

Lindsey u3a

# Magazine

**u3a** learn, laugh, live

Quarterly Edition No. 106 (January 2026)



Annette Mackenzie with her Little Owl 'Eric'

## Features

- 'My Life as an Author' by Margaret Dickinson
- 'More About Owls' by Annette MacKenzie
- Visit to E.H.Thorne's Beehive factory
- Visits Group visit to Museum of Timekeeping



Members of Architecture Group on the Uphill Lincoln walk



Margaret Dickinson at her talk 'My Life as an Author'

# Notes from the Editor



Welcome to the January 2026 edition of the Magazine. Happy New Year!

In this bumper edition we feature accounts of our general meetings including author Margaret Dickinson, nature reports by Nick Martin and More About Owls. Also reports of visits to a Beehive factory and a fascinating trip to the Museum of Timekeeping .

## A Tribute

Sid & Jane Miller are leaving Lindsey u3a soon moving to pastures new. We would like to thank them both for their substantial contribution to the Lindsey u3a over many years. Sid in particular has performed many roles on the Committee, including Chairman, providing valuable advice and also running our website, Beacon and the computer and family history groups. Jane has ably managed our membership and welfare posts as well as assisting Sid in resurrecting the very successful theatre group. We wish them all the best in their new home.

I would particularly like to thank those members who have continued to contribute to the magazine and my proof readers team of Dawn Bowskill & Jenny Porter. I would particularly like to invite general members to contribute to the magazine if they have an item that may be of general interest, **it is your magazine.**

The deadline for the April 2026 magazine is 5th March 2026. Contact details are: Geoff Sherman

email: [lindseyu3a.editor@gmail.com](mailto:lindseyu3a.editor@gmail.com)

*Geoff Sherman*

*Editor*

Lindsey u3a Website  
[www.lindseyu3a.org.uk](http://www.lindseyu3a.org.uk)

Our new webmaster: Julie Guest  
Email: [jguest343@gmail.com](mailto:jguest343@gmail.com)

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# NOTICES

## Meeting Schedule 2025

January 8th 2026	<b>Sustainability is King by Clive Wilson.</b> A welcome return visit by Clive and his colleague John Firth who brought us the Trojan Mice only 2 years ago; they will provide an update on ways we can live to help our troubled planet.
February 5th	<b>Loving Bread and Cheese by Adam O'Meara.</b> Adam set up a mobile business selling artisan breads and speciality cheeses around the East Midlands including Welton Farmers Market.
March 5th	<b>You'll fly laughing - volume II by Kenneth Moore.</b> Kenneth presents a humorous look at his life in the RAF where he was a navigator for over 34 years.
April 2nd	<b>There's no such word as CAN'T! by Emma Sheardown.</b> Emma was born with cerebral palsy but has fought to achieve so much in her life and will share her story about disability inclusion

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Lindsey u3a Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 5th March 2026 at 10.15am at Welton Village Hall, 51 Ryland Road, Welton. LN2 3LU.

### Draft Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive and approve the minutes of the 2025 AGM
3. To receive and approve the Chairman's report.
4. To receive and approve the examined accounts for 2025
5. To appoint an examiner of the accounts for 2026
6. Election of Officers 2026 to 2027
7. Election of Committee 2026 to 2027
8. Date and time of the 2027 Annual General Meeting

The Agenda will be finalised 4 weeks prior to the Meeting. If anyone has anything they wish to be added, please contact the Secretary before then.

Attached is a nomination form. Should you, or someone you know, wish to be a member of the Committee, the form must be completed and submitted to the Secretary on or before the February General Meeting.

### **Nomination Form**

All nominations for the committee must be proposed and seconded by two members of the club, together with the signed consent of the nominee and submitted at least four weeks prior to the AGM

Name and address of Nominee.....

.....

.....

Nominated position (if appropriate).....

Signature of Nominee.....

Proposed by..... Seconded by.....

An election will be held if the number of nominees exceeds the vacancies on the committee.

### **Subscription Renewals**

Subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st January 2026 at £17 per member (£13.00 for Associate member). A renewal form is included in this edition of the magazine. You may renew your subscription by cheque posted to the address shown on the form, by cheque at the next meeting or by direct BACS payment via your bank. Our bank details are shown on the renewal form.

As our u3a branch is a charity, we are able to recover money from the HM Revenue and Customs in the form of Gift Aid. We can recover 25% of the subscriptions you pay so if you have not done so previously please consider completing a gift aid form below and submit with your annual subscription. Thank you.



Membership Renewal for year  
1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026  
I/we wish to renew my/our membership of  
Lindsey u3a

Payment by:  
Cheque /  
Cash /  
BACS

Mr/Mrs/Miss	First name	Surname
Mr/Mrs/Miss	First name	Surname
Address		
		Post Code
Telephone incl std		Mobile(s)
Email address(es)		
Contact to call in case of Emergency		

Signature ..... Date .....

The renewal fee is £17 per person (Associate members £13.00) preferably payable by bank transfer, the details are Sort Code 60-13-15, Account no. 16568737,

**Reference:** (Your name). If you pay by BACS, please inform the membership secretary together with any changes of information, or send this form. Or post a cheque to the Membership Secretary at 18 Barnes Wallis Court, Welton, Lincoln LN2 3SZ. Please make cheque payable to "Lindsey u3a".

All membership enquiries to our Membership Secretary, Tricia Barnes, 01673 860399 or by email [memlu3a@gmail.com](mailto:memlu3a@gmail.com)

I would be interested in joining the committee or helping in some other way

If you are a full member of another u3a please state which one .....

