

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



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NOTICES

Thank you

Guide Dogs would like to thank
**Members and Friends
Wycliffe U3A**
for raising
£229.30

**From Guide Dogs
Talk 12/5/22**

Sight loss is life-changing but so are Guide Dogs

S. Winter
Signed on behalf of Guide Dogs

S. Winter
May 2022

**We will not rest until blind and partially sighted people can
enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else.**

Registered charity in England and Wales (209617) and in Scotland (SC038979) 9240 04/17



19/5/22

To All at Wycliffe U3A,
Many thanks for your interest and
hospitality when we visited last Thursday.
We were delighted to raise £229.30 for
the charity (£80 from U3A funds, £102 from the
sale of Guide Dogs items and £47.30 from
individual donations).

Equally important is the opportunity to raise
awareness of Guide Dogs and the life-changing
impact the charity has on people's lives.
Please do chat with Andrea or Barry
if you ever want to find out more!
With best wishes, Steve and all at Leics Guide
Dogs!

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 9th May 2022

Do Women's and Trans Rights Have to be in Conflict?

There are several terms regarding a person's relation to his/her gender and sexual preferences other than heterosexual and homosexual. They are:

Non-binary – a person who doesn't identify as either gender

Cisgender – a person who matches his/her birth gender

Intersex – a person whose gender isn't clear at birth and who may be at different points on the continuum between male and female. Sometimes this becomes clearer at puberty.

It was not until 1967 that homosexuality was legalised and people including men and women could begin to lead a normal life. It was of course too late for people like Alan Turing and Oscar Wilde.

The person leading today's discussion had been struggling to understand both how women's rights and trans rights have become such a heated issue and what position to take. All other social reforms have been fully supported - equal pay, abortion, gay rights, racial equality and yet now one questions what many see as the next logical step forward. What has led to this discomfort? Is there a parallel with the old trade unionists, fighting against equal pay, believing it would lead to a lessening of hard-earned rights? Or are organisations such as Stonewall attempting to change women's legal rights whilst leaving men's intact? Is it another example of the male patriarchy doing its business as usual as it is almost all trans women pushing for these changes? And how much of what we see and read is biased by a right wing press?

Until recently most people would have pictured a transgender person as someone who had had both chemical and surgical interventions. Many will remember Jan Morris. As more people identify as the opposite gender to their natal sex without any intervention, so prejudice against trans people has become more common and vituperative comments made on both sides.

Focussing on possible conflict between women's and trans-sexual rights, here are the four most common areas:

1. Sport

Sport has been prominent in the news recently, with Emily Bridges, a trans woman, being banned from taking part in a national cycle ride not because of any worry about her possible physical advantage but because she was still registered as a male cyclist. Transgender swimmer Lia Thomas was allowed to compete and images were shared of her on the podium with the 2nd and 3rd place women at some distance away. Both trans women had had success competing as males although not taking the winner's spot.

Women in Sport claim that "Even after 36 months of hormone therapy, when haemoglobin levels have reduced to levels we see in natal women, strength, lean body mass and muscle area in transgender women remain above those of natal women. This has implications both for health and safety in collision sports and opportunity to win in competitive sports."

However, a study by Loughborough University states "the haemoglobin level in transgender women falls to levels in line with cisgender women in the space of three to four months on average. It is the haemoglobin level in blood that is important for taking up and using oxygen in muscle. It's perhaps the single most important reason that men outperform women in endurance events, because of the higher haemoglobin level."

And where does this leave trans men? Are they always to come last?

As more long term studies are undertaken so this issue should become clearer. The group agreed that trans women who are still fully biological males should never be allowed to compete as women despite some campaigning for that right and some universities in the USA permitting it - which challenges safety, unfair advantage and, given the financial incentives top athletes receive at University, women being unable to access significant financial support.

2. Medical Care

Caroline Criado-Perez in her book, 'Invisible Women', has illustrated the many disadvantages that women suffer in terms of health outcomes. When the male body is seen as the norm drugs are developed for them, many of which react differently when given to women; safety in vehicles and large machinery are

tested on male dummies. If female dummies are used they tend to be scaled down male ones. Even clearing roads of ice and snow, (which more men use), before paths and pavements (used by more women) disadvantage women. Clearing pavements first in Sweden led to fewer hospital visits. So sex matters in medicine. So does accessibility. Some of the media has publicised the campaign by some trans activists calling for natal women to be referred to by their body parts e.g. everyone with a cervix, chest feeders, although we haven't read of a demand for people who are prostate owners to be so called. However, when Health Trusts that have adopted these policies are looked at further, many are suggesting these terms should be used only with trans gender people. If it makes a new parent feel more comfortable and confident to have a midwife refer to them as chest feeding, how would it affect the rights of other women? The danger comes when trans-inclusive language excludes or dehumanises women. Professor Jenny Gamble, Director of Transforming Maternity Care Collaborative at Coventry University, says: 'avoiding saying 'women' and 'mothers' can decrease inclusivity by requiring the use of technical language ...(which) aids misunderstanding, particularly for those with low literacy or learning difficulties who are non-English speakers' It can also be thought of as dehumanising. As she says: 'Thoughtful, careful discussion and consideration on this subject are needed.'

