

The topic for the monthly meeting on Thursday 12th May 2022 is a talk about Guide Dogs and our Speaker Finder, Andrea Nichol who is herself a Dog Handler, has prepared the following details of what to expect.

The 'Guide Dogs' are visiting the Wycliffe U3a

We will have pups and qualified dogs for you to see. There will be some lovely soft toy puppies on sale, plus some other items.

The team will be talking about the amazing work that 'Guide Dogs' do.

- Puppy Raising
- The difference a Guide Dog makes
- Buddy Dogs
- My Guide' volunteering
- Ways to help

Please do come along and join us at the Methodist Church, Lutterworth.

Coffee & Tea served from 10am

Coach trip to British Motor Museum at Gaydon is being organised by Tony Allen for the ESTG group but is open to the U3A as a whole.

See Notice section!

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Notices

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ESTG coach trip to British Motor Museum at Gaydon which is being organised by Tony Allen for our group but open to the U3A as a whole.

Visit to British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Tuesday 20th September 2022



Could anyone interested in this visit please email me at ~~allen99@btinternet.com~~ or text to 07770 580 828 within the next 3 weeks. tallen99@btinternet.com

COST. £24 total each, to cover travel, driver gratuity and admission. Sorry you'll have to buy your tea, coffee and biscuits once you get there this time (£2, £2.75 and £1 resp.). I'll let you know how to pay for the visit later, it will probably be like last time – bank transfer, cheque or cash.

Note – being a group booking we are saving nearly 30% on price of admission

TRANSPORT. 49 seat Swift Valley coach (with toilet), leaving Lutterworth Sports Centre at **9.30am**, arriving Gaydon at **10.15am**, and leaving there at **4pm**. Based on a target of 30 people, 12 will need to share seats and 18 can sit singly.

WHAT'S THERE.

The **Main Museum** shown in the left picture above is all on one floor, and the separate **Collections Centre** shown right on 2 floors. There are over 400 cars.

The **Main Museum** is in a semi-circle allowing for logical progression past a series of displays such as the TIME ROAD (left), DESIGN and CONCEPTS (centre), and SPORTS CARS (right).



There are Film and TV cars (eg Thunderbirds), Rover Gas Turbine, (MG) Record Breakers, Royal Cars, a 1930 typical "John Carter's Garage, William Morris's 1963 office and Motoring Cinema on continuous loops. You can also join a no-charge tour at 11am and 2pm if you wish.

The Restaurant is upstairs.

The **Collections Centre** is a short outside walk, and on 2 floors (with lift).



It is mainly British Leyland and Jaguar Landrover but also smaller manufacturers like Morgan. You can peep over and see restoration going on on the ground floor if you're lucky.

I hope that I've whetted your appetite, and you could always have a look at the extremely informative website www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk if you have an hour or so to spare. Tony

ESTG- NEXT MONTHS EVENT

May Event- Tuesday 17th May, Talk by Nigel Bedford on 'Radio Telescopes' at LRClub 10:00am, a long awaited talk in which Nigel will be explaining all about these mega expensive pieces of high tech equipment and hopefully show how they get those wonderful outerspace picture.... refreshment from 9:45am onwards
Chris Ridley

Bulletin Reports

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 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

Meeting held on 11th April 2022

Is every criticism of Israel Anti-Semitism?

The population of Israel is about 9.5 million. Of these almost 75% are Jews, almost 21% are Arabs and the remainder are Christian non-Arabs, Muslim non-Arabs and a group of other residents who have neither an ethnic nor a religious classification. It is interesting to note that Arabs are also Semites, Jews and Arabs being peoples who speak or spoke Semitic languages. In modern times anti-Semitism has come to be a shorthand word for prejudice against Jews.

A couple of people in the group had visited Israel and one person had a family member living there for several years. 2 of the 3 felt alienated when they were in Palestinian parts of Jerusalem and one was shocked and felt unsafe because of the high number of armed members of the forces on the streets. Seeing armed soldiers patrolling is not unusual when one considers that there is conscription in Israel and all adults must do some form of national service, as well as the concern there must be when remembering the Holocaust. The 3rd person was not fazed by the Israeli army, and had experienced complete lock down when there was a bomb scare or some other emergency, being told to exit the bus into a hotel until given the all clear. He was also subjected to a body search on a different occasion. A member had worked for Levi Strauss for a few years and another person had Jewish employers too and found they were always treated well and kindly. Some years ago in Southport a Christian and Jewish Council was set up to foster understanding between these groups but the chair, who was Christian, felt that the Jewish members wanted to explain their ways so that they could be understood, rather than an equal exchange of information. Perhaps Jewish people feel they are the chosen ones as written in the Bible. This view can alienate others and may be a clue to persecution of the Jews going back generations.