I would be interested in talking to someone about organising a new group

I would like a form for Gift Aid to help Lindsey u3a with expenses  
(Not required if already completed a form)



## Gift Aid Authorisation – Lindsey U3A

Gift Aid means we can claim from the Inland Revenue—@ 25p for every £1 subscription.  
This will make a difference to our funds.

If you pay tax and would like to GIFT AID your subscription please complete the details

Title ..... First Name ..... Surname .....

Address .....  
.....  
.....

Post Code .....

I want my subscription payments for this year and  
all future payments to be subject to GIFT AID until I  
notify you otherwise.

For GIFT AID I understand I must pay enough tax  
(Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax \*\*\*) to at least  
cover ALL my charitable donations

**Charity Number 1180554**

\*\*\*NB Other Taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify

Signature ..... Date .....

Please note that you can cancel this authorisation at any time by notifying us    THANK YOU

### Welfare

Sheila Nash is our new Welfare contact. If you know of anyone who is ill, had a bereavement or is simply having some difficulties or if you think a card from the Committee would be welcome, then let Sheila know and she will send a suitable message.

Her contact details are Tel: 07709544145 and email:  
thenashes60@hotmail.com

# GROUP NEWS

## ARCHITECTURE GROUP

We are a large and friendly Group, who are interested in the buildings and settlements of the local area. We arrange talks in the winter months and trips to towns, villages and individual buildings once the weather gets warmer. We have a varied programme which includes the ancient and modern, usually with knowledgeable local guides. Our tours often finish in the local pub or teashop!



We meet on the third Thursday of the month, generally at 10.30am. Some of our visits do have limited numbers and we have Booking Forms at the General Meetings where you can put your name down.

### Programme

- 15 January Welton Room. Lincoln Castle Talk by Vic Hughes.
- 19 February Lincoln Cathedral Tour with Simon Judge.
- 19 March Visit to Southside/St Katherine's.

Luke Pickering, group leader

## ART GROUP

At our art group, members can draw and paint together in a hall location. The group is open to all abilities and complete beginners. So if you have ever wished to give it a go now is your chance!



We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Welton Room. Examples of recent meeting projects include: still life designs, tonal studies in pencil, charcoal & watercolour, watercolour landscapes, figure drawing, flower painting, exploring pen and wash techniques, starting out in pastels. Please contact me for further information.

# GROUP NEWS

Geoff Sherman, group leader

## ART APPRECIATION

Art Appreciation Group members would welcome new attendees at their meetings. Activities include members' presentations on artists and exhibitions attended, guest speakers, visits to art galleries. Meetings are informal and are held in members' homes unless an outing has been arranged. All meetings take place on the third Monday of the month at 2 p.m.

Contact Elizabeth Wilson - group leader



## BOOKLOVERS GROUP

We are a very friendly group and meet at 1.45 p.m. on the third Wednesday in a members home, with a cuppa and bickies. Upcoming good reads are "The Midnight Hour" by Eve Chase, "My Friends" by Fredrik Backman and Nathan Filer's, "Shock of the Fall."

Jan Benson. Group Leader      Email  
janbenson01@hotmail.com

## BIRD WATCHING

The group of Bird Watchers is run by the Cliff Villages u3a group on the third Wednesday of the month and they would welcome new members. You will need to be prepared to drive a little way as many sites are on the coast.

If you would like more details, please contact via  
[www.cliffvillageslincolnu3a.org.uk](http://www.cliffvillageslincolnu3a.org.uk)

# GROUP NEWS

## BOOKWORMS - BOOK GROUP

We are a small friendly group, meeting each month in one another's homes to discuss a book accompanied with refreshments.



Each year, as a group, we select a wide range of books including contemporary novels, the classics, biography and non-fiction. Individual members decide whether to obtain their books from the library service, use electronic downloads or purchase a hard copy. The group enjoyed a lively discussion after reading "The Dictionary People" and look forward to sharing their thoughts on "Precipice" by Robert Harris. Currently the Bookworms are putting their heads together to select their choice for the forthcoming twelve months.

For further information please contact: Dawn Bowskill - group leader: [dawn.bow44@outlook.com](mailto:dawn.bow44@outlook.com)

## CANASTA GROUP

Have you ever played or wish to learn how to play? Brian has been playing Canasta since the 1960's and is willing to teach new members how to play. The game can be played by 2,4 or 6 players on one table and can last for 2 hours or more or finish at a set time.



Brian is thinking of setting up a new group if there is enough interest. If you are interested please contact Brian Siddown indicating your preferred meeting day.

## CIRCLE DANCING

Circle Dancing is open to everyone. No experience is necessary as all the dances are



## GROUP NEWS

taught first. No partner is needed as we all join hands and dance together. The circle of dancers is welcoming and supportive and we can all have fun and make friends while learning dances to music from around the world. We always say 'There are no mistakes in Circle Dancing - only variations'.

We meet on the third Wednesday in the month from 10.00 - 11.30 at Moorland Methodist Church, Skellingthorpe Road. There is a small charge to pay for the hire of the hall. For further information please contact: Margaret Doughty [revmd@gmx.co.uk](mailto:revmd@gmx.co.uk)

### COFFEE MORNING

Held at the Scothern Garden Centre on the 4th Thursday of every month. Excellent coffee and tea plus the best scones ever! Please come along and enjoy a chat and maybe stop for lunch. It is important that you advise me if you wish to attend as we have to advise the cafe beforehand.

