the canal towpath back to the pub. George had expected a lot of mud but fortunately the recent good spell of weather had dried up the worst.

Thank you for the walk George (and your assistant Jane)

Peter Creeden

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FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Co-ordinators: Sue and Peter Creeden (Please use your U3A website if you need to contact us)

Wednesday 27 April 2022

Walk Organisers:- Mike & Lesley Chapman

Meeting Point and Time (for car sharing):- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park to leave at 9.25am. Distance to walk start – 6.5miles

Start Point and Time:- On the green (triangle) in front of “The Denbigh Arms”, Monks Kirby, Rugby, CV23 0QX. Walk starts at 10:00am. Sorry, toilets may not be available at the start of the walk.

Directions to start:- . :- Leave Lutterworth along Coventry Road, to the A4303 towards Magna Park. At the A5 roundabout, take 2nd exit to Pailton. Drive through Pailton towards Brinklow, and after approx. 0.5 mile where the road turns left to Stretton under Fosse, take a right turn to Monks Kirby. The Denbigh Arms is first on the left, opposite the church, as you enter the village. The pub car park is not large so please only use if you are staying for lunch. There are a number of on-street parking places, especially along Brockhurst Lane (go past the green and bear right at first junction).

Route and distance:- The walk starts by leaving Monks Kirby via Brockhurst Lane, and then taking field paths for 1.5 miles. At Little Walton, we walk a short distance on a narrow road before returning to field paths for 1 mile. We will take coffee by a fishing lake, unfortunately with only one seat, but plenty of grass. We then continue towards Pailton, where we walk through the village before crossing the fields back to Monks Kirby. Walk distance 4.8 miles.

Lunch Arrangements:- We will eat in the Denbigh Arms, but they have told us there is no need to choose our food beforehand. Please check their website (<https://denbigharmsmonkskirby.co.uk>) to view lunchtime options – there is a Carvery every Wednesday (£7.95 at time of writing), as well as a large choice from the menu (most main courses approx. £9-£10).

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Michael Bates

Our March meeting was held at the Lutterworth Rugby Club and we looked at our March topic pictures followed by a short presentation on the photography of Julia Margaret Cameron, a remarkable Victorian woman and photographer.

For the March topic we repeated the format we used in February, requiring our members to submit pictures they had taken in March 2022. As in February we had a wide variety of pictures which made for a very interesting review. With two months of 'new pictures' we can see how we are thinking back on the comments made during the February review to find more innovative subjects and styles of photography.

For our April topic we are returning to a single photographic theme, and we are asking members to submit pictures in a style known as 'street photography'. This subject is aimed at taking candid pictures of street scenes, possibly fully populated with the public going about their daily business. Hopefully we will continue to see pictures taken recently, rather than old pictures from the archives.

Continuing our theme of looking at the work of famous photographers, this month we chose a little-known woman, Julia Margaret Cameron. Julia was born in India in June 1815, just 7 days before the battle of Waterloo but lived and was educated in France until she was 19. After her marriage she was a prominent member of the Anglo-Indian society and followed the same path once her family came to England in 1845. Her sisters had all married "well" and her family were fully entwined within the elite of British society. Julia was particularly interested in the arts, and this was demonstrated in her photography which she did not take up until she was 48 in 1863. In a brief career of only 12 years, she published about 900 pictures.