'When most people think of a transgender person they picture a transwoman and historically the majority of trans people were male to female transitioners. However, this appears to be changing. Discrepancies between referrals to the Tavistock Clinic, the country's only NHS gender clinic for young people, between 1989 (when it opened), and 2020 increased from 2 to 2,378. Almost 3/4's of these were female. Why is there such a high proportion of girls? Is it partly due to greater social media pressure surrounding female body image? A study by Roy Blanchard, Head of the Gender Programme at the University of Toronto states that almost all females referred to his service were same sex attracted and had always been masculine in presentation and interests. Very few were gender conforming, heterosexual women. Are they searching for life changing puberty blockers, the long term use of which is currently unknown, whilst denying their homosexuality? Yet a Stanford University study found that for transgender people, starting gender-affirming hormone treatment in adolescence is linked to better mental health than waiting until adulthood, although there is no distinction between male/female transitions. So if we say that puberty blockers should not be prescribed, are we jeopardising future happiness?

3. Crime

As we saw with health, statistics are important. In new guidance issued in March this year, the Home Office said police should record the sex of victims and suspects according to their birth certificates or their gender recognition

certificates (GRC). Very few trans people have GRCs so the policy means most trans people could be regarded as mis-gendered in official statistics. For example, if they are attacked or sexually assaulted recording trans women as men. However, if they are regarded statistically as women it could skew the female rates. Studies show that trans-women's offending records follow a typical male pattern including violent offences. Transgender fell-runner Lauren Jeska was jailed in 2017 for the attempted murder of Ralph Knibbs. That one case falsely elevated the number of women convicted of attempted murder that year in England and Wales by around 20 per cent. Do we need to record trans women's and trans men's crimes on a separate register?

4. Safety

For the purposes of the discussion this section was confined to prisons only, a place where it is all but impossible for any escape to be made.

Women only spaces were created to protect women. In 2019 there were 163 transgender prisoners in England and Wales 81 of whom had been convicted of one or more sexual offences. Of the 163, 34 were held in women's prisons. Between 2016 and 2019, a total of 97 sexual assaults were recorded in women's prisons, of which seven appeared to be committed by trans gender prisoners without a GRC. It is not known whether any were committed by transgender women with a GRC but the number of transgender prisoners with a GRC across all jails is thought to be in single figures.

However, trans women are themselves at risk in male prisons. The Ministry Of Justice figures for 2020 refer to 11 trans women who were sexually assaulted in men's prisons last year. This figure is far higher than the number of assaults carried out by trans women in female prisons, but there are many more male than female prisoners in the prison estate.

To those who believe that trans women are women, the answer is simple: trans women must serve custodial sentences in a female prison.

Trans woman Debbie Hayton, a campaigner and advocate for transgender people, argues against this. She says 'When trans woman Stephanie Booth was sent to Askham Grange (a women's prison) in 1989 there were far fewer trans women in society, and it could be assumed they had been chemically and surgically castrated...In 2018, the BBC Reality Check team found that 48 per cent of transgender offenders were serving time for a sexual offence (the figure for the general prison population is just 19 per cent). This is not a group

that should be housed with women...' Nowadays there is a mix of those who have had surgery and/or chemical treatment and those, like Jan Morris, who have been through the whole process and it is not known how many of the 48% had been through the full process.

Maybe Debbie provides a way forward to provide safety for trans women but not at the expense of women's safety she says:

'Rather than campaigning to infringe the rights of women, trans women should be calling for our own rights to be protected within the estate designated for our sex. We should demand single-cell accommodation, separate washing and toilet facilities, and further protection that may be necessary to keep us safe. For those of us whose bodies may look more like women's bodies than men's bodies – certainly in the shower – that is a must. But whatever their bodies might look like, trans women who do not identify with men should not be forced to dress like men. Adjustments can be made.'

