u3a Wycliffe Lutterworth

Members Bulletin Nov 2025

Monthly Meetings

Our speaker this month on Thursday November 13th, is **Tim Coltman**.

'The Story of Two Crosses'.

A presentation on the life of William Coltman VC as told by his great grandson.

Refreshments served from 10am, notices 10.25 and our speaker 10.30-11.30.

Venue:- Methodist Church, Lutterworth (opp Morrisons).

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Andrea

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Discussion Group October 2025

The October discussion was ‘Is there an over-reliance on volunteers as opposed to paid workers in some sectors?’

The group was surprised by the wide of variety and number of organisations using volunteers. In England 12 million people volunteer about once a week. The largest number of them is with the Scouts and Guides. We split volunteering into 2 broad groups – charities and the NHS; and Organisations in which we are involved e.g. U3A and National Trust. The Canal and Rivers Trust and FareShare are almost entirely run by volunteers.

A report commissioned by the Dept. for Culture, Media and Sport published in July stated that the replacement cost of formal volunteering in 2021/2022 was equivalent to £2,012 per volunteer comprised of £1,339 in wages and £637 in wellbeing i.e. less call on the NHS etc. During the discussion it emerged that many volunteers are being treated more like employees and the burden is becoming onerous. We were concerned that this may cause some to resign from voluntary positions.

Our conclusion was that there probably is an over-reliance on volunteers, but many systems would fall apart without them.

Dot

Report for the History Group. October 2025

In our October meeting our visiting speaker, Christine Coulson, gave an interesting presentation about Lady Dorothea Feilding. Christine has written a biography of Lady Dorothea and she knows the lady very well. One of her major sources is a large archive of Dorothea's letters. She wrote to her mother daily and corresponded with many others and this evidence proved invaluable to recreate her extraordinary life story. Christine's knowledge and enthusiasm shone through her well-prepared talk and we all learned a lot.

