u3a Wycliffe Lutterworth

Members Bulletin Jun 2024

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:- Bridget Blair on Local History

Table of Contents

Give it a Go – Acting....4

French Cafe Group....4

GENTLE CYCLING GROUP....5

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP....6

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP....7

Malham Holiday Report....8

ESTG – Snibston Report....11

Report for the History group - May 2024....15

PICNIC AT MISTERTON HALL....20

Poetry Group....21

My Interview with Artificial Intelligence ChatGPT....22

U3A Snail's Walking Group – May Walk....30

Art Appreciation Group....33

Photography Group May 2024 report....35

Committee Members....36

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

* * * * *

Give it a Go – Acting

Following an expression of interest from within the U3A, I am proposing to run a one-off drama workshop which will give participants the chance to have a go at delivering a famous monologue from a Shakespeare play and one from a well-known modern farce. The workshop will look at how an actor prepares to tackle the parts and then provide participants with the skills and knowledge to deliver the pieces. I am hoping to get access to a performance stage so we can get the full experience. I am proposing to do this on Thursday 19 September between 3-5 pm. The date and time may be subject to change dependent on the right space being available. I can shape the workshop to suit any number of people interested. This will be great fun, and no one will be put on the spot, although trying to condense a three-year acting course into two hours should prove interesting.

Could all those interested contact me with their mobile number and I'll set this up.

Richard Hill

Email: richardhill711@gmail.com

Mob: 07785 598064

French Cafe Group

23 May 2024

General news and discussion in French. This was followed by a group effort at a French crossword which seemed to be enjoyed.

The next meeting will be on 27 June 2024.

Table of Contents

GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

01455 557888.

Contrary to the forecast, seven of us enjoyed perfect weather for our first ride in May; no rain, little wind and comparatively mild. A miracle! We set off from Ullesthorpe Garden Centre and headed down to Ashby Parva. We turned down the narrow Dunton Lane and, thank goodness, we didn't meet any traffic. Turning left we rode on through Leire and on to Frolesworth. Another left took us up the hill where we turned right to Claybrooke Magna. Cycling through both the Claybrookes we had then had to face the climb back into Ullesthorpe. We always seem to encounter this hill near the end of our ride when our legs are tired! However, once at the top, we could almost smell the coffee back at the Garden Centre but we took the longer, gentler back via Ashby Parva. A very pleasant morning out.

Week two and the weather was even better, warm, calm and sunny. This time we set off from The Elms, Lutterworth and cycled the route of the 11-mile version of Rotary's Big Bike ride but in reverse. We headed across the motorway, down to Misterton and along the footpath to Walcote. Crossing over the A4304 we headed into South Kilworth. We then rode down, up and down the lanes to Stamford Hall. A right turn took us to Swinford and up to Swinford Corner. Plan A was to cycle directly back to the Elms along Swinford Road. However, we realised we had made such good time we would arrive back too early for coffee. The decision was made to take the lane back to Walcote and return via Misterton. We all agreed that May is delightful time of year to enjoy the countryside. The fields are lush and green, the trees are in full blossom and the birds are chirping. A bonus was the quiet lanes. A great morning out.

The next ride will be on Wednesday 5th June.

Why not come and join our friendly group? As our name suggests, the rides – of between 10 and 12 miles - are leisurely. The aim is to get some fresh air and a bit of gentle exercise followed by a coffee and a convivial chat afterwards. All you need is a roadworthy bike and a helmet. Electric bikes welcome. Just email me: sueandpeter.creeden@talktalk.net

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

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

Wednesday 26 June 2024

Walk Organisers:- Rawdon Bottom & Stephen Carter

Meeting Point and Time For Lifts:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park at **09.20am** to leave at **09.25am**.

Start Point and Time: Fosse Meadows Country Park (LE10 3AB), Roman Road, near Frolesworth, around the notice board. There is a portaloo.

Directions to start:- From Lutterworth head out through Bitteswell and Ashby Parva to Frolesworth. Go through Frolesworth towards Sharnford. After 0.8miles approx you will reach a crossroads. Turn left and then after 0.4miles approx. take the **first** Fosse Meadows car park on your right.

Route and Distance:- We set off to Frolesworth on a footpath across fields that are planted in rape but are passable and hopefully by the end of June should no longer be flowering. We then get onto the Leicestershire Round to Claybrooke Grange, Claybrooke Mill and Claybrooke Magna. Leaving the round we walk down the hill to the Pig in Muck. Then walking down Manor Road we pick up the footpath back towards the old Fosse Way and back to Fosse Meadows car park. Distance 5 miles approx. and no stiles

Lunch Arrangements

No pub venue has been arranged but there is the Mason`s Il Cappo Del Caffe Coffee Van based at the car park serving a selection of hot and cold drinks and snacks.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Walk Report – 29th May 2024

This was George Robertson`s second attempt at leading this walk. We were scheduled to do it last week but it was raining “cats and dogs” and despite 11 walkers turning up it was agreed to cancel it. We still do have some sense in our old age!

So today 13 walkers turned up to give it another go. We were rewarded with a lovely dry morning, a bit of sunshine and English countryside at its best.