One person who regularly goes to the French Alps encounters many orthodox Jews when holidaying there in the summer and has found them to be friendly and approachable. As Muslims want to complete Haj, the pilgrimage to Mecca, at least once in their lives, so the orthodox Jews try to reach a high point in the mountains.

A member visiting Berlin had seen the History Wall which showed a description of 2 German Jews in 1930s who were thought to be responsible for bankrupting the city. This may partly explain how Hitler was able to rise to power. In 1948 when the land was given for the state of Israel it was desert and it's interesting to see how quickly it has developed.

Yassa Arafat, a former Palestinian leader, and MOSSAD, the Israeli intelligence agency were mentioned, together with examples of Jerusalem being bombarded from Palestinian territory. Everyone felt that Palestinians are badly treated by the Israeli government. Examples were given of Palestinians having to leave home at 5am to get through check points before 8am to go to work or university, often failing to get through in time. Also, of land simply being taken by the Israelis to build new settlements, an example is an olive grove which was over a century old being bulldozed whilst the workers and residents looked on crying. The Israeli government has also controlled the supply of water to the Gaza Strip.

We decided to consider Israel's Jewish settlements, its measures to change the status of Jerusalem and the role Israel is playing in the Middle East and further afield.

Discussion Group members do not consider themselves to be anti-Semitic, nor do they want others to consider them anti-Semitic, but we agreed that the treatment of the Palestinians by the Israeli Government and sections of the Israeli population has been appalling, and in violation of no less than 28 resolutions of the UN Security Council. In addition in 2020 alone Israel was condemned by the UN General Assembly more than 17 times for its violations in Palestinian territories. That is three times more than the rest of the world put together!

Anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and anti-Israel bias are often conflated. So definitions may be helpful:

The Anti-Defamation League view:

So, what is anti-Semitism?

Anti-Semitism is a form of prejudice or discrimination directed specifically toward Jews as individuals or as a group. Anti-Semitism is based on age-old stereotypes and myths that target Jews as a people, their religious practices and beliefs, or the Jewish State of Israel, which have historically resulted in the persecution and marginalisation of Jews throughout the ages.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance view:

'Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'

Antisemitism may take the form of religious teachings that proclaim the inferiority of Jews, for instance, or political efforts to isolate, oppress, or otherwise injure them. It may also include prejudiced or stereotyped views about Jews. At its most extreme we only have to look at what was done to Jews in Nazi Germany.

It is considered by Jews and many western Governments that words or actions related to Israel are anti-Semitic when they blame all Jews for the actions of the state, single out Israel in denying the country's right to exist as a Jewish state and an equal member of the global community, use anti-Jewish stereotypes or conspiracy theories (such as accusations of Jewish world domination), or traditional anti-Semitic imagery or comparisons to Nazis.

Attacks on Jewish institutions and individuals by predominantly (but not exclusively) right-wing groups are clearly anti-Semitic.

Is anti-Semitism the same as anti-Zionism?

Zionism refers to the movement to create a Jewish state in the Middle East, roughly corresponding to the historical land of Israel, and thus support for the modern state of Israel.

Anti-Zionism is a prejudice against the Jewish movement for self-determination and the right of the Jewish people to a homeland in the State of Israel. It may be motivated by or result in anti-Semitism, or it may create a climate in which anti-Semitism becomes more acceptable.

But some say "Zionist" can be used as a coded attack on Jews, while others say the Israeli government and its supporters are deliberately confusing anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism to avoid criticism.

The Labour peer Lord Levy told the BBC's Newsnight: "There can be criticism of the state of Israel, but anti-Semitism - using the word 'Zionist' as another form of anti-Semitism - frankly can no longer be tolerated."

Others - including Ken Livingstone - argue anti-Zionism is not the same as anti-Semitism, and that it's wrong to mix up anti-Jewish prejudice with legitimate disagreement with the actions of the Israeli state.

However, critics of anti-Zionists point out that sometimes particularly harsh criticism of Israel goes further than disagreement with policies, but rather denies the right of the Jewish state to exist and is therefore anti-Semitic.

