u3a Wycliffe Lutterworth

Members Bulletin **Jan 2026**

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.

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Notes from the Chair

Greetings to All,

With the festive period now over we are looking forward to another busy year at Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a.

Andrea has speakers organised and booked for our monthly meetings for at least the next twelve months. As ever the topics to be covered will be wide ranging, informative and I am sure you will find these entertaining.

The arrangements for the annual holiday - this year Sedburgh - are firmly in place, a thank you to Eddie for organising such.

Our (your) Group Coordinators, I know, will be busy planning and organising meetings, trips etc. for 2026. As a Group Coordinator I know this role can on occasions be time consuming and assistance from a group member is always welcomed. So please support your Group Coordinator whenever you can.

Our AGM will be on Thursday 12th March 2026. The AGM will take place at the beginning of our March monthly meeting, appropriate notice and documents will be circulated to all members in due course. At the AGM Officers and Committee members of our u3a are elected. We do need your support in filling committee positions that are - or will become - vacant.

I am sure all of you will be aware I will be standing down as Chair at the forthcoming AGM. After four years as Vice Chair and a further three as Chair it is time for a change. Indeed our constitution includes time limitations for Officer and Committee member roles.

Our constitution also states a Chair shall be elected at the AGM – unfortunately, to date, there have been no nominations to fill this position.

Please do consider joining our committee to ensure our u3a may continue to flourish. If you would like further information regarding a committee or officer role please contact me or any committee member.

Regards and Happy New Year.

Colin (Chair)

chair@wycliffelutterworthu3a.org

NOTICES

USED STAMPS

PLEASE NOTE: Unfortunately, Sue Creeden is no longer collecting your used stamps. Thank you for your support over the last few years.

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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

* * * * *

Discussion Group

For our December meeting we did not have a discussion, but instead had a very entertaining quiz, accompanied by some excellent mince pies and coffee.

The next meeting will be on January 12th and the topic is " Do we need the BBC ?"

Sylvie

* * * * *

Art Appreciation Report for December

The task for our December meeting was to choose a visual artwork and find a piece of music that builds a connection between them and supports the visual and emotional messages.
It was an extremely varied and informative session with quite a few eye-openers. Wassily Kandinsky, for example, stated that for him " colour provokes a physic vibration", it acts on every part of the body. He could hear the colours, a sound - to - colour synesthesia.
Lively discussions over Xmas nibbles let us forget our 2 hour time window. We decided to continue with this subject at our meeting in January.

Next session: 9th January 2026
at Bitteswell Village Hall : 13.30 – 15.30pm

Subjects :

1. Continuation of December topic
2. Selection of an artwork, representing a picked month for a 2026 calendar.

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP

November event "Chip and Pin Security" talk by Dave Main

This month we were treated to a real insight into the world of banking security and cyber technology by Dave Main who, when he's not rebuilding vintage cars or entering the Peking to Paris rally, was in his day job a Security Consultant for a major banking organisation.

Dave started by giving us the history of the credit card, which for most of us is an everyday item without which life would not be so easy to operate on a day to day basis.

The concept of "buy now, pay later" is ancient, seen in Babylonian laws regarding loans and repayments. More direct precursors to modern cards began in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Charge Coins/Plates: In the late 1800s, merchants and hotels issued metal coins or plates to trusted customers, which functioned like a running tab.

Early Cards: In 1934, American Airlines introduced the Air Travel Card, an early form of a closed-loop card (usable only with participating airlines) that allowed customers to buy tickets on credit

First Bank Card: In 1946, John Biggins, a Brooklyn banker, created the "Charg-It" card, a local system where the bank paid merchants and billed the customer later.

1950: The Diners Club Card Businessman Frank McNamara forgot his wallet while dining out in New York City, sparking the idea for a cashless solution. He and his lawyer, Ralph Schneider, launched the Diners Club card, initially a cardboard charge card accepted at 27 restaurants.

1969: Magnetic Stripe An IBM engineer developed the magnetic stripe.

BankAmericard in the U.S. as the first consumer credit card program with a revolving credit feature. It was later rebranded as Visa in 1976 to facilitate international expansion.