Luke Pickering,

### COMPUTERS FOR ALL

Looking forward to a new year, I would like to encourage more members to join our group to learn more from their computers

During our planned monthly meetings we explore the needs of Apple iPad users, along with those using Windows and Android devices. The meetings take the format of discussion and practical help, giving guidance to members using their different devices. We aim to sort out each other's problems along with exploring and obtaining more use from your apps for example users might want to:-



## GROUP NEWS

- Take a screenshot
- Use Control Centre for volume, brightness and recording ‘YouTube’
- Moving your apps and put your important apps on the dock
- Solving iPad problems by closing apps and switching off
- Are those Apps not working right for you?
- Are you having problems with your emails?
- Do you feel safe browsing the web?
- Would you like to improve your photos?
- How to set up a Google account?
- Plus much more

This non-technical approach is giving group members more confidence in using their devices so they can now show the grandchildren how to do it !!

The group welcomes new members of all levels of interest in technology who would like to further their knowledge and hopefully help others to benefit from what they have learnt. If you would like to join our happy group please email me on [perrenialgardner@gmail.com](mailto:perrenialgardner@gmail.com) or just come along to one of our meetings, which are held at the Welton Village Hall on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2 p.m., on following dates: January 12th, February 9th, March 9th

For further dates see our website.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

**Mike Kirkby, Organiser**

### DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Duplicate Bridge Group meets every Thursday  
1.00 p.m. at Old School Hall, Mill Hill Nettleham.

**Cathy Platt - group leader**



# GROUP NEWS

plattcathy58@gmail.com

## FAMILY HISTORY

We report each month on our own individual research, and pool our knowledge and experience to help with any 'brick walls'. Related topics are discussed, such as housing, work and migration, and also storage and information retrieval on a practical level.



Meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each month in members' homes although we are currently up to our limit. However, if anyone wishes to start their family history I am happy to provide guidance and encouragement.'

Janet Freeman - group leader  
[janethfreeman.12@gmail.com](mailto:janethfreeman.12@gmail.com)

## FRENCH CONVERSATION -

Bienvenue au Groupe de Conversation en Français!



Don't worry; this is an informal group and no-one is expected to be fluent. You just need to enjoy and appreciate French language and culture. This is an opportunity to practise some French and develop confidence in speaking, reading and listening; to share anecdotes about French life and culture - books, films travel etc, and about yourselves.

Whatever you can bring to the table - or "à la table"! Numbers are limited, as the group will be meeting in each other's homes. They will take place at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month.

Alan Gidney group leader  
[fitzal@hotmail.com](mailto:fitzal@hotmail.com)



## GROUP NEWS

### GARDEN GROUP

The Garden Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held in Welton Village Hall at 2 pm with an entrance fee of £4 which includes refreshments. There are garden visits in February and the summer months.

#### Programme

27 January - Social in Welton Village Hall

24 February - Talk by Dawn Fisher about pond plants

24 March - Talk by Steve Lovell about 'Bark, Berry and Leaf'

28 April - Visit to Bolham Manor near Retford

Please view details of further meetings & visits at the Welton Room at general meetings

Garden group leader: Louise Kevill

[gardengroup.lindsey@gmail.com](mailto:gardengroup.lindsey@gmail.com)

### INDOOR BOWLS

This is a group open to anyone who would like to give bowling a try or just come along and have a roll-up. We use the facilities at Dunholme Indoor Bowls Club and they are happy to provide shoes as you are not allowed to wear your own ordinary shoes on the carpet, and bowls that they have for those starting up. Bowls come in many sizes and weights so you can try different ones until you find ones you are comfortable with. For new bowlers free tuition will be given for the first three Tuesdays. The bowls group meet for a fun game every Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m. ready to start bowling at 2.30 p.m. for two hours. All new members are welcome. Rink fees are £5 for two hours (£4 for bowls club members). Teas and coffees are available for £1 each.

Jane Guy - group leader



# GROUP NEWS

## JEWELLERY GROUP

This group is an opportunity for people who have an interest in jewellery making and associated crafts to come along, enjoy a good chat, learn about this interesting hobby and make some wearable pieces. Our group is currently full however please contact Chris Saynor at [saynor\\_chris@hotmail.com](mailto:saynor_chris@hotmail.com) for further information.

## KNITTING GROUP

This group is a chance for people with an interest in Knitting and Crochet to meet. All levels welcome, any help needed can be given to new knitters. Just come along and enjoy a good chat and a chance to swap some ideas.



The Group meet at the Methodist Church Welton on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10.00 a.m.

## QUIZ GROUP

Following the success of our “QUIZ WITH A DIFFERENCE”, we plan to arrange another quiz in March. Details will be published soon. We hope you will come and join us for an afternoon of fun!!

Co Group Leaders Luke Pickering Malcolm Thompson

## SCRABBLE

Witham u3a have Scrabble meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 13.30 - 15.30. They meet in Cherry Willingham. 1 New Crescent LN3 4AJ. (New Crescent is off High Street, between the Millennium Hall and Church Hall). They would welcome members from Lindsey u3a  
Organiser: Thelma Britz -

Email: [thelmabritz@gmail.com](mailto:thelmabritz@gmail.com)

## GROUP NEWS

### SHORT WALKS GROUP

This group meets on the second Monday of each month at about 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start. We usually have easy walks of 2-3 miles taken at a leisurely pace, followed by a visit to a suitable place for refreshments and to discuss future walks. Any u3a member is welcome to join us, either on a regular basis or just occasionally. Further information from Janet Paley

### THEATRE GROUP

The group continues to thrive with all theatre visits being well attended. Reports of our visits can be seen on our web page.

We had our annual visit to the Buxton Opera House to the Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in August, with this performance being Iolanthe. Our final visit for 2025 was to see "Blood Brothers" in Nottingham in September and enjoyed by all. February 2026 sees a return to Sheffield to see "The Bodyguard the Musical". May sees us venture to the Hull New Theatre to see "Fawlty Towers, the Play"



You can find us in the Welton Room before the general meeting.

