

***Monthly Meetings***

**Welcome** to the Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A. We meet on second Thursday of each month at the Methodist Church Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits available from **10am – 10.30am**. An opportunity to meet friends old and new, book exchange, information about trips etc.

Our guest speaker this month is:-

***9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - David Goldsmith 'Coastal Wildlife'***

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**NSPCC**

There will be a brief presentation on Speak Out Stay Safe Programme at our next meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Please see NOTICES if you are interested in volunteering.

*Link for all our [Interest Groups](#)*

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## NOTICES

# NSPCC

## Role Description: Speak Out. Stay Safe. Volunteer

**Role Title:** Speak Out. Stay Safe. Volunteer

**Time Commitment:** A minimum of 2 schools per month (plus initial training) plus attendance at team training events and other role related tasks as required. Minimum commitment 12 months.

### What we're looking for

We need someone to help us protect a generation of children from abuse and neglect. As a *Speak out. Stay safe.* volunteer in your local area you will visit primary schools to deliver *Speak out. Stay safe.* workshops that teach children about the different types of abuse and how they can speak out and stay safe.

### What you'll do

Our *Speak out. Stay safe.* workshops are age-appropriate and memorable and need an energetic and enthusiastic person to deliver them. You'll work alongside other *Speak out. Stay safe.* volunteers to make sure at the end of each session the children feel empowered and know who they can speak out to if they are worried.

In some session's children may speak up and disclose abuse, so you will also be required to sensitively handle this and report any concerns you have about the child. But don't worry you'll get plenty of support and training on this.

### What you'll get

When you volunteer with us, you'll get lots of initial training, which includes practice sessions, home study, and multiple visits to schools to help you learn workshop materials. When you start delivering the sessions, support will be on offer from both your supervisor and other experienced volunteers.

You'll also get the opportunity to learn new skills, be a part of a friendly team of like-minded people and most importantly make a huge difference to children within your local area.

### What we'll need from you

Signing up to be a school service volunteer, is very rewarding but it's also a big commitment, which requires a lot of training, and you will need to deliver a minimum of

two school visits every month, plus attendance at team training events and other role related tasks as required.

We'll also need to do some routine safeguarding checks, including an enhanced criminal record check and at least two satisfactory references with at least one covering a period of five years or more with no gaps. It's nothing to worry about, and we can answer any questions you have about this.

### **Who's right for the role?**

While we think this role is suitable for a whole range of people, we are particularly looking for those with the following qualities and experience:

- ✂ • Committed to NSPCC values and representing NSPCC in the role and beyond
- ✂ • Passionate about children's rights, including their right to be safe
- ✂ • Empathic and perceptive
- ✂ • A Lifelong learner
- ✂ • Flexible and adaptable
- ✂ • Feel comfortable talking to large groups of children
- ✂ • A team player and able to work independently
- ✂ • Basic IT skills, this includes being able to use email, powerpoint presentations, our Volunteer Hub and online meeting platforms such as zoom or MS Teams
- ✂ • Willing to rise to a new challenge



Photography by Tom Hull. Children and adults are models.

**EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

## PLEASE BRING ALONG YOUR USED STAMPS AND OLD TONER CARTRIDGES

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 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 next monthly meeting. Alternatively, you can pop them through her door – 25 Holly Drive, Lutterworth. Sue will then pass them on to Liz.

Also for the **Medical Detection Dogs Charity**, Mary Oldham has a box to collect used inkjet cartridges (but not laser/toner cartridges). Please save these too and bring them along to the next meeting.

**Many thanks.**



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## Snail's Pace Walking Group

### New Walkers Welcome.

We are a very friendly group of people who enjoy a bit of exercise, the opportunity to socialise and a pub lunch afterwards - optional, of course!

**Our walks take place on the third Friday of the month, starting at 11.00am.**

The walks are 3 miles or under, as a guide, and we try to avoid stiles that require a climb!

If you want to come along, you will be most welcome. Just get in touch with me on 01455 251809.

Best wishes, Mandy Cutler

## LIVELY DISCUSSION

Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### **What has caused the decline of Christianity? What are the ramifications for society? How will the monarchy be affected?**

Our discussion ranged across changes in our lifetime as children are not often taken to church or Sunday school by their parents. It was felt that the both world wars had a big effect on the decline in Christianity as people prayed but their prayers weren't answered. Baby boomers of the 60s were searching for other meanings, as well as in some cases trying substances unknown to their elders, and so broke away from what had been the Christian norms. One person wondered how these old norms could be changed from the accepted Church of England teachings and practices. Others felt that they had changed already as people found their own way. Some in the group would like to separate church and state. Since Henry VIII couldn't get his own way about a divorce it meant that the Church of England was formed and the monarch is the supreme head, often despite very many human failings - the so-called divine right of kings.

We moved on to church schools both C of E and Catholic and the difficulty of getting places unless you are a church goer. Some in the group admitted going to church to enable their children to enter a well performing school. Those who had first-hand experience were enthusiastic about the values taught at the schools. One person had boarded at a Catholic school from age 7 and was denied entering the brownies or guides and from being in the swimming team as she was not a Catholic. Another group member highlighted the difficulty of being a teacher without religious belief and having to take assemblies.

The church as an institution is anti-gay, in some cases anti-contraception, anti-abortion and anti-women and this is undoubtedly a contributory factor to its decline. The church was also pro slavery and all these things make it very difficult to accept so-called Christian values. We all agreed with love thy neighbour. It should be recognized that secular doesn't mean atheist.