Toilets were another area discussed and an example was given where a group of men dressed as women and wearing fishnet tights used the female toilets in a restaurant and 18 year old women dining in the same place were frightened to use the facilities because of the noise and the threatening behaviour of this group. Perhaps they were on a stag night and alcohol fuelled their behaviour. But it's a good example of where a space previously thought to be safe for women had been taken away from them. Our group felt that the answer is lockable cubicles which can be used by anyone, and many public places do have them now.

The media seems to be highly focussed on trans gender issues at the moment and examples were found in all areas of the press. Lockdown seems to be responsible for a large increase in those waiting for trans gender treatment, many of whom are girls. A leading clinical psychologist of 16 years standing said that more than half her patients now identify as transgender. Of those she is treating many of them are on the transgender pathway and have been since they were 5 or 6! Their parents sometimes casually dropped this point into the conversation when mental anguish, suicidal thoughts and self-harm were being discussed. She said that parents have been sold a lie and that many young children dress up or act as tomboys and many grow out of it. She also said we are setting children up to hate their bodies. Celia Walden in The Telegraph asked 'What has happened to common sense? Nothing sums up early teenage more than feeling 'uncomfortable in my own skin'.

Girlguiding expelled a long-time leader who objected to a transitioning boy being allowed to choose where he slept and what toilet facilities he used. She

is suing the Guides. Also the mother of a 16 year old boy who was transitioning was very concerned for the girls when her son was allowed to choose a female dormitory during a camp organised by the National Citizens Service for 15 - 17 year olds. There is also concern over primary schools being sent instructions to explain gender fluidity to their pupils, and that gender can be on a sliding scale.

Points were made that all people should have human rights and should be given respect. Because of the focus on headline grabbing stories it is easy to think of all trans people as a threat when most simply want to lead normal lives.

In conclusion, we are still confused but want all members of society to be catered for, not one group to the detriment of others.

As trans woman Dianne Turner says 'A little more listening and less shouting (on both sides) might resolve the debate.' We do hope so.

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.

2022 TOPICS

- 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.
- July – Is the NHS fit for purpose now?

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HISTORY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Viv Weller

HISTORY GROUP REPORT - APRIL 2022

A VISIT TO LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

On the 5th April we enjoyed the first of this year's outings in Lichfield. We were given a lively and fascinating guided tour of the magnificent cathedral, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Chad. The dedication recalls the cathedral's ancient roots as Chad was a famous Anglo Saxon Churchman who was appointed Bishop of Mercia in 669AD. He placed his new see at Lichfield, then the centre of the powerful Kingdom of Mercia. After his death in 672AD, he was sanctified and his shrine inside the cathedral became an important pilgrimage centre for many years until the Reformation in the 16th C.

The cathedral is both beautiful and massive and its three tall spires dominate the city. It has been through many stages in its long existence. The medieval building we see now was founded in the 12thC. Sadly, the place was seriously damaged in the English Civil War in the 17thC, and parts fell into total ruin but eventually it was revived. It was restored and rebuilt in the 19thC and the handiwork of George Gilbert Scott, that well known Victorian architect, can be seen everywhere. Its lofty Gothic style creates an awesome interior and it is a very uplifting building. There are many interesting remains of its ancient past with its lovely windows and the small balcony where monks used to hold up St Chad's relics for queues of pilgrims filing past below to see. A rare Pedilavium, where ceremonial foot washing took place, still survives. There are also contrasting recent additions from the many striking works of art to the ultra-modern altar which can be made to rise and fall to allow a flexible use of the central space. One fascinating recent discovery was a stone relic box lid, carved with a Saxon angel. Some speculate it is the very box in which Chad's relics were kept. The Cathedral has many other treasures too, notably the stunning 8thC Lichfield Gospels.

Afterwards, we dispersed to explore the city. Most of us went to see Samuel Johnson's house in the marketplace. This museum celebrates the early life of

the man who was born in this house in relatively lowly circumstances but who managed to rise through the ranks and went on to become a celebrated intellectual and member of London society. He is most famous today for being the compiler of the first English dictionary in 1755. Another local attraction was the townhouse and garden of local poet and doctor, Erasmus Darwin, whose famous grandson Charles Darwin went on to turn the world view upside down with his Origin of Species!

Lichfield was well worth a visit and we all had a good day out.







Future meetings

The June meeting is on June 7th. We will be back at the Rugby Club (2 till 4).

Remember also that the joint History Group and Garden Group visit to Kelmarsh Hall is on June 28th.

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HISTORY GROUP REPORT – MAY 2022

A VISIT TO DONINGTON LE HEATH

The Historians visited the 1620s House in Donington le Heath on May 3rd. This proved to be a fascinating visit. The house is well presented and dressed as it might have looked after a major rebuild in 1620 so there are many examples of 17th Century furnishings, fabrics and artefacts which give a good idea of how a well-to-do provincial family may have lived in the reign of James I. These include a beautifully dressed 'tableboard' covered with a fashionable turkey carpet and next door, a fully equipped kitchen.





