

Lindsey u3a

Magazine

Quarterly Edition No. 108 (July 2026)

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



U3a Visits Group admiring the distinctive displays at the Mr M C Tsen uniform collection at Doddington Hall

Features

- ▶ William Marwood, State Executioner by Malcolm Ross
- ▶ Liverpool Holiday, March 2026
- ▶ U3a Bridge Group - Charity Festival
- ▶ Garden Group Visit to Bolham Manor, Retford



Members of the Visits group visiting St Mary's church in Beverley



U3a Visits Group to the Mr M C Tsen uniform collection at Doddington Hall

Notes from the Editor



Welcome to the July 2026 edition of the Magazine.

In this edition we feature accounts of our general meetings including a moving presentation by Emma Sheardown, recollections of an RAF pilot and a Tale of Lincoln's Executioner! There are also interesting articles of outings by our Visits and Architecture Groups, success by our Bridge Group and an account of a short holiday to Liverpool. There is also news of

new groups added to our repertoire. There is plenty to read!

We continue to try to provide a varied and interesting magazine for members recounting the fascinating meetings, group visits and activities throughout the year. I welcome any new articles from any member that may have had a notable experience or visit.

Do remember to visit our excellent website for regular updates of events & group activities.

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 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 October 2026 magazine is 5th September 2026.

Contact details are: Geoff Sherman

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Geoff Sherman

Lindsey u3a Website
www.lindseyu3a.org.uk

Our webmaster: Julie Guest
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NOTICES

Meeting Schedule 2026

July 16th	Piers Morrell-'Behind the scenes at a Coronation'. Retired Wing Commander Piers Morrell OBE MVO served 27 years in the RAF. As Principal of Music he took part in a Royal Wedding, Jubilees, State Funerals and the King's Coronation. His talk will reveal some insights and personal reflections.
Aug 6th	Helen Gamble - Lincolnshire Wolds, a Natural Landscape. Helen provides advice and helps to deliver projects and grant aid to farmers, landowners and community groups on works to implement landscape, wildlife and access improvements within the Wolds.
Sept 3rd	The Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance. A volunteer will talk to us about the challenges facing the charity - it costs £13 million per year to keep the helicopters flying, all of which has to be raised from the public as they receive no Government funding. (The service attended 1608 incidents in 2025).
October 1st	Nigel Macknight - Quicksilver and understanding perseverance

New Groups

We are pleased to confirm the establishment of several new Groups including Table Tennis, Wellbeing, Aromatherapy and herbal medicine, Bus Pass outings and a new Scrabble group. Other new groups are being considered so watch this space!!

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. If you have any questions, please phone Luke Programme

17 July Heckington Windmill, Brewery and St Andrew's Church

20 August Visit to Southside

17 September Roman Lincoln Walk with Penny Forsdyke

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,

GROUP NEWS

exploring pen and wash techniques, starting out in pastels. Please contact me for further information.

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. Programme:



20th July Fashion Through the Ages

17th Aug Bring a photograph or picture and continue the scene with pencil and paper

21 Sept Talk by a member about an artist of their choice

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.

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

GROUP NEWS

www.cliffvillageslincoln3a.org.uk

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.

For further information please contact: Dawn Bowskill - group leader: dawn.bow44@outlook.com

BUS PASS GROUP

The plan is to meet at the bus station or en route for a trip out somewhere! Contact Pam for more info Leader: Pam Simpson - email: pam7888@aol.com



CIRCLE DANCING

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

GROUP NEWS

There is a small charge to pay for the hire of the hall.
For further information please contact: Linda Stringer

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

I would like to encourage more members to join our enthusiastic 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:-

- 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?

GROUP NEWS

- 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 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.. The group is currently on our summer holiday and reconvene for our next meeting on September 14th with further meetings this year on October 12th November 9th and December 14th.