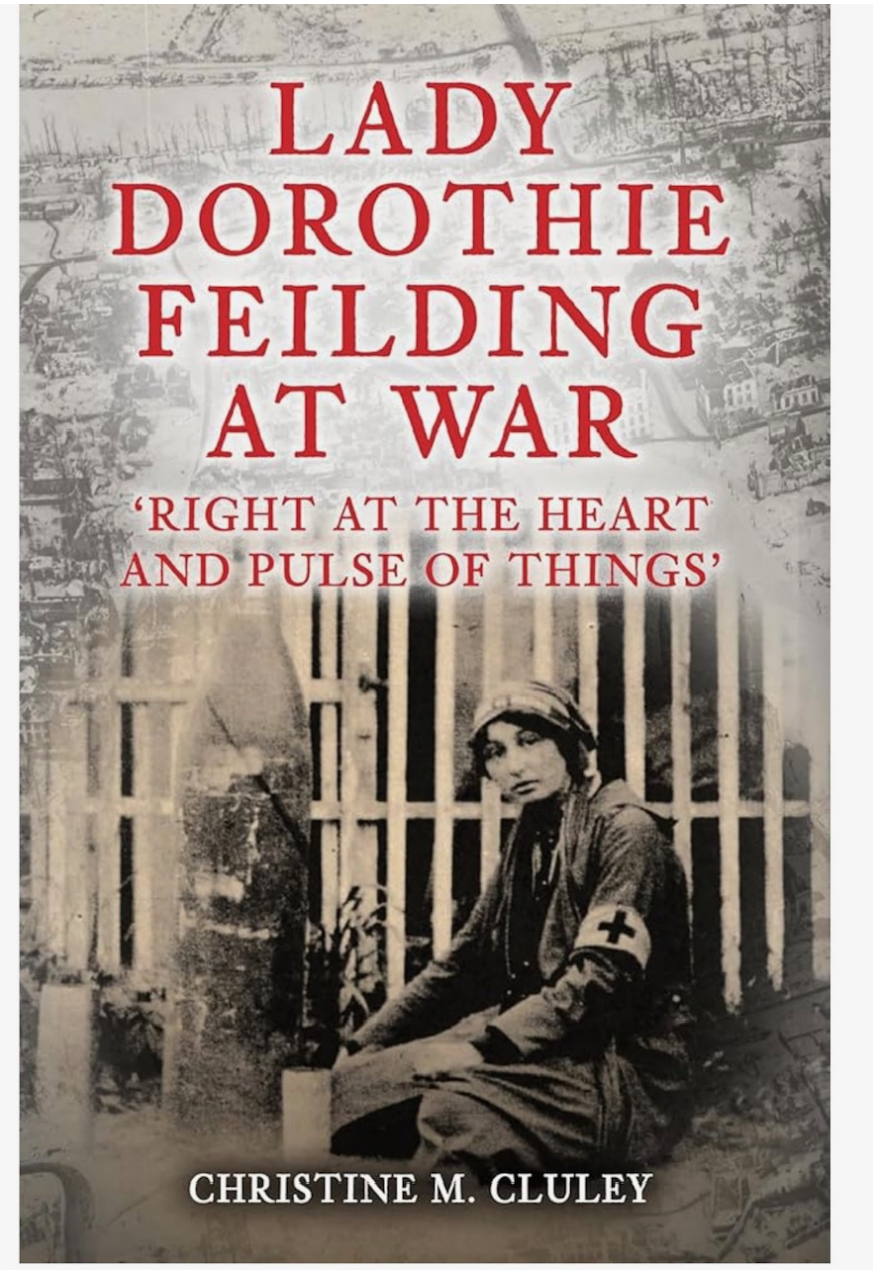
Dorothea was born at in 1889 at Newnham Paddox, Monks Kirby, a daughter of Rudoph Feilding, the 9th Earl of Denbigh. After an early education by a governess at home, she was sent to Paris learn French and be 'finished.' Like all girls of her class, she made her 'Debut' at Court at the age of 18 (1908) and it seemed that her life would run along the traditionally expected lines of a few years of socialising followed by marriage and children. It was very Downton Abbey. The outbreak of World War in 1914 changed everything and she volunteered for nursing training in Rugby and then soon after she went to serve on the Western Front in Belgium in the Munro Ambulance Corps as an ambulance driver. Although they were behind the lines, the place where they were billeted was often attacked and it was a dangerous place to be but Dorothea was intrepid and even drove her ambulance to the front lines against the rules as women were forbidden to go to the Front. She saw terrible sights which stayed with her for her life and thereafter seems to have followed orders but even then, got into occasional dangerous situations which she survived.