There are Zionist critics of Israeli government policies. Equally, there is Jewish opposition to the Zionist movement, which sought to establish a Jewish homeland, long before the state of Israel was declared in 1948. Today fringe ultra-Orthodox groups such as Neturei Karta oppose the state of Israel because they believe the true Jewish state will only be established with the coming of the Messiah. Some make the point that Zionism is a political project supported by plenty of non-Jews, including Western governments and many US evangelical Christians.

But it's been widely argued that the term "Zionist" has, in some circles, become a code word for "Jew" and that bigotry against Jewish people has been expressed using the language of anti-Zionism.

Alongside this there is also anti-Israel bias?

Anti-Israel bias is extreme and/or illegitimate criticism of Israel as a state. It can take various forms, including false accusations directed against Israel, often with the aim of delegitimizing the country. Anti-Israel bias does not include legitimate criticism of the Israeli government, its policies and actions, or its politicians.

The member leading our topic this time was drawn to this issue because of the accusations levelled at particular public figures including Jeremy Corbyn's handling of anti-Semitism accusations as well as the Ken Livingstone comments mentioned above who denied they were being anti-Semitic in their criticism of Israel. Some of this criticism has been valid, but not all, and some has strayed into the realms of anti-Semitism.

There is no doubt that anti-Semitism pervades societies in virtually every part of the world. Recent reports from the EU, UN and the UK (where there was a reported 34% increase in anti-Semitic hate incidents in 2021), are testament to this. The rise in anti-Semitic sentiments and actions in an increasing number of right-wing groups in various countries around the world are very worrying.

However, the actions of extremist groups and individuals aside, we agreed that it appears that whenever Israel is criticised for what we would consider to be perfectly valid reasons, the charge of anti-Semitism is often levelled at those critical voices. It's also obviously true that being a Zionist and being Jewish is not the same thing.

We agreed that given these definitions, it is not difficult to see how many individuals, politicians and organisations have strayed into the realms of being perceived as anti-Semitic when criticising Israel, because often the lines between anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and anti-Israel bias are blurred. Clearly much criticism of Israel is warranted as it is with any other nation's government and we should continue to speak out. However, we should call out anti-Semitism and other forms of racism wherever we find it.

We were treated to a short quiz with examples which we had to define as acceptable comments or anti-Semitism. Our competence or lack of it remains within the group!!

Below is further reading for those who wish to know more.

A document drafted by more than 300 scholars of antisemitism and the Middle East have provided some general guidelines separating legitimate criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism, which have become widely accepted

A. General

1. It is racist to treat a character trait as inherent or to make sweeping negative generalizations about a given population. What is true of racism in general is true of anti-Semitism in particular.
2. What is particular in classic anti-Semitism is the idea that Jews are linked to the forces of evil. This stands at the core of many anti-Jewish fantasies, such as the idea of a Jewish conspiracy in which “the Jews” possess hidden power that they use to promote their own collective agenda at the expense of other people. This linkage between Jews and evil continues in the present: in the fantasy that “the Jews” control governments with a “hidden hand,” that they own the banks, control the media, act as “a state within a state,” and are responsible for spreading disease (such as Covid-19). All these features can be used by different (and even antagonistic) political causes.
3. Antisemitism can be manifested in words, visual images, and deeds. Examples of anti-Semitic words include utterances that all Jews are wealthy, inherently stingy, or unpatriotic. In anti-Semitic caricatures, Jews are often depicted as grotesque, with big noses and associated with wealth. Examples of anti-Semitic deeds are: assaulting someone because she or he is Jewish, attacking a synagogue, daubing swastikas on Jewish graves, or refusing to hire or promote people because they are Jewish.
4. Anti-Semitism can be direct or indirect, explicit or coded. For example, “The Rothschilds control the world” is a coded statement about the alleged power of “the Jews” over banks and international finance. Similarly, portraying Israel as the ultimate evil or grossly exaggerating its actual influence can be a coded way of racializing and stigmatizing Jews. In many cases, identifying coded speech is a matter of context and judgement, taking account of these guidelines.
5. Denying or minimizing the Holocaust by claiming that the deliberate Nazi genocide of the Jews did not take place, or that there were no extermination camps or gas chambers, or that the number of victims was a fraction of the actual total, is anti-Semitic.