George lead us off from The Pheasant in Withybrook up Main Street but not taking the planned route because the field was too muddy to join another field path and then onto a minor road and then the lane towards Hopsford Hall. We stopped for an early break before continuing on to go under the railway line and the Hopsford Aqueduct. We then climbed a steep staircase (the hand rail of which was missing at the top at the critical point where the steps disappeared) to join the Oxford Canal towpath. The canal was quite busy. As we entered a cutting we could see high up a bridge that crossed the canal and the railway line. It was a fair old climb up a well maintained staircase to get onto the bridge. After getting our breath back we crossed it to join the driveway towards Mobbs Hill Farm. Leaving the driveway we got onto a footpath crossing two well maintained stiles and also encountering a small herd of extremely frisky bullocks. We then passed through Mobbs Wood to reach a lane that took as back to the pub at Withybrook.

This was a shortish walk but it was a delight to walk. Pleasant company, stunning landscape and very varied terrain. Thank you George. You found a gem of a walk that will be high on my list of walks to repeat.

Peter

Malham Holiday Report

Over 65 of us headed to Newfield Hall Hotel in South Yorkshire for the annual walking holiday. This included 18 members from four other u3a's, the majority coming from the Market Harborough u3a.

Our group size meant we had sole occupancy of the Hall and were able to organise our own activities in the evenings. This included quizzes organised by Mike & Lesley Chapman, another by Geoff Gibbs and Penni Walker-Barber. There were also two Tai Chi sessions run by Lily Paterson. Many thanks to all of them for giving us such enjoyment.

With such a large number we had to organise ourselves into smaller walking groups. These were led by Judy Fitz-Hugh, Helen Larosa, David Hanger, Stephen Carter and Mike Chapman. Thanks to them, the walks were memorable, nobody got lost and all returned safely.

The most spectacular walk was the 5 mile circuit around the Malham Ring. It begins in Malham village with a gentle stroll to the base of the Cove. Then there are over a 100 stone steps to reach the summit but the views can be spectacular on a clear day. Unfortunately our day was not so clear but nonetheless it was still well worth the climb!

The Summit of Malham Cove.

The walk continues on to Gordale Scar before returning to Malham village.

Gordale Scar

Other walks included a stretch of the Pennine Way, Gargrave and the canal together with a visit to Kirkby Malham with a church that dates back before the Doomsday Book.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable holiday in a beautiful area of the country.

Next year's holiday is already booked. We're off the Dolgellau in Snowdonia.

Hamish

Table of Contents

ESTG – Snibston Report

Tour of Snibston No 2 Colliery Heritage Museum, Coalville. -

Thursday 16th May 2024

About Snibston No. 2 and our Tour.

There were two pits at Snibston Colliery. However these fell victim to the eighties closure programme and after 150 years of coal production No 2 was shut down in **1986**, together with sister pits at Whitwick and South Leicestershire.

During the following years Snibston was landscaped to become a country/leisure park with a modern visitors' "Grounds" café, and the rest was developed for housing and businesses. Fortunately Colliery buildings gained registered monuments status and survived, and in **2020** the newly formed **Snibston No2 Heritage Trust** began to offer to schools and the public Learning Tours of No.2, led by former miners. In fact, unexpectedly in our case, this was to be from our very own Alan Bilton!

Our visit plan was for a 10am start and a return by 3pm, travelling to Snibston by Lutterworth Community minibus. There we would meet in "Grounds" Café for pre-tour beverages, and return afterwards for light snacks before heading home. Fortunately we managed to achieve this despite constant rainfall throughout the day.

George Stephenson 1781 – 1848 *"Father of Railways"*, and Snibston.

With a growing need to transport corn and other products by rail more quickly and cheaply in the North of England, Northumberland-born **George Stephenson** snapped up the **Snibston** agricultural estate in **1832** following the dis**covery of** extensive coal reserves.

After creating **No.1 and 2** Pits, he declared these ***"the most profitable enterprise I ever took"***, becoming very wealthy.

You can imagine our surprise on arriving at Grounds Cafe to be greeted by George himself aka genuine northerner Stuart Warburton, the Secretary of Snibston No 2 Heritage Trust, dressed impressively in period costume of the 1800's. Together with volunteer Terri also similarly attired as a Victorian housewife (behind him), both regaled us with stories of mining and people in Coalville.

From Stuart we learned that Stephenson was a hard but fair man who would not employ boys younger than 10 due to personal experiences as a 9 year-old in Northern pits. He also built cottages for the skilled miners and their families which he had relocated from the North of England to teach the locals better mining skills.

Our Snibston No.2 Heritage Tour……

Fortunately, most of this took place under cover.

The Snibston Mining Machinery Park.

Crouched under brollies and hoods, our visit began in the open air with a look at the mining cutters, conveyors, fans, etc currently undergoing preservation. I was particularly fascinated by a mobile caterpillar-tracked coal conveyor complete with reciprocating arms which resembled the gathering actions of us humble humans.

The Snibston "Dark" Mine.

In my opinion this physical simulation of a working mine proved to be the most impressive feature of our Tour,

We began in the Lamp Room where for obvious reasons we eschewed candles for modern LEDs on hard hats before moving into the "mine" proper.

Ducking under low beams see left (not so bad for me as I'm 3" shorter since youth), we saw that the mine comprised 2 tunnels or "roads" branching off a main feeder road.

At the beginning the latter we were confronted by a life-sized model of a pit pony in its stall, reminding us of the earlier days of mining.

Both roads were fitted with trough conveyors, the leftmost one being empty whereas the other was loaded with coal and more interesting.

It's hard to summarise what Alan told us but the overall impression gained was that of ever present danger either from blasting explosives or gases like carbon monoxide and flammable methane. This meant that equipment had to be doubly and triply spark-protected and extraction faultless (the Victorians achieved this by sinking a second shaft and lighting a fire at the bottom to create up-draughts!).