Mike Kirkby, Organiser

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

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

Cathy Platt - group leader
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. Stop press: arrival of Irish 1926 Census on Find My Past!
Janet Freeman - group leader
janethfreeman.12@gmail.com



GROUP NEWS

FRENCH CONVERSATION -



Bienvenue au Groupe de Conversation en Français!
This is an informal, mixed ability group. No-one is expected to be fluent. You just need to enjoy and appreciate French language and culture. Here, we can practise some French and develop confidence in speaking, reading and listening; to swap anecdotes about French life and culture - books, films, travel etc; and about ourselves. Whatever we can bring to the table - or "à la table"! Numbers are limited, as the group meets in each other's homes: the second Wednesday of each month, 10 o'clock - noon.

Alan Gidney group leader fitzal@hotmail.com

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

28 July Visit to Barbara Kamal's garden, Harmston

25 August Visit to The Dawber Garden at The Lawn, Lincoln

29 September Talk by Trevor Fray of Longfield Flowers

Please view details of further meetings & visits at the Welton Room at general meetings. Garden group leader: Louise Kevill 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



GROUP NEWS

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 visits. The bowls group meet for a fun game every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. ready to start bowling at 10.30 a.m. for two hours. Also on Thursday 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.. 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.

Jeff Bennett group leader bennettmajk@icloud.com

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 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.

Group contact: Ann Baker ann.baker10@btinternet.com

QUIZ GROUP

Look out for further information on future quiz at Welton room.
Co Group Leaders Luke Pickering Malcolm Thompson

GROUP NEWS

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

SCRABBLE 2

A new group has been set up to play Scrabble. They will meet in Nettleham on the third Wednesday of the month. A maximum of 6 players. Group Leader Diane Hillas

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. Our second outing of the year was to see *Fawlty Towers - The Play* in Hull, and our next will be to Buxton for a performance of *The Mikado* by the National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company.



Looking further ahead, we have a return trip to Hull booked for *Cats* in October, followed by *Agatha Christie's The Hollow* in January next year.

Tickets for all these productions were snapped up very quickly, so if you would like to receive early notification of future

GROUP NEWS

outings please let us know and we will add your name to our mailing list.

Following our recent survey on the types of Performing Arts our members would most like to see, Shakespeare and ballet emerged the clear favourites. We are now keeping a close eye out for productions that fit the bill.

Details of all our current and recent outings can be found on our webpage and of course at our table in the Welton Room before general meetings.

For more information, please contact Julie or Elizabeth.

Julie.guestu3a@gmail.com avoncroft32@gmail.com

SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS GROUP

The Environment's Friends

This group normally 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 where environmental matters of on-going concern are explored by the group through a mix of presentations, discussion, speakers and visits. Our late summer programme includes:

13 July A guided tour of an example of sustainable living at the Hockerton Housing Project in Nottinghamshire

14 September A talk by our Regional Supply Support Manager from Anglian Water about the quality and security of our potable water supply and current major projects in Lincolnshire followed by a Q&A. Places for both are limited. For further information please contact: Heather heatherfrier@hotmail.com

GROUP NEWS

The group has a Recycling Hub at all u3a general meetings which provides a one-stop drop-off point for spectacles, household batteries, water filters, printer cartridges, light bulbs, inhalers, bubble wrap (big pieces) and postage stamps. Rest assured that all donated items are recycled responsibly. For further information please contact: Julie Guest: julie.guestu3a@gmail.com

TABLE TENNIS

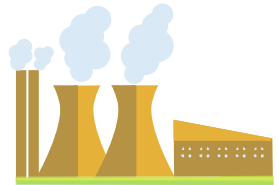
A new friendly Table Tennis group will be meeting in Welton Methodist Chapel on 4th Monday of every month.



Leader: Rose Roberts

VISITS GROUP

The Visits Group has a programme of outings being prepared.



Programme

Friday 17th July 2026; Joint venture with Architecture to Heckington

A Friday in August TBC; The Bubble Car Museum Nr Boston depending on interest

Tuesday 29th September 2026; The Trolley Bus Museum, Sandtoft

Thursday October 8th 2026; Coach trip to Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery (& Jewellery Quarter Museum)

Watch out for further information on the website and at General Meetings. Leaders : Rosey Thompson , Email; roseythompson61@gmail.com and Malcolm Thompson.