The paucity of action against child molesters within the church and the shocking behaviour of various archbishops who have failed to suspend and/or report or dismiss the perpetrators must be a big disincentive for people to join the church.

We are heartened by King Charles having recently met 30 faith leaders and hope that this will result in less favour being given to the Church of England and more

inclusion of other faiths. However it was noted that those with no faith would still be excluded.

We are concerned that the 26 bishops in the House of Lords often vote en bloc and have twice changed the outcome of a vote directly benefiting the Church of England. The first time the bishops' votes helped remove a clause in the Equality Act 2010, which enabled the C of E to have wider exemptions in its employment practices. The second vote on the Education and Adoption Act 2016 ensured that C of E maintained schools that are failing can be forcibly converted to academies, which the report says gave the church more control over its schools. This is not democratic as they, along with all members of the Lords, were not elected and the vote was therefore undemocratic. Britain is the only country, apart from Iran, where the church is embedded in the state. Examples are the bishops automatically entering the Lords, daily prayers in both houses and the Archbishop of Canterbury conducting the coronation thus making the head of the church also head of state or vice versa.

Another question we considered was, are we contravening the Human Rights Act by indoctrinating children from a very young age? It was something we couldn't resolve. We agreed that it is too early to see what the effects of the decline in the numbers of Christians in the UK will have on the monarchy. As Charles is also head of 14 countries some of which are in Africa and others seem to be seeking independence, this is very difficult to foresee.

Below is the back ground material provided by the person leading our discussion:

**“Apparently less than half the population of England and Wales identify as Christian for the first time since the Dark Ages” – 42.6% - from 2021 Census.**

**In 2020, the year before the census was taken, the British Social Attitudes Survey asked:**

“Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion? If you answered yes, it asked which religion? It found that 53% of British adults said they had no religion, while 37% identified as Christian. This seemed to us to be a far better way of collecting the data since the Census asked whether you identify as Christian without giving the opportunity to say you had no religion.

**The National Secular Society**, which has long campaigned for religion to be separated from the state, said the census data depicted a population that has moved away from Christianity.

“These figures illustrate that Anglican establishment, Church of England clerics in the legislature, state-funded faith schools, daily prayers and worship in parliament and schools are all inappropriate, hopelessly outdated and fail to reflect the country we actually live in,” said Stephen Evans, its chief executive. “The current status quo, in which the C of E is deeply embedded in the UK constitution, is unfair and undemocratic – and looking increasingly absurd and unsustainable.”

**Andrew Copson, the chief executive of Humanists UK**, said the census results “confirm that the biggest demographic change in England and Wales of the last 10 years has been the dramatic growth of the non-religious. They mean the UK is almost certainly one of the least religious countries on Earth. One of the most striking things about these census results is how at odds the population is from the state itself. No state in Europe has such a religious setup as we do in terms of law and public policy, while at the same time having such a non-religious population.”

Michael Coren in The New Statesman article: “The War on Christian Values” says:

**“But given that we follow a first-century Jewish rabbi who was terrifyingly revolutionary, and preached a way of life that would change the world, you’d think we could interest younger people who are often profoundly spiritual and searching.”**

### **What has caused this decline in people who identify as Christians?**

1. Baby boomers forgo church and their children have no exposure to church
2. Realization that one can determine who they are themselves without being defined by religion or the church
3. Experience of war and its horrors left many disillusioned with faith and religion
4. Alternative faiths more common due to immigration and travel
5. Scandals and wrong doing amongst the clergy and its hierarchy
6. The complete dislocation between the vast majority of the population and the institutions of the Christian church
7. Schools’ treatment of Christian teachings is combined with other religious teachings. No Christian assemblies.
8. Christians tend to be older and they’re dying off!

### **What are the ramifications for our society?**

1. Challenges to religious institutions and their beliefs especially by the young
2. Individualism encouraged by political leaders and other influencers
3. Many more opportunities for people to express themselves, their views and values
4. Role models from outside Christian institutions such as celebrities, sports professionals etc. who espouse effort and commitment will lead to fulfilment and recognition
5. 4,632 C of E state schools have less right to their status
6. The only other country that reserves seats in its legislature for clerics is Iran
7. A significant share of public broadcasting is devoted to Christian programmes



## **How will the monarchy be affected?**

The divine right of kings is a political and religious doctrine of royal and political legitimacy. It asserts that **a monarch is subject to no earthly authority, deriving his right to rule directly from the will of God.**

Our Coronation seems supports this doctrine with the anointment proceedings.

### **Effect on the Monarchy**

1. It means they only represents 37% of people in Britain (from Social Attitudes Survey 2020)
2. The monarch swears an oath to uphold the Church of England and maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England. And will you preserve unto the Bishops and Clergy of England, and to the Churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges, as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?
3. 26 Bishops sit in the Lords but only represent one religion in Britain. (Bishopric of Manchester Act 1847).
4. Minority faiths have no formal relationship with the State
5. Those who are of No Religion are not officially represented at all by their monarch.
6. The notion that members of the Royal family are direct descendants of God! (And therefore not directly descendants of Allah, Buddha etc.)