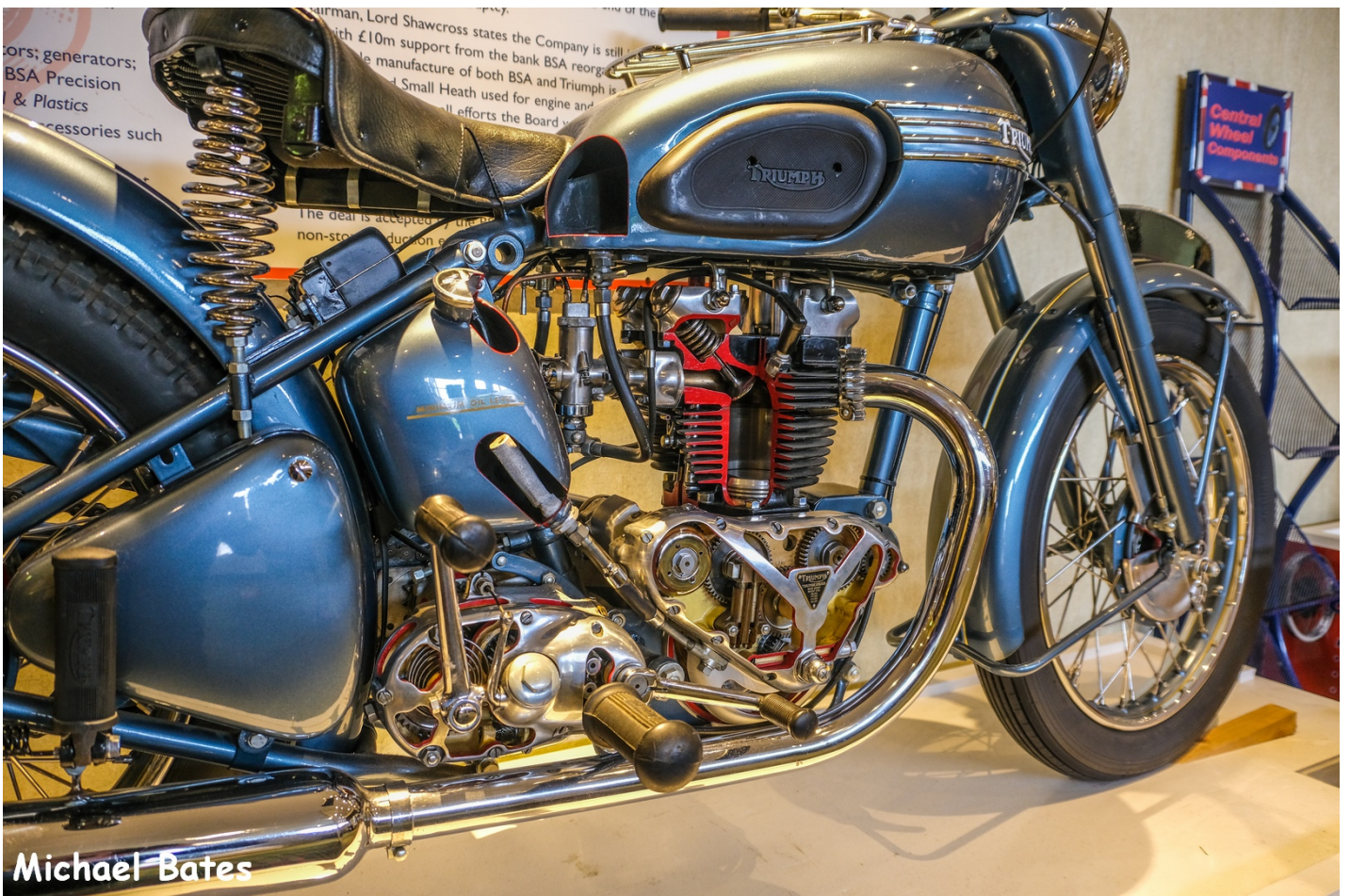
Unlike today, photography in the mid 1800's was in its infancy and apart from being able to take a picture you needed to be a chemist capable of handling and mixing the light sensitive chemical coatings for glass plates and the developing processes involved. Julia is renowned for her soft-focus studio portrait work and creating group pictures, or tableau such as scenes from Shakespeare plays and all with a very Pre-Raphaelite style. Julia died in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in 1879 but the family home in Freshwater on the Isle of Wight is now a museum to her work.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 29th April 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.



