

Lindsey u3a

Magazine

Quarterly Edition No. 109 (October 2026)

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



U3a members enjoying a boat trip on river Wye during holiday to south Wales

Features

- ▶ u3a Holiday to Newport, Cardiff and the Royal Mint
- ▶ Visit to Hockerton housing project
- ▶ Garden Group visit to Barbara Kamal's garden
- ▶ Visit to Bubble car museum



Images from the u3a holiday to south Wales in June

Notes from the Editor



Welcome to the October 2026 edition of the Magazine. In this edition we feature accounts of our general meetings including tales from a lorry driver and the story of the Lincolnshire Wolds. There are also interesting articles of the u3a holiday to south Wales, outings by our Visits, Garden, Sustainability and Architecture Groups. There is plenty to read!

Farewell

This is my last edition as Editor owing to problems with my vision. I have much enjoyed producing the magazine these past 8 years but it's time for someone else to take over. My sincere thanks to all those committee members and other members who have contributed to the magazine which I believe has been greatly enjoyed by the membership. I hope that it may continue to provide information and enjoyment to all. Do remember to visit our excellent website for regular updates of events & group activities.

I would particularly like to thank 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 January 2027 magazine is 5th December 2026. Contact details are: Geoff Sherman
email: lindseyu3a.editor@gmail.com

Geoff Sherman
Editor

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NOTICES

Meeting Schedule 2026

October 1st	Nigel Macknight - Quicksilver and understanding perseverance Nigel is the driving force behind a project team who are constructing a speedboat to wrest the World water speed record from the Australians who have held this record for 47 years, despite attempts made by Americans and various other teams. He has addressed us before and is looking forward to updating us.
Nov 5th	Elaine Johnson - Madness and Mayhem at the Lawn Until around 1800, ignorance meant treatment of mental ill-health was often unkind if not cruel, but enlightened medical opinion at the Lawn Asylum, Lincoln, revolutionised this and profoundly influenced best practice in the UK and eventually worldwide.
Dec 3rd	Pantomime Dames by Steve Barclay

New Groups

We are pleased to confirm the establishment of several new Groups including the Herbal Group, Bus Pass outings and a new Scrabble group. Other new groups are being considered so watch this space!! We are hoping to start a new group in the autumn, playing table tennis at the Welton Methodist Chapel Would you like to help run a small group that just plays for fun?!

Contact Luke Pickering if you are interested
lukep@lahestates.co.uk

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 contact Luke .

Programme

Thursday 15 October Tour of Greyfriars, Lincoln

Thursday 19 November Welton Room - Annual 2026 Review and 2027 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, exploring pen and wash techniques, starting out in pastels. Please contact me for further information.

GROUP NEWS

Geoff Sherman, group leader

ART APPRECIATION

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



Programme:

8 Oct Birmingham with Visits Group - City Art Gallery and Jewellery Exhibition

16 Nov Talk - Beads

21 Dec Talk - Traditional Christmas Games

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. In September we read *The Killing Stones* by Ann Cleeves and in October we are reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.

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's further meetings this year are on October 12th November 9th and December 14th, hope to see you there.

Mike Kirkby, Organiser

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

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

Tournament Director: **Gytha McBirney**

Cathy Platt - local contact

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 1
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

27 October - Talk by Ed Cook of Meadowmakers

November - no meeting

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



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

GROUP NEWS

QUIZ GROUP

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

SCRABBLE

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

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 Theatre Group continues to thrive, with all our outings proving very popular. In early August we enjoyed a trip to Buxton to see the National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company's production of The Mikado. Our next outing is in October when



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we will be heading to Hull to see Cats, followed in January by Agatha Christie's The Hollow in Nottingham. Looking even further ahead we have another trip to Nottingham planned to see Grease.

Our very first "car-share" outing will be in December, for a screening of The Nutcracker at The Kinema in the Woods (Woodhall Spa). The hope is to organise several of these "mini-trips" next year, with around 12 people travelling together by car to the chosen venue.

Tickets for all these productions were snapped up very quickly, so if you would like to receive early notification of future outings please let us know and we will add your name to our mailing list.

Details of all current and recent trips can be found on our webpage and of course each month at our table in the Welton Room, prior to the general meeting.