Great precautions were also needed to ensure that everything on one's person was safety compliant. In Stephenson's day, the discovery of smoking materials on the person was serious and would attract instant dismissal and legal prosecution.

Snibston No 2 Control Room.

The Control Room was the brain centre of the mine and was overseen by a senior supervisor (right of picture).

The area housed a telephone switchboard (left), a large electrical control panel (shown rear) and, atop of this, CCTV monitors displaying live footage of conveyors and blind spots.

Out of picture to the right was the miner's ID Tag Board which provided an alert for when tags had not been returned to positions at end of shift...

In the adjacent locker room we then listened to Alan recounting past experiences, before plying him with our questions. It was particularly amusing to be shown a model of a canary in its cage which could be flipped upside down from its perch to simulate the effect of gases. I think he said they still use them, or am I wrong?

Snibston No 2 Medical Centre.

The Medical Centre was staffed by a Nurse who was the **ONLY** female worker on site. In echoes of "*Carry on Matron*" she reigned with absolute autonomy over her domain and could prevent the entrance of absolutely anyone, without exception, that she considered "undesirable".

The Medical Centre had a good standard of equipment, like the examination table shown in left of picture, and miners could be efficiently treated after accidents.

Naturally these could arise from mechanical failure, for example in Victorian times wooden props could give way, or from the excessive toil which naturally made miners tired and less vigilant, particularly around moving machinery

It's not the place to repeat the gory tales which Alan had to tell us; suffice it to say that none of us will be rushing to work down the mines any time soon!

Snibston No2 Winding Engine House.

Time did not permit a visit to this very visible landmark, and that's probably just as well as there were several external steps to negotiate in the pouring rain.

Interestingly, Snibston No1 Winding Engine House managed to escape the hands of the developers and stands nearby to provide an additional landmark.

Conclusion

Although I've been unable yet to confirm my views with my fellow 12 ES&T members, I believe this visit to have been a great success. It certainly brought home the sacrifices that miners had to make every day of their week.

I think anyone would agree that the £14 cost of travel and admission for the trip was well worthwhile. Many thanks go to our excellent experienced guide Alan Bilton, and also to our driver Rick who safely negotiated a wall of spray on the M1 to safely return us to Lutterworth.

Tony Allen

Table of Contents

Report for the History group - May 2024

A day out

On May 2nd we enjoyed a visit to the historic town of Stamford, followed by a boat trip on Rutland Water. We were really lucky to have glorious warm and sunny weather for our day out.

Viv provided a short town trail of Stamford so there were plenty of things to look out for as we strolled around the town. Many of us went to see the Burleigh's ornate tombs within the historic St Martin's church and also visited the oversized grave of Daniel Lambert in the churchyard outside. Lambert was famous and even celebrated in Leicester for his huge size, weighing in at over fifty stone in 1805. He died suddenly while visiting Stamford in 1809 and it is said a whole wall had to be removed from the Wagon and Horses Inn where he was staying in order to take his body away and it took 20 men to move him. After lunch, we drove over to Rutland Water nearby and took a tour of the lake on the Rutland Belle. It was glorious weather for it and everyone enjoyed it.

Daniel Lambert (1770-1809)
Daniel Lambert (1770-1809) was renowned as the heaviest man in England and weighed 52 stone 11 lbs (335 kgs). He was born in Leicester and took over from his father as keeper of Leicester's Bridewell prison, a prison for minor offenders.
In 1804 Daniel began to travel the country to attend race meetings and to exhibit himself for money. He was renowned as a field sportsman, breeding cocks and dogs. A contemporary report said that he was a cheery man in company but shyish of being looked at.
He died on the 21st June 1809, whilst visiting Stamford to attend the races here. He was staying at The Waggon and Horses, an inn that used to be on High Street, St Martin's.
A window and part of a wall at the inn had to be dismantled to allow his body to be removed for burial. The coffin required 156 square feet (14.493 sq.m) of wood, wheels were fitted and it took 'upwards of twenty men' with ropes to lower it down a sloping ramp into the grave.
Frank Newbon's

Our second History meeting

On Tuesday May 7th we were back at Ashby Village Hall for our usual meeting. The topic was ***'The Life and Times of Sir Thomas More.'*** More was Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII and even more renowned as a great Humanist Scholar. Viv's presentation described his unexpected rise from being a highly respected middle-class lawyer and academic to becoming one of the most powerful men in the realm by 1529.

More was a leading Renaissance Scholar, famous throughout Europe for his writings and certainly one of the most brilliant intellectuals England had ever seem. He was a Humanist philosopher, skilled in Latin and Greek and a devotee of classical works, especially the writings of Plato. He was also noted for his piety. He even considered becoming a monk at one time until persuaded into the Law instead by his father, also an eminent Lawyer and judge. More married twice and, unusually for his time, educated the girls in his family. In fact, his daughter Margaret grew up to be a scholar too although she was never publicly acknowledged because she was a woman. More became renowned as a man of great integrity, a judge who never took bribes and who was fair. His rise to become Master of the Court of Requests seemed to be the pinnacle of his legal career until politics beckoned and soon his role developed. He

became a Diplomat and soon a Privy Councillor. Henry VIII saw himself as a Renaissance King. He was intelligent and well-read so he relished the chances to debate with More and, for a long time, he called More his good friend. Of course, having such a renowned intellectual in his Court circle also enhanced the King's own reputation, just as other monarchs sought the company of More's friend Erasmus of Rotterdam. Erasmus was the most renowned intellectual of the Age. He and More were great friends and corresponded with each other.