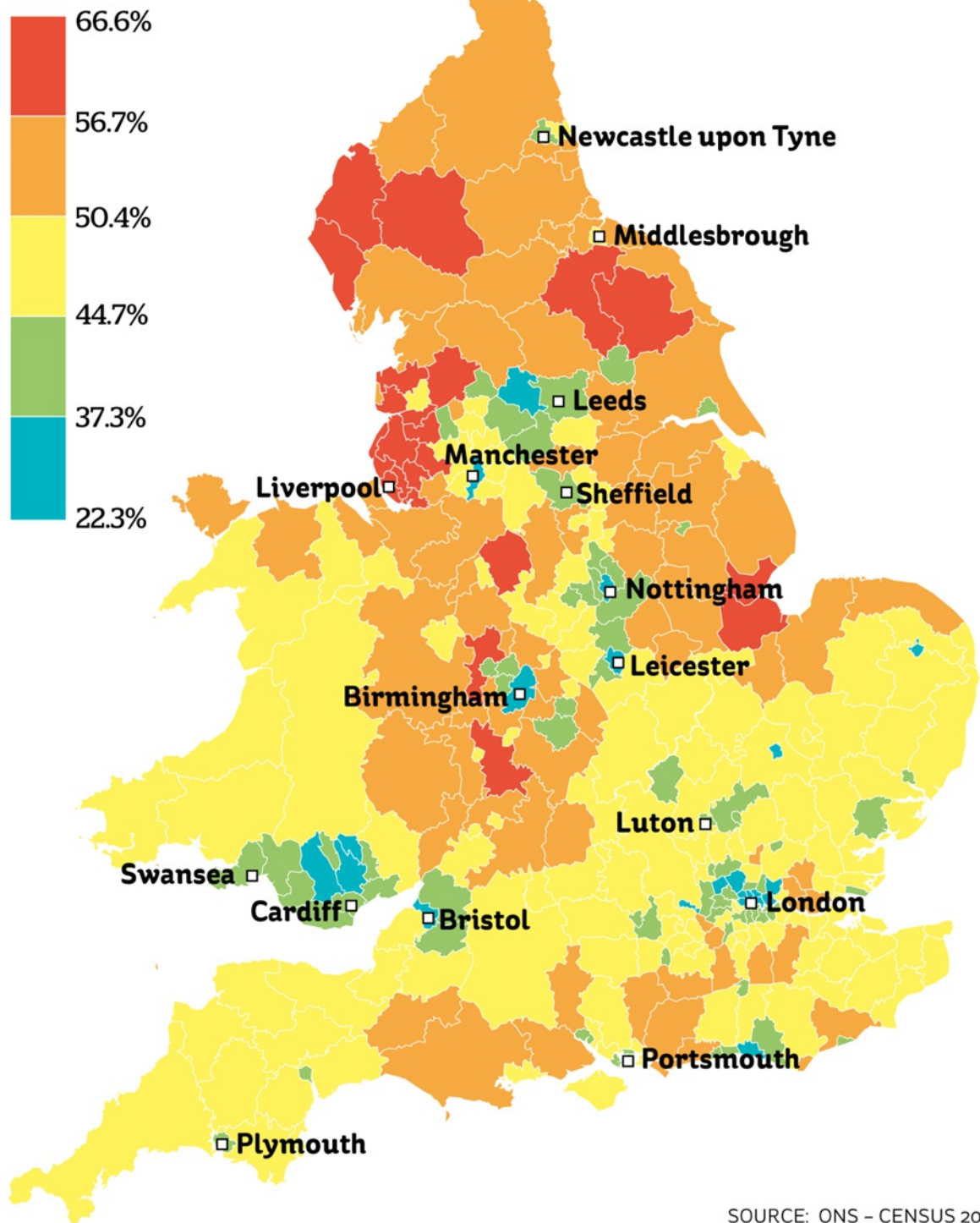
## **Decline of Christianity in Britain**

England and Wales are now minority Christian countries for the first time since census data collection began in 1801, with fewer than half the population describing themselves as Christian, and a big increase in the proportion of people saying they have no religion. The changes are significant in a country with an established church. The Church of England is afforded influence and privileges that some argue are out of kilter with a falling proportion of the population identifying as Christian.

A major obstacle is the public face of Christianity so often depicted, not entirely unfairly, in media. We hear of activists when they oppose equal marriage, make homophobic statements and protest against women's reproductive rights.

## Percentage of Christian people by local authority

England and Wales



According to the most recent census data, taken in 2021 and published this year, 46.2% of the English and Welsh population say they are Christian, a decline of 13.1 percentage points since the last census in 2011. Even so, Christian remained the

most common response to the religion question. “No religion” was the second most common response, increasing by 12 percentage points to 37.2% since 2011.

London was the most religious city, mainly because of its diversity, while the least religious places were all in Wales – Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Rhondda Cynon Taf. In England, the least religious places were Brighton and Hove, Norwich and Bristol. All four places were majority “no religion”