David Hanger



Michael Bates



Rawdon Bottom



Ursula Kanetis



Penny Ross

ESTG March event

Peking to Paris Rally presented by Dave Maine

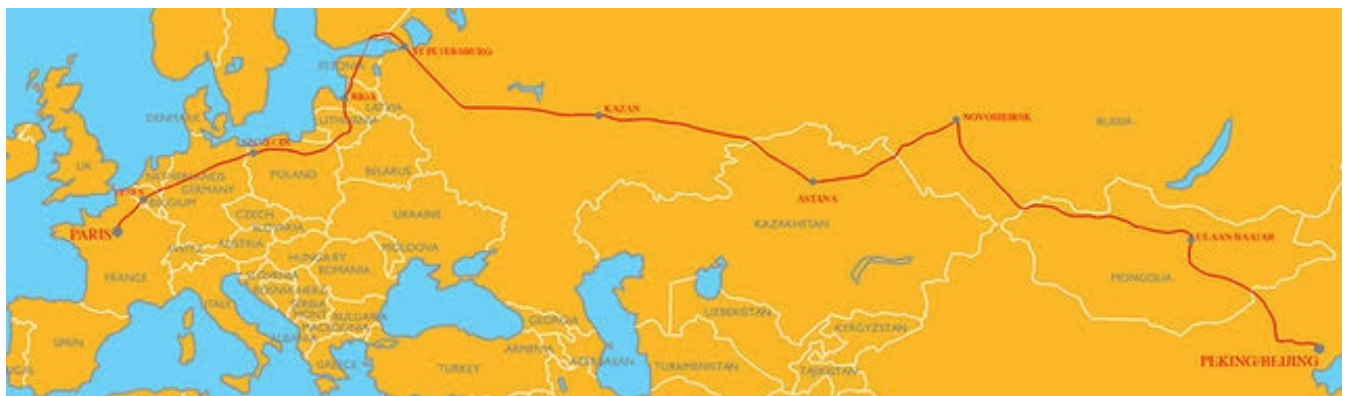
For our March event the Engineering group were treated to a **talk by Dave Maine** who brilliantly entertained us with a presentation on his preparation, testing, entrance and his experience of the **Peking (Beijing nowadays) to Paris Rally undertaken in 2019**

Some lines from the official Rally web site :

<https://www.endurorally.com/events/the-7th-peking-to-paris-motor-challenge/>

"**The Peking to Paris Motor Challenge** is unique in the motoring world – a true endurance motor rally following in the wheel-tracks of the original pioneers of 1907. Driving an old car nearly half way around the world with a bunch of like-minded enthusiasts, against the clock, with the added spice of timed sections, makes Peking to Paris the longest and toughest driving challenge for Vintage and Classic cars.

This Peking to Paris Motor Challenge is open to cars of a type produced before 1976 and is suitable to both novice crews, with training and support, as well as experienced rally entrants. You will need a sense of adventure and be prepared to spend nights under canvas in the deserts of Mongolia and Kazakhstan. The ability to carry out regular maintenance on your own car is essential. Average daily distances are around 400 kilometres but, on occasion, they can be as much as 650 kilometres – it is an endurance event after all."



Started in 1907 it has run most years ever since, a distance of some 6000 miles and as can be seen from the map below it travels through some torturous terrain before finally ending in Paris.

Dave explained that he wanted to get as near to the original concept as he was able to whilst ensuring some chance of finishing the rally and this played a big part in his choice of vehicle, that

being a **genuine 1929 Buick, 5 litre, 6 cylinders**, a car in need of some “mild” restoration or so Dave hoped.

Initial inspection showed most of the body to be in reasonable condition (after clearing out resident rodents nests etc.) and left as original as possible, however wheels complete with wooden spokes required re-building and recommissioning along with most mechanical parts inc the Engine and main drive train, a new carburettor was sourced to help cope with high altitude running and petrol quality along the route....today's min octane petrol spec would be considerably higher than when this car was first made so shouldn't be a problem.

Satellite Navigation, rally tracking equipment etc. and cameras were modern additions necessary for safety and route guidance.

There was a well tried and tested rally organised support network that accompanied the entrants along the route including Medical vehicles, mechanical working facilities with limited generic spares and additional mechanics to help with any problems or mishaps !

Dave and his co-driver trialled the car on some practice runs to the continent before the car was finally packed and freighted to China ready for the off



No 11- the Buick in it's 'readiness' to take on the task.

One problem became evident as soon as it was being driven off the docks - the wooden spokes had dried out on the journey to China and shrunk in size and allowed the spokes to rattle in the rims and wheel hub, as can be seen in the photo below, copious amounts of water were administer to try and re-hydrate the wood, but in reality this problem never really went away throughout the rally, a temporary solution would be to 'shim' around the spokes with thin steel to make up the gaps formed in the rims and hub and made ever larger by the addition of sand ingress en-route through the dessert regions.....



Shrinking wheel spokes being re-hydrated with water by the co-driver.

