



Members Bulletin

May 2023

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, on Thursday 11th May is **BHARAT PATEL**

BHARAT PATEL, a local television celebrity with more than 30 years' experience of making documentaries for BBC and ITV, will present tales from his autobiography and enlighten us with his journey from India to Africa to the United Kingdom.

Award-winning reporter Bharat has worked for BBC Radio Leicester, Radio 4, ITV and BBC television. He has covered events which made headlines around the world, including the Kegworth air crash, the death of Princess Diana, the Gujarat earthquake and the disappearance of Madeleine McCann.

But it's not all been about tragedy: he's also interviewed Polly the parrot, who spoke five languages, and Wonky, the world's oldest donkey. By the age of eight he had travelled across three continents, ending up in Leicester.

Do come along to the Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A Meeting on 11th May to hear his story.

Table of Contents

<u>NOTICES</u>	3
<u>GENTLE CYCLING GROUP</u>	4
<u>GARDEN GROUP</u>	5
<u>HISTORY GROUP</u>	6
<u>4th WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP</u>	10
<u>4th WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP</u>	11
<u>POETRY GROUP</u>	12
<u>ART APPRECIATION</u>	12
<u>U3A - Snail's Pace Walking Group</u>	13
<u>FRENCH GROUP</u>	15
<u>ETHNIC DINING GROUP</u>	16
<u>PUB LUNCHES GROUP</u>	16
<u>ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</u>	18
<u>1st WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP</u>	23
<u>PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP</u>	25
<u>Committee Members</u>	29

NOTICES

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

GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden
01455 557888

I don't understand what is going on with the weather on Wednesdays! This month it was high winds that made it too dangerous for cycling on our normal day in April.

The next opportunity to get together was the middle of the month but quite a few members were on holiday then. However, three ladies were available to battle against the strong breeze (not as bad as the previous Wednesday) and enjoy a ride. We met at Ullesthorpe Garden Centre again. For some reason the roads seemed particularly busy so we took the quieter route to Ullesthorpe via Ashby Parva. We enjoyed free-wheeling down the hill to Claybrooke Parva and rode on to Claybrooke Magna. Here we turned right and up the hill to Frolesworth. At this point we were cycling straight into the wind and there was certainly some puffing and blowing going on! We then headed down towards Broughton Astley but turned right before the village and back up to Leire. After a short breather, we pedalled up to Ashby Parva and back to the Garden Centre where we found a sheltered spot outside to enjoy a well-earned drink.

The next ride will be on **Wednesday 10th May**. 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 01455 557888.

[**Return to Contents**](#)

GARDEN GROUP

Advance notice:

July Garden Visit - Monday 3rd July, 2pm

Barracca,

Ivydene Close, Earl Shilton,

Leics. LE9 7NR



I have arranged a garden visit to Barracca on Monday 3rd July.

This is earlier in the month than normal to see the garden before it starts to go over.

Barracca opens under the National Garden Scheme.

It is a 1 acre garden with lots of different areas, silver birch walk, wildlife pond with seating, apple tree garden, Mediterranean planted area and lawns surrounded with herbaceous plants and shrubs and patio area with climbing roses and wisteria. There is also a utility garden with greenhouses, vegetables in beds, herbs and perennial flower beds, lawn and fruit cage.

We will meet at Barracca at 2pm. Since it is quite close, we will drive ourselves. Let me know if you need a lift. There is plenty of parking outside the house.

The cost is £8 per person, which includes tea and cake, and you can pay on the day. (no cards)

If you would like to go please **let me know by Friday 16th June**, and preferably before.

You can contact me by email at: dg.gilmorton@btinternet.com

or mobile: **07722904977**

Daryl (Graham)

HISTORY GROUP

Report for the U3A History Group April 2023

Our topic this month was about Law and Order. Viv's presentation on *'How we got our Police Force'* outlined how an organised approach to dealing with crime evolved slowly over the years from the Anglo Saxons to 1950.