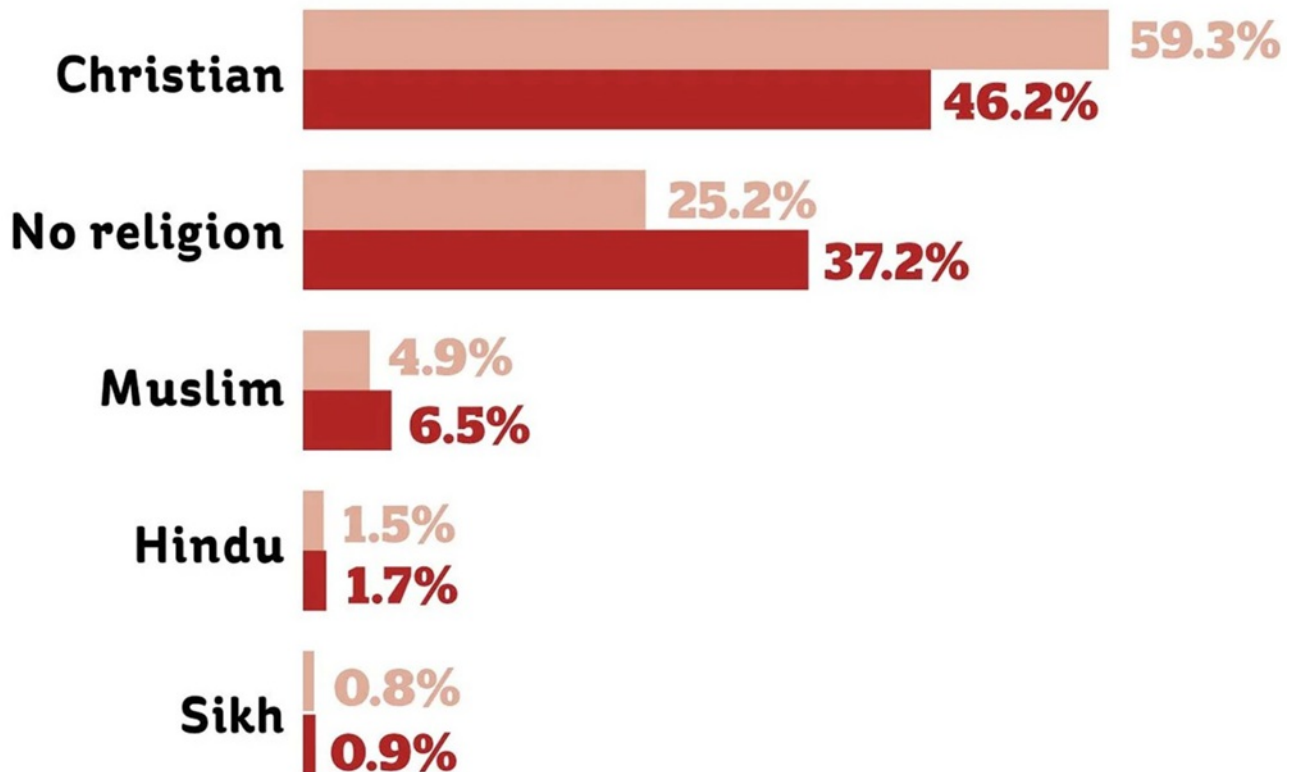
Some of the decline in Christian identification was due to age, said Prof Linda Woodhead of King’s College, London. “The Christian population is quite an aged population, and therefore the death rate affects it. People are simply dying,” she told a briefing organized by the Religion Media Centre. She added: “But it’s also about not passing on religion to your children.” In Christianity, faith was not being passed down generations, she said, whereas “it’s happening much more effectively in Islam and Hinduism”.

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# Religious composition of England and Wales

■ 2011 census   ■ 2021 census

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The National Secular Society, which has long campaigned for religion to be separated from the state, said the census data depicted a population that has moved away from Christianity. “These figures illustrate that Anglican establishment, C of E clerics in the legislature, state-funded faith schools, daily prayers and worship in parliament and schools are all inappropriate, hopelessly outdated and fail to reflect the country we actually live in,” said Stephen Evans, its chief executive.

“The current status quo, in which the C of E is deeply embedded in the UK constitution, is unfair and undemocratic – and looking increasingly absurd and unsustainable.”

A 2017 YouGov poll showed that 1 in 5 are Humanists and a third hold Humanist beliefs.

**Humanism** is defined as: An appeal to reason in contrast to revelation or religious authority as a means of finding out about the natural world and destiny of man, and also giving a grounding for morality...Humanist ethics is also distinguished by placing the end of moral action in the welfare of humanity rather than in fulfilling the will of God, using science in the place of faith.

Humanists UK President Shappi Khorsandi commented, 'Humanist is the word people use to talk about a way of thinking that is based in logic, evidence, and reason, but also kindness and warmth to our fellow human beings. It's no surprise to me to see that humanism is in the ascendancy. If you turn on the TV on any given weeknight, you'll see prominent humanists like Stephen Fry, Tim Minchin, Sandi Toksvig, and Sara Pascoe making us laugh, or Jim Al-Khalili or Alice Roberts teaching us something new. Go to a library and every shelf will have a humanist on it, whether that's Ian McEwan or George Orwell, or George Eliot, or Virginia Woolf. Humanists are people who shape their own lives in the here and now, because we believe it's the only life we have. We make sense of the world through logic, reason, and evidence, and always seek to treat those around us with warmth, understanding, and respect.

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

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

## **2023 TOPICS**

- January – What has caused the decline of Christianity? What are the ramifications for society? How will the monarchy be affected?
- February – Will Sunak make a good Prime Minister, and will he last till the next election?
- March – Early years' education, a luxury or a sound investment?

