

Lindsey u3a

Magazine

Quarterly Edition No. 105 (October 2025)

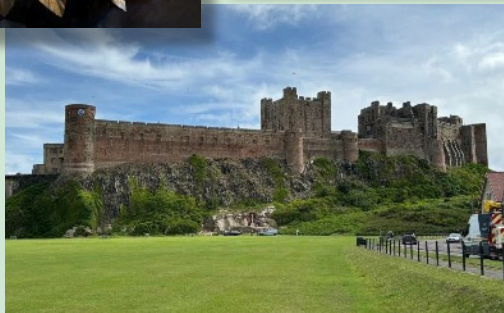
u3a learn,
laugh,
live



Members visiting Hadrian's wall on u3a holiday

Features

- ▶ u3a Holiday to Northumberland
- ▶ 'Scammers and Fraud Awareness'
- ▶ Visit to Tin Town Heritage Centre, Immingham
- ▶ 'Mayflower Pilgrims in a New World' by Maggie Watkins



Images from the u3a holiday to Northumberland

Notes from the Editor



Welcome to the October 2025 edition of the Magazine.

In this bumper edition we feature accounts of our general meetings with items including warnings of Scammers and fraudsters and the story of the Mayflower Pilgrims to a New World. Also included is a report of the u3a holiday to Northumberland in July and reports of visits to memorable places by various groups. Do remember to visit our excellent website for regular updates of events & group activities.

We continue to try to provide an 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.

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 January 2026 magazine is 4th December 2025.

Contact details are: Geoff Sherman

email: lindseyu3a.editor@gmail.com

Geoff Sherman

Editor

Lindsey u3a Website
www.lindseyu3a.org.uk

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Do visit our new website!

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NOTICES

Meeting Schedule 2025

October 2nd	Britains Best Wildlife by Nick Martin. Nick is a renowned wildlife photographer and speaker who is on a mission to enthuse us with his love of wildlife gained in both Lincolnshire and as manager of a Nature Reserve in Warwickshire.
November 6th	More about Owls by Annette MacKenzie. Annette just loves owls and on this visit will share this with us as she introduces us to her friend Eric and explains his exploits
December 4th	Christmas entertainment with Tom Lane and his friends as they get us in the mood for the festive season.
January 8th 2026	Sustainability is King by Clive Wilson. 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.

Summer Lunch at Hemswell Court

On Friday, 18th July 56 members attended a very enjoyable Summer Lunch at Hemswell Court. The elegant venue did not disappoint and many of us thought the meal was even better than last year. Service whilst being friendly was very efficient and professional. We hope Lindsey u3a's Summer Lunch will become a regular fixture.

Welfare

Jane Miller is our new Welfare Officer. 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 Jane know and she will send a suitable message.

Her contact details are Tel: 07512192850 and email: jane47.miller@gmail.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

16 October Uphill Lincoln Walk with Penny Forsdyke.

“Murder and Mayhem.”

20 November Welton Room. Annual 2025 Review and 2026 Planning.

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.



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 'Case Histories' by Kate Atkinson, Kiley Reids 'What a Fun age', and 'The island of Sea Women' by Lisa See.

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.

GROUP NEWS

If you would like more details, please contact via
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

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 taught first. No partner is needed as we all join hands and dance together. The circle of



GROUP NEWS

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

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,

ZOOM COFFEE MORNING

Feeling left out or cut off from the world? Reluctant to go out but wanting to meet people? On the first Tuesday each month we host a coffee morning on-line. Using the 'Zoom' software a number of people link together and have a chat for about 40 minutes to an hour. There is no agenda and no set topic, we just chat about things generally. We make ourselves a coffee, some have biscuits, and enjoy cheerful banter. And it's free! If you want to join, contact Sid on sid.milleru3a@gmail.com and he will send you a link so that you can join in.

GROUP NEWS

COMPUTERS FOR ALL

Having returned from our summer recess in September, 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:-



- 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 getting to grips 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 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., see dates below.

September 8th, October 13th, November 10th, December 8th
I look forward to seeing at our next meeting.

Mike Kirkby, Organiser

GROUP NEWS

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

FAREWELL TO SHIRLEY - September 2025

Lindsey Bridge group marked the departure of their club chair, Shirley Droy on Thursday 14 August with a 'bit of a do!' A splendid cake was baked (by Mary), we toasted Shirley with a bit of fizz/juice and presented her with a voucher, to thank her for her work with this group. The bridge group was set up as a new venture in 2017, and we originally met in Welton Manor Park. I'm not sure, but I think we played with borrowed equipment to begin with, then when membership increased, we bought our own. Eventually we had enough funds to pay for a computer programme for scoring purposes



(saving me as scorer, time and brain strain) and could have these printed results posted on the Lindsey website.