1990s-Present: Digital Age The mid-1990s brought EMV (Europay, Mastercard, and Visa) chip technology for enhanced security, followed by the rise of online commerce, contactless payments, and mobile wallets in the 21st century.

1990s-2000s: EMV chip technology emerged, using microprocessors and PINs to add layers of security and combat fraud.

2010s-Present: Contactless payments (NFC), mobile wallets (Apple Pay, Google Pay), and biometric authentication have become standard, pushing toward a fully digital payment future.

Dave explained the complex technology behind the current Chip and Pin and how this is used in the banking world with a 'clearing house process' but I won't relay this information as it is both highly complex and only illustrated through a large series of flow diagrams.

Suffice to say that, Dave confirmed that by constant transaction monitoring by the banks, almost immeasurable amount of numbering system password matches make the use of Chip and pin cards a safe way to conduct a purchase transaction.

The most unsafe element of the whole process is the credit card owner - they are the weakest link in the most complex chain designed to keep you safe….

Many thanks to Dave Main for his superb talk, which was enjoyed by all who attended, and which my summary above does not do anywhere near justice….!!!

My thanks also go to Colin Beadle for his involvement in facilitating this talk for the group.

Chris

Photography Group

Following our enjoyable joint Christmas party with the ESTG (thanks to Chris for organising), our first meeting in 2026 will be on Friday 30th January at our usual venue, the Cricket Club, starting at 10:00 am.

Our topic for the month is "Best 3 pictures taken in 2025". These may include ones already presented at one of our recent meetings.

Thanks to Michael Bates for the work he has put in over the years, as he now stands down as co-ordinator of the group, and it was suggested that a "shared role" should be our way forward, so that all the jobs do not fall on one person.

I intend to have a list of tasks that have to be performed each month, so I hope members will come to the meeting willing to participate not only at the meeting, but also, in a small way, in the management and organisation of the group.

New members are always welcome, so if you are interested in photography, using a dedicated camera, or just your phone, do come along.

Mike Chapman.

GENTLE CYCLING GROUP

Co-ordinator: Sue Creeden

01455 557888

Yes, we are still getting out on our bikes even in the winter – well when the weather permits anyway! Just one ride in December due to rainy Wednesdays.

Seven of us met up in Gilmorton on the first Wednesday of the month. The mist had cleared and the sun came out as we set off down Mill Lane to Peatling Parva and on to Bruntingthorpe. Turning left we rode through the village heading for Peatling Magna. Again, we continued through the village and then turned right into the quiet Barley Lane to Foston Church. The rural countryside looked stunning in the sunshine. Retracing our wheels to Peatling Magna, we cycled directly back 'up' to Peatling Parva, then another 'up' took us to Gilmorton for coffee at Moreton's. A bit of a 'there and back' ride but enjoyed by all.

The next ride will be on Wednesday 14th January. Maybe a New Year's resolution to come and join us? You will be very welcome. All you need is a roadworthy bike and a helmet. Electric bikes welcome. Just email me: sueandpeter.creeden@talktalk.net.

Report for the U3A History Group. December 2025

‘A Christmas Miscellany’

In our December meeting, we looked back through the centuries to discover Christmas in the Past through poetry, art and music and memories of our own childhood. To lead us into the deep midwinter, we began by hearing a reading of Shakespeare’s verse ‘When Icicles hang by the wall’ from ‘Love’s Labour’s Lost.’ It turned out that several of us remembered this from school and at least one member of the group could still recite it by heart! Fast forward a few years and we heard a reading of the ‘Yule Log’ by Robert Herrick, The Yule Log used to be a major part of Christmas long ago and this poem encapsulates the excitement of the ceremony of bringing the Yule Log into the house and the deep significance of its meaning. Finally, we listened to a poignant wartime radio broadcast, ‘Christmas Under Fire’ which was a radio article by an American diplomat in 1941, describing to the Americans how the British were facing up the Christmas in the Blitz and the remarkable resilience displayed by the people and their determination to enjoy Christmas, come what may.