Jane and Sid are leaving the area very soon and the future of the group is uncertain at the moment. However, the booked visits will go ahead with a leader. If someone is willing to take over the group, we will publish the news at that time. In the meantime, no other visits will be booked.

Thanks to all those who have shown their support to date. Sid and Jane Miller email: [sid.milleru3a@gmail.com](mailto:sid.milleru3a@gmail.com)

## GROUP NEWS

### TROJAN MICE GROUP

#### The Environment's Friends

This group meets on the second Monday of the month in the Waitrose Community Room in the Nettleham Rd store. We meet at 3.15 pm and our meetings generally last around 90 minutes. Refreshments are available from the cafe.



We are a friendly, lively group of 30+ members and are working towards a member-led programme where topics are decided by the group and then members with a particular interest in the subject put together two or three sessions comprising a mix of presentations and discussion, invited speakers and site visits.

The Trojan Mice have a Recycling Point at all u3a general meetings which provides a one-stop drop-off for blister packs, spectacles, household batteries, water filters, printer cartridges, light bulbs and postage stamps. Rest assured that all donated items are recycled responsibly.

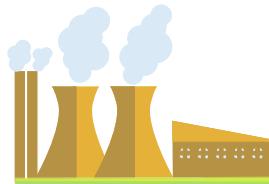
For further information please contact Heather  
[heatherfrier@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherfrier@hotmail.com) or Julie [jguest343@gmail.com](mailto:jguest343@gmail.com).

### VISITS GROUP

The Visits Group has a programme of outings being prepared.

#### Programme

Visit to RAF Ingham to see the recently renovated Polish Bomber Squadron's Centre. Date to be confirmed in February 2026.



Visit to the finest collection of regimental Uniforms on Parade; a tour of the Mr M C Ten uniform collection at Doddington Hall, Lincoln. 21st April 2026 from 10.30 am.

Watch out for further information on the website and at

# GROUP NEWS

## General Meetings.

Leaders : Rosey Thompson , Email;  
[roseythompson61@gmail.com](mailto:roseythompson61@gmail.com) and Malcolm Thompson.

## WALKING GROUP

Group meets once a month on the first Monday. Walks are of about 5 miles at a gentle pace usually completed by 1 p.m. Programme is on display at the monthly meetings and is regularly circulated via email. No need to sign up in advance for a walk just be at the listed meeting place at 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start. Contact the group leader or the monthly meeting contact (Janet Freeman) for full details. Kevan Chippendale, group leader [kevanchipp@gmail.com](mailto:kevanchipp@gmail.com)



## u3a Summer Holiday

Our annual summer holiday is to Newport on 15 June 2026. We will be visiting Cardiff, Cardiff Castle, the Royal Mint Attraction, the Rhondda Heritage Park, Monmouth (hopefully without the need for wellies) & Wye Valley & Forest of Dean.

The cost is £599pp which includes all entry costs. Final payment due on 2 April 2026. There are no single rooms left but both twin and doubles available. Booking forms and full itinerary are available on the Lindsey U3A website.

All info to group leader Pam Simpson 11 Byron Ave Lincoln LN2 4DX [pam7888@aol.com](mailto:pam7888@aol.com)

## My Life as an Author by Margaret Dickinson September General Meeting

The audience totalled over a hundred and members who have read a variety of Margaret Dickinson's books over the years were looking forward to hearing her own story!

Margaret was born in Gainsborough and, at the age of 7, moved to the Skegness area where she lived for over 65 years. More recently, Margaret and her husband have lived near Loughborough, to be closer to their family.

Her love of storytelling began early and she had her first novel published at the age of 25. It was her ambition to have her books in paperback. However, after suffering seven rejections, she took a break.

In 1991 Margaret started writing again. She found an agent who was able to advise her on writing sagas and who suggested that she should create a strong woman as her main character. Margaret took this advice. She wrote "Plough the Furrow", set at Gibralter Point and has consistently followed it every year with novels set mostly in her own county, but also in neighbouring Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. She never writes about real people. Her characters are always fictional. However, their backgrounds are real. As her sagas are traditionally set in the first half of the 20th century and not the modern era,

she picks names suitable for the times. She informed us that she occasionally visits churchyards, for inspiration from the headstones! Margaret told us that ideas just present themselves and she has been lucky with researching places and events. She feels fortunate to have met people who share the knowledge, in particular war times. A visit to Ypres gave her ideas for the Maitland Trilogy, set against a backdrop of two World War years. A large display board featuring all of her books stood at the side of our speaker as she delivered her talk. Without divulging any storylines, she picked out a few titles and told members where they were set and events which took place. Lincoln's typhoid epidemic and the Chapel St Leonards floods were the basis of a couple of her stories.

Margaret had allowed ample time for a Q and A session. Hands went up amongst the audience and it was surprising to note that quite a few belonged to our gentlemen members! It was obvious from her warm and friendly nature, that meeting and talking to people was something Margaret particularly enjoyed.

After our Speaker was thanked, and the Meeting closed, members had the opportunity to purchase books and have them individually signed by Margaret.

Jenny Porter

What should have been a top ten of Britain's best wildlife by Nick went on to reveal just how privileged we are in the UK as he shared more and more delights, such a pity that he hadn't recorded the snoring dormice he described. As a Naturalist who takes photographs we were treated to some stunning pictures. Nick works for Warwickshire Wildlife Trust but has been close to nature all his life. We learnt that swans are extremely good to eat which is why they are protected by the crown and that contrary to the nursery story the ducklings are very cute! Also, that with the reintroduction of Osprey into Scotland, allowing the public to watch the nests, using new technology and social media has helped change public perception and aided their spread throughout the UK.

