

U3A monthly meeting talk, Thursday 8th September



‘The Life and Secret Tricks of Houdini’ by Richard Hill

In this presentation Richard will talk about the life of the extraordinary man who became the world’s most famous magician, illusionist and escapologist, who captured the imagination of a generation and who is still used as a reference point today, nearly 100 years after his death. During the talk, Richard will describe some of Houdini’s most famous stunts and tricks and reveal how they were done. The talk will also contain examples of real life magic, illusion and escapology performed before your very eyes. So, a talk which is both informative and entertaining - not to be missed.

Table of Contents

<u>NOTICES</u>	3
<u>LIVELY DISCUSSION</u>	4
<u>GENTLE CYCLING GROUP</u>	12
<u>GARDEN GROUP</u>	14
<u>U3A Garden Group Trip: Easton Walled Gardens</u>	15
<u>U3A HISTORY GROUP: Sezincote Trip</u>	17
<u>WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP</u>	19
<u>FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP</u>	19
<u>FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP</u>	20
<u>SNAIL'S PACE WALKING GROUP</u>	23
<u>FRENCH GROUP</u>	25
<u>POETRY GROUP</u>	25
<u>FIRST WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP</u>	26
<u>PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP</u>	28
<u>GARDEN GROUP</u>	31
<u>ETHNIC DINING GROUP</u>	34
<u>PUB LUNCHESES GROUP</u>	35
<u>Committee Members</u>	36

NOTICES

Change of Venue - Important Notice

From 4th OCTOBER 2022, the History Group meetings will be held at ASHBY PARVA Village Hall.

We meet on the FIRST TUESDAY in the month and the time is still 2pm until 4pm.

Viv

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

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

LIVELY DISCUSSION

Co-ordinator: Dot

Lively Discussion 8th August 2022

Is the NHS fit for purpose now?

At the end of this article is a report from a member who recently spent 4 months in the Leicester Royal Infirmary. It gives an insight into the patient experience which you may find interesting.

Some current statistics:

- In 2012 the Secretary of State's duty to provide universal health care was abolished
- Of 19 first world countries, the UK compares badly and is often the worst depending on the illness being treated
- UK does diabetes and kidney care well
- UK has more advanced computerisation
- It takes 7 years to train a doctor
- A third of GPs have stopped taking routine appointments in the last year
- Many hospitals have millions of pounds worth of debts due to the Private Finance Initiative introduced by the Blair government
- A&E is often overwhelmed
- Ambulance times are very poor and have resulted in unnecessary deaths
- It costs £50 per day to care for someone at home and £300 per day in hospital
- UK annual spend per head is £3,200 compared with Germany at £4,700

The short answer to the question posed is 'No'. So we discussed the causes:

1. Apart from COVID provisions, from 2010 the NHS has been limited to 0.9% increases annually, whereas from founding it received 3.7%. Thus making certain that financial problems would result, even if none of the other causes existed.
2. On the positive side we now have the ability to treat almost every disease because of research and a robust testing and monitoring system administered by Universities, Institutes and NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence). This level of progress alone puts a much heavier financial strain on budgets.
3. Some staffing shortages are caused by poor pay, very long hours and people retiring or leaving before the newly qualified have completed their training meaning that staff numbers are lower or more or less static. When Jeremy Hunt was Health Minister he capped the number of medical students to be recruited by universities exacerbating the staff shortages now. Since he has chaired the Health Select Committee he has realised how short sighted this was.
4. For 30 years governments have been cutting beds resulting in no spare capacity. When COVID struck we saw millions of operations cancelled or postponed. Compare this with Germany and other European countries which have continued to invest in infrastructure including beds and diagnostic tools such as scanners, and didn't have to cancel so many procedures.
5. Some waste could be prevented. Examples are unused medicines which when returned to pharmacies are destroyed despite being unopened and in date; return of orthopaedic equipment for others to use; and collection of payments for treatment of foreign patients
6. Other staffing shortages are caused by staff illness/stress, or caring duties.
7. Poorer people have more health problems than richer ones often due to poor diet, poor housing, hard physical working conditions, anxiety about shortage of money and supporting their families and mental health problems caused by stress.
8. Some say there are too many middle managers who appear to have prevented the many national plans, which have been drawn up since the 90s, from being implemented and of course receive

much of the pay budget allocated to the NHS. Others think this is over-emphasised.