For most of that long period of time, our society tended to rely on severe punishments to deter criminals and law and order was a bloody business. It was not until the creation of the first modern police force in the 19thC that crime prevention became a new emphasis. We still have some aspects of Law and Order that date back many centuries. Anglo Saxon Kings such as Ethelbert of Kent wrote our first Law Codes, which set out both the Royal laws and the punishments for breaking them. From those we get the use of Fines, carefully assessed as appropriate to the crimes and initially levied as 'Wergild' or compensation for injuries. This was a big step forward from the violent retribution of Blood Feuds that had prevailed in the very early Saxon period. Saxon laws also introduced the practice of Trial by Jury, which we retain today. One Saxon approach lasted into the early 19thC. This was the 'Hue and Cry' where it was the duty of every local adult to drop everything and chase after a fleeing criminal. After the Conquest, more organised chases were carried out by the Sheriff and his 'posse', a name and approach which we all know early settlers took with them to America.

In effect, these early systems were an effort to make the small Saxon communities to police themselves. Some local officials were created by our medieval monarchs. Parishes had to appoint a 'Constable' to act as the local lawman. Towns appointed the 'Watch' to patrol the streets and apprehend wrong doers. Neither of these rather amateur solutions was very effective as these early lawmen commanded little respect and they were open to bribery and corruption as they were not paid. The Counties or Shires had a high-ranking law officer called a Sheriff whose role was to represent the Crown. In the 12thC Henry II created a new office of Coroner to investigate unexplained deaths and incidentally to make sure death taxes were paid to the Crown. These ancient offices became an integral part of our legal system, initially based solely on Royal justice but over time, increasingly based on Statute Law passed by Parliament. The judges who administered justice were of course of high rank as our legal system reflected the hierarchical nature of society.

In the late 16thC the wealthy landowner's role as JPs or magistrates came into greater prominence in local law enforcement, dealing with all kinds of new crimes related to the new poor laws and religious changes besides the usual cases of defending life and

property. These men were also unpaid but it was an honour to be appointed a JP which gave an incentive to carry out the role well, Unfortunately, not all behaved as well as they should! As Parliament's role increased, more and more laws were passed and consequently, more law enforcement was required. Imprisonment was not a punishment for many years. People were held in local gaols or lock ups until the judges came round on their circuit and then many were executed for their crimes. Every town had its gallows as the ultimate deterrent. Between the late 17thC and late 18thC more and more crimes became capital crimes in what we call the era of the Bloody Code. The idea was to deter criminals. Although the Bloody Code blatantly did not work as crime and executions remained at a high level not least because many crimes occurred due to poverty and desperation. It took many years before new attitudes to dealing with crime slowly began to emerge amongst the social elite.

For many years this way of life managed to stumble on without reform as many communities were relatively small and people knew each other. Apart from London, even cities were tiny by our standards. The second city of England in the 16thC was Norwich with a population was about 8000 in the 1520s. There are more people in Lutterworth today. However, the population grew which put pressure on cities like London and then the arrival of the Industrial Revolution caused a major demographic shift as people left rural areas and moved to the new and growing industrial cities. In such overcrowded and anonymous communities, the old ways of self policing clearly no longer worked. It was in that context that Robert Peel introduced a modern Police Force in 1829. At first this was only active in London, but the system was so successful that the approach was widened to include the whole country by the mid 19thC.

The big difference was that this was a professional force, well trained and well paid enough to avoid them being targets for bribery. The men were chosen for their physical fitness and presence and also their integrity. They had smart uniforms which gave the force an identity. Unusually, our policemen did not carry any weapon apart from a truncheon. Their job was not only to catch criminals but to prevent crime so patrolling and their visible presence was a key factor. As the power of this new way of approaching crime grew, most of the laws of the bloody code were repealed and large new prisons were built to deal with most criminals in a different way.