In Lincoln we have had similar success at the Cathedral with the nesting peregrine falcons which have delighted visitors although the pigeons are less impressed! Nick explained how some creatures adapt well to the pressures that our modern lives put upon them and numbers are increasing e.g. otters, foxes and kites. Sadly most are declining in numbers such as the hedgehog, puffin, red squirrel and my

personal favourite award as "cutest of all" the dormouse. How we all wished that Nick had a recording of the pair of dormice which he found asleep and snoring in their nest. And how glad we were that he didn't bring an (ugly) barn owl chick as they smell of poo, and even worse, from dirty nests! The most important question asked at the end, 'How do we help?'. We can do our bit in many little ways; such as by introducing our grandchildren to nature through activities and stories. The gardeners amongst us can work with nature rather than battle against it with chemicals and we can all learn that untidy areas in our gardens support wildlife by providing shelter and nourishment.

We can help others do more by joining and supporting organisations like the British Trust for Ornithology who track birds such as the cuckoo so that we know how vulnerable they are on their migration to Africa, or we can play an active role and volunteer to support local organisations such as Nettleham Woodland Trust who manage Ashing Lane Nature Reserve. Finally, not forgetting that Lindsey u3a has the Trojan Mice u3a group which is all about environmental action; join and find out!

**Rob Timmins**

## **'More about Owls' by Annette MacKenzie - November General Meeting**

Annette introduced us to Brillo the Barn Owl at the August 2024 General Meeting. In November 2025, we welcomed her back to talk to us again with another of her charges, Eric the Little Owl.

Annette first became interested in owls nearly 27 years ago and she gave brief details of her life and work. Eric was then taken out of his carrier and made his appearance to the audience. As Annette walked around with him she shared information about Little Owls, who originate in Holland and were brought to the UK as pest control. A large number of breeding pairs were released, but they have now reduced considerably. Little Owls eat worms, caterpillars, spiders and insects. In the wild, Little Owls are vulnerable and live up to 3 years, as they are common prey to buzzards and bigger owls. They have yellow eyes for hunting at any time of day. As a form of camouflage, they have a V marking on the back of the head, which makes the little bird look similar at the front and back. As a result of their wide eyes, owls are thought to be wise. However, Annette informed us their brains are used for so many purposes and

wisdom does not feature on the list!

In captivity, Little Owls can live up to 16 years. Eric, who is 10, was captive bred in a Cheshire wildlife park. He weighs 200g and has a diet of chopped up chicken and mouse, bought ready chopped and frozen. He has surprisingly fast metabolism and eats as much as a Barn Owl. In spite of its small size, the Little Owl has very long legs. Annette lifted Eric a little higher and, to the surprise and amusement of the audience, he stretched his legs to show us. She entered Eric in the "Mr Best Legs" competition at an Animal Show and was proud to tell us that he won first prize!! He is also very popular when Annette's owls accompany her to schools and care homes. She has invested so much time, love and attention into gaining this charming little bird's trust and it is a delight to see them looking at each other with affection as she talks to her audience.

After answering a few questions, Annette was thanked for returning to us for another enlightening and entertaining talk and also for allowing us to meet Eric!

**Jenny Porter**

## u3a Annual Holidays - A Personal Reflection

As often happens when something comes to an end I found myself reflecting on my time as organiser of Lindsey u3a's annual holiday. It has been a fascinating eight years and, to borrow a well known phrase from Strictly, quite a 'journey'.

When I took over in 2017 the role was quite minimal. All I needed to do was liaise between the u3a and the holiday company.

The first holiday was based in Ilkley. I tinkered with the itinerary and oversaw the process, but Pamela, from 'Just for Groups' was responsible for everything. She attended our meetings, dealt with the bookings and even came on the holiday. The following year we went to Mold in North Wales. I did get involved in planning the itinerary and had to take charge on the first day because Pamela had a graduation ceremony to attend in Leeds.

In 2020 our holiday on Hayling Island was postponed due to Covid and that's when everything changed. In 2021, with travel companies struggling, Pamela announced that she could not be attending our meetings to take the bookings or coming on the holiday with us and that I would have to do it all. And so it was that I found myself on a steep learning curve but one I came to enjoy.



Researching and planning the itineraries was an interesting exercise; acting as a travel agent and managing all the bookings was a challenge; but most of all I loved being a tour guide on the holiday.

The first three holidays were followed by four more in Cumbria, Kent, Suffolk and Northumbria. The many u3a members that have travelled with me on these holidays have been brilliant. No moans or groans just genuine appreciation for the part I played in facilitating the holidays and I thank them all for all their support and kind words.

It has been great fun but all good things must come to an end and I have passed the baton on to Pam Simpson, who is currently taking bookings for the next holiday in South Wales in June 2026.

I know she will do a great job and I wish you all many happy holidays in the future.  
**Prue Chadderton.**

## Talk to Garden Group by Philip Maddison from Lincolnshire Organic Gardening Organisation

Philip gave an informative talk about Organic Gardening. He informed us that gardeners must feed the soil as much as possible, like the farmers. The nutrients will then feed the plants. Philip said recognising the soil type informs us as to how to improve it.

Using home-made compost is the cheapest and the best and is used for feeding the soil. It can be made with young weeds, grass cuttings, leaves and kitchen vegetable waste. The compost needs to become hot in order to kill any bad organisms. Philip showed images of various composting methods, but his favourite is a Hotbin composter.

Philip asked us to identify insects and put them into the

categories of 'good' or 'bad' for our gardens. Several of our knowledgeable members identified many of the insects. His recommendation is to allow the insects and other wildlife to flourish, as one will often feed on another and then reduce the 'baddy' population.