More wrote extensively, from history books like his pro-Tudor history of Richard III to complicated and closely argued religious commentaries but he was especially admired for his political and philosophical works. The most famous is probably *Utopia*, written in about 1515. In this, he used the device of a dinner table discussion to describe an island state very different to Tudor society, The aim was to put forward all types of political and philosophical ideas for discussion so it was meant to be thought provoking rather than an ideal. The book was dedicated to Erasmus and it was written for fellow scholars to read. Even the name, Utopia, was a little intellectual joke as it means 'No Place,' a clear indication for those few who understood classical Greek that none of this detail was true. (This did not prevent some who did not get the joke from believing Utopia was a real place. In an age of exploration and discovery people discovered many strange things so it seemed plausible)

However, More's glittering political career was to be cut short by the political and religious crisis called the 'King's 'Secret Matter' which emerged in 1525. This was his efforts to get his powerful Chief Minister, Thomas Wolsey, to get the Pope to agree to an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Wolsey's failure in late 1529 led to his downfall and More was appointed Lord Chancellor in his place. Very quickly, events moved on as Henry's frustration grew. His new secretary, Thomas Cromwell, masterminded a huge change in policy. using Parliament and Statutes to break with Rome, declare a Divorce and enable Henry to marry his lover, Anne Boleyn. As early as1531, More resigned from the Chancellorship and retreated to his estate in Chelsea in an attempted to keep out of the raging political and religious controversies stirred up by the King's policies but it was not to be. By 1534, the power of Rome over the Church had been systematically dismantled by a series of Statutes, the English Clergy had submitted and Henry had married Anne.

Matters came to a head when More refused to take the Oath of Succession which backed up the Act of Succession in 1534, making any children of Anne the true heirs, This Oath was supposed to strengthen the validity of the marriage and silence opposition so Henry could accept no refusals. Very few people dared to oppose the King and only a few monks from the Charterhouse monastery and Bishop John Fisher refused and paid the price. More, now incarcerated in the Tower, maintained his silence in the hope the King would allow him to abstain. Although Henry had valued

his friendship with More, he could not accept such public opposition, especially from a man who was so international renowned. More was given a Show Trial and, through the perjury of Richard Riche who claimed More had spoken against the marriage and the Supremacy, More was convicted of High Treason. He was executed in July 1535. Centuries later in 1935, his opposition to the Henrician Reformation and his defence of traditional Catholicism led Pope Pius XI to canonise him.

Future meetings

We will be out and about for the next few meetings.

The meeting on **TUESDAY June 4th** will be our Guided Tour of **Leicester Guildhall**. Please make sure you are assembled at the Guildhall in good time to start our tour at **1.30.**

The **THURSDAY July 4th** meeting is our visit to the Charterhouse in Coventry.

The trip to **Courteenhall is on WEDNESDAY July 24th.**

There is **no meeting in August.**

The **THURSDAY September 5th** meeting is our visit to **Boughton House**

Please note If you have signed up, you should have paid for these visits by now. Thanks.

Viv

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY 08/08/2024

PICNIC AT MISTERTON HALL

By the kind permission of **Mrs Craven** – our monthly meeting for **August** is planned to be held in the gardens of **Misterton Hall, Lutterworth LE17 4JP.**

Event scheduled for – Approximately **Noon to 14:00 hrs**.

The format will follow that of recent years – please bring your own rugs, tables, chairs' etc. plus of course a picnic and liquid refreshments.

Parking will be close to the Hall - but please be aware you will need to carry your items to the garden.

We plan to have a number of "lawn" games available – croquet, bowls etc. there will be soothing background music, plus the beautiful gardens will be available to explore should you so wish.

WC facilities will be available.

This event will of course be very dependent upon the British weather!!

Further details will be provided closer to the August Meeting.

Please put this in your diary and I hope you will join us?

Regards

Colin

Poetry Group

The topic for May was "Royalty and Aristocracy ". As is often the case we were a little creative in our interpretation of the subject, so poems written by Royalty (Elizabeth 1) and aristocracy (Lords Byron and Tennyson) featured, along with Hilaire Beloc's comic poem "Henry King" about the antics of a child of that name, and "The King and Queen of Dumfriesshire" by W.N. Herbert, a rather sad poem about a stale relationship.

There were plenty of poems about royals and aristocracy (and stately homes) too. Mostly light hearted with Brian Bilston featuring heavily, but also a couple of poet laureate Simon Armitage's poems on the death of the queen and the investiture of the new king.

Robert Browning's poem "My Last Duchess" was read, a chilling poem about jealousy and possessiveness within a marriage resulting in death. The Duke receives his comeuppance however in Roger McGough's "Revenge of My Last Duchess", also read.

Next meeting is on June 27th, topic "The Necessities of Life", so food, drink, clothing, shelter. Lots of scope there.

Sylvie

My Interview with Artificial Intelligence ChatGPT

Q1. Let’s start, tell me your origin and history?

Sure, let's dive into it.

Origin and History of ChatGPT

1. What is ChatGPT?
ChatGPT is a conversational AI model developed by OpenAI. It's based on the GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) architecture, which is a type of large language model designed to understand and generate human-like text.