For the next part of our miscellany, the group divided into teams and we had small group poetry readings and discussion. Our selections from the 19th century were ‘Holly’ by Christina Rosseti, ‘Mistletoe’ by Walter de la Mare and ‘The Oxen’ by Thomas Hardy. From the 20th century, we read ‘Sonnet in the shape of a Christmas Tree’ by George Starbuck (1978), ‘The Caroler’ (sic) by Ed King, (2004) and ‘December 26’ by Kenn Nesbitt (2006). Each of these provoked some thoughtful discussion but perhaps the one we all enjoyed most was ‘December 26’, which lists lots of toys on a Christmas list ‘that Santa forgot to bring’! We ended the first half with a ‘show and tell’ about our own favourite or memorable childhood Christmas presents. Several much-loved teddies and dolls had come along and other gifts were recalled with pictures and anecdotes about the magic of Christmas day. One member of the group brought in some beautiful antique glass baubles. One member brought in a 1960s Dansette transistor radio. Many of us remembered presents made by our Dad, including dolls houses and shops while others remembered Meccano, scooters, roller skates, bikes and trikes. Books and annuals featured strongly. There was a lot to talk about!

After the break and fortified by mince pies, stollen and other festive goodies we returned to our teams for two rounds of a light-hearted quiz. Round one was all about Art and the questions focused on paintings or other images which related to Wintertime or Christmas themes. These spanned 5 centuries and included classic works by Fra Angelico, Durer, Bruegel and Dante Gabriel Rossetti while others came from literature. A few were examples of Christmas cards sent in the 19th and 20th

centuries. It was remarkable how styles and sentiments changed from the earliest one sent in 1843. Sometimes it was easy to guess the card's period but not always. Round two was a pop music round on songs that were high in the charts from the 1950s to 1980s. The group displayed a remarkable breath of knowledge from songs by 1950s and 1960s stars like Danny Williams, Nina and Frederick and Cliff Richard right up to Pink Floyd and the Human League and who could forget Ernie, the fastest milkman in the west? The results were close but one team carried off the prize of a box of chocolates.

A Dansette Radio

Future Meetings

Tuesday January 6th Dunton Bassett Village Hall. 2 - 4 as usual. The topic will be on Mary, Queen of Scots (Viv)

February 3rd (as above). The topic will be on The Six Wives of Henry VIII and led by Sheila E.

Please will all group members note that your subs to cover the room hire and refreshments are now due. Please pay £4 directly to the U3A with the reference History G subs.

SC 30-97-13 Acc No 01937581. Alternatively, you can bring a cheque payable to 'Wycliffe Lutterworth U3A 'to the January meeting. (Not cash). Please write the reference on the back.

Viv.