9. The existing doctors' pension scheme was affected by new government rules which mean that after working above a certain number of hours their pensions remain static. So some doctors have retired in their 50s as the total number of working hours allowed has been reached and they didn't want to work hours which were not pensionable.
10. Bed blocking because of a very poor care service which is seriously underfunded and whose staff aren't given the respect they deserve for their very important work. Also the catastrophic effect this is having on the ambulance service and all front line staff trying to cope with vast patient numbers many of whom could leave hospital if there was accommodation elsewhere.
11. Privatisation is entering by the back door as the NHS struggles to keep up with demand. Often NHS hospitals get as much as half their income from private patients, or have to send patients to private clinics and hospitals because the NHS facilities are already taken up.

Studies have shown that only 20% of a patient's health is affected by the NHS, the other 80% is down to social determinants such as poverty and lifestyle.

The group felt that the NHS can no longer cover all health needs 'free at the point of access.' Not only because of the points above, but also because the population is increasing and ageing and - as previously mentioned - we can now treat almost every disease.

On funding some felt that a system similar to that in Germany should be implemented, where all citizens are required to buy insurance at the level of 7.3% of their income during their lives, and this money funds a service with much better outcomes than the NHS. The insurers used are not-for-profit entities vetted by the government.

Some members' friends and relatives have worked or are still working in the NHS and say that mostly they work with very skilled and capable people at all levels despite the few poor performers. Patients say that when they are treated most of the staff are excellent.

What are the solutions as we see them:

1. Reinstate the government's statutory duty to provide health care, regardless of the party in power.
2. Decide the levels of care, and produce a definition of that care; and a list of core services which the state will provide, whilst structuring the NHS accordingly, removing any unnecessary middle managers.
3. Pass legislation which forces governments to devise and implement long term plans for the NHS; and instigate purchasing for the whole organisation, rather than local hospital trusts thus benefitting from lower unit costs.
4. Recognise that it takes 7 years to train a doctor and as Jeremy Hunt says, plan staffing for 5, 10 and 20 years.
5. Properly fund the care system and provide career development and a living wage for all care staff.
6. Stop the slide into private health care, and properly fund the NHS via insurance and/or state provision.
7. Prevent waste by showing the price of equipment and medicines on packaging etc. so that staff and patients can see the true costs.
8. Pass legislation for a truly living wage and start to prevent many poverty illnesses resulting in less need to use the NHS
9. A holistic approach to all government responsibilities is required, such as decent housing, wage levels, health, caring and transport to help raise health levels across society. Perhaps then the NHS can succeed in the 20% of people's lives they can affect as living conditions improve.

As mentioned above some people support insurance funded/private health care and others support a fully funded NHS. The former may have forgotten or don't know how bad things were prior to the introduction of the NHS.

Those who have used private health care will be aware that they are not available for emergencies, have no intensive care service, have less equipment and medicines than NHS institutions and sometimes send patients, who they can't deal with, to the NHS to sort out.

In conclusion the group agreed that radical changes as suggested above are vital. However since the health service is regarded as a 'sacred cow' we feel that no politicians are strong enough to make these changes and our much loved NHS is slowly sinking.

Some quotes:

'Why can't our economy support a relatively cheap health care system?'

Dr Jennifer Dixon – Chief Executive of the Health Foundation – charity

'I LOVE THE NHS AND WORKED THERE FOR 5 YEARS, BUT I WAS ON THE POVERTY LINE AND HAD TO MOVE INTO PRIVATE HEALTH CARE AS I COULDN'T AFFORD TO LIVE.'