B. Israel and Palestine: examples that on the face of it, are anti-Semitic

6. Applying the symbols, images and negative stereotypes of classical anti-Semitism (see guidelines 2 and 3) to the State of Israel.
7. Holding Jews collectively responsible for Israel’s conduct or treating Jews, simply because they are Jewish, as agents of Israel.
8. Requiring people, because they are Jewish, publicly to condemn Israel or Zionism (for example, at a political meeting).
9. Assuming that non-Israeli Jews, simply because they are Jews, are necessarily more loyal to Israel than to their own countries.

10. Denying the right of Jews in the State of Israel to exist and flourish, collectively and individually, as Jews, in accordance with the principle of equality.

C. Israel and Palestine: examples that on the face of it, are not anti-Semitic

11. Supporting the Palestinian demand for justice and the full grant of their political, national, civil and human rights, as encapsulated in international law.
12. Criticizing or opposing Zionism as a form of nationalism, or arguing for a variety of constitutional arrangements for Jews and Palestinians in the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean. It is not anti-Semitic to support arrangements that accord full equality to all inhabitants “between the river and the sea,” whether in two states, a binational state, unitary democratic state, federal state, or in whatever form.
13. Evidence-based criticism of Israel as a state. This includes its institutions and founding principles. It also includes its policies and practices, domestic and abroad, such as the conduct of Israel in the West Bank and Gaza, the role Israel plays in the region, or any other way in which, as a state, it influences events in the world. It is not anti-Semitic to point out systematic racial discrimination. In general, the same norms of debate which apply to other states and to other conflicts over national self-determination apply in the case of Israel and Palestine. Thus, even if contentious, it is not anti-Semitic, in and of itself, to compare Israel with other historical cases, including settler-colonialism or apartheid.
14. Boycott, divestment and sanctions are commonplace, non-violent forms of political protest against states. In the Israeli case they are not, in and of themselves, anti-Semitic.
15. Political speech does not have to be measured, proportional, tempered, or reasonable to be protected under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and other human rights instruments. Criticism that some may see as excessive or contentious, or as reflecting a “double standard,” is not, in and of itself, anti-Semitic. In general, the line between anti-Semitic and non-anti-Semitic speech is different from the line between unreasonable and reasonable speech.

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

01455 208190

We meet on the second Monday morning of each month at 10.30am.

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2022 TOPICS

- April – Is every criticism of Israel anti-Semitism?
- May – Do women's and trans rights have to be in conflict?
- June – Is this another imminent crisis? – Our planet's water in all its aspects.

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GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

The Gentle Cycling may only be small but its members are enthusiastic. We managed two rides again this month.

Earlier in the month seven of us met at the Elms in Lutterworth and our plan was to ride the route of the Big Bike Ride 11-mile circuit but, just for a change, we decided to ride it in reverse. (This does not mean we pedalled backwards!!) We rode on the cycleway across the motorway and down the quiet lane to Misterton. The lane then becomes a footpath to Walcote. We crossed over the A4304 into the road to South Kilworth. This is a quiet road and the views across the fields was delightful. Turning right in the village we whizzed downhill before an uphill struggle and left turn towards Stanford-on-Avon. Here, the view across to the reservoir was more impressive riding this way so we stopped briefly for a photoshoot.



Last time the group rode in this area we had a short sharp shower and, guess what, it happened to us again. Luckily it was over quickly and we soon dried off. We turned right by Stanford Hall and made our way through Swinford and up to Swinford Corner. From here it is another quiet lane back to Walcote. Crossing back over the main road we retraced our wheels back to the Elms for coffee on the terrace.

The following Wednesday, a breezy morning, there were seven members available again (although not all the same seven!). This time we set off from Ullesthorpe Garden Centre down the hill to Ashby Parva and then turned left to Ullesthorpe. Cycling through the village we enjoyed the whizzing down the hill into Claybrookes. We turned right in Claybrooke Magna to face the challenging climb up to Frolesworth. Another nice downward stretch took us towards Broughton Astley but before reaching the village we took another right to Leire. Continuing our clockwise direction, we pedalled up and down the hills back to Frolesworth where we turned left back to Ashby Parva. This section is a long, steady climb and, with the wind in our faces, our legs were beginning to tell us they had had enough. Luckily, it was only another mile back to the garden centre for coffee (and cake for some!) in the garden.



