

Heckington July 2026

On yet another hot sunny day a group of intrepid U3A members enjoyed a full day out at the village of Heckington. Our first stop was St Andrews Parish Church, one of the best examples of Gothic style in the country. We had time to look around before our guide arrived and could see how in spite of being over 700 years old it still remains at the heart of the community, with evidence of the various groups who use the space all about, particularly the school children's artwork.

It was amazing to think that Edward III would have walked past the same font when he visited in 1330, no wonder it has had to be repaired so much! Much of the original stonework remains including numerous gargoyles one of which depicted the feminist attitude of the time to the priesthood, (a woman throttling a priest).

The stained glass was also interesting, spanning from three rare small coloured Medieval windows to a Victorian depiction of the Curate Potesgrave who instigated the building of the huge Chancery and all the work it involved.

As we stood in the shade of a yew tree to admire the outside of the building, the church clock struck 12 darting dragonflies surrounded us which was a rare sight.

Our next stop was the only remaining 8 sailed windmill in the country which still mills a variety of flours. Originally built in 1830 with 5 sails which were lost to a storm in 1890 the mill was repaired in 1892 by John Poklington who brought the 8 sails from Tuxford Mill in Boston. The mill was deserted from 1946 until its renovation in 1986. Since then a skilled and enthusiastic band of volunteers have tackled numerous repair challenges which many of us saw close up as we toured the mill. Each floor was connected by steep ladders and I won't say that many members raced up them but we managed to climb steadily to the top! At the halfway stage we were able to climb out onto the balcony and from there we could see right over the ripened fields of wheat to the Boston Stump.

Our last stop was the Brewery just next to the mill, where to celebrate another great trip out we treated ourselves to a beer or two.

Rosey Thompson