It is impossible to recreate the talk here in a few words, but you can see from the Photo Gallery below, the sort of terrain encountered and the other types of cars entered in the rally....one comment by Dave was that the suspension took a real battering but the simple 'leaf spring' of the Buick had survived the terrain, however most of the more modern era cars (pre1976) fitted with coil spring and shock absorber type suspension didn't fair as nearly as well and need constant replacement/repair.

Suffice to say that Dave and his co-driver successfully completed the whole rally in 35 days to be welcomed in Paris by their families....

A terrific achievement and a brilliant presentation by Dave Maine which was overwhelmingly appreciated by the membersfor more info on the Rally, please have a look on the website -

<https://www.endurorally.com/events/the-7th-peking-to-paris-motor-challenge/>

Many thanks also to Colin Beadle for his efforts in organising this great event for our group.

Chris Ridley











Engineering Group events coming up.

April - Tuesday 26th, **Visit to 'Harrington Air Museum'**, Northampton - car share from Lutterworth

May - Tuesday 17th.- **Talk by Nigel Bedford on Radio Telescopes at Lut Rugby Club**

June - Tuesday 21st - TBA

July - Tuesday 19th - TBA

August -Tuesday 16th - **Talk by David Hanger on Funicular Railways at the Lut Rugby Club**

Sept - Tuesday 20th - **Visit to British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warks-** Coach from Lutterworth

October -TBA

November- TBA

I am still waiting for replies from the **Fire Service College** at Moreton in Marsh and the **Horological Museum** in Newark for the possibility of group visits to both places....

Chris Ridley

SNAIL'S PACE WALKING GROUP

March Walk



On a glorious sunny morning with clear a clear blue sky, twelve of us enjoyed the walk in Watermead Country Park.

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. The bench in the photo displays some poetry by Emily Dickenson:

*That it will never come again
is what makes life so sweet*

We passed by King Lear's Lake in the photo, the River Soar and the Grand Union Canal, spotting a heron and other wildlife on the way.



The day was so lovely that we all opted to continue on the long route back – only to be scuppered by some flooding blocking our way...

A big thank you to Dot and Judith for the time they spent organising this walk.

Should anyone need it my mobile phone number is: 07724 124094. Mandy.

April Walk: Friday 22nd April

Jenny Croft has kindly offered to lead this walk. Here are the details she has sent.

Walk round Cosby



We are meeting at the Tithe Barn in Cosby (LE9 1UW) at 10.45am. The Tithe Barn is near the church along Main Street.

We will walk around Cosby on pavements and grass and take some field paths. Hopefully it will not be muddy but if we have a lot of rain before the walk, we will adjust the walk. It is about 2.5 to 3 miles but on the flat.

Lunch

The Tithe Barn usually expect groups to pay a £10 deposit per person in advance, but they have agreed not to charge us that. However, they do want numbers a week in advance and your lunch orders the day before.

So could you please let me know by Thursday 14th April if you intend to go on the walk and your lunch order by Wednesday 20th April.

The Tithe Barn are likely to change their menu soon, so please check that you are ordering from the latest menu.

Here is the link for the Tithe Barn, Cosby:- <https://www.tithebarn.com/>

email me at: croft4ba@btinternet.com

or text 07843171497

If you cancel at the last minute they could charge you £10. So sorry about this. The other places for eating in Cosby couldn't accommodate us.

Directions from Lutterworth

- Take A426 out of Lutterworth through Dunton Bassett traffic lights and turn left into Countesthorpe Road towards Cosby, past Attfield's farm shop into the village.
- Turn right opposite The Bull Pub and park somewhere by the stream.
- There is further parking in the library car park by the park in Park Road, a short walk away.
- We are meeting at the Tithe Barn which is near the church along Main Street.

Thank you, Jenny.

Report for the History Group March 2022

Miss Dorothea Beale 1831-1906



Miss Frances Buss 1827-1894



'Just a Girl'

This month our topic was about women's education. Viv's presentation was entitled 'Just a Girl' because girls were regarded as second rate in western society, capable only of a domestic role supporting their male superiors. It was a very old established concept, well supported by religious doctrine and it was one which few people would have argued with in the 19thC.