Our next ride will be on Wednesday, 11th May, the route to be confirmed. If you fancy joining us, we will be very pleased to see you. Electric bikes welcome. Just email me - sueandpeter.creedon@taltalk.net or call me on the above number.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

The April Meeting of the Art Appreciation Group was held in Bitteswell Village Hall, where we welcomed a guest speaker, Peter Knight who is a member of the UK Coloured Pencil Society. This was an introduction to a new medium for us and was well attended by members of our group with the addition of one or two guests from Lutterworth U3A. Peter prepared a really interesting and informative presentation which was supplemented by a selection of magazines for us to browse through and also some of his own stunning art work. He explained some of the specific techniques used to achieve different textures. His style is extremely detailed and forensically accurate as can be seen in the attached drawings, Harley, Message in a bottle and Dog.



The materials needed for coloured pencil drawing are not many, but they need to be of a high quality if your drawing is to last. Coloured pencils come in many varieties and despite the apparent similarities, the range varies quite considerably in purity and make-up. It is therefore worthwhile to do some good research on what is



available to find out what is ideally suited to the job and to one's particular style of working. The other materials include sketchbooks, a good range of paper, erasers, sharpeners, fixatives and for special effects, burnishing implements.

Coloured pencil is often used for the intricacies of botanical, wildlife and animal works but is also widely applied to portraiture, still life and experimental modern pieces.

The invention & development of coloured pencils goes back over 200 years and the first iteration of these was undertaken in 1761 when a small German factory called Kasper Faber began making them. This same small factory would end up becoming the world famous Faber Castell Company which produces some of the very finest coloured pencils.

Although fine oil and water colour paintings are widely exalted, coloured pencil art isn't something you see typically in galleries and museums and as such doesn't get the recognition it deserves. Having listened to Peter's talk I was prompted to go on-line to explore this medium in more detail and discovered some truly amazing drawings by a host of extremely talented artists.

Val Ridley

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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. We choose restaurants serving food from around the world, some familiar, some more unusual. Everyone is welcome to join us, regularly or occasionally.

In June we will be visiting a Mexican/Cajun restaurant.

The details are as follows: Wednesday June 15th 2022 at 7.30pm

La Casa Loco
7 Little Church Street
Rugby
CV21 3AW

If you wish to join us please contact us by 9th June at the latest.

Penny and Peter Ross

email: penelopeross.ross@gmail.com Telephone : 01455 272797

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PUB LUNCHES GROUP

Coordinators : Peter and Penny Ross

Since taking over this group we have loved meeting friends, old and new, to enjoy lunch at a variety of pubs in local villages, many of which we are visiting for the first time. Everyone is welcome to join us, regularly or occasionally.

In June we will be visiting The Chequers at Swinford.

The details are as follows: Wednesday June 8th 2022 at 12.30pm

The Chequers
High Street
Swinford
LE17 6BL

If you wish to join us please contact us by 2nd June at the latest.

Penny & Peter Ross email: penelopeross.ross@gmail.com Tel: 01455 272797

POETRY GROUP

April's topic was "Springtime", an easy subject with lots of material to choose from. The poetry was sometimes poignant, sometimes funny, but mostly a celebration of the beauty of the season. Many of us will be familiar with Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" and Housman's "Loveliest of Trees the Cherry now" which were both included .

The old classic poets were represented more than usual with several poems by Edward Thomas, John Clare and Robert Herrick. One of Shakespeare's sonnets also featured.

A lovely way to spend a cold April afternoon.

May's topic will be "Conflict", which could be any kind of conflict, not necessarily war.
May 26th., 2pm, my house

Sylvie

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

April Event - Harrington 'Carpetbagger' Air Museum, Northampton

Our event this month was originally arranged way back in 2020 so it was nice to finally get to see this great little Museum.

There is very little left to be seen of the operational airfield of USAAF base 179 from which

American B24 'Liberator' aircraft took off on secret '**Carpetbagger**' missions to drop secret agents and supplies in specially designed canisters to resistance groups in occupied Europe during WW2, however the museum is housed in the original Operations building from where the main intelligence, supplies and flights were controlled.

An additional inside display, illustrates the stories and history both of the Royal Observer corp, and Secret Agent and supply networks run by the British '**Special Operations Executive**' (**SOE**) which mainly operated from RAF Tempsford.

A separate outside building houses a loop video and information dedicated to the Airfield's later role during the cold war that being a '**Thor**' **Missile base** which finally cease operations in 1963.