Mental Health Nurse

'WHEN I'M QUALIFIED I'LL ONLY WORK PART-TIME FOR THE NHS, BECAUSE OF THE UNACCEPTABLE STRESS LEVELS OF THE JOB.'

Trainee mature person aged 40 with 4 daughters

Patient Experience:

Is the NHS fit for purpose?

The simple answer is 'NO', the NHS costs as much as the health services in other developed nations and has inferior outcomes. A totally reorganised service based on the European insurance model would be the ideal solution but, at the moment, no political party would be brave enough to go down that route. A major reorganisation based on the current model is not the answer either. We do not have the political or managerial leadership skills to complete such a massive project.

So what is the answer? Based on my recent experience of 4 months in the LRI - Some of the NHS is world class, some is more than adequate and only some parts let the system down. Any reorganisation and extra funding should clearly concentrate on the areas of weakness.

I have divided the roles of the NHS as follows:

- Diagnosis, this includes GPs and A&E
- Medical treatment

- Hospital care
- Rehab
- Community and home care

Diagnosis

In my experience, the diagnosis process is the weakest area by far. There were long delays at every stage, namely seeing the same GP to get some continuity, seeing the right consultant, getting a scan and getting the scan results. At this stage there was still no clear diagnosis so the only route into hospital was via A&E. After a few more days I ended up in a specialist diagnosis ward which was very effective. This whole process took 7 valuable months which allowed my condition to develop into a serious condition requiring months of bed space and huge expense to treat.

Conclusion - the area of activity covered by GPs, consultants and A&E is incredibly ineffective and is an area ripe for reorganisation.

Medical treatment

Top class surgeons and consultants.

With one exception, all the many complications that arose after my operations were all dealt with efficiently by the doctors and nurses.

The chemotherapy day care ward was very impressive and surely world class. The ward has about 30 comfortable chairs and it allows 40-50 patients to be treated in a day.

The LRI has a large building dedicated to clinical testing. It does a huge number of tests every day. I only had one instance out of hundreds of test results going astray.

There is a massive logistics operation behind the delivery of a vast range of medical equipment and drugs to the wards. I was surprised that there were so few hiccups.

Conclusion: There was much evidence of top class processes run by top class people so this must not be jeopardised.

Hospital care

The wards were all full to capacity. I had frequent ward changes to accommodate bed shortages.

Most of the care was superb (say 95%) but there was some that was poor and almost cruel. Some carers rushed around like 'headless chickens' - so were inefficient.

Many of the nursing and care staff had been recruited from abroad and were less efficient due to poor spoken English and different training standards.

There is much evidence of the introduction of new technology. Most of the support staff used iPads and iPhones for patient notes and other admin tasks.

The staff scheduling system was well regarded and there was a surprising level of flexibility in the shifts that the staff were able to work.

There were many specialist support services available to patients, such as dieticians and physios. However, there were never enough for them to meet demand.

It was clear that a lot of thought and effort had gone into providing decent food. There was a big menu each day to choose from and lots of options for patients with eating difficulties. However the whole effort was spoilt because the basic ingredients were so poor. Some of the dishes had lovely sauces and flavours but the meat was absolutely awful so the whole meal was spoilt.

Conclusion: Clearly there is need for more UK trained staff and for more beds but the overall process is surprisingly effective and must not be jeopardised by a major reorganisation.

Rehab

Long term patients who were not fit enough to go home were moved from the main hospitals to recovery wards in community hospitals.

Conclusion: This process worked really well and could have been even better if more physios were available.

Transfer to home and community care

The hospital specifies what is required in terms of equipment and support and this is agreed with the patient and carer. The equipment provided is top class and as the patient needs change, new equipment is provided. They are also happy to install extra aids, like banisters and grab handles where this helps.