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. Meetings usually start at 3.15 pm and 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 through a mix of presentations, discussion, speakers and visits. Our October meeting will be a review of our 2026 activities and then in November we will be hosting a talk from the Lincoln Repair

GROUP NEWS

Cafe. For further information please contact: Heather
heatherfrier@hotmail.com

Our group also runs 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 and postage stamps. Rest assured that all donated items are recycled responsibly. For further information please contact: Julie: julie.guestu3a@gmail.com

TABLE TENNIS

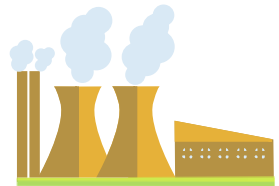
We are hoping to start a new group in the autumn, playing at the Welton Methodist Chapel Would you like to help run a small group that just plays for fun?!

Contact Luke Pickering if you are interested

lukep@lahestates.co.uk

VISITS GROUP

The Visits Group has a programme of outings being prepared.



Programme

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



HERBAL GROUP

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 Tuesday of each month at the leaders home 10 a.m.-12 p.m.. There are no vacancies at present. Group Leader Jo Johnston josephineljohnston@icloud.com



‘Confessions of a Lorry Driver’ by Leonard Priestly

June General Meeting

Leonard Priestley told us about his long and varied working life around Wisbeach.

He started as a teenager driving the family’s mobile shop around local villages, but always wanted to be a lorry driver. He joined a major company and all was going well until one day a shop manager refused to take his delivery and display it prominently. They got into an argument and Len gave us a blow by blow account of the ferocious bout of fisticuffs which followed! In the end they finished up having tea together and the delivery was accepted, but the manager lost his job.

Len then decided to start doing Removals himself. He specialised in moving pianos. One day he found some racy photographs inside a piano. The lady owner must have forgotten they were there, as when he took out the photos she grabbed them and said “I’ll take those”!

After selling that business, he was bored and started up a Minibus Hire company.

Len illustrated his very funny talk by holding up models of many of the vehicles he had driven and which we were able to look at afterwards.

Alan Barnes

'The Lincolnshire Wolds', a talk by Helen Gamble August General Meeting

The flat open fields of Lincolnshire with their wide-open skies, often punctuated by the Red Arrows is far from the rugged Pennine Moors landscape that I left behind when I moved here three years ago. The Lincolnshire Wolds however, stands out with its rolling hills and steep sided wooded valleys a landscape familiar to my eyes.

Why are the Wolds so different, a question that Helen Gamble from the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service explained lies beneath our feet, it is all down to the geology. A chalk ridge runs roughly north to south with a thin vegetation covering showing up all flinty during the recent drought. The land was shaped by the vast amount of melting glacial water flowing through the region at the end of the last ice age. The water left alluvial deposits south of Market Rasen and around Louth, some from as far away as Scotland and Norway.

Today we can see why the area has been awarded AONB status, (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) although in its more recent past with the quarries and the mining industry in full production it must

have been hard to see the beauty. Up until the 1300's it was a relatively densely populated area with an open field system and managed rabbit warrens. The latter contributing to Brigg's status of the largest coney producer in the world. But economics change and people moved on leaving dozens of deserted medieval villages.

A pattern that repeated itself with the arrival of airfields to help with the war effort and the subsequent Cold War before their closures and subsequent desertion leaving a distinct MOD style of building. We are now left with peaceful villages of quaint cottages and churches built of golden coloured stone and the occasional busy pub. You can explore the area by foot or by bike just don't get caught up in the professional "Llyod's Tour of Britain Race" and find yourself peddling hard to stay in the peloton. There are lots of guides and suggestions on the website; lincswolds.org.uk Definitely a place full of interest and deserving of its AONB status. A geological and historical wonder just on our doorstep, step out and enjoy it.

Rosey Thompson

U3a Holiday Newport, Cardiff and the Royal Mint

15th - 19th June 2026

Day 1

On 15 June we set off on our annual jolly, this time to Newport due to its closeness to Cardiff. We were all on time and by 9 a.m. were on our way. After a comfort stop, we set off to Gloucester to visit the cathedral where we had a tour booked. Unfortunately we arrived late which meant that our tour was shortened but it was still highly informative with a look at the tomb of King Edward II.