Following our arrival and welcome by Keith Taylor and Betty West, the group had refreshments while being shown a shortened version of an **American promotional Video made in 1944 about the USAAF 801 and 492nd Group (made by the famous movie director John Ford)** and specifically highlighted the role and operations at the **Harrington air base in the UK.**

This was followed by an excellent talk by our tour guide Keith who detailed descriptions of the various personnel working on site at the time and the progress of the base through to its role in the Cold War.

Our Group of 20 members was split up into two, each group then received a guided tour of the main Control Rooms and were able to view lots of historical equipment /artefacts whilst learning the background history behind them, as well as being told

of the agents hardships and pitfalls of being dropped into occupied Europe, a considerable number of these brave secret agents were Women.

We learned that all the kit supplied to the Agents like clothing or leather had to be made/treated as a direct replica with the same fabric specification etc as if it had been come from the country being dropped into as the **Germans could forensically test materials if they suspected a person was a spy!**

It was also interesting to be shown a **1940s 'mobile telephone'** (about half the size of a paperback) which was developed for agents in occupied territories in order to overcome the German jamming of the radio waves.

Working on a very narrow UHF band and at a pre-set time, the message signal was then relayed and recorded by a Mosquito aircraft flying a circular pattern overhead which took the recording back to HQ in the UK to be replayed.

It was interesting to note that the **inventor at the time didn't consider Mobile phones would ever become popular so no patent was applied for !!!!**

Although not large, the museum is a most fascinating place and exudes a great feeling of originality, housing a plethora of items and artefacts associated with secret agents including special covert equipment like microphones in watches, pens with recorders or a 0.22" one shot bullet inside and a miniature motorcycle which would fit into a parachute canister.....a lot of interesting items not generally seen in other museums of this type.

I can really recommend a visit to this Museum although it's future as a museum may be in the balance due to logistics of where it is and other operational issues but it is to be hoped that the charity finds ways to secure its future and preserve the historical significance of the role it played during WW2 for future generations to see, these type of sites are now getting rare and therefore even more important to preserve in some way.

Chris Ridley

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**Tour guide Keith describing original Airfield layout in the original Control Room
overlooking the Ops area below**



Ops Room with exhibits (Control room window can be seen top right)





**The assembled ESTG Crew awaiting briefing and further instructions
(and where to get a second cuppa?)**

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GARDEN GROUP

Garden Group Outing 26th April 2022

The first outing of 2022 was to Throsby House in Aylestone. We were very lucky with the weather as the sun was out most of the time. Andrew and Yvonne Dickson have been working on their garden for over 30 years. They were concerned that it was too early in the season for us to find much of interest, but we were delighted with the layout, size and variety which we found there.



There are beautiful trees and shrubs as well as many plants, and 'secret' places. We discovered a summer house, a tree house, some intriguing gates and architectural 'ruins'. One of the gates, with key on a hook nearby, was reminiscent of gate into 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson-Burnett. In addition items such as a witches' broomstick, various busts and a milkmaid's churn were positioned at interesting points round the garden.



There are 2 main areas and the one towards the end of the plot is a plant nursery as well as a delightful place to sit and admire some of the flower beds.



Many people bought plants so I expect they will remember the visit for a long time. The owners will open the garden whenever they can, so one can contact them to arrange a visit for just a couple or a larger group – there were 28 of us on the day, and I think many would like to return with friends and relatives. If you would like to go please email a.dickson43@outlook.com

Dot Barnard

GARDEN GROUP

Colette Smith and Mo Bailey are organising a visit to **Bosworth House, Arthingworth** on **Tuesday 24th May**. Bosworth House is owned by Mr and Mrs Irving-Swift and the garden is approx. 3 acres, almost completely organic, and has a paddock with fabulous panoramic views and magnificent wellingtonia. The garden also includes herbaceous borders, orchard, cottage garden with greenhouse, vegetable garden, herbs and strawberries and spinney. Mrs Irving-Swift has said you are welcome to take cuttings so do bring a bag.

The cost of the visit will be £9.00 which includes tea and homemade cake and the garden is open from 2.00 p.m.

A minibus has been arranged to leave Lutterworth Leisure Centre at 1.30 p.m. for which there will be an additional cost of £4.30. However, if you wish to travel independently, the address is Bosworth House, Oxendon Road, Arthingworth, LE16 8LA.