2. What is GPT?
GPT stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer. It's a type of artificial intelligence model that uses a transformer architecture. The first version, GPT-1, was introduced by OpenAI in 2018. GPT models are trained on diverse datasets to predict the next word in a sentence, enabling them to generate coherent and contextually relevant text.

3. How has GPT evolved over time?
- **GPT-1 (2018):** Introduced the concept of pre-training a model on a large corpus of text and then fine-tuning it on specific tasks. It had 117 million parameters.
- **GPT-2 (2019):** Significantly larger, with 1.5 billion parameters. It demonstrated a much greater ability to generate coherent and contextually relevant text, but was initially considered too dangerous to release in full due to potential misuse.
- **GPT-3 (2020):** An even larger model with 175 billion parameters, showcasing advanced language generation capabilities and the ability to perform a variety of tasks with minimal fine-tuning.
- **GPT-4 (2023):** The latest iteration, which builds on the strengths of its predecessors with improved accuracy, coherence, and understanding.

4. What is the training process for GPT models?
GPT models are trained using a method called unsupervised learning. They are fed vast amounts of text data from the internet and learn to predict the next word in a sentence. This pre-training process allows the model to understand grammar, facts about the world, and some reasoning abilities. After pre-training, the model can be fine-tuned on specific datasets.

5. What are some key applications of ChatGPT?
ChatGPT can be used in various applications, including:
- Customer support automation
- Content creation and editing
- Tutoring and educational tools
- Language translation
- Personal assistants
- Creative writing and brainstorming

6. What are some challenges and ethical considerations?
While ChatGPT is a powerful tool, it comes with challenges and ethical considerations, such as:
- Ensuring the generated content is accurate and free from harmful biases.
- Preventing misuse, such as generating misleading information or deepfake text.
- Balancing user privacy with the need for data to improve the model.

7. How is OpenAI addressing these challenges?
OpenAI is taking several steps to address these challenges, including:
- Implementing robust moderation tools to detect and mitigate harmful content.
- Working with external experts to identify and reduce biases.
- Regularly updating the models with feedback from users and the community.
- Promoting transparency in AI development and usage.

If you have more specific questions or want to dive deeper into any aspect, feel free to ask!

Q2. How many times does the average person encounter AI firsthand?

Estimating how many times the average person encounters AI firsthand can be challenging, but we can look at common interactions to get an idea. Here are some areas where people frequently encounter AI in their daily lives:

1. **Smartphones**:
   - **Voice Assistants**: Many people use AI-powered voice assistants like Siri, Google Assistant, or Alexa for tasks like setting reminders, sending messages, and searching the web.
   - **Photo Management**: AI is used in photo apps for features like facial recognition, photo enhancement, and organizing albums.
   - **Text Prediction and Autocorrect**: AI helps predict text and correct typos in messaging and email apps.

2. **Social Media**:
   - **Content Recommendations**: AI algorithms curate news feeds, recommend posts, and suggest friends on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok.
   - **Ad Targeting**: Personalized ads are shown based on user behavior and preferences analyzed by AI.

3. **Online Shopping**:
   - **Product Recommendations**: E-commerce sites like Amazon use AI to suggest products based on past purchases and browsing history.
   - **Chatbots**: Customer service chatbots assist with queries and support on many online shopping websites.

4. **Streaming Services**:
   - **Content Recommendations**: AI recommends movies, TV shows, music, and other content on platforms like Netflix, Spotify, and YouTube.

5. **Banking and Finance**:
   - **Fraud Detection**: AI systems monitor transactions to detect and prevent fraudulent activities.
   - **Personal Finance Apps**: Budgeting and financial planning apps use AI to provide insights and recommendations.

6. **Healthcare**:
   - **Virtual Health Assistants**: AI-powered chatbots and apps provide medical information and basic diagnostics.
   - **Health Monitoring**: Wearable devices and apps track health metrics and provide personalized insights.

7. **Transportation**:
   - **Navigation Apps**: AI helps optimize routes and provide real-time traffic updates in apps like Google Maps and Waze.
   - **Ride-Sharing Services**: AI matches riders with drivers and optimizes routes in services like Uber and Lyft.

8. **Email and Spam Filtering**:
   - **Spam Filters**: AI is used to detect and filter out spam emails in services like Gmail and Outlook.
   - **Smart Replies**: Email services often suggest quick replies based on the content of received messages.

Given these frequent interactions, it's reasonable to estimate that an average person might encounter AI dozens of times a day, considering all the different ways AI is integrated into everyday technology and services.

Q3. How often are members of the U3A likely to encounter AI?

Members of the U3A, often older adults, might have different patterns of interaction with AI compared to the general population. However, many still encounter AI regularly, though perhaps not as frequently or in the same ways as younger generations. Here are some common AI interactions for U3A members:

1. **Healthcare**:
   - **Telemedicine**: AI-driven platforms facilitate remote consultations and diagnostics.
   - **Health Monitoring**: Wearable devices and apps use AI to track health metrics such as heart rate, sleep patterns, and physical activity.
   - **Medication Reminders**: AI-powered apps help manage medication schedules and provide reminders.

2. **Smartphones and Tablets**:
   - **Voice Assistants**: AI assistants like Siri and Google Assistant can help with setting reminders, making calls, and answering questions.
   - **Text Prediction and Autocorrect**: These features aid in composing messages and emails.

3. **Online Shopping and Services**:
   - **Product Recommendations**: E-commerce platforms use AI to suggest products based on browsing history and past purchases.
   - **Customer Service Chatbots**: Automated chat systems assist with inquiries and support.