There was time to get some lunch before we set off for our final destination, the Holiday Inn in Newport arriving in time for some quiet time before dinner.

Day Two

On our second day of the holiday we made the short journey to Cardiff - the capital of Wales. Stephen, our tour guide for the morning, joined us on board our coach. He proved to be full of information and good humour

providing an excellent and entertaining backdrop to start our day. Examples of this could well be a Mr Thomas who had his leg buried in one churchyard and his body in another! Scott who launched his fated expedition from here as Cardiff had funded much of the exploration. The boat being returned to the harbour at the end of this time. Cardiff did not gain city status until 1905. The wealth of the city was amassed from the coal industry during the industrial time of the mid 1800 to 1900s. The coal is of high quality and there was then plenty of it. A railway and harbour aided distribution. It was boom time and many moved here for employment attracting miners and dockworkers from around the world. On our tour of the docks Stephen pointed out a

Norwegian Church built on the dock obviously for migrant workers - sparkling white it was indeed a lovely sight. Famous names like Roald Dahl

and Shirley Bassey have their heritage here! We were to learn more about the life of the miners later in the week - a stark contrast to the wealth exhibited in Cardiff at that time. Many industrialists invested in the area and subsequently made a lot of money. On our tour there were several buildings that reflected this wealth as in the Post Office, City Hall and the Museum and Gallery. The most prestigious family at that time were the Butes. They put much energy into demonstrating their wealth with many lavish buildings. Stephen explained that we would see this for ourselves in the afternoon at the castle.

The closure of the mines led to a depressed dock and harbour and in 1987 the Cardiff Bay Project set about regenerating the area. This included hotels, offices, homes and impressive commercial and leisure facilities. Amongst these were the Welsh Government offices - the Sinnedd and the Welsh Millenium Centre. We had a short break at the latter to

look at this highly unusual building. Made of Welsh hardwood, steel and slate it was an impressive theatre and cultural centre. Stephen



reminded us of the high-profile TV programmes and filming that goes on here as in Torchwood, Dr Who and Casualty. Inside the auditorium areas looked fabulous. The tour continued with a drive through Penarth where the first morse code message was transmitted in 1897. The views were spectacular and we learnt of the ingenious Tidal Barrage. This was completed in 1990s transferring the tidal estuary into a freshwater lake! Our time with Stephen ended at the Castle where we spent the rest of the day. The castle in the middle of the town has two distinct parts to it. The

“old” castle consists of a Motte and Bailey type structure. It is a Norman fortress of 11th Century built on a Roman Fort. Many climbed up to the stone keep and walked the battlements and tunnels the latter used as air raid shelters during the war. The “new” castle was built by the Bute



family to be used as a home in a truly exotic Victorian Gothic style.

The architect was the famously eccentric William Burgess. It has been said that his work was fuelled by his bohemian lifestyle and affinity to opium! It was very different and quite extraordinary. Outside the castle there were very smart Victorian and Edwardian arcades and markets to explore and the usual retail opportunity. Some of the group

used the time to visit the Art Gallery others went to Bute Park. The city was very busy - it was hosting a Take That concert in the Cardiff Stadium that night! There was time to sample Welsh Cakes cooked before us - the best way to eat them while still warm. Some of us continued the Welsh theme with lunch of Welsh Rarebit!

Cardiff gave us a full and enjoyable day. It proved to be a city that maybe one should return to for a closer look at those wonderful buildings.

Day 3 Visit Along River Wye and The Forest of Dean Railway

Day three started on a high note: no rain and reasonably warm. We arrived at Symond's Yat to experience a voyage down the River Wye. Our captain, Richard was also the proprietor of a chalet selling ice cream. Richard explained that the Wye is the 5th longest river in the country, flowing from Mount Llyn in South Wales, forming the border between Wales and England before entering the Severn Estuary. During the Industrial Revolution it became badly polluted, but

now is clean enough to support salmon, with the largest weighing 48lb caught in 1967. We enjoyed a tranquil trip along the river seeing the latest broods of ducklings and goslings. Back on the coach we continued the Wye theme going to the lovely town of Monmouth for lunch. Monmouth can trace its history back to the Romans; the famous chronicler Geoffrey of Monmouth was educated at the Priory and Henry V was born here. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to visit the Castle, but we did walk across the Minnow Bridge, the last surviving medieval fortified bridge.