If you would like to come along, please contact Colette by email: gdavesmith@talktalk.net or phone: 01455 552217 or mobile: 07443 958315 confirming whether you would like to travel on the bus or independently.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

April 2022 Walk Report

The walk started from the Denbigh Arms in Monks Kirby. We were scheduled to set off at 10:00am which was fortuitous as another U3A group from Coventry was also starting from the pub but at the later time of 10:30am. Being there earlier meant we bagged the best parking places. Also, the pub was not taking meal pre-orders so the race was on to get back to the pub before them and get our orders in first.

So promptly, after the church clock chimed 10:00am, Mike Chapman came out of the blocks with 29 of us making sure we kept up with him. It was a “no sun” day and quite chilly with some walkers donning gloves, at the end of April!?

We went out of Monks Kirby via Brockhurst Lane and then took field paths to nearly reach Little Walton. The fields looked very productive with broad beans, wheat and the rape with its vibrant yellow colour. We then walked a short distance on a narrow road before returning to field paths to eventually stop for a break by a fishing lake. It was very picturesque. We then continued towards Pailton and walked through the village before crossing the fields to reach Bell Lane The Bell Inn, alas, has closed and is now a private house but very little has changed to the outside of the building. Passing the large houses along the lane we arrived back into Monks Kirby.

This was a very pleasant and enjoyable walk. Very rural, no hills, no mud, a couple of very easy stiles and the only traffic was when we passed through Pailton.

Thank you Mike and Lesley

Peter Creeden

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

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

Wednesday 25 May 2022

Walk Organisers:- Gill and Roger Watmore

Meeting Point and Time (for car sharing):- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 9.15am to leave at 09.20am. Toilets will be available.

Start Point and Time:- Black Horse, Main Street, Foxton LE16 7RD. Parking in pub car park or there is limited parking by the church. Depart at 10:00am.

Directions to start:- From Lutterworth take the A426 to Rugby. Turn left at the A4304 to Market Harborough. In Lubenham turn left at sign for FOXTON. At the T junction turn left ¼ mile to Foxton; bear right into Foxton. Pass the church on right and the Black Horse Inn is on the left

Route and distance:- Leaving the pub car park we turn left following the Leicestershire Round until we reach the foot of Smeeton Hill. The route then takes us to Gumley and back again to Foxton. There are 4 stiles. Distance: 5 miles

Lunch Arrangements:- Meals to be can be pre-ordered before the walk

SNAILS PACE WALKING GROUP

April Walk

Here is Jenny's report on the Cosby walk and thanks to her for organizing it. On a sunny but chilly day 15 of us set out from the Tithe Barn in Cosby. We walked through the village by the stream, continued through the park and into a field before walking past some very nice houses. The village looked very attractive in the sunshine with the trees in blossom. We took about one hour and a quarter to walk the 2.9 miles and then enjoyed a lovely lunch in the Tithe Barn.



May Walk : On Friday 20th May at Wistow

Please arrive at The Dog and Gun, Kilby, at 10.45am to order food. When everyone has arrived and ordered, we will drive to Wistow Rural Centre to start the walk at 11am.



The Dog and Gun, Main Street, Kilby, Wigston, LE18 3TD.)



Wistow Rural Centre, Kibworth Road, Leicester, LE8 0QF at 11am.

The walk will take us to St Wistan's Church, through grassy fields to Newton Harcourt village, around the village and then back along the canal towpath. It is approximately 3 miles and the one stile can be avoided by walking down a lane at the start of the walk rather than across the field – we can all join up where the stile meets the lane!

There is a car park next to the Rural Centre which usually has space; otherwise, there is the Rural Centre car park. No charges.

Directions from Lutterworth to The Dog and Gun, Kilby.

- Leave on Gilmorton Road, continue onto Lutterworth Road and then continue on the same road through Kimcote and Walton.
- After passing through Walton, continue on Mowsley Lane (signposted to Bruntingthorpe) and Walton New Road to the T-junction with Bath Lane.
- Turn right onto Bath Lane (signposted to Arnesby and Shearsby) and continue for about 1.5 miles to the junction with Welford Road, A5199. Turn left towards Leicester.
- After about 3 miles, turn right onto Spinney Lane towards Kilby.
- Continue onto Main Street. The Dog and Gun is on the right.

Directions from The Dog and Gun to Wistow.