The care staff were superb but initially, far more than necessary were provided. However, later on my recovery was slowed due to a lack of physios.

Conclusion: This is a superb system, albeit extravagant and wasteful in some areas. But it is a lot cheaper than keeping me in hospital.

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

- August – Is the NHS fit for purpose now?
- September – Should we be aiming for Net Zero?
- October – Is Truss a good choice for PM?

GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue

After a week or so of really hot weather, the rain had arrived for the scheduled day of our bike ride. Fortunately, it was only drizzling but I was very surprised to see five other keen (or mad) members arrive at the Ullesthorpe Garden Centre that morning. All seemed willing to give it a go so we set off down to Ashby Parva and continued on down Dunton Mill Lane to Dunton Bassett. We turned left to Leire. At this point I did check whether anyone wanted to take the short way back but no, all were happy to carry on. We turned right in Leire down again (the first half was mainly downhill) to the Frolesworth/Broughton Road. We crossed over and headed up the lane to Sutton Lodge Farm and down gravel track to the Old Fosse Way. By this time the drizzle had stopped and it was beginning to warm up a little. Turning left we pedalled our way to Fosse Meadows for a welcome refreshment break. Batteries recharged we started our return journey which, of course, was now mainly uphill! Cycling through Frolesworth we opted for the gentler route via Ashby Parva back to the Garden Centre.





It was a much better morning for the Rotary's Big Bike Ride the following Sunday. After minor bike adjustments, five members set off from Misterton Hall and took the 11-mile circuit, through Walcote and Swinford and down to Stanford Hall. Turning left we pedalled up and down the hills to South Kilworth. From here the return ride is directly back to Walcote (more hills) and then along the footpath to Misterton. Our reward was hog-roast cobs on the lawn. A very enjoyable morning.

Our next ride will be on **Wednesday, 14th September at 10.00 am**. The starting point and 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.

GARDEN GROUP

September Outing:

There is just one seat still available on the minibus for our visit to **The Old Barn, Stretton en le Fields on Tuesday 13th September**. This is a 2-acre NGS garden which has many colourful shrubs and tree-lined cobbled paths. It also features a walled garden, fishpond, pergola with climbers, orchard and open views.

The minibus will leave Lutterworth Leisure Centre at 1.15 p.m. The cost will be £11.00 (£6.50 for the minibus and £4.50 for entry). Refreshments can be purchased on the day.

If you would like to come, please contact Sue Creeden by email: sueandpeter.creeden@talktalk.net or phone 01455 557888.

U3A Garden Group Trip: Easton Walled Gardens



On Thursday 28th July, seventeen members enjoyed a visit to Easton Walled Gardens, near Grantham. This lovely garden featured in award winning garden designer Karen Gimson's presentation at our January meeting.



The Easton Estate's story begins in 1561 when the Cholmeley family took up residence. In their original incarnation, the gardens were a series of walled enclosures framing the manor house. In World War II, the Estate was used as a barracks, during which time a large amount of damage

was sustained, leading to the eventual demolition of the hall in 1951.



Careful restoration and transformation since the early 2000s have brought Easton and its Walled Gardens back to life. And the gardens are delightful.

We were blessed with fine weather, and it was a great day out!



Mandy Cutler.

U3A HISTORY GROUP: Sezincote Trip

On a sunny Thursday 4th August, fifteen members visited Sezincote House and Gardens near Moreton in the Marsh in the Cotswolds.



Sezincote is a traditional, family-run estate covering 3,500 acres of countryside and at its heart stands a 200-year-old Mogul Indian palace, created by the nabob Charles Cockerell in 1805.



Sezincote is credited with influencing the design of the Brighton Pavilion after a visit by the Prince Regent in 1807.

There is an extensive winding drive up to the palace and the gardens, designed with the help of Humphrey Repton, are amazingly beautiful – with temples, grottoes, waterfalls and canals.



The tour of the house was equally fascinating and informative and, as you can see, the interior is classically English.