Somewhat reluctantly we left lovely Monmouth behind and went on to the Dean Forest Railway. The Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, was an important resource for the Romans, who used the coal for heating and iron smelting, as well as hunting. It became an important hunting area for the Normans and is now an attractive leisure area. The railway has five stations and we journeyed from Norchard to Parkend and back again. A

lively shop at Norchard encouraged some of us to buy railway sets for grandchildren. After a busy day, we set off in the rain that had been threatening all day to our hotel for a convivial dinner and evening.

DAY 4

It was an early start as we boarded the coach and headed for the Rhondda Valley.

Our first stop was the Royal Mint at Llantrisant. Here, in the heart of Welsh Wales, we were met by our guide who had a commanding voice and a distinctive Irish accent! He took us through display and exhibition areas, explaining the history of the Royal Mint and



also the procedures from blank metal to finished coin. We were led into the very noisy factory area where an average of 4 to 5 million coins are made each day, including those for other countries around the world. Some members enjoyed

taking the opportunity to strike a commemorative 200 Years of Wildlife £2 coin, as a gift for grandchildren or a keepsake for themselves.

We thanked our guide who had supplied us with so much interesting and enlightening information during the 45 minute tour. After a browse in the shop and a drink in the café, we were back on the road again. Our visit to Rhondda Heritage Park began for most of us with a leisurely “pit stop” lunch at the site’s Caffè Bracchi. The Park has various exhibition areas full of artefacts relating to the coal mining industry and displays of the miners’ clothes and homes. There is also a new digital and interactive exhibition, where history comes to life. However, the Underground Guided Tour, led by a former Rhonda Valley coal miner, was certainly an unforgettable experience. Sharing his knowledge, sense of humour and hard hats, he took us underground in a cage and back in time, bringing us to the surface again on a simulated runaway tram. It was a thrilling end to a unique underground tour. There was still time for

another visit to the café and a wander round the park, before returning for our last night at Newport.

Day 5

On our way home we made a stop in Worcester. Some of the group chose to visit the Cathedral, whilst others had a relaxing coffee in the very pretty shopping centre.

As a single person I have recently joined U3A. On the morning of the holiday I was very nervous, within minutes of joining the bus I was made to feel very welcome. All aspects of the holiday were enjoyable, I find it difficult to select a favourite destination. The holiday was well organised from the moment of stepping on the coach to leaving upon our return to Lincoln. I am looking forward to the next holiday along with the other adventures that U3A offer.

Contributors: Pam Simpson, Penny Fosdyke, Jenny Porter, Ann Thompson

Sustainability Matters: Visit to Hockerton Housing Project July 2026

It was rather fitting that we visited the Hockerton Housing Project when we were officially having a heat wave. Our beautiful planet is not happy with how the majority of people are treating it and it is beginning to fail.

But to give us all hope for the future there are always people who are prepared to fight hard for an alternative view of life and work with nature. We met such people at Hockerton where this eco-housing project is much more than an experiment in how to construct environmentally-friendly houses.

Our guides, themselves owners of these houses, kindly shared their experiences and their homes with us with infectious enthusiasm. There are only 5 eco-houses on this site and the owners, including young children, are living their lives entirely off-grid. To do so successfully, as well as happily and healthily, this tightly-knit, interdependent community must buy in totally to its principles and the practical demands on their time and skills that this will require. From growing much of their own food to managing the supply of both potable and non-

potable water, from maintenance work on site to undertaking the project's administrative tasks and contributing to educational projects every member of the community is required to make a significant and regular commitment.

It is obvious that choosing to live in such a sustainable way requires a lot of hard work. Even being part of creating the enviably productive smallholding which looked most appealing on the day of our visit would, when there is a biting cold wind in the winter and the clay soil is sodden and sticky on their boots, no doubt be a completely different story!

The most astonishing thing about the whole project is that the architect plans were submitted in 1994 - over 30 years ago and yet still the building industry is largely following a traditional model rather than adapting to the demands of life in a rapidly changing climate. If more people knew about the alternatives available would they invest instead in a property and indeed a lifestyle that was responsive to our changing environment?