However long before this, and shortly after Shirley and Ray moved into Sudbrooke in 2001, they were involved in several groups. Shirley was a committee member for some time, the leader of the Saturday luncheon club and the theatre visits organizer. She recalls that seeing Tommy Steele playing the lead in 'The Glen Miller Story' was the last visit she organized. We wish Shirley well in her move to Stoney Stratford, to be nearer her daughter Deborah, and will do our best to ensure that her legacy with this Bridge group continues to thrive.

Duplicate Bridge Group meets every Thursday 1.45 p.m. at Old School Hall, Mill Hill Nettleham.

Cathy Platt - group leader plattcathy58@gmail.com

GROUP NEWS

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 we are happy to provide guidance and encouragement.'

Janet Freeman - group leader
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

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

Tuesday 8 October - talk on The English and Gardening by Danny Wells.

November - no meeting

Tuesday 2 December - Christmas Lunch

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 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 morning at 10.00 ready to start bowling at 10.30 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 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.

Barbara Jones, group leader

PLAY READING

The group meets to read a wide variety of plays, both classical and modern, from Oliver Goldsmith and Chekhov to Arthur Miller and Alan Bennett.

This group has now been running since 2004 and has given all members a great deal of fun.

For information please contact Margaret Howard, our organiser. We meet on the 4th Monday of the month at Margaret's house in Sturton by Stow.

Play Reading group leader: Margaret Howard - margarethoward@outlook.com

QUIZ GROUP

Friday 10 October 2025 at 2pm - Welton Village Hall

Following the success of our "QUIZ WITH A DIFFERENCE", we now invite you to a light-hearted general knowledge quiz.

GROUP NEWS

Members will be made up into random teams of four and prizes will be awarded to the first two winning teams. The cost is £5 per person. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served at half-time. 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 and 4th Monday 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

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. 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"

GROUP NEWS

If you are a keen Theatre fan and want to be notified of future visits, then let us know and you will be put on the list. We don't expect all members to go to all events but we will try to vary the type of event to give everyone an opportunity. To follow our progress there is a Theatres page on our web site, lindseyu3a.org.uk, and we will endeavour to have a table in the Welton room at the general meetings. Thanks to all those who have shown their support to date. Sid and Jane Miller email: sid.milleru3a@gmail.com or phone:

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 schedule until January is as follows:

8th September and 6th October: Guided tours of Energy from Waste Centre.

13th October: Trojan Mice Recycling: Where does it go and what else can we do? (Julie Guest)

10th November: Producing Ethical Food (Rosey Thompson)

8th December: Christmas Meal (date/venue to be confirmed)

10th January: Annual review and planning meeting.

Please do join us at any of these meetings; you will be made very welcome.

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

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cartridges, light bulbs and postage stamps. At the November u3a meeting we will be also be accepting unwanted stationery - so bring along any surplus notebooks, pads, working pens, staplers, erasers, paper clips etc. Rest assured that all donated items are recycled responsibly.

For further information please contact Heather heatherfrier@hotmail.com or Julie jguest343@gmail.com.

VISITS GROUP

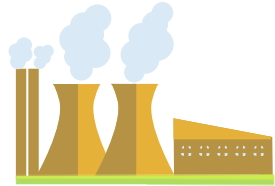
The Visits Group has a programme of outings being prepared.

Programme

Visit to the Museum of Timekeeping, Upton Hall, Newark. 18th November 10.30-12.30pm

Watch out for further information on the website and at General Meetings.

Leaders : Rosey Thompson Email; 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



From Barrow to Baghdad by Philp Caine

June General meeting

Phillip Caine left school at 16 and was expected to go straight into the dockyard in Barrow in Furness like all the men in the town. Instead he worked hard at being a chef in a local hotel and progressed quickly through the fine hotels in Cumbria to the Ritz and Paris.

Returning jobless to Barrow, where he met his Scottish wife Sandra in the late 70's, Sandra had heard about the North Sea oil rigs. He enquired about a job there. There was no interview, 'just a when can you start?' and 'can you get to the airport and climb aboard a helicopter tomorrow?'