By the beginning of the 20thC, the system was well established and each town had a police station and each village had a police constable. Lutterworth is said to have the first purpose-built police station in 1843. It was a showpiece, complete with an office, cells, a house for the superintendent and even attached to the Magistrates court. Policing itself was evolving, from the adoption of modern methods such as photographic records to using early forensics with fingerprints in the 19thC. Later, they began to use motorised transport. Again, Lutterworth was a trail blazer, being the

first county force to use motorbikes and cars in 1931. The Police also became better trained and better organised. Although the first female officer was appointed in 1920, women remained in subordinate roles.



After tea, we examined some real local cases which had been dealt with by our local police and magistrates in the 19thC. We divided into small groups and the task was to decide what punishment was meted out by the magistrates for each crime, from a list of options. There was a variety of crimes to consider, such as drunk and disorderly singing in the street, stealing a live rabbit from a garden, poaching trout and one odd case of polluting a river. There were some nasty physical attacks. One disaffected group attacked the Vicar outside Lutterworth Church. In another case, a landlady hit a man with a poker when he swore at her.

At the end, we compared our decisions with what really happened. Sadly, it seemed none of us would have made the grade as a 19thC magistrate! It was clear that some of these crimes were committed out of poverty and desperation, but the fines issued did not take such social issues into account and the punishments seemed very onerous. We couldn't see how the fines would be paid. Some cases were dismissed, notably the one where the woman had hit the man. The Magistrate said he had brought it on himself and deserved it! I doubt our courts would take such a view today.

this drunk and disorderly wife beater of Willoughby Waterless was convicted and fined £1.4s

costs.

Edward Malleband, of South Kilworth, pleaded guilty to a charge of being drunk and riotous. at South Kibworth, on the 29th April last, and was fined £1 3s., including costs.

Joseph Warden, of Willoughby Waterless, was charged with a similar offence, at Willoughby, on the 6th of May.—Defendant pleaded that he was neither drunk nor sober, and that he was only singing a comic song, and on being asked what the song was said it was not an awkward song; it was "Medicine Jack." Defendant also said he was just in a singing order, and that, although he said it, he could sing a very good song when he was half drunk.—Sergeant Hinman stated that he was on duty at Willoughby on the day in question about three p.m. He heard a great screaming and shouting, and on proceeding to the spot found that defendant had been beating his wife. He was drunk, and came up to witness in the street, and he wished him to go home, but he would not for a length of time.—

CASE 5

WILLOUGHBY WATERLESS 1873

Future meetings

1. Our next meeting is on **TUESDAY MAY 2nd**. It is our visit to the Church followed by the Jeyes Museum in Earls Barton, Northants. Please meet at the church in Earls Barton to **start our tour at 1.30.**
2. We are back in the Ashby VH for our **6th June meeting**. Topic TBA.

[Return to Contents](#)

4th WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

April 2023 Walk Report

We gathered at the Bulls Head in Brinklow. The weather was dry, a little cool, but the sun was shining. George Robertson led 21 walkers in the direction of Cathiron Lane. After walking for a short while we left the lane and joined the Oxford Canal towpath. Just before Hungerfield Bridge we turned back to Cathiron Lane. Crossing the lane we entered the fields and just as we sighted the marina we did a sharp right in the middle of the field and made our way up to Highfields, a deserted building. We stopped here for a break. Because of its elevation we had wonderful views over the open countryside. Moving on we joined Little Lawford Lane which took us round to Kings Newnham with its 12th century tower which was originally attached to the long gone church of St. Lawrence. Back into the fields we passed the edge of Chapel Wood with the bluebells just out but not yet in full profusion. From then on it was across fields back to Brinklow.

A delightful walk. Thank you George

Peter Creeden

4th WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

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

Wednesday 24 May 2023

Walk Organisers: Sue and Peter Creeden

Meeting Point For Lifts:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at **09.10am** to leave at **09.15am**. **Please note earlier time.**

Start Point and Time:- The Bricklayers Arms, 213 Main Street, Thornton (Postcode LE67 1AH) at 10:00am. The toilets will be available.