Rosey Thompson, Heather Frier

Theatre Group trip to see 'The Mikado'

Our party of 37 set off bright and early on 5th August for the National Gilbert & Sullivan Operatic Society's production of *The Mikado* in Buxton, arriving in plenty of time for a wander around the town and some lunch before the curtain went up.

There really couldn't be a more fitting venue for traditional G&S than the ornate Victorian splendour of the Opera House, although "traditional" was certainly not what we were treated to! Rather than the familiar pseudo-Japanese setting, this re-imagined production transported us to the world of high fashion. The opening scene found the "gentlemen of Japan" seated at sewing machines in a sweatshop somewhere in the north of England, with their "gaffer" Pish-Tush looking and sounding as though he had stepped out of a Tetley's Tea advert!

I have to admit I was rather dubious at first, but from the moment Simon Butteris as Ko-Ko

bounced on to the stage I was won over and enjoyed every minute.

One highlight was his rendition of "*I Have a Little List*", which included topical references to Andy Burnham, DJT and even Count Binface! Another was the "*Here's a Pretty State of Things*" trio, which was both hilarious and pure nonsense!

Special mention must also go to the majestic baritone of Poo-Bah and the soprano voices of Yum-Yum and Katisha, along with the excellent orchestra and chorus.

To sum up this was a colourful, funny and thoroughly entertaining production which successfully modernised *The Mikado*, without losing its G&S character. Added to which we were able to enjoy a few hours in Buxton and were treated to some lovely views of the Derbyshire countryside en route.

Julie Guest

Architecture Group

Tour of Aubourn Hall and Gardens – 11 June 2026

27 members travelled to the destination of our June meeting, in the pouring rain. However, on arrival, we received the warmest of welcomes at the impressive 17th century Aubourn Hall.

The tour was originally planned to start with a guided tour of the beautiful gardens before visiting the historic ground floor of the Manor House, but in view of the weather, it was agreed that we should see the House first.

The Aubourn Estate has been in continuous ownership of the Nevile family for generations and therefore it was a wonderful surprise when Christopher Nevile, the current owner, introduced himself as our guide for the House tour. He began with a potted history of the House, which has been described as an “architectural riddle”. Thought to be the design of the Smythson dynasty, Sir John Meres was believed to be responsible for its construction. After sharing the high and low points of the Neviles, together with snippets of amusing information, Christopher led us through several ground floor rooms pointing out various items, furniture, paintings and other

artefacts of historic interest. Our attention was drawn to the carved Jacobean oak staircase and to our amazement we were invited upstairs to view some of the bedrooms and their contents. What a privilege!! We must have made a good impression on Christopher.

Armed with waterproofs and umbrellas most of our party followed head gardener, Tam, into the magnificent landscaped gardens. Others enjoyed a hot drink and a chat in the tea room. Unfortunately, the rain prevented us from appreciating the full splendour of the different gardens. However, as we negotiated the damp terrain, Tam delivered her talk with such passion, enthusiasm and expert knowledge that we were able to imagine how spectacular the prized rose and dahlia “garden rooms” must look on a sunny day. It was still raining as we returned to the House and joined our fellow members for an excellent buffet lunch. In spite of the weather, it was a memorable visit and our hosts were thanked for their hospitality.

Jenny Porter

Our hostess Pam Tatam welcomed us to her lovely garden that has been developed over several years. For many years the garden had been a nursery which opened to the public, selling plants, but over time it has been transformed into one garden that wraps around the farm house. The car park is now a walled gravel garden with raised beds edged with bricks and the plant sales area is now a formal garden with geometric borders. The garden covers 3 acres containing mixed borders, perennials, roses, trees and shrubs.

On entering the garden, the first plants that caught my eye were the magnificent hollyhocks. In a paved, square garden, separated by fencing, Pam has repeat planting of different coloured salvias which were in flower and looking very cheerful. One garden area contained old roses which were still looking good. The sunken garden contained many alliums. We walked along the woodland walk to see the site of a



medieval village and 18C manor house, no ruins to be seen except the moat. Then through the flower meadow. On such a hot day we were glad of the shade offered in the woodland walk.