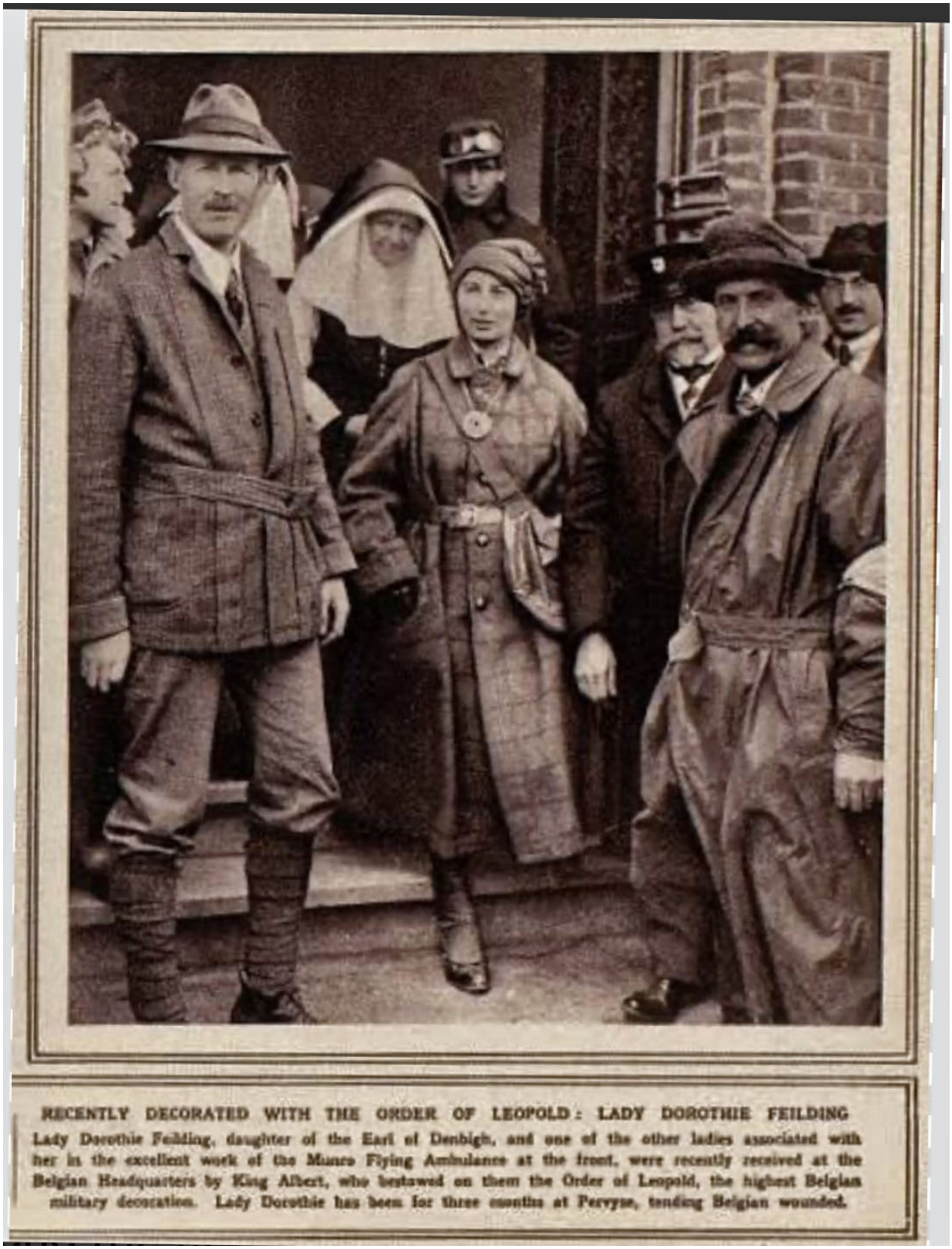
Dorothea had a charismatic personality which enabled her to make friends with all types and classes of people. She was well liked and admired and her privileged position and contacts with important people allowed her to have an unusual sort of war and use her influence to change things. It also seemed she could take a fair amount of leave to be able to go home or visit Royalty at times. She was keen to improve the lot of the ordinary soldiers in terms of health and morale and famously hosted regular 'five 'o clock' teas for different ranks of soldiers all together, amongst the ruins behind the lines. She seems to have been quite a dynamic character who pushed to get things done and who certainly knew all the right people to lobby for changes. Her considerable personal bravery and derring-do as an ambulance driver and her work for the ordinary ranks won her many admirers. Her achievements and contributions were formally recognised and she was decorated for heroism by the French, the Belgians and the British during her 3 years at the Front.

Dorothea encountered much personal sadness in the war and she lost many friends, two of her brothers and two fiancés. Third time lucky, she did eventually marry

another wealthy Irish landowner, Captain Charles O Hara -Moore an officer in the Irish Guards. After a short honeymoon, she was soon back driving ambulances, ferrying wounded soldiers around London.

After the war, Dorothea settled down in Ireland with her husband and their four children although she did not forget her war service and she became a patron of the British Legion and the Tipperary Nursing association. She was a keen rider and enjoyed a busy and active life but sadly at the age of only forty-six, she became ill and died. She is buried in the family mausoleum in Monks Kirby.