He recommended deadheading wildflowers in September or October, and allowing plants to go to seed to give 'good' insects a place to hide and provide food for birds.

We enjoyed a very interesting and informative talk, which gave us ideas for how we might adapt our gardening and gardens.

**Louise Kevill**

## Architecture Group walking tour of uphill Lincoln

On Thursday 16th October a group of 15 led by our guide Penny Fosdyke followed 'a trail of murder and mayhem' around uphill Lincoln.

Starting outside the Lincoln hotel we learnt about the demise in 1822 of local MP Coningsby Sibthorpe who was dining locally. On leaving his host his coach lurched, the horses bolted and the coach overturned. It was later discovered that a vital lynchpin was missing from the frame of the coach causing the crash. Eleven months later he died from his injuries. Was it an accident or was it murder? The MP was a supporter of George IV whereas the folk of Lincoln supported Caroline his Queen in their matrimonial disputes.

In Castle square we heard Joan Flower was accused of using witchcraft in 1616 to kill the Duke of Rutland. She died after eating consecrated bread, then a test to identify witches. Her two daughters were subsequently executed as accomplices.

In 1895 at Gordon Road, the son of the local baker was savagely attacked by a dog thought to have rabies which had attacked 5 other children. Money was raised and transport arranged to send the children to the Pasteur clinic,

Paris for treatment. It was later found that the dog did not have rabies and the children survived.

At Newport arch a tale of Springheel Jack who first appeared in 1830's London, apparently smartly dressed as a "gentleman" leaping out and assaulting innocent folk, and then leaping to escape capture, In Lincoln in 1877 he was seen dressed in a sheep skin and jumped onto the top of the arch to escape capture.

The city gallows were situated near the Strugglers Inn. Various felons were hanged here including one Tom Otter whose body in 1806 after execution was "gibbeted" i.e. hung in chains and left to rot from a pole at Drinsey Nook, the scene of his crime of murdering his pregnant girlfriend. Happy days!

We move on to the West Gate of the castle an area of thieves, prostitutes, other hangers-on and artists of various sorts.

Finally at the end of a fascinating and educational walk we arrive at the Palladian front of the Lawns. Originally a lunatic asylum, but with a humane and more enlightened regime for the patients with mental issues.

**Martin Jackson**

## Visits Group to E H Thorne; a Busy Bee Visit for Lindsey U3a

The bees were busy flying in and out of the hives making the most of the early Autumn sunshine when we visited E H Thorne at Rand near Wragby. We were welcomed by Rebecca the great granddaughter of the founder Henry Thorne. The family still run the business which all started when Henry was tasked by the headmaster of Wragby School to make a beehive.

Henry became fascinated by bee keeping and as his reputation grew, he was asked to make many more by local people. So, he set up a workshop, which is now a little museum next to the hives in the landscaped grounds.

After showing us how a beehive is constructed, Rebecca led us into the wood yard. Here they dry the Canadian cedar, (top class only the best for these bees) in the Lincolnshire winds before it is sent into the cutting shed.

Sawdust created in the manufacturing process is captured by huge vacuum cleaners and sucked away to be compressed into briquettes which then get burnt to heat the factory in the winter. The company have adopted many 'Green Credentials' of which they are rightly proud. After being mesmerised by the precision cutting by the experienced staff, we moved through to the joinery rooms



where we had the opportunity to discuss the processes with the staff. Everyone was happy to share their experience and many had worked for Thorne's for many years.

The staff are encouraged to change roles and departments so that they learn from each other and can cover at busy times. Although it takes great skill to master the old wax purifier machine which to my eye looked like something out of H G Well's "The Time Machine".

Every aspect of bee keeping was covered including sheet metal working to make the smokers to the sting proof suits made by the ladies in the sewing room up in the attics.

By the end of the tour, we had all worked up an appetite and so our final stop was at the Buzz Stop Café for a delicious lunch before a visit to the shop for all manner of bee related products in the shop, even honey!

**Rosey Thompson**

## Visits Group visit to The Museum of Timekeeping

### A Journey Through Time!

The news that the Museum of Timekeeping is under imminent threat of closure prompted us to visit whilst there was still time to. That this world-renowned museum manages to stay open is due in no small part to the work of a group of enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers. Who on arrival organised us into small groups so that we could see as much as possible. Their rota was timed to perfection and although there were hundreds of clocks ticking and chiming and whirring all around us, the volunteers used their wristwatches to keep to time, as those in the museum couldn't all be calibrated to be accurate. We journeyed through a history of time from the very beginning with sundials, ("Charles Darwin" set his longcase by his sundial) onto the importance of Lincolnshire's "John Harrison" who invented the marine chronometer thereby solving how to calculate longitude at sea. We listened to "Ethel Jane Cain" from the speaking clock telling us the time...precisely! Which brought back childhood memories. I had just rung 123 and instead of hearing Ethel's received pronunciation it is now "Alan Steadman" who has a lovely Scottish accent so different on the ear.

Reaching the Millennium, we were shown one of the specially built

Millenium clocks which featured Harrison's innovative grasshopper mechanism. Of the fifteen made, there is one that shuttles back and forth between Highgrove and Sandringham to keep the Royal family on time.

In the library we learnt how everything is being scanned to enable experts worldwide to search for information and to protect items published in the 1700's. A recent 'celebrity' clock constructed in wood by R G Woodford is attracting attention since it was showcased on BBC's 'The Repair Shop' in 2022.

We saw clocks powered by pendulums, springs, water, solar, electricity, wood, atoms and even fire. Our ears were treated to a constant soundscape of different ticks, chimes and whirrs from the occupants of the museum; it felt like the whole place was alive especially inside the spectacular Upton Hall. To cap it all as we left, the huge Courtauld bell in the grounds struck one o'clock, how time had flown and there was so much that we didn't have time to see.