4. **Social Media and Communication**:
   - **Content Recommendations**: Platforms like Facebook and YouTube use AI to suggest content and connections.
   - **Spam Filtering**: Email services use AI to filter out spam and provide smart reply suggestions.

5. **Streaming Services**:
   - **Content Recommendations**: AI recommends shows, movies, and music based on viewing and listening habits on platforms like Netflix and Spotify.

6. **Banking and Finance**:
   - **Fraud Detection**: Banks use AI to monitor transactions and detect fraudulent activity.
   - **Personal Finance Management**: Apps help with budgeting and financial planning.

7. **Transportation**:
   - **Navigation Apps**: AI assists with route planning and real-time traffic updates on apps like Google Maps.
   - **Ride-Sharing Services**: AI optimizes matching and routing in services like Uber and Lyft.

8. **Learning and Education**:
   - **Online Courses**: AI can provide personalized learning experiences and recommend resources.
   - **Language Translation**: AI-driven translation tools can help with understanding foreign language materials.

Members of the U3A may encounter AI several times a day through these technologies, though the frequency and nature of these interactions might differ from younger, more tech-savvy individuals. The level of interaction largely depends on their comfort with technology and the extent to which they integrate digital tools into their daily lives.

Q4. Are there any difference between gender in their encounters with AI?

There can be differences between genders in their encounters with AI, influenced by factors such as technology usage patterns, interests, and societal roles. Here are some areas where these differences might manifest:

General Trends in Technology Use
- **Device Usage**: Studies have shown that men and women may use different devices at varying frequencies. For example, men might be more likely to use gaming consoles and certain types of tech gadgets, while women might use smartphones and tablets more frequently for communication and social media.
- **App Preferences**: Men and women often prefer different types of apps. Men might be more inclined towards apps related to gaming, sports, and finance, while women might prefer social media, health and wellness, and shopping apps. These preferences influence their encounters with AI within these apps.

Specific Interactions with AI
1. **Voice Assistants**:
   - **Usage Patterns**: Both men and women use voice assistants like Siri, Google Assistant, and Alexa. However, the types of tasks they use these assistants for can differ. Women might use them more for organizing daily tasks and managing household activities, while men might use them for information retrieval and entertainment.

2. **Social Media**:
   - **Content Consumption**: Women are generally more active on social media platforms, engaging with content and using AI-driven features like content recommendations and filters more frequently.
   - **Ad Targeting**: AI-driven ad targeting varies by gender, with women receiving more ads related to fashion, beauty, and lifestyle, while men might see more ads for technology, sports, and finance.

3. **E-commerce**:
   - **Shopping Behavior**: Women might encounter AI through personalized shopping recommendations and customer service chatbots more often, as they tend to engage in online shopping more frequently.

4. **Health and Wellness**:
   - **Health Apps**: Women are more likely to use AI-driven health and wellness apps for fitness tracking, menstrual cycle tracking, and nutrition management. Men might use fitness apps but are less likely to use health apps as comprehensively.

5. **Entertainment**:
   - **Streaming Services**: Both genders use streaming services, but preferences in content can differ, affecting the types of AI recommendations they receive. Women might favor genres like drama and romance, while men might prefer action and sports.

6. **Finance**:
   - **Financial Tools**: Men are more likely to use AI-driven financial tools for investing and trading. Women might use these tools for budgeting and personal finance management.

Influencing Factors
- **Socioeconomic Factors**: Access to technology and the internet can vary by gender in different regions, influencing the frequency and type of AI encounters.
- **Cultural Norms**: Cultural expectations and roles can shape technology usage patterns, leading to gender-specific interactions with AI.
- **Education and Occupation**: Women in STEM fields or tech industries might interact with AI more frequently and in different capacities compared to women in other fields. Similarly, men in tech-heavy professions might have more encounters with AI than those in other industries.

Conclusion
While both men and women encounter AI regularly, the nature and frequency of these interactions can differ based on their technology usage patterns, preferences, and roles. Understanding these differences can help in designing AI systems that are more inclusive and tailored to diverse needs.

Q5. Can you be more specific about members of the U3A and their gender differences when encountering with AI?

Certainly! For members of the University of the Third Age (U3A), who are typically retired or semi-retired individuals, the encounters with AI can vary based on gender. Here are some specific areas where these differences might be observed:

Common AI Encounters for U3A Members

Healthcare and Wellness
- **Women**:
  - **Health Tracking Apps**: Women might use AI-driven health and wellness apps to monitor fitness, nutrition, and manage health conditions. These apps can offer personalized insights and reminders.
  - **Telemedicine**: More likely to engage with AI-powered telemedicine services for regular health consultations, given their generally higher tendency to seek healthcare services.

- **Men**:
  - **Fitness Apps**: Men might use AI-driven fitness apps to track exercise routines and physical activity. These apps provide personalized workout plans and progress tracking.
  - **Health Monitoring Devices**: Men might use wearable devices like smartwatches to monitor health metrics such as heart rate and sleep patterns.

Communication and Social Interaction
- **Women**:
  - **Social Media**: Women in the U3A may use social media platforms more frequently to stay connected with family and friends. AI-driven features like content recommendations and facial recognition for tagging photos are common encounters.
  - **Messaging Apps**: Use of AI in text prediction and smart replies in messaging apps like WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger.

- **Men**:
  - **Online Forums**: Men might participate in interest-based online forums and communities where AI helps in moderating content and recommending discussions.
  - **Email**: AI-driven spam filters and smart sorting features in email clients like Gmail.