U3A Snail's Walking Group

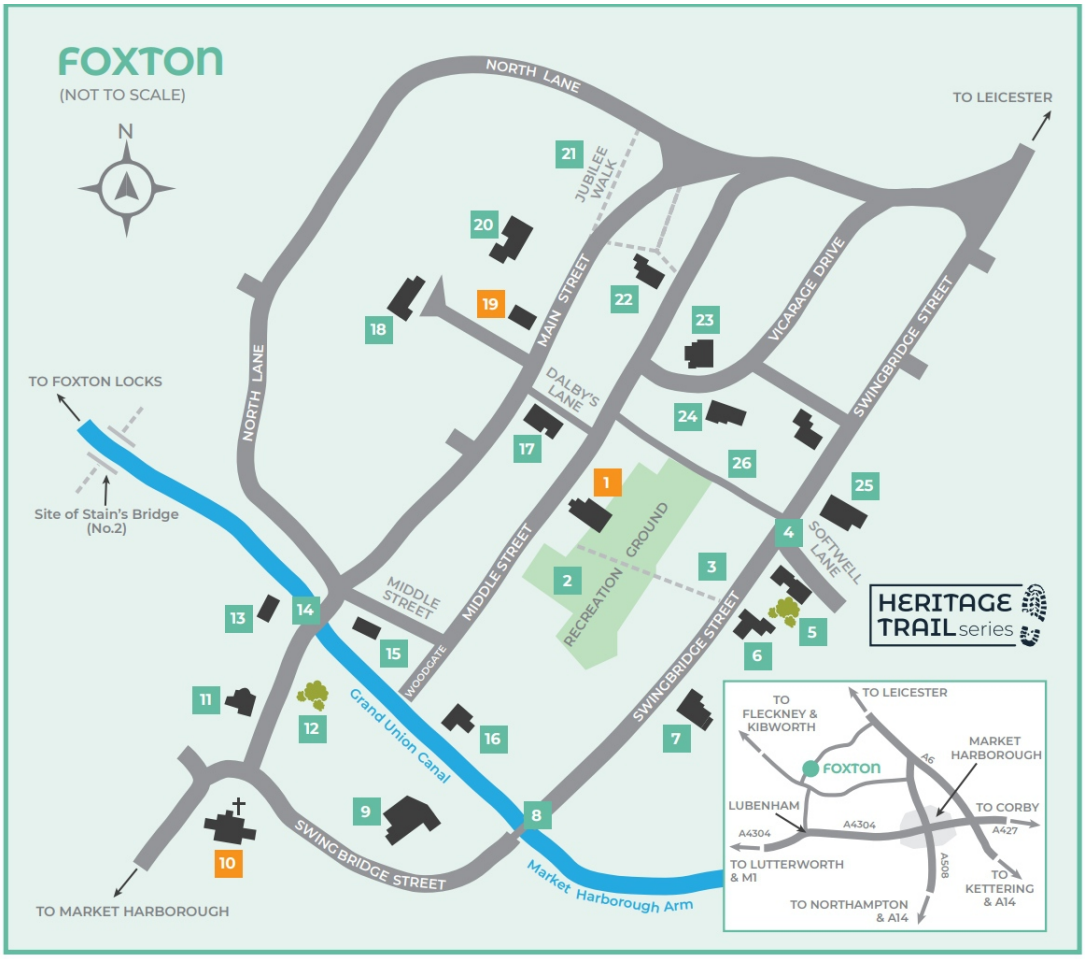
First walk of the new year! Friday 16th January at Foxton Village

We will meet at 10.45am at The Shoulder of Mutton pub

60, Main Street, Foxton, Market Harborough, LE16 7RB.

Phone: 01858 681080

The pub will open for us to take our lunch order and use their facilities. There is a pub car park.



The Walk

The walk will take us around the village on footpaths and lanes and then along the canal towpath. **No muddy fields and no stiles!**

If you feel you have walked enough, instead of going along the canal towpath you can continue back to the pub. (The tow path is wide and well laid out but will be wet and a bit muddy at this time of the year.)

I have done a recce and followed the heritage trail – see above. Foxton is a delightful village with an interesting history so there is plenty to look at as we walk.

Lunch

We will have lunch at The Shoulder of Mutton, Foxton. The food is good, and it is popular!

I have **attached the lunch menu**, offering meals and sandwiches.

We will pre-order on arrival.

Contact

If you want to come on this walk, please contact me by **Wednesday 14th January.**

Email: mandycutler@sky.com or text/phone on 07724 124094

Let me know if you are staying for lunch.

Directions from Lutterworth to The Shoulder of Mutton, Foxton

Post code LE16 7RB.

- Follow the A4304 towards Market Harborough.
- After 11 miles in Lubenham take a left turn signposted Foxton - also a brown sign 'Foxton Locks'.
- After 1.5 miles at the T- junction turn left and follow the road round a sharp right-hand bend into Foxton village down Main Street. (Do not go to Foxton Locks.)
- Continue downhill past St Andrew's Church on the right.
- You will drive over the canal bridge**. Look out for a sign on the left for The Shoulder of Mutton pub. The pub is set back from the road on the left.**

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

Walk Report – 10 December 2025

This early in the month walk (I didn`t think we would have much of a turnout on Christmas Eve) lured 14 walkers out. We had been having a period of very wet weather but this morning it wasn`t raining, the sun was shining and it wasn`t particularly cold.