RECENTLY DECORATED WITH THE ORDER OF LEOPOLD: LADY DOROTHIE FEILDING

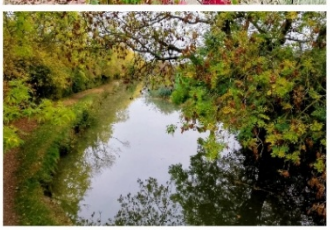
Lady Dorothie Feilding, daughter of the Earl of Denbigh, and one of the other ladies associated with her in the excellent work of the Munro Flying Ambulance at the front, were recently received at the Belgian Headquarters by King Albert, who bestowed on them the Order of Leopold, the highest Belgian military decoration. Lady Dorothie has been for three months at Pervyse, tending Belgian wounded.

The next meeting is on Tuesday November 4th at Dunton Bassett VH 2 'til 4 when Lynda Hill will be our guest speaker, talking about an aspect of Lutterworth's history.

Viv.

U3A Snail's Walking Group

October Walk at Crick



We enjoyed an autumnal walk around Jubilee Wood, with its vibrant coloured trees, and then climbed up Cracks Hill - the views from the top were glorious! Onto Millennium Wood, trees bearing abundant fruit, including the cherry- like crab apples. The return journey took us along the canal tow path passing the marina. Thanks to Sheila and Fran for organizing. We had a lovely time!

Pleated Inkcap by Peter

Next Walk: Friday 21st November at Gilmorton

Hilda and Josie have kindly offered to lead the November Walk, here are the details:-

The Walk

Meet at 10 50am at the recreation ground in Gilmorton, on the pavement in front of the tennis courts. This is on Lutterworth Road. We'll start walking at 11.00am. It is mostly on pavements, but we will use some lanes around the village if the going is not too soft underfoot.

Parking at Gilmorton

Limited parking for the recreation ground is available in Three Pots Lane beside the rec. it probably will not be enough so street parking on Gilden Drive opposite the rec might be the best alternative.

Lunch

The Shires in Peatling Parva is booked for lunch. They are happy to receive orders in advance. This saves us driving to Peatling Parva before the walk.

So let Mandy know your choices. Please click here for the winter menu:

https://www.theshiresrestaurant.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2025/10/Shires-Winter-2025-menus.pdf.pagespeed.ce.aB3QSpFXBP.pdf

To get to The Shires from Gilmorton

Peatling Parva is just about 1.5 miles from Gilmorton. Drive on up Mill Lane until you reach Peatling Parva, then take the first left for The Shires which is about 200 metres along the road, and on your right. They have plenty of parking round the back.

Contact

If you would like to come on this walk, can you please contact Mandy by Tuesday 18th November. If you are having lunch Mandy needs to have your order.

Email: mandycutler@sky.com Phone: 07724 124094

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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 07724 124094.

Best wishes, Mandy Cutler.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP - OCTOBER

Walk Report – 22 October 2025

There was an excellent turnout of 20 walkers starting from the Axe & Square pub in Countesthorpe. It was a pleasant morning with no rain, not much wind and even a glimmer of sunshine.

We left the pub, led by Lesley and Mike Chapman, heading along the main road towards Wigston before quickly turning into a new housing estate. We then aimed towards Blaby, along bridle paths and hard paths to cross Hospital Lane. Taking the quiet lane we then passed the large cemetery site to reach Mill Lane. Taking this lane we headed towards Crow Mill Bridge where we stopped for a break in the picnic area. Refreshed, we then took The Grand Union Canal towpath passing Ervin`s Lock and going under Ponchin`s Bridge and Knight`s Bridge to reach a footpath that crossed a number of fields and circumvented a large sewage works. The footpath came out on the main road back to the pub. The walk was a distance of 5.2 miles.