Who better to feed 70 Frenchmen and 9 Scots? Drawing on his Paris learnt skills and the ability to keep his wife Sandra happy he catered for them all. So much so that in 12 months he was promoted to the manager of three rigs and was on the payroll of BP. Three weeks on and three weeks off suited him. It suited Sandra too. They both enjoyed the money but after 17 years it was a time for change. At Sandra's suggestion he travelled to Algeria to set up a huge expat complex in the desert. Then the jungle of Nigeria to set up one twice the size and then onto Kazakhstan to create the biggest gas field in the world with 3000

(mostly) Americans. Supplies for the 6000 meals a day were difficult to acquire and would often be stolen en-route. It wasn't until he was introduced to the local KGB lead that the problem was sorted

People also need entertaining in their time off. The KGB were involved in owning night clubs but they needed someone to run them so 'running a KGB Nightclub' went on Philips CV too. So successfully that Philip and his friend took out a £4 million loan to set up their own hotel/night club. But ERON and the economy collapsed. To pay back the money they sold everything except the family home and Phillip went back to work to where the most money was - Baghdad. 31,00 USA Marines and 4,500 Asian staff. Again, there were problems with supplies so again Phillip went back to his KGB General. Two years later he had paid everything off and could save for his retirement 5 years later.

Not cut out for retirement, he wrote a book to share his experiences. He is now publishing his 10th novel/thriller and travels the country promoting them.

Goodness knows what he is going to turn his hand to next!

Rosey thompson

'Scammers and Fraud Awareness' - July General Meeting

In our July meeting Louise Johnson from AgeUK and Sharon Hill from Lincolnshire police provided an interesting presentation outlining the dangers of scams that we all face in today's society. She emphasized that AgeUK provides support for our age group to counter such problems. She reminded us that scams are fraud and should be treated as such. Four main types of scam exist including postal scams, those made over the phone, doorstep scams and the largest being online scams. In each case different techniques are used to convince us of their authenticity. Calls by phone are often at times when we are busy and or distracted and stressed and therefore more vulnerable. The over 55s are typically targeted as they are considered the more affluent group. Sadly one third of the people who are scammed are likely to be the target of further scams as their identities are spread amongst the criminal fraternity. On the telephone the scammers can seem very persuasive but can turn nasty and threatening if they are not achieving their goal. In many cases scammers rely on the elderly's social isolation and so called romance crime where people are lonely and seeking friendship can make them vulnerable. Also, the consequences of becoming a victim can cause embarrassment

stress and occasionally suicidal thoughts.

Telephone scams are common where scammers impersonate such organizations as HMRC or banking services. One should be alert to this possibility and if necessary check with the official organization directly. AgeUK provides a call blocking facility to individuals if needed in addition to the telephone preference service available by telephone providers.

The government's take 5 advice includes the following: 1) Don't divulge your own personal details 2) Don't trust everyone as genuine 3) Don't be rushed into making decisions, 4) Listen to your own instincts if necessary get a second opinion, 5) Stay in control

Louise also warned against using the same password for multiple websites etc and to use three random words which are more difficult to crack. Also use 2 factor verification where possible.

Booklets from AgeUK and Lincolnshire police providing detailed guidance on avoiding scams and staying safe were provided.

Our thanks go to Louise and Sharon for highlighting a most important aspect of modern life for us to be wary of.

Geoff Sherman

‘Mayflower Pilgrims in a New World’ by Maggie Watkins - August General Meeting

Maggie explained that the Puritans, or Separatists, as they were sometimes known, had grown out of the confusion started by the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, followed by the differing religious tolerances of subsequent monarchs, Edward VI, Mary I, Elizabeth I and latterly James I. The central figures mostly came from wealthy Protestant families in the area where the counties of Nottingham, York and Lincolnshire met, centred around Scooby Manor, near Retford. Many of the sons had been to Cambridge University and developed a willingness for dissent there.

In 1607 the first group moved to Holland and then on to Leyden in Germany. Eventually, in 1620, the journey was made to America in the ‘Mayflower’, a voyage which took 66 days of sailing in cramped and under-provisioned conditions. They arrived in December, the worst time of year as nothing could be planted, and at Cape Cod, much further north of their intended destination of Virginia. The rest of the story is history, as



they say, but Maggie’s talk shone a light on little known facts, such as how long they had spent in Germany before going to America, and that the voyage was largely funded by merchants with no interest in religion, many of whom also came across on the ship. It was striking how hopelessly unequipped they were for founding a colony, and the only reason they survived at all was through the help of the local Indians [Native Americans] one of whom could speak English. A totally chaotic start to what would eventually form the United States of America!

Janet Freeman.

U3a Northumberland Holiday - July 2025

Day 1 - Barnard Castle

Day 1 and I am due to meet up with fellow travellers the majority of whom I don't know.