Directions to start:- M1 north. Exit Junction 22. Then follow the Thornton signposts. At roundabout 1st exit onto Cliffe Lane. Straight across next roundabout. Next left into Elliott's Lane. Straight over crossroads into Broad Lane which becomes Markfield Lane. At T junction left into Main Street. Pub is on left after school. There is limited car parking space so it may have to be on the road.

Route and Distance:- We last lead this walk in 2016. We will head off up Main Street and then left to cross several fields to reach the Ivanhoe Trail (Cycle Route 63). This passes through Forest Hill Golf Course to Ratby Burroughs Wood. Hopefully we will pass around Old Hays Farm providing the footpath is not too muddy but we may have to do a slight detour and go onto Ratby Burroughs passing the Bali Bombing Memorial. We then head across fields to Bondman Hays and then more fields to reach Thornton Lane. Walking carefully along the road for 100 yards we then crossover and enter fields that will take us to Thornton Reservoir. We then walk round the reservoir until we reach the back entrance to the Bricklayers Arms climbing up to the pub. The terrain is undulating along a mixture of lanes, footpaths and across fields. The distance is approximately 5.75 miles with 7 stiles.

Lunch Arrangements: We can eat in the pub and choose our meals before setting off.

[Return to Contents](#)

POETRY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sylvia

April's topic was "Food and Drink" and we covered a wide range of poems- descriptive, funny, seductive, sinister. Fruit was a common feature: blackberries, plums, strawberries, oranges and many others, but we also had poems featuring such delicacies as cheese and pickle sandwiches, apple crumble, and fish and chips .

One of my favourites was "Strawberries " by Edwin Morgan. This is a gorgeous poem of strawberries, sunshine and love.

May's meeting is on 25th and the topic is "Entertainment, Passions and Diversions."

ART APPRECIATION

Co-ordinator: Ursula

Our April session had the topic "THE FUTURE OF OUR MUSEUMS".

We all prepared specific aspects of this issue in order to find suggestions, possibly answers to the present situation. Background information ranged from the History of the British Museum over life as a museum's guard, the rivalry between Paris and London museums and falling visitor numbers to the question: Should artefacts, held in museums, be returned to their country of origin (Elgin Marbles, Benin Bronzes...) and of course the solution attempts of returning works of Art, confiscated during the Third Reich. And finally the historic rewrite of museum's labels, getting rid of outdated descriptions and the minefield of replacing certain words.

We shone light on all those issues, discussed the details and pros and cons openly and very lively. We agreed, 2 hours were far too short. We will pick up the subject again later in the year, continue with collecting more reports on those important developments.

Next meeting: 25.5.2023 (details t.b.a.)

U3A - Snail's Pace Walking Group

April 2023 Walk



Seven of us braved the elements, walking out of Bitteswell village past the Man at Arms pub, and going left up Woodby Lane. When we got to the top we avoided the pedestrian access to Magna Park, following Woodby Lane to the left and continuing to walk down to the lake. It was good to see a pair of nesting swans.

We were greeted by other ramblers, one of whom kindly took a photograph of us all and told us about a second lake which can be reached by taking the path through the wood to the left of the first lake. The ground was too boggy to take the track across the field, making a circular route, so we returned by the same route – the rain making a more determined effort at this point!

We had a fun time and enjoyed a welcome lunch at The Royal Oak!

Many thanks to Denise for organizing this walk.

May 2023 Walk: Friday 19th May



We will meet at Manor Farm Shop and Café, Main Street, Catthorpe LE17 6DB. Please meet here at 10.45 am to order lunch. The walk will start at 11.00 am.

The walk takes us through the village, past the Latvian Centre to Lilbourne Church and village.

Whilst most of this circular rural walk is along lanes and quiet roads the last section will be along a footpath and across one field (no stiles). The walk is

2.9 miles.

Directions from Lutterworth to Catthorpe Manor Farm Shop and Café, LE17 6DB

- From Lutterworth, take the Rugby Road down to the A5 Gibbet Cross roundabout.
- Take the second left at the roundabout to the A5 south.
- Just under 2 miles later, the road/signs to Catthorpe will be on the left-hand side. It is called Rugby Road.
- The farm shop is on your left once you reach the village. There is quite a large car park and plenty of room to park on the side of the road if necessary.