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## GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden  
01455 557888

We were very lucky with the weather for our first ride of the New Year. It was rather breezy but bright - and dry! Seven members, all keen to burn off those extra festive calories, set off from Ullesthorpe Garden Centre, headed to Bitteswell and then turned left for Ashby Parva. We then had a lovely downhill 'whizz' in Dunton Lane to reach Dunton Bassett. Very unfortunately, one member picked up a thorn in her tyre en route so she, together with a very chivalrous gentleman rider, were forced to walk 3 miles back to the Garden Centre. The rest of us pushed our way uphill and down dale through Leire and on to Frolesworth. As we turned back towards Ullesthorpe we met the full force of the wind. We were already tiring somewhat so we made the decision to take the shorter route back to Ullesthorpe rather than riding through the Claybrookes. Once we'd achieved the summit of the steep hill into Ullesthorpe (some of us on foot!) we returned to the Garden Centre via Ashby Parva where our friends that had to walk were waiting for us. Coffee was certainly very welcome.

The next ride will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February. If you fancy joining us, we will be very pleased to see you. Electric bikes welcome. Just email me - [sueandpeter.creeden@taltalk.net](mailto:sueandpeter.creeden@taltalk.net) or call me on 01455 557888.

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## HISTORY REPORT

### Report for the History Group Meeting held in December 2022

In the first part of our December meeting Mike gave an interesting presentation on the theme of *Continuity and Change in History* using a selection of artworks and photographs as illustrations. Paintings by Old Masters, such as Constable's landscapes, can be used to great effect to illustrate how landscape changes over time. The same is true for photographs where it is possible to compare scenes from virtually the same standpoint, despite many years separating the images. Mike went on to show us how many artists and photographers use visual 'signposts' to set the scene and arrange the picture and to lead the viewer into the heart of the image. Similar motifs recur, such as a church steeple, a tall chimney or a bend in a river and the tricks are adopted by modern photographers as much as the artists of the past. We too can stand in a place and see the same church towers that Constable saw. The similar skills adopted by artists and photographers enable the viewer to appreciate depth and detail in the image. It was interesting to see how the passage of time had often radically changed the scenes, especially in the city photographs but also how often many remnants of the past are still present if we look.

Many thanks to Mike for his fascinating presentation.

After tea, in order to get us started on thinking about the festive season we had a taste of the past celebrations as Viv had baked some celebration cakes using historic recipes for everyone to try.

The first were 'Maids of Honour' tarts. This recipe dates from the reign of Henry VIII and it is a sweet curd cheese tart. The story is that Henry himself named these sweet treats after his wife, Catherine of Aragon's ladies in waiting. They were a common Tudor treat at Christmas in wealthy households. The second recipe dated from 1760 and were called 'Twelfth Day Cakes'. They would be eaten on January 6<sup>th</sup> when a charm or bean would be placed inside one. This ancient custom links back to the raucous pre-Reformation Twelfth Night parties and the Lord of Misrule. The finder of the charm or bean would become King for the evening and rule over everyone and order silly forfeits. (It was a sort of topsy-turvy joke much enjoyed by all). These buns were a version of our modern Christmas cake but with some differences. For example, they contain only currants, orange peel and chopped almonds rather than the full array of mixed fruit we use today. They only had plain flour, so the raising agent is stiffly beaten egg whites. The cakes would be presented thickly iced which would



often be coloured pink (by cochineal then). They sound rather solid but actually, they are relatively light. Both cakes are much less sweet than what we are used to today. They would have been expensive treats.

Everyone bravely tested these and luckily, everyone survived!

Viv







1. Our next meeting is on FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 at Ashby Parva Village Hall at 2pm. The topic will be 'History all around us'
2. We will also be deciding on our trips out later in the year. Members should have already received an email about these suggestions.
3. The March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our Family History special.

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## **FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP – Jan walk**

### **January 2023 Walk Report**

The January walk is always problematic and this one proved not to be the exception.

A wet December made choosing a route that didn't have too much mud a difficult task. A wet start and then a bitterly cold January meant that the ground did not have any opportunity to dry up a bit.

The 23 walkers started, on a cold, damp and misty morning, setting off along the road from Leire towards Dunton Basset. Leaving the road we crossed a field badly churned up by horses hooves but mercifully was still partially frozen which made the crossing better than expected and not too muddy. However, you had to watch your ankles. Once across the field the walk grinded to a halt because Sue (the back marker), rang to say that a "group", I'll not say who to avoid their embarrassment, had departed late but had become split. It was decided to get them to arrange to make their own way to the drink stop at All Saints Church in Dunton Basset. This is not the full story as I have decided to edit it otherwise this report would become a full scale novel, and I don't think you would believe it anyway. Reaching Dunton Lane we turned left up the hill instead of following the footpath beside the mill as we knew from our recce that the group would not be happy wading through about 18 inches of water and mud to get through a kissing gate.

On reaching the church we stopped for the break and met one of the late starters but not the other two. Eventually they also arrived wanting their coffee but were advised that there was no time as we were about to set off.

Leaving Bennet's Hill we entered the footpath across the fields to Broughton Astley. I was not the flavour of the month on this section with very sticky mud. It culminated in an incredibly difficult short slippery slope that needed a hand from Stephen and Trevor (thank you guys) to pull us up. I believe that I got a red card for this which is something I have not had for a long time.

From then on the walk went reasonably uneventfully turning at Broughton Astley then over Clump Hill before descending to Stemborough Mill. Once on the lane it was straight back to Leire where we took a slight diversion round Back Lane to end up returning to the start on the Frolesworth Road.

A lot of the walkers adjourned to the Holly Bush at Ashby Parva for lunch as The Queens Alms were not open (another story).