I'd taken the mantle from Prue who had been an excellent tour guide, so I had some big shoes to fill. I didn't need to worry as in true u3a fashion everyone was so friendly it was an easy transition.

After a comfort stop, we soon arrived at the Bowes-Lyon museum. With a magnificent façade and a very tight entrance for our driver Jake (we all breathed in as he navigated the entrance earning a well-deserved hand of applause) we disembarked and walked into this wonderful building. The museum did not disappoint with 3 guides waiting to take us round. An excellent addition was fold up stools for members who found standing (and there was a lot of it) difficult. The stools were then folded up and carried as we moved on. Our guide was full of quirky knowledge such as the very small figurine of a monk carrying a bundle of whatever he needed. It was only when you looked behind him that you could see the bundle had a pair of shapely ankles! The restaurant was very nice with a



Bowes-Lyon museum

great menu that everyone seemed to be enjoying. On the holidays I ran at another u3a there was a tradition of soup and a roll for lunch which I was more than happy to continue as were the other 4 members on my table.

It was then time to move on to our hotel in Newcastle

Day 2 - Hadrian's Wall

Roman Empire for nearly 300 years. Kevin, our Ancient Briton guide wearing full Celtish armour, met us by the lake at Cawfield. He explained the functions of his apparel and his two swords. We climbed up to Mile Castle 42, high up in a commanding position and sat on the wall listening to Kevin explaining that Hadrian started to build his wall in 122AD with 12,000 soldiers along the whole length; it

took less than 10 years to complete the 80 Roman miles (73 modern miles), with 80 Mile Castles along its length.

Next, we visited Vindolanda which was built south of the wall adjacent to another Mile Castle. We walked through the excavated remains of a small town where the Celts and the Romans appeared to have lived close to each other, followed by the Roman Fort where Kevin identified the most important buildings.



Vindolanda

In the Vindolanda Museum we saw many artifacts excavated from the Roman occupation of the area including shoes, implements, coins, weapons, jewellery and pottery.

We returned to Newcastle via Hexham where we looked round the twelfth century Abbey, which has been the parish church of Hexham since the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537.

Day 3 - Bamburgh and Coast

"I am Uhtred, son of Uhtred, Lord of Bebbanberg and I will reclaim what is mine. Destiny is all."

As someone whose nose is rarely out of a book, Bamburgh conjures up for me the lost Earldom of Uhtred the hero of Bernard Cornwall's Saxon Chronicles and the TV series the Last Kingdom.

We arrived in Bamburgh village on a beautiful summers day. The later rather large Norman Castle, looming above us guarding the coast in an overbearing manner, lightened by the sunlight. The village is very picturesque, featuring local stone, with shops, cafes and a pub.

We Bensons, Barnes and Rickerbys, followed our noses (signpost) and had a very pleasant walk to the blue flag beach, an expansive unblemished strand, edged by The Bamburgh Dunes, a site of Special Scientific Interest and patrolled by swooping birds.



Bamburgh Castle

A welcome discovery was the Coffee Hut, serving a delicious blend, worth the walk for alone.

In the village a must visit for some was the Museum, dedicated to local legend, Grace Darling. The first purpose-built lifeboat was stationed at Bamburgh in 1786, but sadly no longer. England's most northerly, Bamburgh Lighthouse overlooks the bay and Farne Islands.

I must also recommend the series of Northumberland Detective novels by L J Ross bear titles reflecting some of our trips, Bamburgh, and Belsay on that day alone. Unfortunately, Holy Island was not on our itinerary this trip.

Day 4 - Bishop Auckland and Angel of the North

My pre-visit check of our itinerary and noting that Bishop Auckland, was 'a medium sized, former mining town', did not prepare me for it being so visually attractive. Equally impressive was its well organised visitor attraction package which covered the entrance fee to three separate attractions.

The town had an impressive main square, with well managed traffic lanes and drop off points. It was bordered by the visitor centre, the

mining museum, incorporating a viewing tower, shops, cafes, a well visited (by the group) Wetherspoons, and Spanish art gallery the other side. At one end there was the crenelated archway to the Bishop of Durhams's Palace, and on the opposite side was the beginnings of the town's shopping street.



We were met by tourist office staff and led onto the driveway leading to the Bishop's Palace. The Palace was built on the side of a steep hill, with a garden wall on the righthand side, and the fantastic tiered terraced garden covering the valley side. On the left-hand side was the imposing palace itself, a bowling green and more gardens. We all had a guided tour of the Bishops Palace, visiting first those grand stately rooms - the throne room and resplendent dining room and hearing about its alterations over time. We then toured the study, library and living quarters

of former Bishops. In one room, which was once the sitting room of Bishop Welby, a recording of him being interviewed on TV was playing. In it he was justifying his forthright views on Christianity and the virgin birth - which caused a scandal at that time.