GROUP NEWS

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



WELLBEING, AROMATHERAPY & HERBAL MEDICINE

The aim of this Group is to learn about Plant Medicine in all its forms, it is an ongoing course discovering the History of both Modern and Herbal Medicine primarily aimed at those with little or no knowledge on the subject. There will be an opportunity to make products (this will incur a small charge) using Herbs, essential oils, flower essences for your own wellbeing and self care. We will also talk about where to buy herbal products to ensure quality and how to choose what is suitable for you.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the leaders home 2pm-4pm. There are no vacancies at present.

Group Leader Jo Johnston josephineljohnston@icloud.com



'You'll Fly Laughing - vol II'

March General Meeting

Our March AGM saw our Chairman and long standing Committee Member, Sid Miller, bid us farewell with one last joke, at the incoming Chairman's expense!

Our Speaker, Kenneth Moore, then took up the microphone and gave us a further chapter of his entertaining Royal Air Force career. He talked about the technicalities of fighter planes and showed slides and videos of the Phantom and Tornado and the vital role the Ejector Seat plays.

He went on to explain the Fast Jet Combat Suit, which each



crew member has to wear. Surprisingly, there are 16 very technical elements to this. It inflates with G Force so the body is compressed and the crewman looks like a Michelin Man!

He told us about the banter and tricks played by rival squadrons.

He also mentioned his own brief literary career.

Our speaker concluded his talk describing pick up processes, after a plane goes down.

Luke Pickering



'There is no such word as can't' - Emma Sheardown

April General Meeting

As Speaker Finder for our group over the last few years, I have usually felt confident that I have booked speakers who have entertained, educated or amused us in line with our u3a motto. So when I spoke to Emma to book her as speaker for our April meeting, I had some misgivings about whether her disability might prevent her from achieving the standards attained by previous speakers, with her talk entitled 'There is no such word as can't'. I should not have been anxious! Emma delivered a really tremendous talk encompassing her young life living with cerebral palsy and all that she has achieved through her love of horses eventually becoming both World and European Para Dressage Champion. She spoke about the sadness she felt when her sporting career declined in 2017 and how she re-centred her life to achieve new highs as a motivational speaker. She provides talks to a wide range of small, medium and large businesses as well as many other smaller organisations like our own. As she clearly



communicated, 'just because my legs don't work, it doesn't mean my brain doesn't!' Some of us also had the opportunity to speak with her mum, Pat who has dedicated her life to ensure Emma reached her potential. Her talk was truly inspirational and thoroughly enjoyed by a rapt audience. Keep it up Emma.

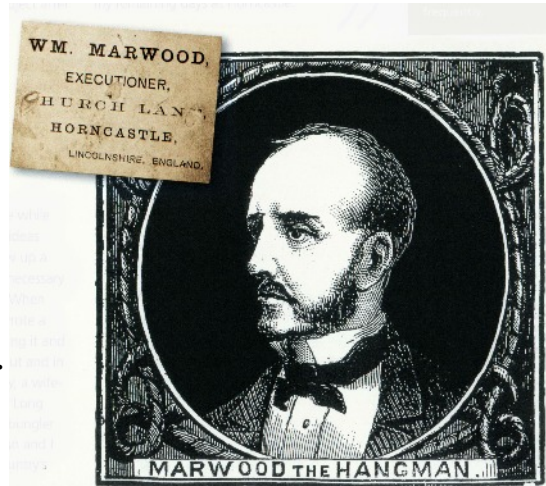
John Saynor

William Marwood, State Executioner by Malcolm Ross May General meeting

The Long Drop

When was the last time that you watched a murder mystery programme on the TV or read a crime novel? I'd hasten a guess at not so long ago, nor that it was the first one. Back in the 1800's people didn't have an option to, so their equivalent was to attend a public hanging, (well you had to make your own entertainment even when I was young). So keen was their enthusiasm for the occasion that it is estimated that over 20,000 flocked to Lincoln Cob Hall area to watch the last public hanging.

A poor cobbler's son born in Horncastle, William Marwood read the reports of how the prolonged strangulation of the condemned was mercifully shortened by the 'Hangers on' paid to make the victim heavier. Convinced that he could make the process less traumatic and using his knowledge of a short



time working in the milling industry with bales of grain and trap doors he calculated the drops needed for the weight of the prisoner. It was somewhat sobering to see that at 10 stone 5 pounds I would need a drop of 9 foot two inches, (although a lady would never reveal her true weight).