- Turn right on Main Street and then left onto Wistow Road.
- Continue onto Kilby Road and the Kibworth Road for approx. 1 mile. The car park is on the right, just before The Rural Centre.

Lunch

The Dog and Gun, Main Street, Kilby, LE18 3TD. Tel 0116 240 2398.

We can order there at 10.45am. No menu online, but meals as well as sandwiches and soup available.

If you would like to come along, please let Mary or Marilyn know by **Tuesday 17th May**. Please let Mary or Marilyn know whether you will be having lunch.

You can email Mary at oldhammj200@gmail.com

Or you can phone Marilyn on **01455 554564**.

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

28 April 2022

We were delighted to meet in person again at the Methodist Church after a few months. We started with a report from each person on something interesting that they had been doing, and heard about Craster, Norway, Spain and other topics. We then translated an article about the French presidential elections. The next meeting will be on 26 May.

1st WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

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

Date of Walk :- Wednesday 1st June 2022 email.- peter79moore@gmail.com

Driving distance:- 10 miles each way.

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

Meeting Point and Time : Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 9.15am to leave at 9.25am.

Start Point : Shilton Arms Pub, 5, Church Road, Shilton, Nr. Coventry. CV7 9HW.
Leave 10.00am.

Toilets available.

Directions to Start :- At Magna Park A5 Island take 3rd Exit signed Wolvey, continue through Wolvey on to Shilton. The Shilton Arms is in the centre of the village just after the Traffic Lights opposite the Garage. **Please be careful, just after the traffic lights, as the entrance to the Pub is a sharp turn left.**

Route and Distance

Exit the car park into the main road, turn left, cross the road and the Railway Bridge, right onto the footpath that passes the school. Stay on the footpath past Ansty church, right at main road and cross onto footpath. Left onto Canal and leave after 1 mile down the steps after Hopsford Aquaduct past Hopsford Hall. Turn right at road and left on footpath at bend in Old Hopsford Hamlet. Turn left to Shilton Lodge Farm taking footpath to return to Shilton.

Distance. 5 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, canal and some quiet road walking , Fairly flat walk

* * * * *

Next Walk. 5 Miles. 2 Stiles. Wednesday 6th July 2022. Walking via Dunton Bassett, the Sand Quarry, Leire and return via Stemborough Mill, and return to Red Admiral pub.

Excellent food at a fair price.

Peter Moore and Kay Bliss

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

April 2022 report

Our April meeting was held at the Lutterworth Rugby Club, and we looked at our April topic pictures, Street Photography, followed by a short presentation on the photography of David duChemin, a professional photographer who travels the world in search of interesting images.

Our April topic was “Street Photography” and inspired by a presentation in February on the work of Cartier Bresson. Street photography is generally understood to be “candid” pictures taken in a public place. This is a challenging subject, and it takes a little courage to point your camera at individuals in the street. It is legal to take pictures of people in public spaces but if you are trying to photograph a particular person, street entertainer, tradesman etc. it is polite to ask first. Most people are happy to have their picture taken and sharing it with them afterwards can be quite rewarding.

Having said that our ‘first timers’ provided a varied selection of pictures, and many had taken ‘new pictures’ rather than using pictures from the archive and some had provided black and white pictures to add a little drama. As our bulletin and website pictures are published on the internet, we have limited the published pictures to images that do not show anyone that can be identified.

In May the topic is ‘taking a selfie’ and we are asking members to take a selfie with something interesting or identifiable in the background and then to take the picture again without the photographer in it. The background can be anything, an identifiable location in a town, village, prominent landmark or an item of equipment. Members can also submit additional pictures associated with the location where the selfie was taken.

Our photographer of the month was David duChemin. David is a world and humanitarian assignment photographer, author, digital publisher, podcaster, and international photographic workshop leader. David’s home is on Vancouver Island, Canada, but most of his life is spent travelling all over the world, on funded and teaching assignments enabling others to photograph all aspects of this amazing world.

David is passionate about promoting photography, helping people to take strong compelling photographs and encourage them to do it with joy and freedom, not just making their photographs good, but truly their own. The pictures we looked at ranged from Africa to Hudson's Bay in Canada via Venice. There are many professional photographers offering 'world pictures' but it is the use of light, deep shade and selective focusing that makes David's pictures stand out.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 27th May 2022, 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.

Michael Bates



Taking Precautions





Fosse Park Topiary



Committee Members

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>
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

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