Under the chapel was the newly created Faith Museum, showing evidence of the spread of Christianity throughout the ages, including the influence of the Northumbrian saints. There were four named gardens, Paradise Garden, Faith Garden, Bishop Cosin's Garden. However, the most spectacular garden and an example of gardening perfection, was the steeply terraced, walled garden.

Something that was unmissable, was the view of the surrounding countryside, from the viewing tower, attached to the mining museum. In this museum were some excellent paintings of pit workers underground, their cramped conditions in the tunnels and coal wagons on their tracks. These works were by a local artist a reminder of conditions in former harder times.

In contrast to these mining scenes was the art displayed in the Spanish museum. It had portraits of the Spanish court in its golden era, a model tomb/shrine in Moorish style, plus typical Spanish design tiles, spread over several floors. Bishop Auckland was a town of contrasts and splendid sights and well worth visiting.

Day 5 - Ripon and Home

We joined our coach to travel home from Newcastle visiting Ripon, North Yorkshire. It is a small place to have such a large church at its heart. In medieval times Ripon was larger and more significant than places like Leeds and Sheffield. It was involved



Ripon Cathedral

with the wool trade but was never touched by the Industrial Revolution.

Ripon was certainly hot when we arrived, temperature in the region of 30 degrees, but we were kept cool in Ripon Cathedral. The cathedral church, now known as St. Peter and St. Wilfrid dominates the city and surrounding countryside. Our guides were extremely knowledgeable. The cathedral has been welcoming people for over 1,350 years, since the time St. Wilfrid dedicated his first church to St. Peter. We visited Wilfrid's Anglo-Saxon crypt, the oldest built fabric of all England's cathedrals. It is believed to have been consecrated in 672. Standing in the Quire looking up and back towards the organ is a wooden hand believed to be unique to Ripon Cathedral. It dates from 1695 and allowed the organist, at that time seated directly above and with his back to the choir, to beat time. Apparently, it still works, however, with modern technology it is now redundant as the organist can now watch the conductor via a television monitor. Encompassing old with the new, the cathedral has several modern works of art. Three of Harold



Gosney's statues depicting Mary and Christ at different stages of his pilgrimage. I have included a photo of Mother and Infant (1999). It stands 5 feet 2 inches tall, sheet copper pieces were cut, annealed, folded and beaten to relate to the natural form.

The metalwork of the Holy Spirit chapel, including the screen, was the work of the renowned silversmith Leslie Durbin and was erected in 1970.

We rejoined our coach after having some free time in this charming city for our homeward journey.

Contributors:

Pam Simpson (leader), Hugh Carter, Janet Benson, Cathy Platt, Tricia Barnes

Architecture Group Visit to Tin Town Heritage Centre, Immingham. 12 June 2025

The visit to Tin Town Heritage Centre was a first for our party, as Immingham is not a place you generally visit! However, amongst the modern houses and heavy industry is a very rare building from an earlier age. 359 Pelham Road is the last survivor of the Tin Town built rapidly in the early 1900s to house all the workers needed to dig out and create a new port on the Humber Estuary.

It has been lovingly restored by its owner, Malcolm Cullen, who lives next door and has his long-established Removal Business close by. One of our members remembered him moving her family from Grimsby many years ago!

Malcolm has set up his garage to show a film about the history of the area. He also provided very welcome refreshments. We then went round the property, which is

surprisingly large. We discovered that it was originally occupied by one of the building company's management, with the workers housed in much poorer accommodation by the dock itself!

All of the rooms have been furnished in a pre-war manner and there are numerous artefacts we recognised from our youth. As the building is made of tin, with no insulation and only a few fireplaces, we all thought it must have been very cold in the winter. Remarkably, the last family only moved out a few years ago. After a look around Malcolm's immaculate garden, many of our party visited the Marrowbone and Cleaver pub in nearby Kirmington, for lunch. It is owned by Guy Martin's sister and is a real treat, which I heartily recommend!!

Luke Pickering

Garden Group Visit to Lismore Gardens in Sudbrooke on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

This was a joint visit with West Wolds u3a Garden Group. The weather in the morning was very wet, but it changed to lovely sunshine and was a warm afternoon, which was most suitable for a garden visit.

Our hostess, Coral, welcomed us to her stunning and picturesque garden. It has been developed from an empty plot over several years. During which time she and her husband have undertaken all the labouring themselves; digging borders, laying paving slabs, building low walls and beds made out of railway sleepers to create raised vegetable plots. Last year high winds blew down two large conifers which resulted in a cutting and chopping task for her.

