u3a Wycliffe Lutterworth

Members Bulletin Oct 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.

On Thursday 8th October our speaker will be **Roxanne Dinsdale** and the subject is:-

'Snake Charming'

My life……stories of a professional snake charmer and fire-eater.

(please note there is no fire lit during this talk and no snake, pictures will be circulated to illustrate how I work with the snake)

The talk starts with a demonstration of Egyptian Shaabi dance and continues with funny anecdotes about how I got into Belly Dancing, fire eating and training/working with a snake!!

Finally I relate all the hilarious and sometimes scary incidents and accidents I've had over the years.

Table of Contents

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY....3

U3A Snail's Walking Group....4

Lively Discussion Group – September 2026....7

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP....8

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP....9

Poetry Group....10

Photography Group....11

Art Appreciation....12

Report for the History Group....14

Committee Members....19

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Forthcoming Speakers Wycliffe Lutterworth u3a.

September 10th James and Sam. 'Silverlink Legal'

October 8th. Roxanne Dinsdale 'Snake Charming'

November 12th. Martin Lloyd. Passports, Traitors and Spies

December 10th. Richard Hill. Christmas Entertainment

January 14th. Alan Coltman. Mexico

February 11th. Paul Lille. The Beatles

March 11th. AGM. New Commitee members needed.

April 8th. David Hanger. 200 yrs of Railway

U3A Snail's Walking Group

Friday 19th September saw 9 of us set off from the Bricklayers Arms, on a lovely sunny morning.

Four of us, decided to trial the coffee pod and enjoyed our 'walk' sat in the sun, whilst the other hardy 5 set off for what they described as a lovely and beautiful walk around the reservoir. In defence of The Four; two were limping slowly with sticks/poles, ably accompanied by spouse and friend!

We then went back to the Bricklayer's Arms for a grazing board, as there were not enough of us for the pub to open the kitchen. Paul and Becca did us proud with tasty and hearty choices which seemed to be very popular with everyone.

A picture of repleted walkers/coffee drinkers. Missing 2 stalwarts of the group due to another engagement.

<u>FUTURE WALKS</u>

October – Friday 15th – Bradgate Park

CUT OFF FOR LUNCH ORDERS IS FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER

Full details are at the end of this newsletter

NOVEMBER – FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER – Fran and Sheila's Crick Walk

Details to follow.

DECEMBER – Traditionally no walk

The Snail's Pace walks are yours, so please feel free to suggest a walk, that you like and want to share. If you are able to organise the walk and lunch it would be much appreciated; but if you can't, the suggestion alone makes it easier for me, and more interesting for all the group.

I plan to send out an annual schedule in December, ready to start in January 2027, so please get your ideas in. Thank you.

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.

It is worth saying that we encourage and enjoy members who walk part of the way; and then find a place to rest or have a pre-lunch cuppa; or who come along for the lunch and a chat. All are very welcome, and we hope that you will join us.

If you are interested, please contact me on:

Email; foggers165@gmail.com or 07711086927

Thank you and happy walking

Denise

DETAILS OF WALK ON OCTOBER 15TH – BRADGATE PARK

We will meet at 10.45 at The Bradgate, a bit further along from the park entrance.

Whilst the pub is happy for us to park when we walk, I am negotiating with the pub for access to the facilities; failing that there are toilets available just a short walk away. Some may want to think about car sharing from the pub to the car park. There is some on-road parking, but this is not guaranteed. The car park cost, should you choose to use it, is £3.30 for 3 hours, or £4.50 all day. You can pay by card.

There are toilets just before the car park, or at the Visitor's Centre, just over half a mile along the tarmac track.

It is this track that we will be walking: there and back. It is just a smidgen over 3 miles, but flat and easy underfoot. Of course, you are free to wander the park if a 'there and back' is not for you.

There is a café and toilets at the Visitors Centre and from there it is marked as 1 .1 miles to the Hall Gates car park at the other end.

Lively Discussion Group – September 2026

Subject:

Number 10 of the North: a stunning idea, or a vanity project"?

Although No. 10 North is in its infancy, we looked at things such as cost, the need for it, any impact to date, what this 'outpost' will be responsible for and even, why Manchester?