Marwood persuaded the authorities at Lincoln Castle to try his technique and they were so impressed by the quick efficiency that they adopted it immediately and he subsequently travelled the length and breadth of England Scotland Wales and even

Ireland in his self-proclaimed position of 'Crown Executioner. He kept his tools of the trade; the smooth Italian silk rope, brass rings etc at the bottom of his travelling bag underneath the tools of his

God's way and chose to rebel. But did it all become too much for him? His last case was bungled; it was not a clean drop. There are reports that he was drunk (perhaps he now felt he had to be) That he was no

longer up to the job (from those with a grudge regarding his hangings in Ireland) but perhaps he was ill as he died s h o r t l y afterwards.

His estate was small and he was b a n k r u p t e d settling his debts so he only left

the taunting rhyme; If Pa killed Ma who would kill Pa? Marwood'

Rosey Thompson

cobbler trade, hiding his moonlighting profession even from his wife and family.

Perhaps his early education at Sunday school and his progression to become a Wesleyan Preacher influenced his desire to reduce the suffering for those who refused



**The Cobb Hall tower,
Lincoln Castle**

LIVERPOOL HOLIDAY

29TH to 31ST MARCH 2026

On a cloudy Sunday morning, our group of seventeen ladies and just two gentlemen set out for Liverpool with our coach driver, Simon. The weather deteriorated and by the time we reached Saddleworth Moor the rain was pouring down and it only got

Our location was great. The hotel overlooked the Liver Building and the Mersey. Many of the party went for a walk along the beautiful Water Front that night, but all came back with tales of hanging on to each other to prevent being blown over in the mighty gales.



worse!

We made a short detour to see Everton Football Club's huge new stadium, which particularly excited one member of our party and also Simon the driver! Our only problem then was finding the hotel as it didn't have a sign but luckily, after a few circuits of the dock area, we arrived and the sun came out!!

Next morning, after an excellent breakfast, we all boarded the coach again and met our guide Phil. He gave us a two hour tour of many of the city's highlights, laced with Liverpool humour and dad jokes. The quality of the many public buildings is amazing and there are some beautiful Georgian houses, as well as the magnificent Sefton Park with

over a million daffodils. We stopped by both the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals which, appropriately, are both on Hope Street. We learnt how the two Bishops, Shepherd and Warlock, got together in the 1960s to stop the sectarian violence which had previously blighted the city. We also saw many Beatles' locations including Ringo's birthplace, the Liverpool Institute where Paul and George (and Arthur Askey) went and the adjoining Art School where John was a student.

The afternoon and next morning were free for us to wander. Many of the party visited the modern Roman Catholic Cathedral, with its huge dome and enormous crypt which was constructed using 9 million bricks. It was planned to have the second largest Cathedral in the world above it. Despite the windy weather, some went on boats up and down the Mersey. Of course a trip to Liverpool wouldn't be complete without a visit to the superb Beatles Story, but there are so many other great Museums and Galleries. One slightly lesser known delight is

the main Library, with its historic Reading Room and stunning modern extension which towers over you.

Many of the party went to the Philharmonic Public House, with its fabulous panelled interior and famous toilets, whilst some Ubered to Crosby Beach to see the naked Anthony Gormley figures. The latter also found a Senior Citizens' karaoke, together with cheap beer and food, at a nearby pub!

All of us were delighted with the friendliness of the staff in the hotel. The highlight for one of our party was the sight of many Scotsmen dressed in kilts who descended on Liverpool to watch a football match later. Our return journey was in sunshine and we arrived home tired but happy. Liverpool really is a must visit destination, with so much to see and do. I believe most of us will return soon.

Many thanks to Pam for organising what I hope is the first of many great trips.

Luke Pickering

Knitting Group Visit to the Wool Factory, Skegness

The Knitting Group visited The Wool Factory's outlet in Skegness on Tuesday 12 May 2026 where we received a warm welcome from Mel, our enthusiastic hostess.

It was a lovely sunny day for our journey to Skegness, but we didn't head to the beach, we were very focused on visiting this fascinating shop.