I believe that there were 13 diners at the pub after the walk.

This was an enjoyable countryside walk with not much mud, very few stiles and no hills. Thank you, Lesley and Mike, for planning and leading the walk. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated.

Peter Creeden

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP - NOVEMBER

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

Wednesday 26th November 2025

Walk Leader: George Robertson

Meeting Point For Lifts:- Lutterworth Recreation Ground car park 9.25am to leave at 09.30am.

Start Point and Time: Bull's Head, Brinklow (9 Coventry Rd, Brinklow, CV23 0NE). There is plenty of parking but please park at the rear of the car park. Toilets will be available before the walk commences. Start of walk at 10.00am.

Directions to start: Take the Lutterworth by-pass to A5 roundabout at Magna Park then B4027 to Brinklow. Turn right at T junction in Brinklow. The pub is on the right

Route and distance: We leave Brinklow via the castle and join the canal tow path which we follow and then cut across field paths and minor roads to King's Newnham before returning to Brinklow across field paths. 5 miles 2 stiles and one stiled bridge.

Lunch. We will dine at The Bull's Head having arrived back around 12.30pm

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP - DECEMBER

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

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Yes, this is the second Wednesday of the month but we thought November to January was too long between walks.

Walk Leaders: Sue and Peter Creeden

Meeting Point :- Please make your own way to the car park of The Elms, Lutterworth, LE17 4HB

Start Point and Time: The Elms, Lutterworth. No toilets available. **Start of walk at 10.00am**.

Directions to start: On the left as you head out of Lutterworth towards Rugby

Route and distance: Dependent on the weather and ground conditions, no more than 4.5 miles.

Lunch Arrangements: There are none but the Elms is usually a good bet.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP – CHRISTMAS WALK

Advance Notice of a delayed Christmas Walk and Lunch

Traditionally, we have had a Christmas walk and lunch. However, having investigated several venues, I have come to the conclusion that the meal prices have increased beyond all reasonableness (typically £28.50/£33.00 for a 2/3 course meal).

Chatting around it was suggested we delay the lunch until January 2026 when the prices, hopefully, return to some sort of normality and there may be deals to be had.

So, be sure to read the January bulletin/newsletter when there will be more details.

However, please see details of an early December walk for those that can`t go two months without doing one.

Peter Creeden

GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

01455 557888

Oh goodness, what is it about the weather on Wednesdays? We started a new month but it was wet again for our outing. A big group of nine of us gathered at Ullesthorpe Garden Centre optimistic that the drizzly rain would stop by the time we set off. But oh no, it got worse! A unanimous decision was to have a coffee and review the situation in half an hour. Thankfully it did dry up and, having split into two groups, we headed off to Ullesthorpe, down through the Claybrookes and up to Frolesworth. We then rode down towards Broughton Astley but turned right to Leire. After a short breather, we headed up to Ashby Parva and luckily managed to squeeze past the tarmac lorry (the road was officially closed!) to cycle directly back to the Garden Centre. It was a shorter route than planned but everyone was grateful for the fresh air.

Hooray! For once we had a bright, mild, and dry Wednesday. Andy guided eight of us on a new route this week. We started from Catthorpe Manor Farm Shop and headed down to Swinford and on to Stanford on Avon. We rode through the village, turned left, and enjoyed the quiet lane towards Cold Ashby. However, after crossing the A14 we turned right and down the hill to Elkington. From here we cycled into Yelvertoft and on to Lilbourne. We had a bit of a climb back up to Catthorpe for well-earned refreshments at the Farm Shop. Thanks Andy for a very pleasant 13-mile ride along quiet lanes in beautiful countryside.