We set off from The Elms and headed up on the busy main road towards the town but turned off up Riverside Road towards the footpath at the end of Misterton Way. We climbed up the narrow footpath, under the bridge of the old railway line, to reach the open fields. After crossing the motorway bridge we took the footpath that dropped down, crossed a field and then a bridge. It was here I tried to be a bit clever, because I wanted to increase the length of the walk and instead of going straight across the next field I took a circuitous route right around the edge. It proved to be quite wet but, surprisingly, not particularly muddy. I have to confess that I had lost my bearings at one point and joining the path that went straight across was a “little adventure”. We then crossed the bridges and headed up to Misterton church. Back on firm ground we then joined Chapel Lane and then the footpath to Walcote. After stopping at the playground for refreshment (nobody tried the zip wire) we then made our way to Brook Street. Turning left we walked to its end and then took the footpath across fields to reach the tarmacked footpath. We then headed back to Chapel Lane and the Lutterworth Road. We then crossed the motorway roundabout bridge to return back to The Elms. We did 4.1 miles with no stiles and I didn`t receive any complaints about the sloshy field.

Peter Creeden

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

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

Walk Leaders: Sue and Peter Creeden

Wednesday 28th January 2026

This walk is our post Christmas get together (as you may remember I didn`t go for the usual Christmas lunch because it was so expensive). So please come along.

Meeting Point :- Please make your own way to the car park of The Olde Royal Oak,

Valley Lane, Bitteswell (LE17 4SA)

Lunch Arrangements: It would help the pub if they knew numbers and that we pre-ordered before we set off. The menu can be found on their website https://oldroyaloakbitteswell.co.uk/ I suggest that if you are dining you arrive at the pub at 09:45am to pre-order. I am planning to sit down at approximately 1:00pm.

Start Point and Time: The Olde Royal Oak, Bitteswell. Toilets will be available. Start of walk at 10.00am.

Route and distance: We will head off to Woodby Lane. Please note that care will be needed on the short section along the Ullesthorpe Road. Walking the lane we will enter Magna Park for a short while. We then enter an area where there is a small pond that we pass. Leaving this area we then cross a field (which might be a bit muddy) to enter another field (not so muddy) to reach the track that used to go to the now defunct Blakenhall Farm. Walking down the track we reach the edge of the Mulberry Homes estate. A small leap will then be required over a stream to enter the Lutterworth Country Park. We will do a lap of the park, taking a break halfway round, to then retrace a few steps back up the Blakenhall Farm track but turning off to walk round a few fields (dependent on time and weather) to reach the footpath back to Valley Lane and the pub.

Dependent on the time, weather and ground conditions, no more than 4.5 miles with only one stile.

ESTG - December Event - Christmas Party

For December ESTG joined up with the Photographic Group to have a joint Christmas party at Ullesthorpe Village Hall with one of George Robertson's famous 'unfathomable' Quizes as usual.

The much anticipated "Slot Car Challenge" which, due to no music this year, allowed this to be set up on the main stage area by Colin Beadle and was a whole lot bigger (not mention trickier) and in addition to the Champions Trophy,

Howard Grant kindly offered to set up a smaller circuit for the people to have a go with classic slot cars which was a bit different although probably not any less challenging …there was a coveted winners prize Mugs for both tracks.

The only lull in proceedings was a short review of the groups year by me -but we did have moments from both groups captured on the "big screen" in a rolling video format by Mike Chapman ….

This year's format allowed members/partners and guests plenty of time to mingle and chat before the buffet which was supplied by Lutterworth Caterers and a great buffet it was so thanks Sophie.

A really big thanks to everyone who helped set up the hall, reception on the door, administer welcome drinks and in the kitchen for the teas and coffee after the buffet and of course to George for a great Quiz…..Much appreciated.

Next Meeting will be Thursday Jan 15th at the Cricket club and will be a free morning of deciding what ESTG events we would like to sort for 2026 so please come along and let me have your ideas and suggestions -

"If we don't know about, it we can't organise it".

Free Tea Coffee biscuits will be on hand as usual .

Chris Ridley

MERRY

2022 - Nigel Bedford
2023 - David Hanser
2024 - Bob Kennett
ESTG Slot Car Champion

MERRY

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

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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