Lunch

We will have lunch at the Manor Farm Café. Phone: 01788 869002. You can see the menus by clicking on the following link:

<https://manorfarmcatthorpe.co.uk/the-kitchen/daily-menu/>

Meet by 10.45 am if you need to order lunch.

Contact

Please let me know by **Tuesday 16th May** if you want to come along and whether you are having lunch.

Email: mandycutler@sky.com

Mobile: 07724 124094

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 07724 124094.

Best wishes, Mandy Cutler.

FRENCH GROUP

27 April 2023

This was a relatively quiet meeting with general discussion, personal news and a short translation about the Sacré-Cœur basilica in Paris. The next meeting will be on 25 May 2023. A possible film is being postponed until later in the year.

[Return to Contents](#)

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 May we will be visiting an Indian restaurant.

The details are as follows:

Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm

Little India at Arnesby

St. Peter's Road

Arnesby

LE8 5WJ

If you wish to join us please contact us by 27TH May at the latest.

Penny & Peter Ross

email: penelopeross.ross@gmail.com

Tel: 01455 272797

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 May we will be visiting The Tithe Barn in Cosby. There is a limit of 12 people for this visit and we will need a £5 deposit when you put your name down.

The details are as follows:

Wednesday 7th June 2023 at 12.30pm

The Tithe Barn

Main Street

Cosby

LE9 1UW

If you wish to join us please contact us by 27TH May at the latest.

Penny & Peter Ross

email: penelopeross.ross@gmail.com

Tel: 01455 272797

[Return to Contents](#)

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Visit to - Royal Gunpowder Mills – Waltham Abbey

This April - after what proved to be a very long wait - the group were finally able to experience a highly informative and enjoyable day at the Royal Gunpowder Mills. This visit had been in the “pipeline” since pre COVID, however, during the pandemic the venue was closed for over two years and with a significant dependency on volunteers to operate the site it still has limited opening schedules.

Our group consisted of thirty members (Wycliffe and Lutterworth) departing Lutterworth at 08:00 hrs and enjoying a trouble free journey on the M1 and M25 to arrive at the Mills on time.

The Mills are located in the Lea Valley and occupy around 170 acres including natural woodland and parkland. A large area (approximately 85 acres) is designated a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

We were very fortunate in being looked after by very knowledgeable staff and volunteers, plus we were the only members of the public on the site that day.



Rocket Science

As well as the “gunpowder” element there is a superb Armoury, Rocket Vault, Land Train site tour, Narrow Gauge Railway, Historic Canals (when fully operational the site boasted a three level system and some ten miles of waterway).



Canal Crossroad

The bulk of the former production buildings are now slowly decaying and being overtaken by nature. The routes of the former canals and rusting aqueducts can still be identified. Blast walls of massive construction. Buildings damaged where the odd “incident” may have occurred. The “burning” field – where on a Friday afternoon anything redundant from the weeks development work would be placed and set on fire. A klaxon was sounded throughout the site first!



Water Powered Press House

The “Mills” have existed at Waltham Abbey for over 300 years – the site finally closing in 1991. For most and if not all of that time its function was not widely known due the highly secret nature of its work.

The Mills date to at least the 17th Century but it is unclear when the area first started producing gunpowder. It is recorded that in 1662 a local curate boasted that the mills in his area had blown up five times in the last seven years with no loss of life. Sadly in the centuries that followed accidents occurred with loss of life, but it was through such events improved working practices evolved and legislation introduced. We were informed that there were never any “accidents” on site – merely “incidents”.

The Waltham Abbey Mills were one of three Royal Gunpowder Mills in the United Kingdom - the others being at Ballincollig in Ireland and Faversham in Kent.