One bedroom has a magnificent four poster bed, part of which is said to be the bed used by King Richard III the night before Bosworth. It's a nice story.

The house itself is perhaps the real star of the show. It was originally a medieval hall house with various extensions and a huge chimney added later. We had excellent guides, who were both enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Outside there is a lovely garden filled with the types of plants available in the 17th . Naturally, after all that History we were ready for a cuppa and some excellent cake. We all enjoyed our visit there and we would certainly recommend a visit to any U3A members who have not yet seen the place.



1. Our next meeting is at the Rugby Club on Tuesday June 7th at 2pm.
2. Also, a reminder that we will be visiting Kelmarsh Hall with the Garden Group on Tuesday, 28th June. Remember this is a self drive visit but please share cars and fuel costs with others if you can.
3. Please arrive at Kelmarsh Hall by 1.15 so I can check you in.
4. The café will be open so you can get refreshments at any time to suit you. If you do NOT want to have refreshments, please let me know by the 21st as I have to confirm numbers to the café owner by then.
5. If you cannot come, please email me on vwellierz@aol.com

VW

POETRY GROUP

May's topic was "Conflict" and inevitably most of the poems were about war, featuring several by Siegfried Sassoon, Spike Milligan and especially Roger McGough who is a favourite with his clever and often funny twists.

Other types of conflict included relationship conflicts, Robert Frost's classic "The Road not Taken", and Simon Armitage's wonderful "Chainsaw versus the Pampas Grass"

The next meeting will be on 23rd June at Dot's house. There will be no specific topic, just favourite poems.

Sylvie

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ART APPRECIATION

8 of us boarded the train to Birmingham to visit the Ikon Gallery. The walk from New Street Station was full of contrasts, shining high rises next to Victorian buildings, wide open squares and narrow bridges over canals, municipal 'worthies' statues and an Antony Gormley. The focus of our visit was to view the first-ever UK exhibition of Renaissance painter Carlo Crivelli (c.1430–c.1495) 'Shadows on the Sky'. Crivelli has been described as an artist who 'breaks the rules, the eccentric, the maverick' and we saw many examples of this in the paintings on display. There were cracks in plasterwork, flies on pillars and lifelike swags of fruit or individual fruit and vegetables hanging from buildings and trees. Some of the people appear to be stepping forward as if about to leave the confines of their frame. There were also 2 paintings by contemporary photo realist artist Audrey Flack produced in response to Crivelli's work which prompted lively discussion.



An added bonus to the visit was a display of the Scandinavian artist Under the Vast Sky whose work features embroidered pieces, including panoramas chronicling the history, culture and cosmology of the Sámi people of the Arctic. The open spaces of these pieces were a wonderful contrast to the opulence and often confined spaces of Crivelli. With the excellent on site restaurant providing both coffee on arrival and lunch the visit was enjoyed by all with the added bonus of free entry if anybody else is tempted.



Anne Watson

GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

There weren't many wet days in May but unfortunately our scheduled bike ride day was one of them. We would have tried again the following Wednesday but that was the day of the U3A Luncheon so we opted for the Thursday. Unfortunately, in the end, only three of the group could make it. After discussing the option of skipping the ride and going for a coffee, we thought we had better do some pedalling first. It turned out to be a lovely ride with beautiful views and exceptionally quiet roads.

We started at Gilmorton Village Shop and headed off down to Kimcote. We took the back road to Walton and then turned left to Upper Bruntingthorpe. Another left took us downhill (always enjoyable!) through Bruntingthorpe and then we turned right up (not so pleasant!) towards Arnesby. However, before reaching the village we turned left and took advantage of the traffic-free gated lane to Peatling Magna. After a brief stop to help a lady get her lawn mower going, we pedalled on through Peatling Parva and back up to Gilmorton. Coffee was enjoyed on the garden terrace at Moretons.

Our next ride will be on Wednesday, 8th June, 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.creeden@taltalk.net or call me on the above number.