Eight brave souls gathered at the Elms for this ride on a grey, chilly morning. We set off over the motorway, down the lane to Misterton and along the footpath to Walcote. Crossing over the main road we headed up to Swinford Corner. There were a lot of ups and downs along the next few miles which took us through Swinford and on towards South Kilworth. Before reaching the village, we turned right and enjoyed free-wheeling down the hill to Stanford on Avon. Such beautiful views along this road. Turning right again, we headed back to Swinford and retraced our wheels to Swinford Corner. The last two miles led us directly back to Lutterworth. Hot drinks at the Golf Club were very welcome.

As there were five Wednesdays in October, we tried to squeeze in an extra outing. Unfortunately though this was not to be. Heavy rain scuppered our plans.

The next ride will be on Wednesday 19th November. Anyone fancying some fresh air and gentle exercise is welcome to join us. All you need is a roadworthy bike and a helmet. Electric bikes welcome. Just email me: sueandpeter.creeden@talktalk.net.

Sue.

ESTG October event - Talk by David Hanger "Ticket to Ryde"

This month's ESTG event held in the Lutterworth Cricket club, was a fascinating **talk by David Hanger** who had put this latest offering together over the last year and which David had earlier presented to the Lutterworth Railway society.

The Title **Ticket to Ryde** is a play on words as the talk centred around the premise that ***every Ticket tells a story*** and this is exactly what David gave us, calling upon his own memories of certain train rides over his lifetime of railway involvement.
This was not just a talk about individual journeys but part travel log part **history of the issued "Ticket"** sometimes from mechanical machines as early forms of receipt for money paid when railways started to carry passengers between cities in the late 1800s through to todays online digital bookings with Companies who's job it is to navigate and offer the best deal for a specific rail journey however complicated.

Using examples from David's own collection' we were shown how the basic ticket evolved from just covering a simple journey through to **complicated family holiday tours which were started by Leicester's famous pioneering travel company owner Thomas Cooke initially in the UK** but then extended to Europe and the world, which often involved stopping off at many places with accommodation included.
David gave his experience when as a young child in the 70s they had spent their annual holiday touring Scotland on a rail holiday…….and also as recently as last year through a **U3a holiday in Switzerland**.

It was also interesting to note the cost on the early tickets for rail journeys in the 70s and compare with today pricing.
This basically showed that it is cheaper to travel today than at any other time since rail travel began !!!!!!!

Our Thanks go to David for spending time putting this fascinating talk for the group and which was enjoyed by the many members who attended on the day.

Chris R

ART APRECIATION

The question: Which artist captures best the true spirit of Britain? started really in Spain, where a novelist and an art critic argued fiercely: “Is it GUERNICA by Picasso or Goya’s FIGHT WITH CUDGELS, that showed/painted the Spanish soul best? We looked into this intriguing debate with great interest and transferred it to Britain. During the preparation we encountered a great number of questions, like: What is significantly British? What defines the nation? Should it be globally famous? Should it speak to us, to what we think, feel and know? It turned out to be really an unanswerable question. But we tried - and with enormous engagement and enthusiasm.

The following artists were suggested:
Hockney, Banksy, Turner, Constable, Lowry, Laura Knight, Martin Parr, Grayson Perry, NIck Parks, William Morris, Stanley Spencer, Edward Baird and Eric Ravilious. Here are just two resumes as examples of our reasonings.

Constable’s HAY WAIN is a painting that is so familiar that it has become uninteresting. However when I came across the original I was so impressed. He painted it when in his fourties’ and it was a nostalgic depiction of where he was brought up. Similarly , with me it evoked nostalgic memories of the countryside where I was a child, complete with elm trees which together with the then prevailing story of Britishness are a thing of the past. (D. Marsh)

My choice is Nick Park, born in 1958, in Preston. The Wallace and Gromit animated scenes being quintessentially British. The indoor scenes, wallpaper, picture rails, mantlepieces, Wallace’s clothes and choice of an A35 van redolent of 1950’s and 60’s Britain. Whilst the sense of humour, eccentricity, inventiveness are all British traits. the skilful sculptures and attention to minute detail being something to celebrate, they also bring joy.