Building Incident

The Waltham Abbey Mills originally were involved in woollen cloth making. In the 17th century converted to an “Oyle Mill”. In 1665 it was acquired by Ralph Hudson and gunpowder production started. (Second Dutch War 1665 – 1667).

The Hudson family sold out to William Walton at the end of the 17th Century starting a family connection of almost a hundred years. The Mills expanded and were one of the first examples in the 18th century of an industrialised factory system.

In the 1780’s amid concern of security, quality and economy of supply the deputy controller of the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich then Major William Congreve advocated Waltham Abbey Mills should be purchased by the Crown to secure supplies and set standards against which private contractors could be judged. In October 1787 the Crown purchased the Mills from John Walton for £10,000.

The Mills were able to respond to demand for gunpowder in volume and quality over the period of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars and later the Crimean War, Indian Mutiny and Boer War.

Through this general period of Crown ownership there were considerable developments in explosives and propellants. Gunpowder “black powder” caused considerable smoke and fouling of firearms and weapons involved. Alternative propellants were needed. In the mid 1850’s the site became involved in the development of nitro-based explosives and propellants.

Nitroglycerin was synthesized in 1847 by an Italian chemist Ascanio Sobrero. It was subsequently developed and manufactured by Alfred Nobel as an industrial explosive. This explosive however is highly sensitive.

Guncotton was invented by a German Chemist – Schonbein – in 1846. Guncotton was more powerful than gunpowder but again unstable.

In 1863 Sir Fredrick Abel began Guncotton research at Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills leading to a manufacturing process that made a more stable and safer to handle product. In 1871 Waltham Abbey began producing guncotton for torpedo and mine warheads.

In 1887 Alfred Nobel obtained an English patent for smokeless gunpowder that was named Ballistite. Similar products were being developed in Europe, the US and Russia. Britain conducted tests on all of the types brought to their attention. In 1889 Sir Frederick Abel, James Dewar, and Dr W Kellner patented a new formulation manufactured at the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey. It entered British service in 1891 as Cordite Mark 1. Cordite had many variants over the next decades of WW1 and WW II as MD,RDB,W,RDN,S,N etc.

In 1891 Waltham Abbey produced 2 tons of cordite per week. In 1914 – 26 tons per week. In 1915 – 200 tons of Cordite RDB per week.

During the First World War numbers working on the site doubled to 6200. Most of the additional 3000 workers were female.

Inter war years there was a “quiet” period before anxieties about the future surfaced.

During 1933 TNT was made for the first time at Waltham Abbey. In 1938 RDX was manufactured and developed with a small pilot plant producing 5 tons per week.

Torpex – (RDX, TNT and powdered aluminium) was developed and tested at Waltham Abbey. Torpex was used in the Barnes Wallis designed bouncing bomb and Tallboy “Earthquake” bomb.

In 1943 production of Cordite, Guncotton and Nitroglycerin ceased.

On 28/07/1945 The Royal Gunpowder Production Facility closed.

That is not the end of the story as the site continued as:-

31/07/1945 – Experimental Station of Armament Research Dept.

1946 - Chemical Research and Development Dept.

1948 – Explosives Research and Development Establishment.

1977 – Propellants, Explosives and Rocket Motors Establishment

1984 - Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment. (North Site MOD / South Site Royal Ordnance)

1986 – Royal Ordnance bought by BAE Systems.

1989 – South Site closed.

1991 – North Site closed.

1992 /1996 – Remediation / Decontamination contract on behalf of MOD

1993 – English Heritage starts on site (until 1996)

1997 – Trust takes over.

2021 – Site opens to public as the Royal Gunpowder Mills.

On the return coach journey there was generally high scoring on a “Gunpowder” themed quiz – hopefully an indicator of an enjoyable and informative day.

Colin

ESTG May Meeting 18/05/2023

Our May Meeting takes place on **Thursday 18/05/2023** at Ullesthorpe Village Hall.
10:00 to 12:00 hrs.

Our speaker is **Chris Tarratt** presenting on the **Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen.**

Nansen gained prominence as an explorer, scientist, diplomat and humanitarian.