Sue Creeden

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GARDEN GROUP

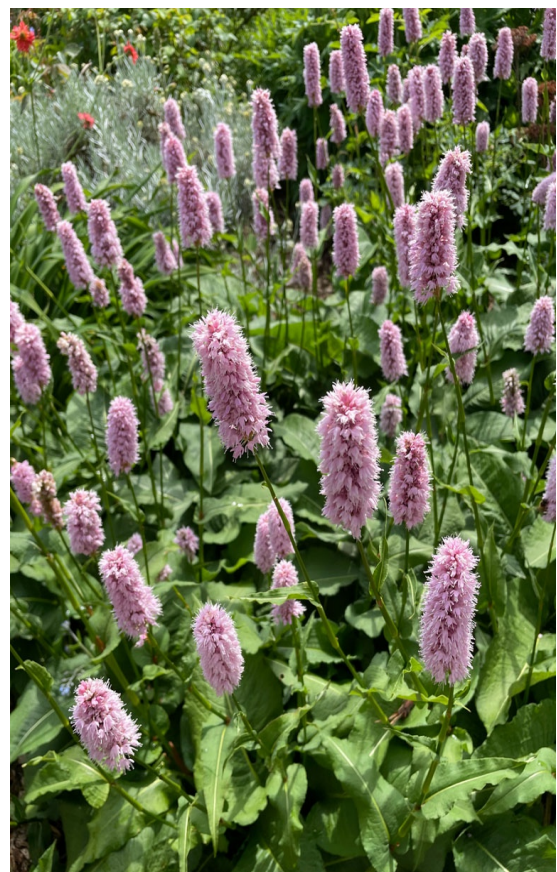
Garden Group Outing May 24th

This outing was to Bosworth House Arthlingworth, The weather was good with one little downpour; this did not spoil the tour of the garden. Mrs Irving-Swift greeted us and spoke at great length of when she first moved to this house and started on the garden and the changes she made over 40 years .The actual property had the most beautiful panoramic views for miles and miles.

In the front of the house was a giant red wood tree and to the side was an old drooping Ash tree which was unusual , there were so many flowers and shrubs lots of gorgeous roses different types and colours, Clematis, Peonies, Iris, a wonderful display of purple Alliums fruit bushes and herbs. There was an orchard to visit if you wanted.

We finished off with cups of tea and home-made cakes; all seemed to enjoy it.

Colette.



Reminder

Garden Group Kelmarsh Hall 28 June 2022 1.15.

A reminder that we will be visiting Kelmarsh Hall with the History Group on Tuesday 28th June. Remember this is a self-drive visit but please share cars and fuel costs with others if you can.

Please arrive at the hall at 1.15pm so I can check you in. The café will be open so you can get refreshments at any time to suit you. I am assuming everyone who has signed up will also want refreshments but if you do not, please let me know by the 21st as I need to give final numbers in our party to the café owner a week before.

vwellerz@aol.com

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FRENCH CONVERSATION

We each reported on our own news, then translated an article from “Le Monde” with a French take on “partygate”. After coffee we split into groups with a view to finding out more about each other.

The next meeting will be on 23 June.

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FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

May 2022 Walk Report

We started the walk at The Black Horse at Foxton. It was one of those mornings when the weather threatened rain but never actually achieved it. However, it was quite windy in the more exposed places. Rodger Watmore had to lead the walk on his own as Gill was concerned about an inflamed knee.

There were 18 of us and we set off towards Foxton Locks along the canal towpath. Passing the bottom locks we headed to a bridge that took us over the canal and onto a footpath that took us across fields and up to Gumley. We then headed up the main street to take the Leicestershire Round passing the church and then across a field towards Smeeton Hill. As we crossed a lane we reached the highest point of the walk, at 534ft, as we did not tackle Smeeton Hill. but took a little used footpath returning to Gumley around the back of Gumley Wood. Crossing the main street this time we took a footpath towards Laughton across fields before turning back across more fields to Foxton Locks. Crossing the canal again we returned to the Black Horse via a track.

This was a delightful walk, mostly rural, with wonderful scenery. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Thank you Roger for leading the walk and thank you Gill for assisting Roger to recce it. Your efforts are much appreciated.

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)

NEXT WALK - Wednesday 22 June 2022

Walk Organisers:- Sue and Peter Creeden

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the pub not opening until 10:00am the timings for this walk are 15 minutes later than usual

Meeting Point and Time (for car sharing):- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at 9.30am to leave at 09.35am

Start Point and Time:-The Bulls Head at Brinklow (Postcode CV23 ONE)). Toilets will be available from 10:00am. Walk to start at 10:15am

Directions to start:- Leave Lutterworth towards Magna Park. At the A5 roundabout take the second exit (B4027) to Pailton, Stretton under Fosse and then Brinklow. At the T junction in Brinklow turn right (towards Coventry) and the Bull is about 150m on the right. Please park at the back of the car park

Route and Distance:- The route will head across the recreation field to join Broad Street and then up through the motte and bailey castle. We will then head to the canal towpath and walk along it in the Rugby direction to reach Cathiron Lane. After a short stretch along the lane we leave it to walk through fields. We will then take a large loop across fields to Kings Newnham before returning across more fields to Brinklow. The route will be along a mixture of roads, canal towpath and tracks across fields. Distance: 5.5 miles approx.