It is a good-sized garden enabling Coral to design different styles of borders and garden rooms which surround a central lawn. In a curved border we found scented David Austen roses whilst on the opposite side of the lawn a similarly curved border planted with perennials and shrubs. Tucked behind an out-building is a display of hostas, with perfect leaves. She has dedicated a narrow border to wild flowers and at the bottom of the garden is a large bug hotel below a canopy of large trees.

Our hostess was on-hand to guide members around the garden and answer questions. We were delighted by the 'faux' pond within a tall curved hedge. The 'water' is pebbles and in the middle are two stone bowls atop a stone pillar. The bowls contain small daisy flowers (Erigeron) in place of a fountain, and daisies also surround the pond. Carved stone fish 'swim' on the pebbles. All of which is overlooked by two cherubs, giving it an Italianate look. To contrast this romantic scene is the kitchen garden, surrounded by its own fence, containing raised beds with netting protecting healthy vegetables and fruit.

The garden is stunning; it is designed to display different plants and garden themes as well as being pristine. The hard work and attention to detail is evident in every corner of the garden.

Sudbrooke Garden Club members provided us with delicious home-made cake and drinks of choice. The sunny and warm (though windy) weather enabled us to enjoy our refreshments in the sun and shade of large trees. A perfect ending to a perfect visit.

Louise Kevill

Saltaire 'Bookmarks' by Janet Freeman

The Visits Group trip to Saltaire, Shipley, was given a tour by Maria Glot, which was illustrated by bookmarks she gave each of us listing brief details of an actual person taken from the census who had worked there at the time of Titus Salt. I have collected some of these bookmarks and looked further at the lives of these individuals, the most interesting, for differing reasons, being the following.

Maria's own character was Ellen Dooley, wife of Henry, the person on the bookmark of Luke Pickering. Henry Dooley (1835-1907) a plasterer from Bradford, and Ellen Goodison (1836-1901) a wool twister from Leeds, were married in 1857 at Shipley and had their first five children in Saltaire. More followed after a move to Bradford in the late 1860s where Henry became manager of a coffee tavern. Their eldest daughter, Ann, married James Henry Pickles, a plasterer and whitewasher, at the Bradford Methodist Eastbrook Chapel in 1881, however, James filed for divorce in 1899, citing Ann's adultery with his brother William from 1884 onwards. A decree nisi was issued whereupon Ann counter-filed in 1900 claiming James had committed adultery with an Isabella Dean in Keighley from 1885 to 1890, which resulted

in the decree being rescinded. William and Ann Pickles were living as man and wife on the census from 1891, where he was a sewing machine agent, and Ann's nine-year-old son by James was also with them. After William's death in 1901, mother and son set up a medicinal herbalist shop together. Edward Toothill (1821-1887) worked his way up from being a wool carder, then overlooker, to becoming curator of Victoria Hall, the Mechanics' Institute in Saltaire, however, he felt his standing was constantly undermined by his son Sylvester (1851-1955) an accountant with Salt's Mill. In July 1878 he was brought before the West Riding Court at Leeds Town Hall on a charge of defrauding the Midlands Railway by not buying a ticket for part of the journey. As reported in the Yorkshire Post, he was followed, then apprehended outside the men's urinals at Bradford Station, by a Detective Blagg; his defence council claimed, "It was absurd to think that a gentleman in Mr. Toothill's position would wilfully defraud the company for the sake of a paltry 6d." The jury did not agree, and he was fined 40s and costs in default of a month in prison.
(to be continued)

Art Appreciation visit to Clayworth.

For our July meeting the group visited St Peters Church in Clayworth to view the murals painted by Phoebe Anna Taquair. (1852-1936) Born in Ireland, she greatly



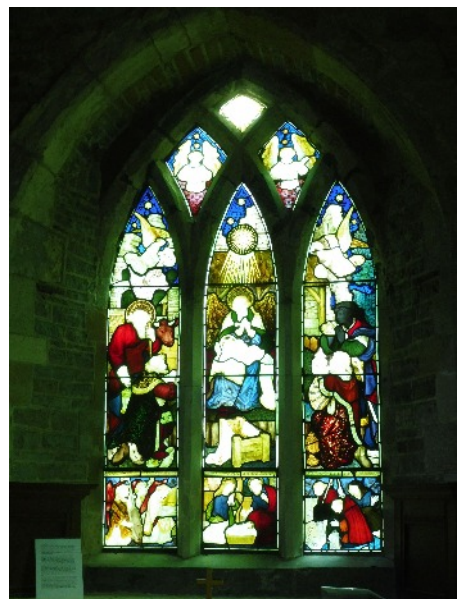
admired and followed the Arts and Craft style of painting. The murals were based on bible stories and were in good condition and the colours were still vivid. We also enjoyed the stained glass windows in the church, one of which was from the 14th century, depicting St Nicholas.