Peter Creeden

## FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP – next walk

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

### **Wednesday 22 February 2023**

**Walk Organisers :** Tony Allen and Paul Butler

**Meeting Point :** Coventry Road Recreation Ground at 9.15 to leave at 9.20.

**Start Point and Time :** The Bell Inn, Main Street, Gumley, LE16 7RU.

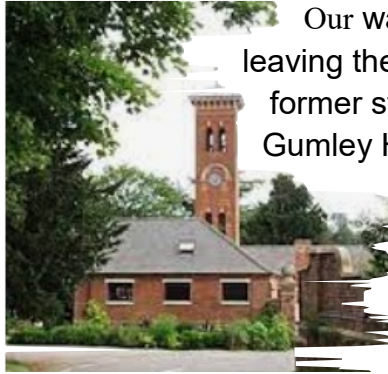
Tel 01162 790 126. Toilets available. Pre-order lunch (see end of guide) at 9.45am. Leave at 10.00am.



**Directions to start :** Avoid narrow country lanes by first going to Lubenham and taking the 3rd left signposted Foxton. After 1.5 miles left at the T junction and immediately left again for another 1.5 miles to Gumley. Watch out for a **sharp S bend!**

Although parking at the Bell Inn is limited, Main Street is wide but lined with sharp granite kerbstones. Return trip is 26.5 miles.

**Route and distance :** The Gumley area remains a favourite of ours because of its rolling scenery. When we walked this 4.7mile circular route to Saddington in 2018, 2022 and again last January, the mix of quiet roads, meadows, and views from Smeeton Hill were memorable. No obstructions except for 2 step-over bars on the Langton Brook foot bridge, and 2 gateways may be a bit muddy.



Our walk to Saddington follows the Leicestershire Round. After leaving the Bell Inn we head up Main Street past the Italianate former stable block (now residential property) of (demolished) Gumley Hall, and then skirt pretty 14th Century St Helen's Church to enter our first meadow.

Leaving the meadow we cross a minor road and through a field gate, or over an ingenious post and chain hinged stile if necessary, before traversing more sheep meadows to arrive at steep Smeeton Hill. Up there we'll pause to regain our breaths and admire the splendid panoramic views including Saddington reservoir (please note that the clearly elevated picture shown was taken from a drone).



Proceeding from there, we drop down and over Langton Brook and climb up past grazing horses to reach our (second) Domesday village of Saddington. Here we take our 11am break at (yet another) St Helens church, which thoughtfully has 2 stone benches in the porch.

Once refreshed we leave the Leicestershire Round to pick our way along a track through Manor Farm Riding School and carefully walk along Mowsley Road before shortly turning left onto a quiet road that skirts Saddington reservoir. To get a better view we'll divert along the reservoir embankment (avoiding any fishermen) before re-

joining the road and finally climbing quite steeply up to the Bell Inn, to arrive by 12.30pm.

Those of us staying for the mid-day lunch can look forward to enjoying it in a cosy beamed inn attended by Michelle, Carol and other friendly staff. Food is always good and reasonable - the "special" mains lunch is £7.75 and the "special" dessert £3, including our favourite blackberry and apple crumble with custard in a jug (pre-ordering advised). There's also a coffee machine to round things off.

Tony and Paul

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## **FRENCH GROUP**

### **Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

We talked about the Christmas holidays, and did a quiz on the French language. It was good to get together again. The next meeting will be on 23 February 2023.

Sue

## **1st WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP**

**Joint Co-ordinators :- Peter Moore & Kay Bliss    Mob:-07562086800**

**Date of Walk :- Wednesday March 1st 2023. email.- [peter79moore@gmail.com](mailto:peter79moore@gmail.com)**

**Driving distance:- 9 Miles each way.**

**Walk leaders :- Peter Moore & Kay Bliss. email.- [peter79moore@gmail.com](mailto:peter79moore@gmail.com)**

**Tel.-07562086800**

**Meeting Point and Time : Royal Oak Pub car park Brandon at 9.45 am.**

**Start Point : Royal Oak Pub, Station Road, Brandon, Coventry. CV8 3HR    Leave 10.00am.,  
Toilets available.**

**Directions to Start :** At A5 Magna Park island, Take 2nd exit signed Pailton and Brinklow. At tee junction TL signed Bretford, at Queens Head TR signed Brandon, follow one way left circle to Royal Oak car park. If you get to the River bridge, you've gone too far. Assemble on patio seating.

**Route and Distance:** Exit the car park , turn left up hill to sharp RH bend, SO to footpath, follow track, TR into Bretford for Coffee break, continue over River Bridge, TR at bend, follow track into Wolston and return to Royal Oak for lunch.

**No stiles. 5 Miles. A pleasant walk through farmland and Brinklow Heath , with the young River Avon for company.**

**2-4-1 Lunchtime food offer.**

**Good and varied choice of Food , extensive Lunch time menu. Gluten Free Food available.    Order before Walk.**

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

**Next Walk. WEDNESDAY April 5th 2023**

**Peter Moore and Kay Bliss**



## ART APPRECIATION

### Frida Kahlo Immersive Exhibition - January 2023

On 13<sup>th</sup> January, eight members of the Art Appreciation Group visited the Immersive Frida Kahlo Exhibition at the Reel Store in Coventry. The Reel Store is the UK's first permanent digital art gallery which explores the relationship between digital technology, visual arts and people. This very interesting venue which included a small café/shop - it sold good coffee but offered a most uninspiring menu – and I quote – white bread with ham, white bread with cheese, white bread with jam (format not mentioned!) which left us opting to retreat to the comfort of the Belgrade Theatre across the road for our lunch, kindly booked for us by a friend of one of our members.