All members are welcome.

1st WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Joint Co-ordinators :- Peter Moore and Kay Bliss. Tel.- Mob:- 07562086800

Date of Walk :- Wednesday 7th June 2023 email.- peter79moore@gmail.com

Driving distance:- 9 Miles each way.

Walk leaders :- Peter Moore. email.- peter79moore@gmail.com Tel. 07562086800

Meeting Point and Time Shilton Arms. Pub car park. 09.40 to 09.50am.

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

Toilets available.

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

Route and Distance. Turn right out of Pub car park and left at traffic lights, take the Footpath on the right past various Shilton Farms towards Hopsford. Turn right at

Shilton Lodge Farm and onto the footpath. Turn right at bridle way and left at the road towards Hopsford aqueduct, left onto Canal after the steep steps. Exit at Ansty towards Ansty church. Follow footpath back to Shilton via the school, return to Pub for a nice Lunch. **Please be Careful crossing the road.**

Distance. 5.20 Miles 1 stile.

Good and varied choice of food , extensive lunchtime menu. Gluten Free Food available.

Lunchtime special, 2 meals for £16.00p.

Order before walk.

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

Next Walk. Bulls Head, Wolvey. 5 miles, 1 stile.

Peter Moore and Kay Bliss

[Return to Contents](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Co-ordinator: Michael Bates

April 2023 report

In April we had the highest attendance since we returned to our regular “real” meetings, a result of continuing support from our regular members and some “new” faces whom we are very pleased to welcome.

This month one of our members, Peter Sands, gave us a presentation outlining his interest in photography since his early teens. Peter progressed from basic Kodak snapshot cameras to what were considered serious, but budget, Russian Zenith and Zorki 35 mm cameras and on to a high-quality Japanese 35 mm single lens reflex camera. Along the way Peter dabbled in movie making with a very futuristic looking Bolex Super 8 camera, something that would look at home on a Star Trek movie.

In the 2000’s, Peter “converted” to digital photography, the early cameras having what we now consider quite low-resolution sensors. Looking at some of Peter’s early pictures it is hard to discern a big difference in quality from our more modern higher resolution cameras. On his retirement, Peter was treated with a high-end Canon Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera and lenses just in time for a trip to the Galapagos Islands. Since then, Peter has developed his hobby joining a serious Photography Club and, a little less seriously, our own humble U3A group. Peter brought along some interesting heritage photography equipment and his latest very formidable telephoto lens.

Thanks to Peter for a very enjoyable and nostalgic presentation and his continuing experience within our group from which we all benefit.

We continued with our technically challenging monthly topics. In March we asked for demonstrations of focus control, an effect is known as Depth of Field (DOF), and in April we asked for some abstract pictures. This required the photographer to forgo all the instincts in producing pictures, good focus, exposure and sharp images. We were unsure what reaction we would get and were amazed at the response with a huge contribution of images. We had pictures entirely produced in camera using a technique called Intentional Camera Movement (ICM), pictures with ICM and

modified with photo editing software and pictures based on an ordinary picture but heavily modified with software.

For some members, we know their cameras or phones don't allow the user to take a "bad" picture and for those we were happy to see their favourite recent pictures and we had some very nice submissions.

It is difficult to describe the range of pictures we viewed so we urge you to take a look at our gallery pictures on the Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A website.