The large shop is well-stocked with a wide range of wools in all colours imaginable, so we were spoilt for choice. The shop also stocks knitting and crochet

patterns and books, as well as accessories such as needles and buttons. Time was spent looking at the yarns and browsing knitting patterns, with a break for refreshments, kindly provided by Mel.

We all left with yarn and/or a pattern which will be our next project.

It was a successful visit and many of us will make a return visit to buy items on our next wish-list.

Louise Kevill



The Mr M C Tsen Uniform Collection at Doddington Hall

The entrance to the Mr M C Tsen uniform collection at Doddington Hall is an unassuming drab grey door but open it and you are transported to a world of dazzling brilliance of gold, silver and polished brass, gleaming leather boots and rows of scarlet uniforms. We were very fortunate to be granted a private visit and guided tour as the collection is not generally open to the public.

Our expert guides (all volunteers) told the remarkable story of how it ended up in Doddington. Mr Tsen's father was assassinated just before China fell to the communists, so his mother fled to Paris with his siblings. Whilst attending public school in England he witnessed the pageantry and pomp of Queen Elizabeth II coronation and a passion for military history and craftsmanship was born. A successful career in the US funded his passion during the time when the Saville Row and Edinburgh tailors were clearing out their stock. Many items had languished there from the time of the First World War, their owners no longer alive to collect them having been killed in

action. It was Mr Tsen's wish that the collection remain whole upon his death. Mr James Birch heard about it and by chance had just constructed the Wagon Museum and the gallery in the roof had strong beams perfect for supporting 900 uniforms and space for 3000 accessories including hats, helmets, swords, bearskins, sporrans and even a Chaplain Kit to enable services to be held anywhere.

We learnt what a difference a button makes; in a line or a set or on its own, and what a difference a plume makes, if it is green or white. That Highlanders wear kilts and Lowlanders wear tartan trousers. Some uniforms such as the Royal Household and the Royal Bugler are still in use today on occasions such as the coronation of King Charles III.

If you feel that you missed out on our interesting visit it is possible to book individually through the Doddington Hall website but places are few and snapped up when released so it is no surprise that there are long waiting lists.

Rosey Thompson

Architecture Group Tour of the Humberston Fitties

On a sunny but cool May morning 21 members met our guides, Caroline and Ginette, at the entrance to the Fitties beside the sea in Cleethorpes. The Fitties date back to the early part of the last century and were part of the Plotlands movement that used marginal land for people to establish homes away from industrial towns. During the First World War, soldiers were stationed there and the early Fitties chalets used military infrastructure and any materials that could be found locally.

Our party asked many questions of our guides before we set off on a tour of the roads and paths that link the 320 chalets. Each plot has been developed individually within the guidelines and includes a car space, as a local rule prevents cars parking on the roadways and grass verges. The earlier chalets had brick chimneys and windmills to generate electricity and are of a simple wooden construction. Some of the newer ones are larger and more luxurious, but



still have wood or wood effect wall cladding.

Our route took us past an amazing variety of chalets, some with beautiful gardens. Caroline had stories to tell about a lot of them as her family had lived there for many years. We finally reached her chalet, at the far end of the site, where we had a well-earned cup of tea and cake.

Having rested, we set off back along the beach and coastal path, enjoying great views over the Humber estuary and the twin Forts that guarded it in the Second World War.

We returned, tired but happy to have seen a very unusual and fascinating part of our lovely County.

Luke Pickering

Garden Group Visit to Bolham Manor, Retford on Tuesday 28 April 2026.

Our hosts Pam and Butch Barnsdale welcomed us to their fascinating garden that they have landscaped and planted over many years.

A delightful driveway leads to the house, with daffodils and bluebells, and three life-sized, willow figures of ladies dancing in the lawn. A patio area lead us to

a knot and topiary garden with a herbaceous border and circular seating nearby.

From the patio there is a winding path leading down to a large pond. Along the sides of the path are well-stocked herbaceous borders and, every so often, a garden ornament. There are a wide variety of trees: acer, conifer, and horse chestnut, most of which were in the garden when Mr & Mrs Barnsdale bought the house. Members admired the Wedding Cake Tree (*Cornus Contraversa*) and the climbing rose 'Joseph Banks' that has tiny yellow flowers. We walked through

the woodland walk with many bluebells in flower. Among the many plants are azalea, early flowering clematis and



Japanese false Solomon's seal with tall sprays of cream star-shaped flowers.