Frida Kahlo is an acclaimed Mexican artist of the 1930s/40s who combines realism, surrealism and fantasy with icons from her Mexican culture to create magical art. The Exhibition covers her personal story including the two most defining events in her life – a bus crash in 1925 that nearly paralysed her and her tumultuous relationship with her husband, the artist Diego Rivera. It is narrated using extracts from her diary and combines academic research with a 360 degree vibrant projection, hands on display and an original soundtrack of traditional European and Mexican music. It provides an unforgettably moving snapshot of her iconic story and also brings her thoughts, emotions and artwork to life. You felt as though you were living her experience which was at times quite harrowing and emotional. Hers is a story of resilience, hope and love. Carla Prat, the Artistic Director of Life and Work of Frida Kahlo at Acciona Cultura quotes as follows:-

*“This exhibition is the culmination of a long artistic and academic exercise to move away from the usual narrative of pain/victim and towards one of resilience, courage, female empowerment and genius.”*

I feel it achieved its objective with a stunning visual/audio display but the lighting in the short Introduction Gallery, where you can read about Frida's life, cast shadows which made descriptions of exhibits difficult to read and sadly there were no original Kahlo paintings.

Val Ridley

## POETRY GROUP

Notes from Thursday's meeting:

For January's session we read the poetry of "Modern Male Poets" , roughly interpreted as poets of the last hundred years. Inevitably there were lots of different topics and styles, however the poems of WH Auden, Simon Armitage and Roger McGough put in several appearances.

My favourite poem was Clive James' "Japanese Maple", a poignant yet uplifting poem written towards the end of his life, and also one of the last poems read to us by Jill Graham, a much missed member of the group.

Next meeting is on February 23rd at Dot's house. The topic is "Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Significant Life Events".

Sylvie



## **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 March we will be visiting a Tapas restaurant.

The details are as follows:

**Wednesday March 8th 2023 at 7.0pm**

**Stanton Lakes**

**Broughton Road**

**Stoney Stanton**

**LE9 4JA**

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

Penny & Peter Ross

email: [penelopeross.ross@gmail.com](mailto: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 March we will be visiting The Hollybush at Ashby Parva

The details are as follows:

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 12.30pm**

**The Hollybush**

**Main Street**

**Ashby Parva**

**LE17 5HS**

If you wish to join us please contact us by 26<sup>th</sup> February at the latest. We need to pre-order our food. The menu can be found on the website <https://thehollybushashbyparva.com/>

Please let us have you choices with your booking.

Penny & Peter Ross

email: [penelopeross.ross@gmail.com](mailto:penelopeross.ross@gmail.com)

Tel: 01455 272797

## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

### January 2023 report

To shake off the effects of the festive season our January picture topic was “10 minutes from home” with the intent of getting us out for a walk with our camera (or phones). We had stretched the topic to allow a car journey so a walk could start a little further from our home. Our group responded with pictures that were taken in January. We had some great pictures with an interesting variety. To see where our members ended up, we will put a selection of our pictures on the Wycliffe U3A website, gallery section.

To introduce our picture topic for February we watched a short video of our own Chris Ridley, with his son, Neil, giving their rendition of the Beatles classic “paperback writer” and everyone enjoyed a very professional production. The topic for February is to submit a picture that is inspired by the title of a paperback book. We can select a book title and take an appropriate picture or find a book title that is associated with the submitted picture.

For our monthly pictures we always try and submit what we feel are “good images. As an additional project for February, we have asked the group to submit an “average” picture that has not been processed. An image that is not bad enough to delete, but one that would not normally be shared. We will look at the picture and ask the author about the image and what they could have done to have produced a better image. We will then ask the group to offer their comments, in their usual constructive and understanding manner. Members who enjoy processing their images will be able to submit an additional processed image of the “as taken” picture.

To finish the meeting, we had a short presentation about the *f64* Group which was formed by prominent American photographers who lived in the San Francisco Bay Area of America in the 1920's. This topic was inspired by last month's talk by Dr. Michael Colechin who uses the same type of large format camera used by the *f64* Group photographers. *f64* group photographers were interested in photographing the monumental landscapes such as Yosemite National Park in California and other western states including New Mexico. The popular style of photography at the time was “Pictorialism” which featured soft focused images, good for studio and portraiture but could not convey the drama of the landscape of Western America.

The *f*64 Group wanted pictures that were sharp from the foreground to almost infinity and to achieve this they used very small apertures which was the basis of their name. One of the prominent members of the group, Ansel Adams, also developed a method of processing his images to give high contrast, which added drama to his pictures. A little confusing is that the larger the *f* number the smaller the aperture so an aperture with a much larger opening may be *f*8. Larger apertures limit the items that are in sharp focus with a little blur in the foreground or background depending on where the focus point is.

Lenses used with our modern cameras generally have apertures ranging from *f*2.8 (large opening) to *f*22 (a smaller aperture) and we briefly looked at why our modern cameras do not generally use apertures larger than *f*22. However, even using an aperture of *f*22 can adversely affect the sharpness of our images in some circumstances.