Viv examined how two educational pioneers, Miss Dorothea Beale, and Miss Frances Buss, introduced education for girls in the 19thC and proved beyond doubt that girls were capable of being educated and could go on to achieve academic parity with boys. This seems obvious today, but the weight of medical, scientific and philosophical opinion argued against it. 'Following the science', most argued a female brain was different, smaller and less capable than a male brain. It could certainly not cope with too many facts or apply logic as it was too emotional. Educating a girl was also physically dangerous as it could lead to overload and a disastrous burn out in her brain resulting in the destruction of her health of the girl. It would certainly ruin any chance of marriage as it would destroy her femininity. Some believed it would even prevent her being able to bear a child. Such views were firmly entrenched in society in Britain, Europe and the USA.

Although Dorothea and Frances did not know each other for many years, their lives followed similar paths. Both these women were lucky to have liberal parents who enabled them to be educated to

the best standard possible for wealthy middle class girls in the middle 19thC. This wasn't very high level but it was a start and both Dorothea and Frances worked hard and read widely to educate themselves in the Classics, Mathematics, History, Geography, Languages and Literature. They each soon surpassed their teachers. Both were lucky to be able to attend courses at the new Queen's College in London, set up as a type of teaching college for Governesses, in itself, a daring new venture. Dorothea and Frances soon became qualified with recognised academic certificates. They were among the first women in Britain to achieve any qualification. Each woman went on to become a teacher.

Miss Dorothea Beale proved to be a formidable organiser and innovative teacher. In 1858, she became the Head of Cheltenham Ladies College and she soon transformed that rather backward, poverty stricken, provincial school into a highly respected academic institution. It took a few years before the trustees allowed the girls to study 'mens' subjects like Maths and Science so she included these surreptitiously in other more 'ladylike' subjects like Geography! Her school became a blueprint for other schools. In fact, those of us who attended a Grammar School would recognise many of the aspects of the curriculum and rules she implemented at CLC including a uniform, a balanced curriculum including Maths, Science, RE, Modern Languages, History, Geography, PE plus a study of Latin or Greek. Miss Beale also introduced end of year formal exams, moderated by Oxford Dons. This was unheard of for girls. Many of her girls went on to study at St Hilda's Oxford, a new female which Dorothea helped to set up or the new University of London, the first to award degrees to women.

Frances Buss also created flagship schools which proved to be centres of academic achievement for girls. First in 1850 with her family, the Collegiate School in North London, for daughters of men who came from a wealthy trade or middle class background and a few years later, the Camden School which offered places to middle class girls from tradesmen's families, a little lower down the social scale. For the first time, there was an emphasis on the idea that many women might work and become breadwinners, rather than be supported by a husband in adulthood. It was quite a shocking idea but both schools were very successful and oversubscribed. Miss Buss' girls also followed a wide and balanced academic curriculum, and both her schools became centres of excellence for the most 'male' of subjects, Mathematics. The girls also did exams but this time, they took the same external Cambridge exams boys did. Many girls outperformed the boys. Another surprising thing for many people at the time! Many of her girls went on to university and many became teachers and set up their own schools so the ideas spread.

These two Educational pioneers got to know each other as their fame grew. They also associated with other outspoken female activists working towards equality. They were both in the Kensington Group, an association for educated women who were trying to bring about change. Other members

included Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first woman doctor. They were a formidable group with contacts in high places. By the 1860s, both Miss Beale and Miss Buss acted as advisers to the Government in the wide-ranging research into Educational reform. These led to new laws introducing compulsory and equal education for all children. Both women studied other educational systems. Frances even visited schools in Switzerland, Italy and Sweden to discover more. Both ladies also encouraged the idea of teacher training and supported the creation of the first training colleges. The notion that teaching was a profession equal in importance to the law or medicine was strongly promoted.

The far-seeing ideas and the achievements of both these women had a huge effect on British society and helped to bring the goal of equality a little nearer. They had to work within the constraints of their times and so it's fair to say they only impacted on better off middle-class girls personally but the seeds they sowed grew until all classes could access a balanced education. There is no doubt all later generations of girls and boys benefited from their work as even boys' schools adopted many of their methods. These women showed the value of a well-balanced unprejudiced approach to learning and eventually their belief that all people have the right to be educated and fulfil their potential spread throughout society. We all owe these unsung heroes a great debt.

Changing entrenched attitudes takes a long time and some still argued against equality for education for girls. People mocked the unattractive 'blue stocking' women who apparently rejected the traditional role of a woman and chose to be educated. For a long time, until after World War II, women teachers had to be unmarried and so the role model of an educated woman contributed to keeping up old prejudices. A mocking rhyme illustrates this.