Members commented on the colour combinations of the flowers. A member said that 'It is a delightful combination of formal and informal, making it an exciting garden'.

We enjoyed tasty refreshments, whilst sitting indoors or outside, sharing thoughts on plants and gardening. This is a garden we will be returning to in the future.

Our thanks to our hosts.

Louise Kevill

U3a Bridge Group – Charity Festival

We don't want to bore with more advice ... on how playing bridge is 'good for you' as it exercises the mind, as well as expanding your social circle - but we certainly have something in its favour to SHOUT ABOUT NOW!

We entered the national u3a Bridge Clubs 2026 Charity Spring Festival of bridge, now in its 4th year, with the aims to encourage friendly competition between u3a regions and raise funds for charity.

simultaneously tackling these same exacting hands.

The punch line is coming - as we proudly announce two of our players -

LINDA DOBBY and SHARMAN SCOTT

not only gained top score on that Thursday BUT were proclaimed TOP SCORERS OVER THE WHOLE FESTIVAL with an impressive official score of 69.23%. Many Congratulations to them. PLUS



LINDA DOBBY and SHARMAN SCOTT

On each of the 4 days of the festival u3a groups participated using their normal meeting format (some on-line, others like us face-to-face). Our session was on Thursday 21st May, and 28 of us played some very tricky hands, with 11 other u3a groups

also to Glenys Cairney and Sheena Carpenter who finished a creditable 12th place. Many thanks to all our members who contributed to raise over £16K (so far,) for the 3 charities MIND, McMillan and UNICEF via this u3a Festival.

Cathy Platt

Talk on Nettleham Woodland Trust - by Su Coleman

Sustainability Matters April Meeting

At our April meeting, we enjoyed an engaging and informative talk by Su Coleman, a trustee of the Nettleham Woodland Trust, on its history and ongoing work.

Founded in 2006, the Trust arose from the realisation that although the village and nearby areas were well served by public footpaths there were only limited opportunities for people to freely explore, relax and connect with nature. Equally concerning was the decline in native wildlife, largely as a result of intensive agricultural practices.

The Trust began with just a handful of volunteers but momentum soon grew. Over time, the charity succeeded in acquiring and managing several areas of land, transforming them into woodland, meadows, and ponds. The Trust's most significant achievement is the Ashing Lane Nature Reserve, where a variety of habitats now support a wide range of birds, insects, amphibians, and mammals.

Another notable project is Co-Op Wood, which comprises over 4000 trees planted by staff and members of Lincolnshire Co-op in

celebration of the society's 150th anniversary. The land is owned by the Co-op but managed by NWT. We also heard the fascinating story of Cathedral Copse; an initiative to plant oaks for eventual use in Lincoln Cathedral. Members of the public were able to buy a tree for the exact sum of £12.17, so priced to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest and the Battle of Lincoln in 1217. Each tree is recorded in the Book of Oaks held at the Cathedral.

Other projects include PC Wood planted in 2008 on land owned by Lincolnshire Police HQ and Bishops Meadow, where native trees and wildflowers were introduced as part of a wider heritage site. Education and public engagement are also central to the Trust's work. Through school visits, orienteering events, and volunteer sessions, the organisation encourages people of all ages to learn about and care for the natural environment. If you would like to volunteer then please take a look at the Get Involved page of the NWT website www.nettlehamwoodlandtrust.co.uk.

Julie Guest

Architecture and Visits Group trip to Beverley

We were blessed with yet another sunny day when our coach set off to Beverley giving us great views as we crossed the Humber Bridge. It was a joint venture between the Visits and Architecture groups so the members had a variety of objectives for the day. Some were happy to take advantage of the wide variety of shops in the town, many of which are small independent businesses whilst others made a beeline for the impressive Art Gallery and Treasure House Museum to see the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibition. We were also impressed by the permanent collection, particularly works by Fred and Mary Elwell depicting life in Edwardian times.