Stiles: 6

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

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Co-ordinator: Chris

ESTG May event ; Talk on 'Radio Telescopes' by Nigel Bedford

I had been waiting some years since a number of ESTG members suggested **'Radio Telescopes'** might be a subject that would be interesting for the group and could we get a talk about them including 'how they work etc. and produce photos !!'

So I was delighted when Nigel said he would put something together for the group.

On the day, we had a turn out of 24 members to hear the presentation and Nigel didn't disappoint, he took the group through the basic principals at a level we could all appreciate and then explained how these principles applied to the physical mechanics of the Radio Telescope/ antenna it's self.

Also included in the presentation was the history of **UK own Jodrell Bank Telescope** which detailed some interesting little known facts.

I won't describe the talk in detail, but let Nigel do that through a report below that he has written especially for this bulletin.

My thanks go to Nigel for his obvious hard work in putting this talk together and making it so interesting and informative.

Radio Telescope Talk – Summary

The talk introduced some basic science behind the design of radio telescopes with the intent of appreciating why telescopes around the world look and operate the way they do. After this the history of the science, and a pictorial tour of the leading telescopes was shown.

This basic science covered the electromagnetic spectrum and comparison between optical and radio telescopes. The importance of the antenna design to obtain the best signals and how it detects the radio signals was covered. A brief description of the operation of a telescope was presented. In summary it is similar to an old style, analogue TV set needing an aerial, some electronics and a means of displaying the output. The crucial role of radio wave diffraction and how it limits the ability of a telescope to resolve small radio sources was emphasised. The requirement for large diameter telescopes was illustrated by an example. For a single radio telescope to have the same resolving power as a small 150mm diameter optical telescope a dish 72 kilometres in diameter would be required! The solution to this dilemma is the technique of aperture synthesis. This is where an array of much smaller telescopes separated by large distances could achieve high resolution images when all their data were combined.

It all started in 1932 whilst Karl Jansky was carrying out research on thunderstorms for Bell Telephone Labs, New Jersey. He discovered a background “hiss” that had a period of 23 hours and 56 minutes... this showed it originated from space and was not an earthly phenomenon. Radio Astronomy was born.

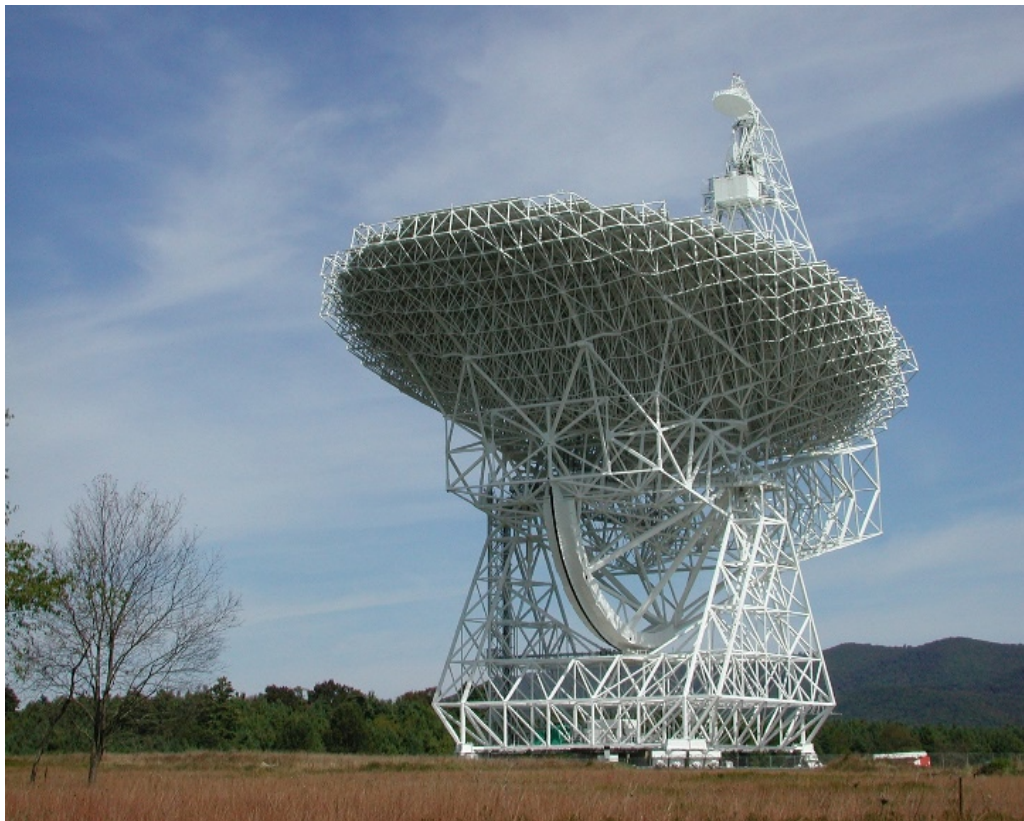
Arguably the first radio astronomer was an amateur radio operator, Grote Reber who lived near Chicago. He built the first parabolic dish in his back garden, it was about 35ft in diameter. He discovered the first extragalactic radio sources now known as Cassiopeia A and Cygnus X-1. The war intervened and work re-commenced with Bernard Lovell in 1945 at Manchester University who used old radar equipment for studying cosmic rays. The Manchester trams were too noisy (electrically) and he moved operations to a quieter location, Jodrell Bank.