It really is a gem of a place to visit and one that I would highly recommend.

Mandy Cutler.

WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

George`s August 2022 Long Walk

Weather is always a consideration when deciding to go on a walk. Usually it is how wet and stormy it is . This year's Long Walk was cancelled because it was too hot with a forecast of 30+! I'm sure the 12 members who signed up to go would have got round the 10 mile course but it could have been stressful rather than enjoyable. The plus side is I don't have to find a new walk for next year!

George Robertson

* * * * *

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

August 2022 Walk Report

The morning was warm and dry and the walk, led by Mike and Lesley Chapman, attracted a goodly total of 25 starters from the Red Lion in Huncote.

The proposed route to cross the old sports ground had to be adjusted because it has been closed due to methane gas issues (it was once a gravel pit that had been landfilled).

We headed across the very parched fields to Thurleston, and then through Normanton Park, where we stopped for a break overlooking a picturesque lake with an amazing amount of duck activity. Continuing, we then headed back to Huncote via quiet country lanes and field paths.

Mike had meticulously timed the walk to arrive back at the pub at 12:30 and seeing at the break that we were losing time, probably because of the higher than usual numbers and the number of stiles we had to encounter, shortened the break. He was spot on and we arrived back approximately 30 seconds early. Not bad Mike, I'm impressed.

It was a pleasant walk, and for those that don't like hills was a godsend. Thank you Mike and Lesley. We appreciate how much effort is required to lead a walk.

Peter Creeden

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

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

Wednesday 28 September 2022

Walk Organisers : Tony Allen & Paul Butler

Meeting Point and Time : For car sharing - Coventry Road Recreation Ground, 9.15 to leave at 9.20.

Start Time and Location: 10am. The Bell Inn, Main Street, Gumley, LE16 7RU. Tel 01162 790 126. Toilets available, Pre-order lunch – see end of this document.



Directions to start : Avoid narrow country lanes by first going to Lubenham and taking the 3rd turn left, **note** the first turn is into a housing estate (yes we've done it). Continue straight ahead towards Foxton for 1.5 miles and at the T

junction turn left and then **immediately** left again for another 1.5 miles to Gumley. Watch out for the **killer S bend** after the steeply humped canal bridge! There is limited parking at the Bell Inn but Main Street is wide, beware of the sharp granite kerbstones. Mileage is 13.25 miles each way, unless on the way back you miss the right hand turn for Lubenham, as we have done – twice! Who said you learn from your mistakes?

Route and distance : This 5 mile figure of 8 route between Gumley and Laughton Domesday villages hasn't been walked since 2019, so don't complain! As many well know, Gumley is renowned for its scenery and this walk is no exception having far reaching views of fields, thickets and hills. Apart from its numerous sheep meadows, the walk only encounters two arable fields, 5 "normal" stiles (all foliage-free thanks to our leaders) and a number of kissing gates. Our route also takes in some short and interesting minor village roads. Total duration is 2 1/4 hours including break, and the Bell is booked for lunch at 12.30pm.

Turning left off Main Street the walk descends South through buttercup/horse meadows and over our first stile to cross a small brook and then swing right along a bridle way to emerge opposite refurbished Gumley Lodge. Walking parallel to the drive (and not on it) we bear right just before the Lodge buildings and climb uphill through the many pleasant sheep meadows. Crossing over our last stile onto a minor road we then enter the eclectic conservation village of Laughton (or should we say hamlet) with its many interesting buildings. Taking our break at the 13th century church of St Luke gives us a chance to admire the fine wattle and daub walls on its boundaries and to study the building itself, which was originally of cobble walling and ironstone. Unusually, the church is not cross-shaped because the North and South naves were removed in 1780, but a quite tasteful East extension was added in 1879-80 by the Victorians. (Thank you Google).



Our return leg to Gumley retraces and extends our entry road before swinging left on to a bridle way which drops down to Gumley Lodge. While doing this it gives us a good opportunity to take in the distant views that couldn't be easily seen on the outward Leg.