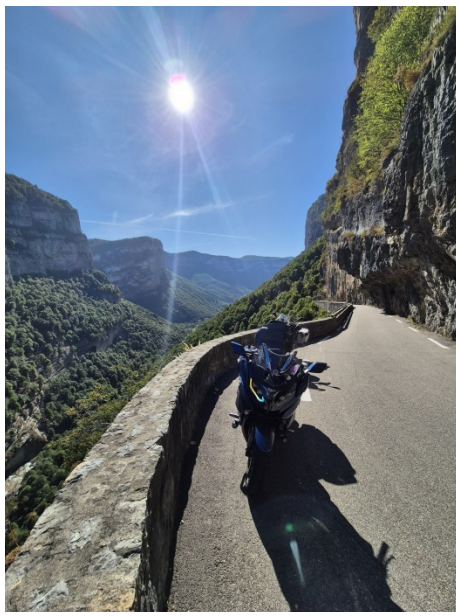
Our next meeting: 14.11.2025
Exhibition: MARY LINWOOD
Leicester New Walk Museum

Ursula.

Motorcycle Interest Group

September proved to be generally quiet in terms of group activities with just a few local routes explored.

Through September a number of members were away (motorcycling) and making the remainder of the group very envious by sending “pics” of their respective holidays.



Photos included the Combe Laval balcony roads in the French Alps and the Mosel region of Germany.

Temperatures of 30 - 38 deg c were experienced in parts of France – Edge stated to be rather warm when in full biker gear!

On home shores October has seen various outings to local venues.

We had planned to visit the East Midlands Aeropark Aviation Museum at Castle Donnington and then onto a local café for refreshments. Unfortunately a spanner was put in the works as the Aeropark had adopted its winter opening schedule a few days earlier and the museum is only open at weekends until April 2026. Fortunately we discovered the revised schedule of the museum before we set off so we had a rethink and visited the Gates garden centre near Oakham instead. We viewed the centres very extensive Christmas displays – plus of course visited their café. Riding a motorcycle does reduce the chance of making impulse purchases of Christmas novelties due to transport considerations!

A visit to Church Farm tearooms at Anslow, Nr Burton -on -Trent proved a very enjoyable outing. We started off in rather murky misty conditions but with the forecast indicating an improvement. We headed out along the A5 and then North up the A444 to Twycross, Appleby Magna and onto Burton. The early mist developed into a light

drizzle as we approached Appleby Magna. Suddenly we rode out of the poor weather and for the rest of the day we experienced brighter weather with hazy sunshine. The Church Farm tearooms have an excellent menu and the three cheese Panini can be thoroughly recommended!!

Our return journey through Burton was hampered by heavy traffic but we managed to negotiate this successfully without the group being separated. We had a steady ride home with a detour via Market Bosworth to Broughton and Lutterworth.

Our last outing of the month was an excursion into Northamptonshire. We have visited the destination before but were disappointed to find the café on site had now closed. Fortunately we found another nearby café that had excellent cakes and beverages – but it was rather cold inside. In fact it felt warmer outside and that was with our motorcycle clothing on.

We decided on a scenic route home – and all went well until we found the road closed with no signed diversion near the village of Harpole. Our route back eventually took in a large swathe of Northamptonshire until we finally joined the A5199 a lot further south than we had intended. Despite a rather long diversion this proved a very enjoyable outing.

Hopefully there will be some sunshine and dry days in November so we can get out and about on two wheels. Wet leaves and mud can make any road a little “interesting” on two wheels.

“Shiny side up and rubber side down”.

Colin

Committee Members

Office	Name
Chairperson ….....	Colin Beadle
Secretary ….....	Denise Taylor
Treasurer.....	Nigel Burt
Speaker Finder.....	Andrea Nichol
Minutes Secretary.....	Anne Dean
Membership Secretary ….....	Linda Teague
Co-opted Committee Member …	Mike Chapman
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

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