The building of Jodrell Bank from 1952 to 1957 was covered with engineering drawings and photographs of work in progress. When completed it was the largest telescope in the world. Even today it is still the third largest fully steerable telescope. This was followed by photographs of the current 73 metre dish (now called The Bernard Levell Telescope) and the part it plays in the Multi-element Radio Link interferometer (MERLIN) system comprising 7 telescopes in the uk.

The recent collapse (Dec 2020) of the iconic 310 metre Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico was shown as a real time clip. Many will remember this as it was used in the James Bond Film "Golden Eye".

The largest telescope is currently in China and has a diameter of 510 metres, it is similar in design to Arecibo. The largest fully steerable dish is 110 metre and resides at Green Bank, West Virginia and the 2nd largest is the Effelsberg 100 metre, near Cologne, Germany.





Also mentioned was 64 metre Parkes Radio Telescope in Australia that received signal from the Apollo 11 lunar landing whilst experiencing high winds (peaking at 62mph) above its design limits.

A large telescope project is currently in progress called the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). It will be located at two sites, Australia and South Africa. The former having 131,072 antennas spread over 65 km and the latter will have 197 dishes at distances up to 150 km. The headquarters for this project is... Jodrell Bank.

18/5/2022 NHB

Post Meeting Notes – Unanswered queries additional info

Nobody was injured during the collapse of the Arecibo telescope.

There had been two cable failures to the supporting towers in the previous few months and the telescope was known to be at risk of failure. It was awaiting controlled demolition when the final failure happened.

ESTG Future Events.

June 21st - Talk by David Hanger on Funicular Railways

July 19th - 'Energy Forum' a presentation of 3 types of Future Energy Production by Michael Bates, Alan Bilton and Chris Ridley.

August 16th - TBA

September 20th - Visit to the British Motor Museum Gaydon arranged by Tony Allen

October 18th - Visit to Museum of Time Newark

Note,

Lutterworth Rugby Club have given us notice that they will no longer be able to offer the room for hire, therefore talks after our July Event will be at a new venue yet to be advised.

I will keep you informed as to when, and where, we will be re-locating to.....

Chris

SNAIL'S PACE WALKING GROUP

May Walk



Fourteen of us enjoyed an idyllic walk from Wistow Garden Centre, through the churchyard of Saint Wistan which sits by the stream. The water meadows and historic 'ridge and furrow' pastures were a picture with the buttercups in flower.

For those of you who enjoy history, in 849 it was reported that human hair was seen growing through the grass in Wistow Churchyard on the 1st June. This is the legend of Saint Wistan who as a Wigstan, Prince of Mercia (Christian) was murdered by his cousin who wanted his throne and cared nothing for Christian religion. A church was built on the site of the murder and then replaced with the current Norman church with a later 13th century tower.

On reaching Newton Harcourt, we passed the oldest feature of the village, St Luke's Church (originally a chapel, with parts of its structure dating back to the 13th century), also the Manor House, and the entrance gateway with Lodge.

We joined the Grand Union Canal, having turned into The Square, for the return leg of the walk.

Some of us enjoyed lunch at The Dog and Gun in Kilby and we were made to feel very welcome by the landlady.



June Walk: On Friday 17th June

Valerie has kindly offered to lead this walk. Here is Valerie's information.

All meet at Sutton Cheney Wharf CV13 0AL at 10.45am.



I have booked lunch at The Wharf Cafe. We can pre order at 10.45am (menu attached). There are toilets inside.

The car park cost is £2.50 all day. You can pay by card or by the app (pay and display).