From the Lodge it's just a short distance, and unfortunately a steep final climb, to Gumley village and the Bell Inn.

Once there, those of us who haven't been before can look forward to enjoying this cosy beamed Inn in the company of Michelle, Carol and other attentive, friendly staff and regulars.

The mid-day lunch is good, and still reasonably priced despite a recent £1 cost of living inflation - mains being £7.75, desserts £3 (we strongly recommend the blackberry and apple crumble with custard) and coffees £2.40.

For gourmets, the still good value main menu offers more variety for £5 or £6 more.

Enjoy.

Tony and Paul

SNAIL'S PACE WALKING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Mandy

September Walk: Friday 16th September at Monks Kirby, Leicestershire.

Daryl Graham will be leading this walk.



Starting from **The Denbigh Arms**,
Main Street, Monks Kirby Rugby,
CV23 0QX

<https://www.denbigharmsmonkskirby.co.uk/>

We will start at **11am**.

Unfortunately, the pub does not allow us to order lunch in advance, but it is fine to park there.



This is a circular walk of approx. 3 miles. It is flat and there are no stiles. We will walk through the village towards Newnham Paddox Park and then across fields towards Pailton. There is a short walk through Pailton and then back along good paths to Monks Kirby and our starting point.

Lunch

The Denbigh Arms, Main Street, Monks Kirby Rugby, CV23 0QX

<https://www.denbigharmsmonkskirby.co.uk/>

We will order when we return from the walk. The website says no menu is available but an old one still appears to be available under the 'Food and Drink' link at the top of the page. This seems to be very similar to the current menu, but prices are now generally £1 to £2 more. A photo of the up-to-date menu is attached, but not very clear!

If you would like to come along, please let Daryl know by **Tuesday 13th September** by phone or text on **07722904977** or email at daryl.graham@btinternet.com

Directions from Lutterworth to The Denbigh Arms, Monks Kirby

1. At the Whittle roundabout take the 3rd exit onto A4303 and follow this past Magna Park to the A5 roundabout.
2. At this roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Lutterworth Rd/B4027, towards Pailton and Brinklow.
3. Continue on the B4072 through Pailton onto the Coventry Road, still B4207.
4. After about a mile, on a sharp bend, take a right turn towards Monks Kirby.
5. As you enter the village turn left onto Millar's Lane and The Denbigh Arms is on the left, across the road from the church.

New walkers are always welcome. Please contact Mandy Cutler on mandycutler@sky.com or phone **07724 124094**

FRENCH GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue

25 August 2022

We were kindly hosted for a Maigret film by Pearl and Tony Sleeman. The film was enjoyable and not too complicated. The next meeting is scheduled for 22 September at the Methodist Church.

Sue

* * * * *

POETRY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sylvie

The topic for August was "Memories and Nostalgia" - fertile hunting ground for poems but possibly with a tendency towards the melancholy, or at least the wistful.

As always we read from a wide range of poets including Philip Larkin, D H Lawrence, Simon Armitage, Seamus Henry and Dylan Thomas. My personal favourite was Charles Causley's "Eden Rock" which is intensely moving.

September's meeting will be on 29th and the topic is "Love and Relationships".

Sylvie

FIRST WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Co-ordinator :- Peter Moore. Tel.- 07562086800 peter79moore@gmail.com

Date of Walk :- Wednesday 5th November 2022

Driving distance:- 9 miles each way

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

Start Point : Copt Oak Pub, Hardwicke Rd, Narborough, Leics, LE19 3LU.
Leave 10.00am.