E-commerce and Online Services
- **Women**:
  - **Online Shopping**: Women might engage more with AI through personalized shopping recommendations and virtual shopping assistants on e-commerce platforms like Amazon or eBay.
  - **Customer Support Chatbots**: Interaction with AI-driven chatbots for customer service inquiries on shopping websites.

- **Men**:
  - **Financial Services**: Men might encounter AI through online banking services, particularly for managing investments and retirement funds. AI-driven financial advisory services and fraud detection are common.
  - **Technology Purchases**: Engagement with AI in reviewing and comparing tech gadgets and electronic devices.

Entertainment and Learning
- **Women**:
  - **Streaming Services**: Women might use AI-powered streaming platforms like Netflix or Spotify for personalized content recommendations based on their viewing or listening history.
  - **Online Courses**: Participation in AI-enhanced online courses and learning platforms, which provide tailored learning paths and resources.

- **Men**:
  - **News and Information**: Use of AI-curated news feeds and articles on platforms like Google News or Apple News.
  - **Interactive Learning Tools**: Engagement with AI-driven educational tools and simulations for hobbies or new skills.

Transportation and Navigation
- **Women**:
  - **Ride-Sharing Services**: Use of AI in apps like Uber or Lyft for booking rides and optimizing routes.
  - **Travel Planning**: AI-driven travel planning tools and recommendation engines for vacations or trips.

- **Men**:
  - **Navigation Apps**: Frequent use of AI-powered navigation apps like Google Maps or Waze for driving directions and real-time traffic updates.
  - **Vehicle Technology**: Interaction with AI in modern vehicles, such as driver assistance systems and smart infotainment systems.

Influencing Factors

- **Technological Comfort**: Gender differences in comfort levels with technology can influence the frequency and type of AI interactions. Women might prefer user-friendly and intuitive interfaces, while men might engage more with technically complex applications.
- **Social Roles and Interests**: Traditional social roles and interests can shape the nature of AI interactions. Women might focus on applications that support social connections and health management, while men might gravitate towards finance, technology, and news.
– **Access to Resources**: Availability of devices and internet access can affect how often and in what ways U3A members interact with AI.
–

Q6. Your answers seem very tentative with your use of “might”. Also your answers seem to be based on stereotypical assumptions about gender differences?

You're right; relying on stereotypical assumptions can lead to overly generalised and potentially inaccurate conclusions. I'll aim to provide a more precise and nuanced view of how U3A members might interact with AI, without making broad assumptions based on gender.

AI Encounters for U3A Members: A Nuanced Perspective

Healthcare and Wellness
- **Health Tracking and Monitoring**: U3A members might use AI-driven apps and devices to monitor chronic conditions, track fitness, and manage medications. These include wearables that track vital signs and apps that offer health insights.
- **Telemedicine**: AI-powered platforms facilitate remote consultations, which are particularly beneficial for older adults who may have mobility issues or prefer to avoid unnecessary travel.

Communication and Social Interaction
- **Voice Assistants**: Many U3A members use AI-powered voice assistants (like Alexa or Google Assistant) for setting reminders, checking the weather, and making hands-free calls. These tools can be particularly helpful for those with visual or mobility impairments.
- **Social Media and Messaging**: AI algorithms curate content and suggest connections on platforms like Facebook, helping older adults stay connected with friends and family. Messaging apps with AI features, such as predictive text and smart replies, enhance communication.

E-commerce and Online Services
- **Online Shopping**: U3A members might use e-commerce platforms where AI provides personalised recommendations and assists with finding products. Customer support chatbots help with inquiries, providing a convenient shopping experience.
- **Financial Management**: AI-driven tools assist with budgeting, managing investments, and detecting fraudulent activities, which are crucial for retired individuals managing fixed incomes.

Entertainment and Learning
- **Streaming Services**: Platforms like Netflix and Spotify use AI to recommend movies, TV shows, and music based on user preferences. This personalised experience can be appealing to older adults exploring digital entertainment.
- **Online Learning**: U3A members often engage in lifelong learning. AI-enhanced platforms offer personalised learning paths and resources tailored to individual interests and learning speeds.

Transportation and Navigation
- **Ride-Sharing and Public Transport**: AI in apps like Uber or local public transport apps helps with booking rides and planning routes. This is particularly useful for those who prefer not to drive.
- **Navigation**: GPS and navigation apps use AI to provide real-time traffic updates and route optimisations, aiding older adults in travel planning.

Addressing Individual Differences

While some differences in AI interactions can stem from personal preferences and experiences rather than gender, it's essential to recognize that:

- **Comfort with Technology**: Some older adults may be more tech-savvy, regularly using smartphones, tablets, and computers, while others might use technology less frequently. Comfort and familiarity with technology significantly influence the extent and nature of AI interactions.
- **Health and Mobility Needs**: Individuals with specific health or mobility needs might rely more on certain AI tools, like telemedicine services or health monitoring devices.
- **Interests and Hobbies**: Personal interests, such as learning new skills, staying socially connected, or enjoying digital entertainment, play a crucial role in determining how U3A members interact with AI.

By considering these factors, we can better understand and support the diverse ways U3A members engage with AI technologies, beyond simplistic gender-based assumptions.

Could you summarise our discussion in less than 150 words?