**In February our meetings will return to our normal last Friday of the month and our next meeting will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 10.00 am, in the Ullesthorpe Village Hall.**

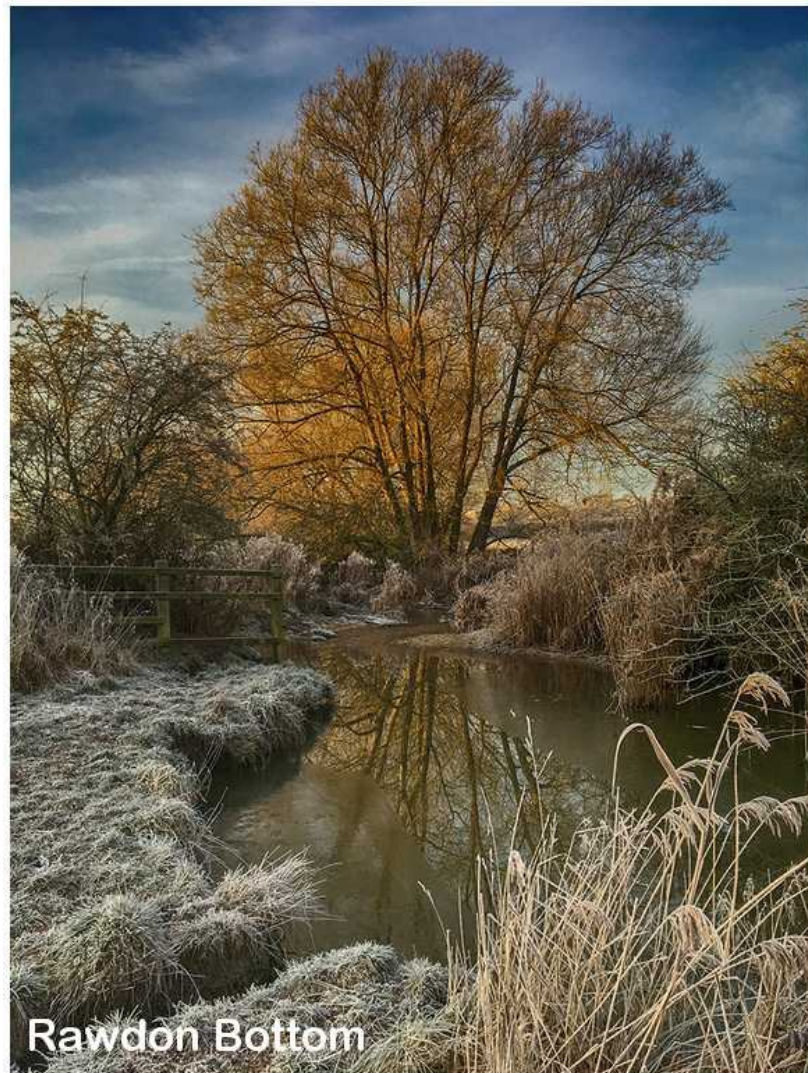
As usual, our meetings are open to all U3A members as a regular or as a guest. If you would like more information e-mail us at the address below.

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

Michael Bates









## SNAIL'S PACE WALKING GROUP

### January 2023 Walk



On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, seven of us enjoyed a really lovely walk around Thornton Reservoir. It was a glorious day, and we were also able to take a brief look around Saint Peter's Church. Parts of the existing church, the aisle and nave, date from the 13th century. When you enter the porch you see the impressive 6' x 9' wooden door, dating from the 14th century; it is believed the door came from the now derelict Ulverscroft Prior

## February 2023 Walk: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Our walk will be at Everard's Meadows near Fosse Park:**

Everards of Leicestershire,  
Cooper Way,  
Everards Meadows,  
Leicestershire, LE19 2AN

0116 201 4101

The walk is on the level on hard paths so we shouldn't have problems with puddles or mud.

### DIRECTIONS FROM LUTTERWORTH

Take A426 towards Leicester,

At the roundabout at the end of Blaby by-pass turn left to continue on A426 towards Leicester.

When you reach A563, Soar Valley Way turn left towards M1, M69 and Fosse Park Keep in the left hand lane.

At the second set of lights turn left into Everard's Meadows.

### PARKING

Please bring £3 in cash as the machine only takes cash. The first 3 hours are free but payment is required after that and the cost is £3.

### LUNCH

Lunch is booked for 1 pm at Everard's Beer Hall. The menus are available at:

[www.everardsmeadows.co.uk](http://www.everardsmeadows.co.uk)

We cannot pre-order, so orders will be taken at the table.



### MEETING PLACE

Meet at 10.45 at the Enderby Shield statue outside the beer hall. See photo.

Toilets in the Beer Hall and in Jenno's Coffee House.

### EVERARD'S SHOP

There is a shop on site which sells beer, other drinks, glasses, T shirts etc. And of course, there's the full glory of Fosse Park across the way!

Please let Dot Barnard or Mandy Cutler know if you are coming by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

[dot.barnard@uwclub.net](mailto:dot.barnard@uwclub.net) 01455 208190

[mandyCutler@sky.com](mailto:mandyCutler@sky.com) 01455 251809

### Snail's Pace Walking Group

#### New Walkers Welcome.

We are a very friendly group of people who enjoy a bit of exercise, the opportunity to socialise and a pub lunch afterwards - optional, of course!

**Our walks take place on the third Friday of the month, starting at 11.00am.**

The walks are 3 miles or under, as a guide, and we try to avoid stiles that require a climb!

If you want to come along, you will be most welcome. Just get in touch with me on 01455 251809.

Best wishes, Mandy Cutler



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

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