Toilets NOT available

Directions to Start :- A426 towards Leicester, at Dunton Bassett cross roads (with Traffic Lights)

turn left on through Broughton Astley to T junction with Coventry Road, turn right towards Leicester, turn left after Railway onto Huncote Road (Honda Dealers on corner), next right onto Hardwicke Road, approx. 80 meters before end, with T junction (the Pastures) turn left into Copt Oak Road and park (the old Road), Pub is behind you, however the car park opposite has a 2 hour parking limit, Please avoid parking fines and park on the road as above. Meet at Tables to Pub.

Order lunch from *Lighter Lunches Menu*, before starting walk. Varied choice of food.

Route and Distance :- Exit the car park onto The Pastures, turn right, ½ mile right at T junction and left into parkland, on through Alliance and Leicester Head Office grounds and Enderby Golf Course, past the interesting Enderby Warren, return through the Maze of Alleys in Enderby and the old Railway track

(Built to haul the Granite from Enderby Quarry) back to The Copt Oak for lunch.

5 Miles. Gentle walk through farmland and back alleys of Enderby

Good choice of Food , extensive lunchtime menu. Gluten free food available.

Summary: Varied walk , mostly field paths and some quiet road walking, fairly flat.

* * * * *

Next Walk: December (to be decided) 2022, 5.25 miles. Easy flat walk on hard standing.

Followed by Christmas Lunch. Details and Menu to follow.

New walk in Bedworth/Bulkington, Navigating 2 canals that join. Very interesting Ramble.

No stiles, as requested

Peter Moore and Kay Bliss

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Michael

photography group august 2022 report

This year we decided to keep going through the holiday period and have had only a small drop off in attendance. August's monthly theme was "Red", and we had a good selection of pictures to view. Our photographer of the month presentation was Simon Baxter, a contemporary professional photographer, and we looked at a selection of his work.

August's topic, "Red" tested our members ingenuity and it was pleasing to see a continuing trend for the submission of new pictures. We had a variety of subjects, but the Post Office was probably the best represented organisation with post boxes being very popular. It was surprising how many different designs of boxes can be found in and around our towns and villages. There were other subjects viewed so have a look at the U3A website in September for a selection of the pictures submitted.

Our photographer of the month, Simon Baxter, started his professional career as a photographer in 2014 while recovering from a serious injury in 2012. Simon lived on the edge of the North York Moors and took part in major "adventure" sports until his injury. Simon had always had an affinity for the "outdoors" and getting out with his camera helped his mental wellbeing during his recuperation. Simon is a landscape photographer and specialises in trees and woodlands. This suggests that his pictures would all be very similar, but the presentation showed how inventive he is in representing his subjects in many different ways.

There was a thought that many of the pictures were too heavily edited to emphasise colours and "atmosphere". While this may be a valid criticism for our type of "hobby" photography, we have to remember that Simon is trying to sell his pictures commercially as "fine art" prints with a need to appeal to a wide variety of people who just want a "nice" picture to hang on a wall.

Inspired by Simon's pictures our monthly topic for September is "Trees". With what seems like an early autumn we may see some colour in our pictures. Although we want recently taken pictures, we hope there will a few pictures from different seasons of the year.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 30th September 2022, 10.00 am, in the Ullesthorpe Village Hall.

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

wlu3acamera@outlook.com.