'Miss Buss and Miss Beale, Cupid's darts do not feel.

How different from us, Miss Beale and Miss Buss'.

Frances Buss knew the fight for equality would be a long one. She remarked *'I should like to revisit the earth at the end of the 20th Century to see the result of that great revolution – the women's rights movement'*. I wonder what she would have thought.

After tea, we had a lively discussion about our own memories of our school days. There were some fascinating anecdotes and I think between us, we could write a very interesting book about the subject. We ended our meeting with a short presentation by Mike about his school in London near Buckingham Palace. It turned out he was often hobnobbing with Royalty!

Future meetings

April 5 LICHFIELD TRIP

May 3 DONINGTON Trip

1st WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Joint Co-ordinators :- Peter Moore and Kay Bliss . Tel.- 07711882510

Date of Walk :- Wednesday 11th May 2022 email.- peter79moore@gmail.com

Driving distance:- 17 Miles each way.

Walk leader :- Peter Moore. email.- peter79moore@gmail.com Tel.-07711882510

Meeting Point and Time : Lutterworth Recreation car park at 9.05am to leave at 9.15am.

Point : The Plough Inn, Burroughs Road, Ratby. LE6 0XZ Leave 10.00am.

Toilets available.

Directions to Start :- Take M1 North leave at junction 21a. bear left follow signs for Kirby Muxloe.

At island SO towards Ratby, after Bulls Head TL into Burroughs Road, pub on right

Route and Distance.

Exit the car park at rear, TL at road and enter Footpath into pasture. Follow path to road and TL, after 200 meters TL into onto wide track and bear right onto footpath. Continue on path through small wood to exit onto track and TR then left through gap in hedge, follow field edge to main road

Cross road, under Motorway bridge, turn 180 degrees right then bear left to follow track towards farm, bear right to pass country house follow colourful Rhododendrons and Azaleas to coffee break. At road TR, after 300 meters TR into Burroughs Wood and exit over Motorway to return to pub.

Approx 5 Miles. A very pleasant walk through Charnwood Forest.

Good and varied choice of Food , extensive lunch time menu. Gluten Free Food available.

Order before Walk.

Next Walk. 5 Miles. A lovely country walk through quiet pastures and Canal, with great food at The Shilton Arms, Shilton near Coventry., on Wednesday 6th June 2022. All welcome.