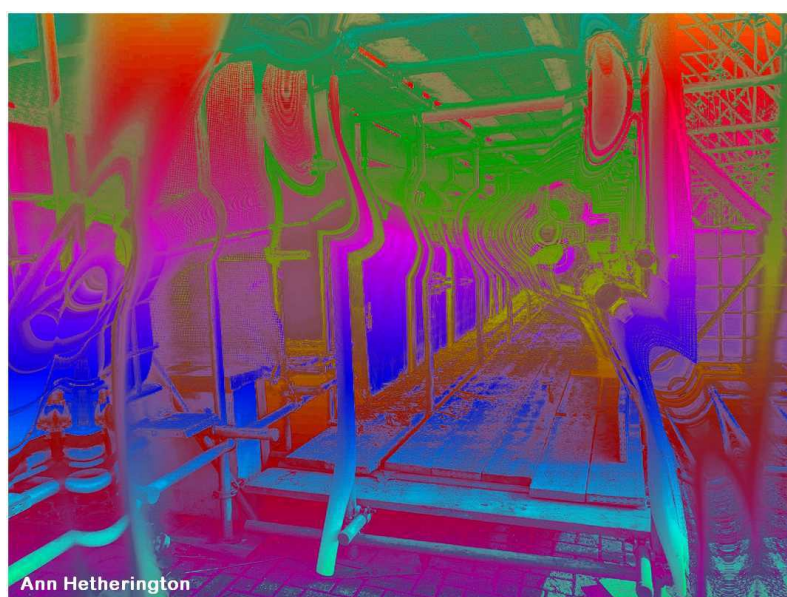
To give everyone's creative juices a rest, our May topic is "Hedgerows and Fields", an attempt to try and catch the colour of spring in our countryside and return to more conventional photography.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 26th May 2023, 10.00 am, in the Ullesthorpe Village Hall.

As usual, our meetings are open to all Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A members as regulars and other U3A members as guests. If you would like more information, e-mail us at the address below.

wlu3acamera@outlook.com.

Michael Bates

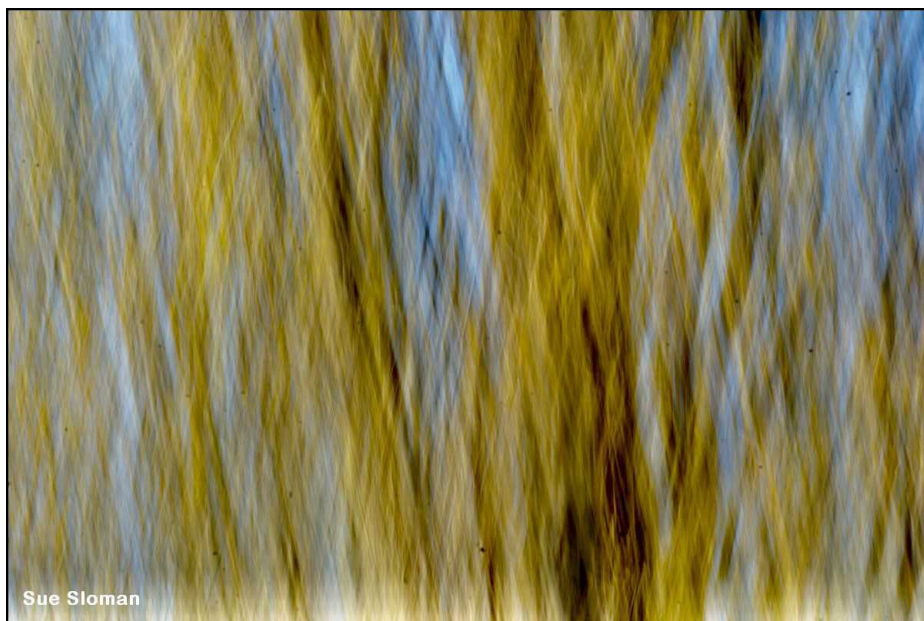




Ian Atchison



Peter Ross



Sue Sloman



Ruth Bones



Trudy Haddon

Committee Members

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>
Chairperson	Colin Beadle
Membership Secretary.....	Andy Hetherington
Secretary	Hamish Paterson
Treasurer.....	Nigel Bones
Groups Co-ordinator.....	Peter Ross
Speaker Finder.....	Andrea Nichol
Minutes Secretary.....	Anne Dean
Beacon Administrator.....	Andy Hetherington
Committee Member.....	Ruth Bones
Committee Member.....	Sue Poulter
Committee Member.....	Michael Bates
Committee Member	Sally Wood

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

thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

[Return to Contents](#)