There is an area just before the car park area, which is free, but vehicles left at your own risk.

We will walk along the footpath of the west bank of the Ashby de la Zouch Canal, before reaching Ambion Wood. The route is level, and we will pass through the newly planted area, before

reaching a gate leading to the Bosworth Heritage Centre. We will walk up to The Richard III Sundial, taking in the lovely views, before heading slightly downhill to Shenton Station.

There we will take a left turn and walk gently down the Shelton Cutting. At the bottom, we will go over the canal, and turn left, walking along the east bank of the canal, heading back to The Wharf.

The walk is approximately 2.5 miles and will take just over an hour.

Lunch

I have booked lunch at The Wharf Cafe. **We can pre order at 10.45am.** The menu attached or click on this link:

<https://www.sutton-wharf.com/our-menus/lunch-menu/>

There are toilets inside.

We are booked to sit inside. There is the Floatie Oakie Barge alongside, serving Gelato, milkshakes and coffees.

If you would like to come along, please let Valerie know by **Tuesday 14th June**. Please let Valerie know whether you will be having lunch.

You can email Valerie at valerieconnelly@rocketmail.com

Or you can phone on **07463 797491**.

Directions from Lutterworth to Sutton Cheney Wharf, CV13 0AL.

There are 3 different sat nav routes to Sutton Cheney – all same time/distance.

18 miles, approx. 30-35 minutes – Suggested:

Join A5 (westbound towards Hinckley) at Magna Park towards M69 Junction.

At Motorway Junction - Stay on A5 North (take 3rd left).

Go under Hinckley to B'ham railbridge and past Paynes Ford (on right).

Approaching Dodswell Roundabout STAY IN RIGHT HAND LANE (A47 North).

Take 2nd left up A47N (Hinckley Western Perimeter Road) n.b 30mph.

Go 2 miles. Stay on Perimeter Road over mini/major roundabouts.

Turn left at Traffic Lights A447 (Signposted Ibstock/Mkt Bosworth/Barwell) into Ashby Road, Hinckley.

Follow Ashby Road 2 miles, passing Dobbies Garden Centre (Woodlands) on left. 800 yards after Dobbies turn left into Stapleton Lane (Signposted for Sutton Cheney/Battlefield Centre). The Hercules Inn is 1000 yards on your left in the village.

Carry on past The Hercules straight on down the lane to The Wharf, CV13 0AL.

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1st WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

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

Date of Walk :- Wednesday 6th July 2022. email.- peter79moore@gmail.com

Driving distance:- 6 Miles each way.

Walk leader :- 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 : Red Admiral, Broughton Astley. On the right, main road, on Dunton Bassett side of Broughton Astley. **Leave 10.00am.**

Toilets available.

Directions to start :- A426 towards Blaby, TL at Dunton Bassett TL, on into Broughton Astley.

Red Admiral Pub on right as you enter Broughton Astley

Route and Distance :- Exit the car park, cross over the main road, into Speedwell Close, at end enter Field, into LH corner. Take footpath into Dunton Bassett, TR at Main Road and Left at School

Follow path, TR at bend onto track. Over stile and continue towards Quarry. Enter Quarry and Exit onto field path towards Leire at road TR, opposite turn and head towards Stemborough Mill, continue on small road and grassy hill to return to the Pub for lunch.

1 stile. Gentle walk through farmland and Pastures, through Dunton ,Sand Quarry and Leire.

Good choice of Food , extensive Lunch time menu. Gluten Free Food available.

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

Next Walk. Crick .Wednesday 3rd August 2022. 5.3 miles 2 stiles.

Apologies for the very wet conditions at Ratby and *Yellow Card* to the Leader for the Entry and Exit from the Wood, but very prolific show of Bluebells. But no excuses.

6 brave walkers survived the drenching.

Peter Moore and Kay Bliss

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ETHNIC DINING GROUP

Coordinators : Peter and Penny Ross

We choose restaurants serving food from around the world, some familiar, some more unusual. Everyone is welcome to join us, regularly or occasionally.
In July we will be visiting an Italian restaurant.

The details are as follows:

Wednesday July 13th 2022 at 7.30pm

Cheikho's
12 Church Street
Lutterworth
Le17 4AW

If you wish to join us please contact us by 7th July at the latest.

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

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PUB LUNCHES GROUP

Coordinators : Peter and Penny Ross

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 July we will be visiting The Dovecote at Narborough

The details are as follows:

Tuesday July 5th 2022 at 12.30pm

The Dovecote
41 Coventry Rd
Narborough
LE19 2GN

If you wish to join us please contact us by 1st July at the latest.

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

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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