Generally, it was felt that there was limited information available, and what there was, was not always consistent. Three group members came up with three different set up costs; the information being acquired from government sources.

The response as to whether this is a vanity project, or 'devolution in motion' was mixed; although it was felt that more could be made of the available technology for meetings and decision making, rather than transporting people around the country and the cost that entails.

There was support for mayors having increased responsibilities, including greater control over public services. It was felt by some that local mayors would be closer to what their region needed to be able to thrive.

The potential high cost of the second No. 10 was seen as a concern, as well as the potential for duplication, in areas such as the high level of security needed for the PM and the Cabinet together with the additional cost of highly secure communication systems.

It was noted that there was a risk of Manchester Centricity to match the Westminster Centric bubble in London. Other areas of England, such as the East and West Midlands, and the West Country have raised concerns about being overlooked in this new arrangement.

We concluded that this is a subject to discuss again, maybe in a couple of years, when the costs and effectiveness of No. 10 North are more apparent.

Denise

Next meeting: Monday 19th October

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

September 2026 Walk Report

A fantastic turnout of 26 walkers met outside the Reading Room in Yelvertoft. The walk, led by Alan and Ruth Bilton, went up Ward's Lane and across the fields. The first hazard was a herd of cows with youngsters, who were blocking the gate. However, as we approached, they dispersed and with a few shouts from Stephen Carter left us in peace. The third stile was broken and a bit tricky to cross but we all managed. We turned right onto a lane leading to the canal and paused for coffee on the canal bridge. Well refreshed we then followed the canal beck to Yelvertoft. The path was narrow in places but no one fell in the water and we made it back down the road to the Knightley Arms where the landlady had opened specially for us. The weather remained fine and the walk beside the canal was very peaceful.

Ruth Bilton

FOURTH WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

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

Date of walk : Wednesday 28 October 2026

Walk Leader : George Robertson. 07986827270

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

Start Point and Time: The Pheasant, Withybrook CV7 9LT. Toilets are available before we set off. Start of walk 10.00am

Lunch Arrangements: We will give our food orders before we leave. I have a copy of the lunchtime menu which does not appear on their web site. Let me know if you would like a copy.

Directions to start : To Magna Park A5 roundabout. Take exit (B4027) to Pailton. After Pailton there is shortly a sharp lefthand bend at a junction. Go straight across onto the B4112 to Withybrook. The pub is on the right as you enter the village.

Route and distance: We head off across fields to join a bridleway that takes us past Mobbs Wood Farm where we join the Oxford canal. We follow the canal in the direction of Brinklow and then leave on The Centenary Way footpath back to Withybrook. 5.5 miles. Two stiles.

Poetry Group

September's topic was "Fantasy, Ghosts and Ghouls". We had great fun discovering poems, both creepy and funny, not just about ghosts, although there were a lot of those, but also featuring zombies, aliens, witches, fairies, monsters and a black beast courtesy of Ted Hughes.

We had some not quite ghosts as well. I was especially struck by a poem about Ada Lovelace , a mathematician and world's first computer programmer, an "enchantress of numbers".

We also read fantasy poems including Coleridge's drug fuelled "Kubla Khan ".

October's topic, reflecting the theme chosen for international poetry day, is "Wonder - Nature, Climate, Science and Hope.

Sylvie

Photography Group

This month Sally presented our digital images on the subject of 'Canals' after a successful visit to Foxton Locks. The second half of the meeting Hazel of Optical Sentiments gave us a presentation on 'Observation to Abstraction' producing images of high magnification and artistic value.

This was followed by a lively question and answer session.

The November meeting at Ullesthorpe village hall on 27 November will be hosted by Peter Sands. The theme this month will be 'Small Things'. You really do have a blank canvas to fill with your interpretation of this subject.

In part two continuing the theme a presentation by John Haddon on 'UK Butterflies' will be given. John is the secretary at Lutterworth Photo Society and a well known LEPIDOPTERIST. I think he can boast to having collected images of ALL the UK species! A really fascinating ,brightly coloured subject for a Winters day.