No visit to Beverley would be complete without seeing the Minster and it was a delight to hear the organist practicing for the afternoon recital. A few lucky members had time to return and hear the whole performance and marvel that the organist was just a 14 year old girl. Excellent refreshments were provided by the students of the local college.

Many of us had booked places on a tour of the parish church of St Mary's. This is no ordinary church and no ordinary tour, we began outside so that we could see the new gargoyles. In 2022 nine new carvings were added and all of them commemorated women famous in their fields of science, engineering, flying and more. Our enthusiastic and warm hearted guide took us inside to see the controversial new carvings all based on C S Lewis's Narnia. Other intriguing aspects of the church were the WW2 bullet hole through the stained glass, the façade of the organ sold to Oslo to raise funds, the stars on the ceiling which are a map of the constellations, the chancel ceiling decorated with 40 monarchs, (not all of them in order after restoration!) The most impressive thing of all was how the community of the church gathered together and used this beautiful ancient church in a modern inclusive way. Some of us rounded the day off in style by stepping back in time with a pint in the very traditional pub The White Horse. A grand day out!

Rosey Thompson

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Group Meetings

Week One of the Month

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

Week Two of the Month		
<u>Monday</u>		
10.15 a.m.	Short Walks	Janet Paley Walks of about 2-3 miles
2 p.m.	Computers for All	Mike Kirkby perrenialgardner@gmail.com Meetings held in the Welton Room. Welton Village Hall
3.15 p.m.	Sustainability Matters	heatherfrier@hotmail.com , julie.guestu3a@gmail.com . Meetings held at Waitrose Community Room at the Nettleham Rd store
<u>Tuesday</u>		
10 a.m.	Knitting	Meetings held in the Methodist Church, Welton
13.30 p.m.	Scrabble	Witham u3a , 1 New Crescent LN3 4AJ. Cherry Willingham.
2 p.m.	Book Group (Bookworms)	Dawn Bowskill dawn.bow44@outlook.com Meetings held at members' homes
10 a.m.	Indoor Bowls	Jeff Bennett group leader bennettmajk@i.cloud.com
<u>Wednesday</u>		
10 a.m.	French Conversaion	Alan Gidney fitzal@hotmail.com
2 p.m.	Wellbeing, Herbal medicine	Jo Johnston josephineljohnston@icloud.com
<u>Thursday</u>		
1.45 p.m.	Duplicate Bridge	Cathy Platt plattcathy58@gmail.com Meetings at Old School Hall, Mill Hill, Nettleham LN2 2PE
2 p.m.	Indoor Bowls	Jeff Bennett group leader bennettmajk@icloud.com

Friday There is nothing planned on this day

Week Three of the Month		
<u>Monday</u>		
10 a.m.	Family History	Janet Freeman janethfreeman.12@gmail.com The Family History Group meet in member's homes
2 p.m.	Art Appreciation	Elizabeth Wilson elizabethrwilson52@gmail.com Meetings held at a member's home
<u>Tuesday</u>		
10 a.m.	Indoor Bowls	Jeff Bennett group leader bennettmajk@icloud.com
<u>Wednesday</u>		
10 a.m.	Circle Dancing	Linda Strimger 10-11.30a.m.at Moorland Methodist Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, LN6 7RB
1.45 p.m.	Booklovers Group	Contact Jan Benson janbenson01@hotmail.com
2 p.m.	Scrabble 2	Contact Diane Hillas
	Bird Watching	please contact via www.cliffvillageslincolnu3a.org.uk
<u>Thursday</u>		
10.30 a.m.	Architecture	Luke Pickering lukep@lahestates.co.uk Outdoor Visits and meetings in Welton Room
1.45 p.m.	Duplicate Bridge	Cathy Platt plattcathy58@gmail.com Meetiings at Old School Hall, Mill Hill, Nettleham LN2 2PE
2 p.m.	Indoor Bowls	Jeff Bennett group leader bennettmajk@icloud.com
<u>Friday</u>	There is nothing planned on this day	

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

Group Meetings Summary Page

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



Walks Group members negotiating wheat field in May



Bolham Manor gardens visited by the Garden Group in April