Taquair's work was not limited to painting, she also made beautiful jewellery and



embroidery. Most of her work can also be seen in National Gallery of Scotland. Also there is a whole gallery, Mansfield House in Edinburgh showing her work. She lived and is buried in Scotland.

Whiz Collis



Architecture Group visit to Caistor

Caistor of yesteryear had everything that a small Lincolnshire town could need and want. Boasting an impressive Town hall, four market squares, grammar school, numerous pubs, chair maker, foundry, ropewalkers, carriage maker, butchers shop, library, stone mason and loads of little shops supporting a bustling community drawn from two different congregations each supporting their own.

Whilst Roman walls and Roman remains are still visible there is also the Saxon church of St Peter & St Paul and later methodist churches to visit. Alongside a splendid Georgian house has a tunnel passageway carved out under the road connecting one garden to the upper garden. From here, a Tower, with a spiral stone staircase, leads at the top to a magnificent view of the Lincolnshire Wolds. (If you are tempted, it could be yours for just over half a million)!

But what makes a place is its people. The members of the Caistor Civic Society have worked tirelessly to transform one of the derelict methodist churches into an Arts and Heritage Centre which

now also houses the library. It is a great place to meet up for a coffee and even lunch, which is exactly what the Architecture Group did the day they were taken on a walking tour. Local historian Elizabeth Jefferson had mapped out a route around the town for us which she led with enthusiasm whilst telling us endless fascinating stories. At the top of Lucy Lane, (named after a travelling performer) we were fortunate to meet Mr King just outside his old butchers' shop and slaughter yard. He regaled us with tales of the children running down the hill after school to pet his pigs and to watch more gruesome goings on. Now over 90 he lives out a comfortable retirement in his converted stable block.

The Civic Society have installed many Blue Plaques around the town which describe Caistor's buildings, notables and the townspeople's historic part in the Pilgrim of Grace - the rebellion against Henry VIII. The Heritage Centre is appealing for support as many of their grants have come to an end, so pay them a visit, you won't be disappointed.

Rosey Thompson

Visits Group visit to Bridlington

On the 3rd of June, Lindsay was due to go by coach to Bridlington for a trip onboard the Yorkshire Bell. We were booked for a trip to the sea bird breeding reserve at Bempton Cliffs. We were all hoping to see puffins in their natural environment. Then onto the Bridlington Lifeboat station.

The boat trip was cancelled on the day because of the weather. Bridlington to Bempton, would be OK but coming back around Flamborough would have been very wet and unpleasant, so Sam the owner of the Yorkshire Bell cancelled the day's sailings.

Malcolm and Rosey decided we would stop at Beverly for a couple of hours and then proceed to Bridlington as the lifeboat station visit was still on.

Beverly was really pleasant. We could visit the Minster and it was lovely to walk through the shops of Beverly and see so many small independent shops open and seeming to be doing well.

Finally our coach dropped us at Bridlington front. The museum of fishing was very good. Then on to

our 3:30 appointment at Bridlington Lifeboat house.

It's on the front just raised from the beach and contains crew room, training room, changing room and the boat house for the D class Inshore lifeboat and launching tractor as well as the tractor for the all weather Shannon class lifeboat and its mobile slipway system.

The boats are designed and built by the RNLI. The mobile slipway system is co-designed by the RNLI and a company called Supa-Cat and built by Supa-Cat. The boat is called Antony Patrick Jones ON1329. This means it is 13 Metres long and the 29th of its class.

The system is designed so that the slip is driven into the sea by the tractor, a hydraulic ram tilts the boat and it launches. The boat is powered and steered by two water jets. For recovery it is hauled back on to the mobile slipway and then the hydraulics lift it and turn it into position for the next launch. We were shown a video of this happening.

Many people took the trouble to say how much they enjoyed it and how informative the day was.

Alan Barnes

Theatre Group Visit to Buxton Opera House to see Iolanthe

On a beautiful day in August the theatre group visited the Buxton Opera House to enjoy a performance of Iolanthe, one of the operas on the 2025 Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company's Festival programme.