It would be a tragedy if the museum closed and all its contents dispersed. You can show your support by visiting in spring and autumn when the clocks go forward and back. Or visit the webpage; [museumoftimekeeping.org.uk](http://museumoftimekeeping.org.uk)

## Trojan Mice meeting : Organic - Is it worth it?

There was a great turnout for our November meeting with 7 new members and a very welcome visitor from Gainsborough U3A who is hoping to set up a similar group in the future.

Rosey gave us a wide-ranging and challenging talk exploring different ways in which our food is grown. She opened by posing the current argument of the irrelevance of Net Zero targets when productive farmland is being turned over to solar panels, threatening our food security. Rosey stressed the stark reality of the mere 'Six Inches of Soil' we need to protect, from washing or blowing away, and to enrich in order to support life on our planet. Regenerative methods of farming encourage biodiversity and have the potential to transform our food system.

We went on then to consider some of the farming methods being introduced within agro-ecological systems such as layering new crops on top of old, controlling the movement of grazing livestock and planting crops alongside trees.

But organic farming doesn't come without a cost. The shift towards biodynamic farming to achieve self-supporting farms will have financial limitations but Rosey told us of good examples of farms

where we could see these practices for ourselves- Ink Pot farm near Sleaford and the South Ormsby estate in the Wolds where the whole village is involved in and benefitting from this innovative, whole-system example of a working countryside.

And finally to Tuscany- La Viala- which achieved organic status in 1983. Vineyards, sheep, cows, olive groves, rare cereal grains and long-dried pasta! Rosey brought us samples to try - a world away from our supermarket staples! It may not be easy given the government's recent rejection of low cost proposals to make minor adaptations to encourage biodiversity such as the introduction of a single £20 swift brick into every new home. From our perspective as consumers, buying organic products also comes at a cost but the quality of the ingredients, the reduction in food waste and the health benefits are strong arguments to go Organic- it's worth it for the planet and for us!

Our thanks to Rosey for an inspiring and enjoyable talk. We hope to see everyone again at our planning meeting in January when you will be able to help us shape our programme for 2026. Anyone up for a TM trip to Italy?

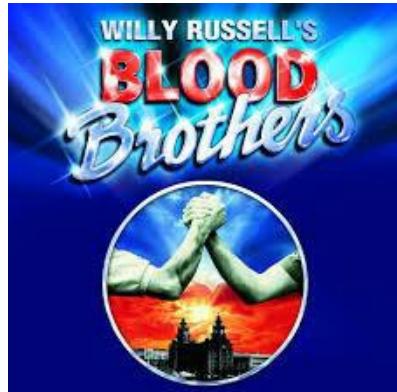
**Heather Frier**

## Theatre Group visit to see Blood Brothers

In spite of sitting in an extremely cramped front row, with no leg room, we soon forgot our discomfort as we became absorbed by the emotion and passion shown by all the cast.

Set in a poor area of Liverpool, the show opens with Mrs. Johnstone, who already has several children, having to give away one of her newly born twins, to her employer, Mrs. Lyons. Inevitably as he grows up, Mickey bumps into Eddie, his twin brother, with neither knowing the truth of their relationship, and they become best friends, or blood brothers. This drives their mothers to distraction, a situation which is only broken when poverty stricken Mrs. Johnstone and her family are moved to a new terraced house in "Skem" on the outskirts of Liverpool. All is well until the Lyons family move to a new house not far from where the Johnstones live. The twins soon meet and resume their friendship.

Eventually Edward leaves to go to university, Mickey and Linda, his pregnant girl friend, get married but then Mickey loses his job at the factory and, pushed by his older brother, Sammy, turns to a



life of crime. He gets caught, spends time in prison and then returns home suffering from depression and is dependent on drugs. He falls out with Linda, who then turns to Eddie, who is home for Christmas, for comfort. Mickey grabs a gun and goes looking for Eddie. He finds him and despite being told that the two of them are twins, eventually shoots him, just as he himself is shot by the police. The two gunshots, in quick succession, made us all jump.

This was an amazing performance, well acted and well sung. It fully deserved the standing ovation and four curtain calls.

**Hugh & Jean Carter**

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## Group Meetings

### Week One of the Month

<u>Monday</u>		
9.45 a.m.	<b>Walks</b>	Kevan Chippendale <a href="mailto:kevanchipp@gmail.com">kevanchipp@gmail.com</a> Walks of about 4 to 6 miles
<u>Tuesday</u>		
9.30 a.m.	<b>Jewellery Making &amp; crafts</b>	Christine Saynor <a href="mailto:saynor_chris@hotmail.com">saynor_chris@hotmail.com</a> .
2 p.m.	<b>Indoor Bowls</b>	Jane Guy -
<u>Wednesday</u>		
		There is nothing planned on this day
<u>Thursday</u>		
9.45 a.m. to 12 noon	<b>General Meeting in Welton Village Hall</b> Welton Village Hall is at 51 Ryland Road, Welton, LN2 3LU      Coffee/tea at 9.30, Speaker at 10.30	
1.45 p.m.	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b>	Cathy Platt <a href="mailto:plattcathy58@gmail.com">plattcathy58@gmail.com</a> Meetings at Old School Hall, Mill Hill, Nettleham LN2 2PE
<u>Friday</u> There is nothing planned on this day		