U3A members interact with AI in several key areas:

1. **Healthcare: They use AI-driven health tracking apps, telemedicine platforms, and wearables for managing health conditions and fitness.**
2. **Communication: Voice assistants help with reminders and hands-free calls, while social media and messaging apps use AI for content curation and predictive text.**
3. **E-commerce: AI provides personalised shopping recommendations and customer support chatbots, and assists with financial management tools.**
4. **Entertainment and Learning: Streaming services use AI for content recommendations, and online learning platforms offer personalised learning experiences.**
5. **Transportation: Ride-sharing and navigation apps use AI for booking and route optimisation.**

Individual preferences, tech comfort, health needs, and interests significantly influence these interactions, making them varied and personalised rather than strictly gender-based.

Hamish.

U3A Snail's Walking Group – May Walk

The walk around Everards Meadows on Friday 17th May was a success with warm and sunny weather.

Thanks to Valerie and Jenny for their efforts.

Next Walk: Friday 21st June

The next walk will be around the village of Lubenham on **Friday 21st June.**

All Saints Church

I will be leading you around the Heritage Trail; this will be a gentle and, hopefully, interesting walk as the village has a long and varied past mainly from Anglo-Saxon times to the modern day.

The village also has a rich history connected with hunting and horse racing, to which many of the houses owe their existence.

For those who want to, there is also the possibility of a short additional walk along the Undle. (The Undle is believed to be an ancient trackway and was used by horsedrawn wagons to access the windmill on Mill Hill. At the top of the hill, as the track passes into open fields, there are extensive views to the right across the Welland Valley towards East Farndon and Market Harborough.)

Please meet at 10.45am at the Coach and Horses pub in Lubenham. (54 Main Street, Lubenham, LE16 9TF. Phone 0116 5073521)

You can use the pub car park (the gates will be open) – or there is plenty of street parking.

Lunch

We will meet at the Coach and Horses pub at 10.45am so that we can pre-order our lunch. Here is the link to the menu if you want a preview:

https://www.thecoachandhorseslubenham.co.uk/general-7

Contact

Please let Mandy know if you will be walking and having lunch by **Wednesday 19th June.**

Email: mandycutler@sky.com

Or phone 01455 251809. 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.

Table of Contents

Art Appreciation Group

For our May meeting we had chosen to visit the **NEW WALK MUSEUM** in Leicester.

As part of “The National Gallery’s” 200 years celebrations, 12 museums and galleries received some of the most famous artworks in the world on loan, and Leicester was so lucky to be chosen to host Renoir’s “THE UMBRELLAS”. We took - with delight - the opportunity to see this masterpiece, accompanied by a new digital installation, taking us through Paris of the 1880s

After that experience we immersed ourselves in a totally different world, the world of Graffiti. This brand new exhibition featured Subway Street Art and the rich history of Graffiti, using large scale projections and interviews. We discovered the story of “Repainting Subway Art” through visually stunning high-profile graffiti writers. Their work captured the exciting spirit of this movement, now famous around the whole world.

We were so lucky to meet, by chance, a couple of street artists from Coventry. They really helped us to get a deeper understanding and made our visit so much more authentic.

Afterwards we had a spot of lunch with a very lively discussion of our experiences, impressions and opinions.

Next meeting : September

Ursula.

Table of Contents

Photography Group May 2024 report

At our may meeting we reviewed pictures from our May topic, Roofs and Roofscapes and we looked at the work of Jane Bown, a press photographer who had a unique approach to the task of photographing celebrities in the 1950's and 1960's.

Our monthly topic coincided with both the Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a and the Lutterworth u3a group holidays. Consequently, we had two themes emerging, country roofs (Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a) and town roofs (from our Lutterworth u3a associate members). There were a few of us who did not join the group holidays and we therefore had a very wide range of pictures, including a wonderful picture of a roof in the Austrian Alps. **Later this month** you will be able to see a sample of our pictures on the galleries section of the Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a website.

We also looked at the work of Jane Bown who was a press photographer in the 1950's and 1960's. Jane worked for the Observer newspaper and mainly took pictures of celebrities to accompany articles in the newspaper. She was also commissioned by the paper to take individual studies of working people and "crowd" pictures at special events. What was unusual was the Jane had a minimalistic approach to equipment and only used natural light even indoors, used the same make of camera, a 35 mm Olympus OM 1 with just a single lens, for many years. She is also renowned for very short photographic sessions and rarely took longer than an hour to get her shots. In addition to her job as a photographer, she was also married with three children.

Our topic for June, is "Somewhere I have been" and the purpose is to provide some interesting pictures taken in June 2024.

Our usual venue, the Ullesthorpe Village Hall will be undergoing some upgrading and extension building work over the summer months, so we are looking for an alternative venue for our June meeting and have decided to have a break in July and August, hopefully returning to Ullesthorpe in September.

If you would like to see a sample of pictures from our monthly topic, please see the gallery section on the Wycliffe Lutterworth website in early May.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Friday 28th June 2024, 10.00 am in a venue to be announced..

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

wlu3acamera@outlook.com.

Michael Bates

Committee Members

Office	Name
Chairperson ….....	Colin Beadle
Secretary ….....	Denise Taylor
Treasurer.....	Nigel Bones
Speaker Finder.....	Andrea Nichol
Minutes Secretary.....	Anne Dean
Membership Secretary ….....	Linda Teague
Co-opted Committee Member …	Mike Chapman
Committee Member.....	Ruth Bones
Committee Member.....	Sue Poulter
Committee Member.....	Michael Bates
Committee Member ….....	Sally Wood
Committee Member ….....	Richard Hill

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

thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com

Table of Contents