Peter Moore and Kay Bliss

MOTORCYCLE INTEREST GROUP

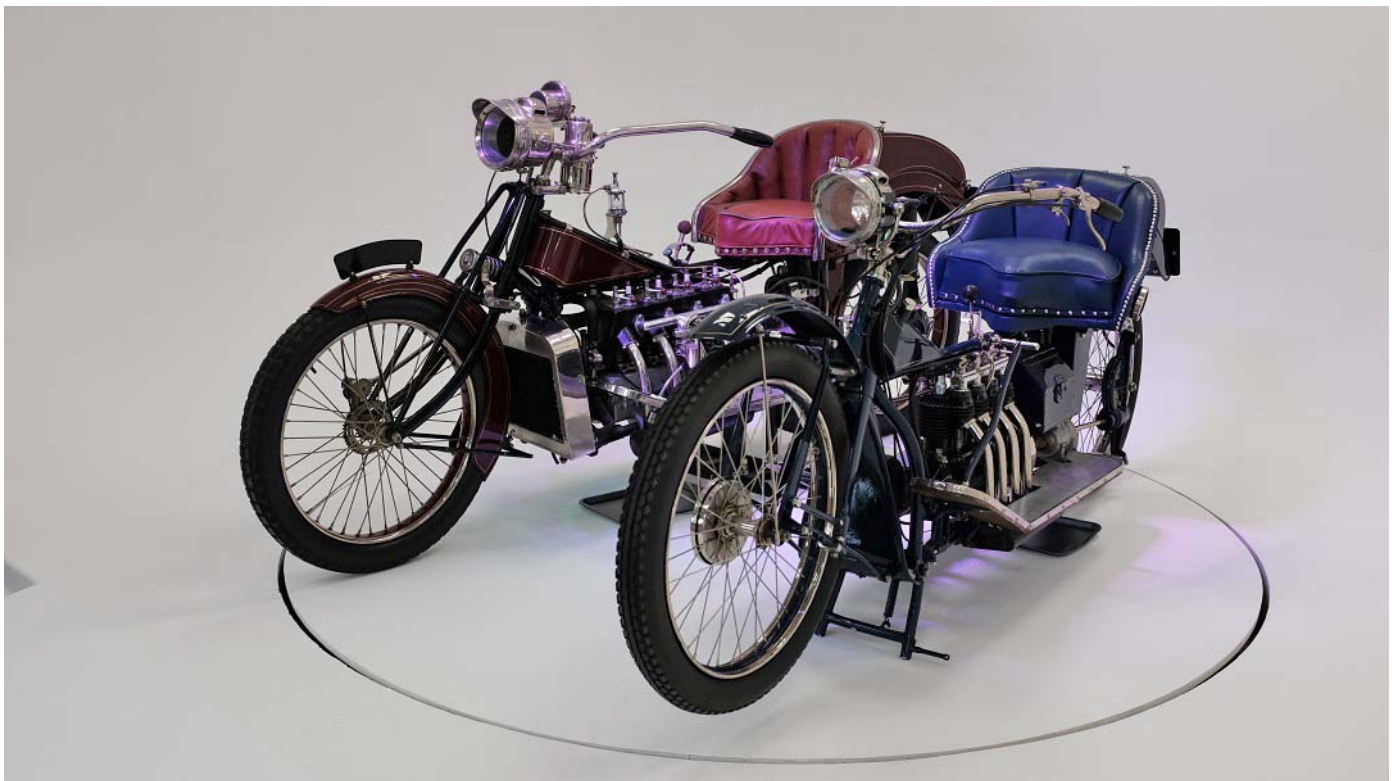
Group Leader: Colin

It is with great pleasure that I write this report. After what has been a very long time our Group has enjoyed not one but two activities. Both events have been orchestrated by group member Mark and a huge thanks to him.

Our first outing was a visit (revisit) to the National Motorcycle Museum at Bickenhill, Solihull. The museum opened its doors in 1984 with a collection of 350 motorcycles on display. The museum duly expanded with greater floor area and increased the number of machines displayed. Disaster struck 16th September 2003 when a fire (attributed to a discarded cigarette) destroyed three of the five exhibit halls – around 60% of the site - and ruining around 650 vintage motorcycles. However some 300 exhibits were remarkably saved from the blaze. The museum survived – was rebuilt – and now houses some 1000 or so machines in pristine condition. The recent two years of COVID has had an impact - some of the collection has been sold to secure the future of the museum. It is good to report the museum remains active and the five exhibition halls are packed with motorcycles.

So a group of eleven members met at the museum for a very enjoyable visit – remembering motorcycles owned, motorcycles we would have loved to have owned etc., etc. There is a superb café within the museum where refreshments were taken and discussion took place. The group has been to the museum before and I am sure we will visit again.







* * * * *

Our second outing was in the warm weather that greeted us towards the end of March. Five of the group met for a ride that took us through some delightful back roads down into Warwickshire where we stopped for refreshment at the “Long Itch Diner” close to Southam. From Southam we travelled towards Daventry and then cross country to home. This was a wonderful starter to the year and a few miles to get us back in the saddle.



Suggestions for future rides include a visit to the “Bubble Car Museum” near Boston Lincs. This is a round trip of around approx. 200 miles so we will hopefully chose some fine weather – watch this space!!

Our group does not necessitate the ownership of a motorcycle. If the “destination” is of interest then please join us there on four wheels. I will endeavour to post future destinations etc. within the bulletin. Although we are not “fair weather” bikers the weather forecast can and does influence our outings at short notice!!

Colin

ETHNIC DINING GROUP

Coordinators : Peter and Penny Ross

Since taking over this group we have been pleased to see a sociable group of people enjoying meals at a variety of restaurants. Everyone is welcome to join us, regularly or occasionally.

In May we will be visiting a Turkish restaurant. The details are as follows:

Wednesday May 11th 2022 at 7.30pm

The Sumac Grill
91 Trinity Lane
Hinckley
LE10 0BL

If you wish to join us please contact us by 6th May

Penny and Peter Ross

email : penelopeross.ross@gmail.com

Telephone : 01455 272797

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
Committee Member	Hamish Paterson

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

thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

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.

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