Week Two of the Month		
<b><u>Monday</u></b>		
10.15 a.m.	<b>Short Walks</b>	Janet Paley Walks of about 2-3 miles
2 p.m.	<b>Computers for All</b>	Mike Kirkby <a href="mailto:perrenialgardner@gmail.com">perrenialgardner@gmail.com</a> Meetings held in the Welton Room.Welton Village Hall
3.15 p.m.	<b>Trojan Mice</b>	heatherfrier@hotmail.com , Julie <a href="mailto:jguest343@gmail.com">jguest343@gmail.com</a> . Meetings held at Waitrose Community Room at the Nettleham Rd store
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>		
10 a.m.	<b>Knitting</b>	Meetings held in the Methodist Church, Welton
13.30 p.m.	<b>Scrabble</b>	Witham u3a ,1 New Crescent LN3 4AJ. Cherry Willingham.
2 p.m.	<b>Book Group (Bookworms)</b>	Dawn Bowskill - <a href="mailto:dawn.bow44@outlook.com">dawn.bow44@outlook.com</a> Meetings held at members' homes
2 p.m.	<b>Indoor Bowls</b>	Jane Guy -
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>		
10 a.m.	<b>French Conversaion</b>	Alan Gidney <a href="mailto:fitzal@hotmail.com">fitzal@hotmail.com</a>
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>		
1.45 p.m.	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b>	Cathy Platt <a href="mailto:plattcathy58@gmail.com">plattcathy58@gmail.com</a> Meetings at Old School Hall, Mill Hill, Nettleham LN2 2PE
<b><u>Friday</u></b>	There is nothing planned on this day	

Week Three of the Month		
<b>Monday</b>		
10 a.m.	<b>Family History</b>	Janet Freeman <a href="mailto:janethfreeman.12@gmail.com">janethfreeman.12@gmail.com</a> The Family History Group meet in member's homes
2 p.m.	<b>Art Appreciation</b>	Elizabeth Wilson <a href="mailto:elizabethrwilson52@gmail.com">elizabethrwilson52@gmail.com</a> Meetings held at a member's home
<b>Tuesday</b>		
2 p.m.	<b>Indoor Bowls</b>	Jane Guy -
<b>Wednesday</b>		
10 a.m.	<b>Circle Dancing</b>	Margaret Doughty <a href="mailto:revmd@gmx.co.uk">revmd@gmx.co.uk</a> 10-11.30a.m. at Moorland Methodist Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, LN6 7RB
1.45 p.m.	<b>Booklovers Group</b>	Contact Jan Benson <a href="mailto:janbenson01@hotmail.com">janbenson01@hotmail.com</a>

	<b>Bird Watching</b>	please contact via <a href="http://www.cliffvillageslincolnu3a.org.uk">www.cliffvillageslincolnu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Thursday</b>		
10.30 a.m.	<b>Architecture</b>	Luke Pickering <a href="mailto:lukep@lahestates.co.uk">lukep@lahestates.co.uk</a> Outdoor Visits and meetings in Welton Room
1.45 p.m.	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b>	Cathy Platt <a href="mailto:plattcathy58@gmail.com">plattcathy58@gmail.com</a> Meetings at Old School Hall, Mill Hill, Nettleham LN2 2PE
<b>Friday</b> There is nothing planned on this day		

Week Four of the Month		
<b>Monday</b>		
		There is nothing planned today
<b>Tuesday</b>		
2 p.m.	<b>Garden group</b>	Louise Kevill gardengroup.lindsey@gmail.com Welton Village Hall in Winter; Garden Visits in Summer
2 p.m.	<b>Indoor Bowls</b>	Jane Guy -
<b>Wednesday</b>		
		There is nothing planned today
<b>Thursday</b>		
10 a.m.	<b>Art Group</b>	Meetings held at Welton Room, contact Geoff Sherman, <a href="mailto:lindseyu3a.editor@gmail.com">lindseyu3a.editor@gmail.com</a>
10.15 a.m.	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Scothern Garden Centre coffee shop. Contact Luke Pickering,
1.45 p.m.	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b>	Cathy Platt <a href="mailto:plattcathy58@gmail.com">plattcathy58@gmail.com</a> Meetings at Old School Hall, Mill Hill, Nettleham LN2 2PE
<b>Friday</b>		There is nothing planned today



Capt Scott's pocket watch

Images from Visits Group visit to Timekeeping museum with Brian Powell our enthusiastic organiser and guide

## Group Meetings Summary Page

	<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Week 4</b>
Mon	<b>9.45 a.m.</b> 5/6 mile walk	<b>10.15 a.m.</b> Short Walks  <b>2 p.m.</b> Computers for All <b>3.15 p.m.</b> Trojan Mice	<b>10 a.m.</b> Family History  <b>2 p.m.</b> Art Appreciation	
Tue	<b>10 a.m.</b> Jewellery Making  <b>2 p.m.</b> Indoor Bowls	<b>10 a.m.</b> Knitting <b>1.30 p.m.</b> Scrabble  <b>2 p.m.</b> Book Group (Bookworms) <b>2 p.m..</b> Indoor Bowls	<b>2 p.m..</b> Indoor Bowls	<b>2 p.m.</b> Indoor Bowls <b>2 p.m.</b> Gardening
Wed		<b>10 a.m.</b> French Conversation	<b>10 a.m.</b> Circle Dancing <b>1.45 p.m.</b> Booklovers Group <b>All day</b> Bird watching	
Thu	<b>9.45 a.m.</b> <b>General</b> <b>Meeting in</b> <b>Welton</b> <b>Village Hall</b>  <b>1.45 p.m.</b> Bridge	<b>1.45 p.m.</b> Bridge	<b>10.30 a.m.</b> Architecture  <b>1.45 p.m.</b> Bridge	<b>10 a.m. Art</b> <b>Group</b>  <b>10.15 a.m.</b> Coffee Morning  <b>1.45 p.m.</b> Bridge
Fri				