In a nutshell Iolanthe is a whimsical blend of fantasy and political satire. The story follows Strephon a half fairy half mortal shepherd, who hopes to marry Phyllis, a ward of the court. But their path to love is blocked by the pompous House of Lords-most notably the Lord Chancellor himself, (played by Simon Butteriss who members might remember took a similar part as First Lord of the Admiralty in HMS Pinafore) who also has his eye on Phyllis. When Strephon's fairy heritage comes to light, the fairies storm into Westminster, throwing the House of Lords into delightful disarray. Strephon is miserable at losing Phyllis, but when he sees her reveals that his mother is a fairy, which accounts for her apparent youth. Phyllis and Strephon ask Iolanthe to plead with the Lord Chancellor to allow their marriage. This is impossible she replies, for the Lord Chancellor is my husband. In the end, love wins the day, culminating in a joyfully absurd finale where fantasy and politics collide in perfect harmony. Although many of our group were

unfamiliar with Iolanthe it is one of the most beloved of the Savoy Operas. At the end of this performance we could see why this opera had such a reputation. The performance was certainly brilliant, sparkling, enchanting and eccentric.

Iolanthe should not be taken too seriously. It is as much the vehicle for splendid pageantry as in the entrance of the peers and the parody of Wagnerian opera in summoning Iolanthe from the depths of the stream in act 1 as it is for political satire. The Lords dressed in full ceremonial costume with ermine and coronets presented a striking spectacle and together made a good choir. The Lords - Earl of Mountararat (James Cliverton) and Earl Tolloller (Adam Sullivan) took their parts as suitors for the hand of Phyllis with enthusiasm and panache. The National Festival Orchestra with their leader Sally Robinson and conductor James Hendry delivered an outstanding accompaniment to this performance and the spirit of Gilbert and Sullivan tradition.

The enthusiasm of the audience as they were leaving the theatre was a measure of how successful the performance had been.

Allen Ball

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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.	Zoom coffee morning	On-line meeting arranged by Sid Miller sid.milleru3a@gmail.com
10 a.m.	Indoor Bowls	Jane Guy -
<u>Wednesday</u>		
		There is nothing planned on this day
<u>Thursday</u>		
9.45 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
<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.	Trojan Mice	heatherfrier@hotmail.com , Julie jguest343@gmail.com . Meetings held at Waitrose Community Room at the Nettleham Rd store
<u>Tuesday</u>		
10 a.m.	Knitting	Barbara Jones handb@handb.me.uk 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	Jane Guy -
<u>Wednesday</u>		
10 a.m.	French Conversaion	Alan Gidney fitzal@hotmail.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
<u>Friday</u> 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 elizabethwilson52@gmail.com Meetings held at a member's home
<u>Tuesday</u>		
10 a.m.	Indoor Bowls	Jane Guy -
<u>Wednesday</u>		
10 a.m.	Circle Dancing	Margaret Doughty revmd@gmx.co.uk 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

	Bird Watching	please contact via www.cliffvillageslincoln3a.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 Meetings at Old School Hall, Mill Hill, Nettleham LN2 2PE
<u>Friday</u> There is nothing planned on this day		

Week Four of the Month		
<u>Monday</u>		
13.30 p.m.	Scrabble	Witham u3a , 1 New Crescent LN3 4AJ. Cherry Willingham.
2 p.m.	Play Reading	Margaret Howard margarethoward@outlook.com Meeting held at Margaret's home in Sturton
<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	Jane Guy -
<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
<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. Trojan Mice	10 a.m. Family History 2 p.m. Art Appreciation	1.30 p.m. Scrabble 2 p.m. Play Reading
Tue	10 a.m. Jewellery Making 10 a.m. Zoom coffee morning 10 a.m. Indoor Bowls	10 a.m. Knitting 1.30 p.m. Scrabble 2 p.m. Book Group (Bookworms) 10 a.m. Indoor Bowls	10 a.m.. Indoor Bowls	10 a.m. Indoor Bowls 2 p.m. Gardening
Wed		10 a.m. French Conversation	10 a.m. Circle Dancing 1.45 p.m. Booklovers Group All day Bird watching	
Thu	9.45 a.m. General Meeting in Welton Village Hall 1.45 p.m. Bridge	1.45 p.m. Bridge	10.30 a.m. Architecture 1.45 p.m. Bridge	10 a.m. Art Group 10.15 a.m. Coffee Morning 1.45 p.m. Bridge
Fri				



u3a members visiting RNLI station at Bridlington



Architecture Group members
visiting the Tin Town heritage
centre, Immingham in June



Lismore gardens
visited by the
Garden Group



Architecture Group
visit to Caistor