Michael Bates



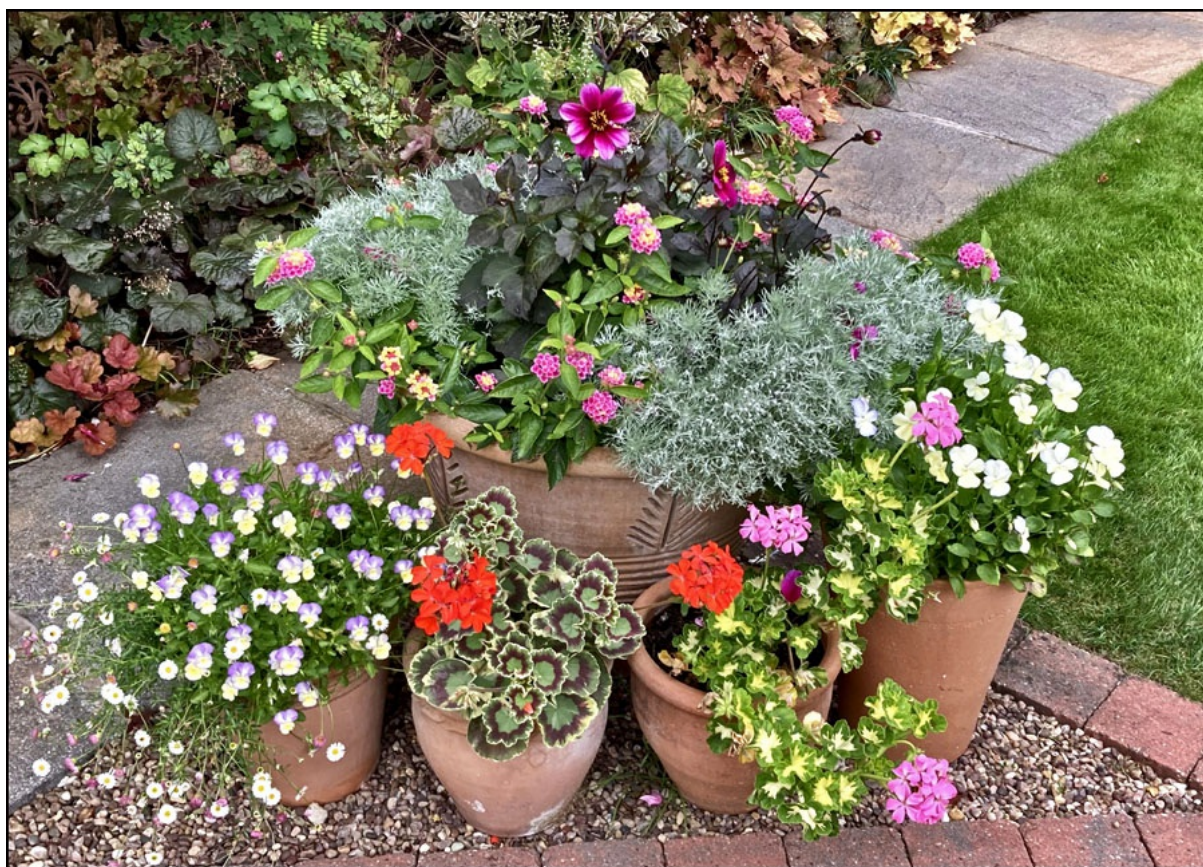


GARDEN GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue

U3A GARDEN GROUP VISIT TO OAK TREE HOUSE, SOUTH KILWORTH

Thirty-two members visited Oak Tree House NGS Garden on the 30th August. Despite the excessively hot weather on the run-up to our visit, the garden, which consists of 2/3 acre of beautiful country garden, looked stunning, with a surprising amount of rich, vibrant colour as well as some lovely pastel hues. The garden is comprised of large herbaceous borders, vegetable plots, a pond and greenhouse, together with an extensive collection of pots and some interesting trees. A dramatic, arched pergola leads you to one of several modern sculptures. This is a garden that is constantly changing with the Seasons. Delicious homemade cake was served with tea on a spacious patio from where the pond with its lovely fountain could be observed at close range. From this vantage point, the whole garden could be glimpsed in all its glory.







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

Wednesday October 19th 2022 at 7.30pm

Turkuaz
1 Green Road
Broughton Astley
LE9 6RA

If you wish to join us please contact us by 14th October at the latest.
Penny and Peter Ross email: penelopeross.ross@gmail.com Tel : 01455 272797

* * * * *

PUB LUNCHEES 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 October we will be visiting The Elms in Lutterworth

The details are as follows:

Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 12.30pm

The Elms
St John's Business Park
Lutterworth
LE17 4HB

If you wish to join us please contact us by 1st October 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

[Return to Contents](#)