Art Appreciation

After the summer break we met at Bitteswell Village Hall for our September session. Stephen Carter, from U3A Photo Group, had kindly offered to tell us all about Caribbean Street Art.
He was able to experience and admire these images, when he visited the Islands last year. His excellent selection of photos showed us, that Caribbean Street Art is quite distinctive, blending traditional Art forms with modern Graffiti techniques. It is shaped by indigenous, African and European influences. We saw naive paintings, sometimes incorporating building parts, such as windows and doors, bright, colourful images, depicting island life, history and culture, often with spiritual depth. It is definitely more than decoration. With intricate patterns this type of Art is gaining more and more global recognition. Artists are commissioned and sponsored to transform public spaces. We all admired this visually vibrant Art, reflecting the region's folklore, struggle for independence and their environmental topics.
A lively discussion followed over our coffee break. We were so grateful to Stephen, having introduced us to this form of Art.
Maybe we will pick up the subject again: Street Art and Graffiti.

Next meeting : 9.10.2026 (11o'clock)
"PAULA REGO" Exhibition at Rugby Museum

DA

Paints
2025

Report for the History Group

A visit to Wrest Park, Bedfordshire

Our September meeting was a visit to Wrest Park, an imposing 19thC mansion built in in the style of a French chateau from the reign of Louis XV and set in extensive parkland and gardens. Our visit took place on a rare wet day but we all managed to enjoy a look around. despite the drizzle. The house is managed by English Heritage and it has recently found fame as a location on screen, in films like the 'Death of Stalin' and most recently in 'Bridgerton'. It has also featured on 'Flog It' and 'Countryfile'.

The parkland and gardens are magnificent. They date back some three hundred years before the present house and contain several interesting neoclassical structures such as a circular domed Pavilion house placed at the end of a long reflecting pool, to create a magnificent vista from the house. There is also an Orangery and an unusual grotto with a lead lined plunge pool, originally for use by the gentlemen. The park has many statues. Some of the best are on display in the old dairy to protect them but many others still stand in situ, giving a strong sense of the original continental vision by the designer. The drought has had a big impact on all gardens this year but the flower gardens near the house were still very colourful and well cared for, largely by volunteers.

Some of us took advantage of a tour to see the rare 18thC Chinese painted wallpaper, which was transferred into the new house in 1830, This tells a story of life in China and it teems with birds and flowers. We learned that the panels unfortunately got out of sequence when fitted, no doubt because the workmen could not read the Chinese numbers! This does not detract from their beauty and interest and it is quite hard to spot! We also viewed another room decorated with beautiful 19thC French wallpaper in very different style. This was commissioned by the then owner of the house, Earl de Grey.

Money was lavished on the place in the 19thC but the mansion's heyday was over by the early 20thC and it has since had mixed fortunes. It was rented to the American ambassador in 1900, then it became a convalescent home and military hospital in World War I. During World War II the house and estate became a refuge for the Sun Insurance Company. Some three hundred employees lived there in huts in the grounds. There was also a group of WAAFs who did secret work at Bletchley Park billeted there. After the War it became an Agricultural college until 2006 when English Heritage took it on. As a result, many of the grand furnishings are long gone and the house is quite sparsely dressed compared to many stately homes but the bonus of this was that the architectural structures like the sweeping double staircase and the grand

reception rooms overlooking the park can be appreciated. It’s a lovely place and well worth a visit.

Future meetings

We will be returning to Dunton Bassett Village Hall on the first Tuesday in the month, 2-4 pm

October 6th. ‘1066 and All That’

As the Bayeux Tapestry is in the news at the moment, our topic will be all about what England was really like in the 11th century.

November 3rd TBA

December 1st TBA

Committee Members

Office	**Name**
Chair ….....	Andrea Nichol
Treasurer.....	Nigel Burt
Secretary ….....	Denise Taylor
Membership Secretary ….....	Linda Teague
Minutes Secretary & Welcome Desk ….....	Sally Wood
Refreshments Coordinator and Rota ….....	Sue Poulter
Group Coordinator and Facebook Editor ….....	Nigel Bones
Welfare Rep and Sound Operator.....	Ruth Bones
Speaker Secretary….....	Sue Hanger
Social Secretary ….....	Peter Maddock
Set up Team ….....	Mark Smith Peter Maddock

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

thewycliffelutterworthu3a@gmail.com