There was much to see in this packed garden and it was easy to miss a plant amongst the many in flower. It was a very enjoyable visit.

Louise Kevill

Visits Group visit to Heckington July 2026

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

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

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

As we stood in the shade of a yew tree to admire the outside

of the building, the church clock struck 12 darting dragonflies surrounded us which was a rare sight.

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

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

Rosey Thompson

There are few things that can transport someone into a different world, without leaving the comfort of your own armchair, than an absorbing book. I remember an interviewer once asking a child to compare the film or TV of one of the Famous Five books, with the original book, and the child said the imaginary pictures were more 'powerful' than the screen versions. Well, the terrific books our group have considered over the past four months have both entertained, delighted and yet wrung us emotionally dry - often all within the same story.

When reading the 'Day of the Jackal' (Frederick Forsythe) we had the chance to compare the written with two screen versions. It was a best seller for Frederick Forsythe when first published. Then it was adapted for a film starring Edward Fox as the Jackal (1980ish), but then an updated TV series was recently made with Eddie Redmayne. All three versions were excellent, but the sense of dread, threat and suspense was far greater

when carried by the written word.

We don't all agree on which books we think the best, and it's surprising how often we pick different aspects which coloured our opinions of good/bad characters and events. Also, one of us will confess to not expecting to be excited by the book we were considering for that month, but then report 'it was absolutely fantastic'. We all gain so much from the discussions generated by this group, plus one advantage of meeting in each



other's homes - we get cups tea/coffee - but when we are at Dawn Bowskill's she excels in providing this 'food for thought' Digestive biscuits are also very acceptable, I must add.

Cathy Platt

Short Walks Group August Walk around Dunholme Village

The hot weather did not deter seven members of the Lindsey u3a Short Walks Group, who met up outside the Lakeside Butcher's Café Lounge armed with sunhats, water and suitable walking sticks.

Our walk took in pavements, tunnel-like footpaths and field tracks as we crossed the beck, circled the fishing lake, negotiated nearly a mile of rough terrain, taking advantage of shady spots, before resting near the old Village Pinfold. We continued through the recently planted Community Orchard and stopped to admire Duckingham Palace floating on the duck-pond, complete with inhabitants. The final stage of our walk was a cooling beck-side amble before returning to our starting point, where most of the party treated themselves to lunch, a drink and a rest.

This is one of my favourite walks and I was happy to take a turn as leader, to share it

with the Group. As I led the way, I heard friendly conversations and laughter behind me. It made me appreciate how important the Short Walks Group is to Lindsey u3a for gentle exercise and companionship.

Unfortunately, in spite of Janet's hard work in trying to keep the Group together, membership numbers and offers to lead a walk are dwindling. I am therefore taking this opportunity to encourage members, particularly newer members, to speak to Janet and learn how a pleasant morning can be spent staying active at a leisurely pace. It may also include visiting unfamiliar places and, hopefully, making new friends.

Contact details for Group Leader, Janet Paley, can be found in the Interest Groups section on the website www.lindseyu3a.org.uk and in the magazine.

Jenny Porter

Visit to South Ormsby Organic Estate

If you flew over Lincolnshire you would see a mosaic of green farmland, but not all farmland is the same. At South Ormsby in the Wolds they do things differently.

On the day that the fine weather broke an intrepid group of 30 members set off through the long wet grass to find out what was different. Our first stop was Manor Farm, a recently renovated Grade 2 listed building that was so grand that we thought that it was the Hall. Our guide Sara explained that all the farm buildings had been converted to office space as the aim is to have hundreds of ethical and/or agricultural businesses on the estate creating opportunities and income in a rural area. The buildings are superfluous as the Massingberd-Mundy Organic cattle live outdoors all year round, grazing the land in a regenerative way to produce excellent beef. Our other guide, graduate trainee Izzy, explained that they were all calving and she was hoping to see one give birth. She shares a house specially adapted for the graduate trainees working on the estate.

We passed the lake which the birds were loving, after it had been drained and cleaned. Across the lake was a building site; the Hall is being renovated to the highest standards, and we look forward to a visit to see what work was done when it is finished. As we admired the new boat house with its bird and bat boxes, the heavens opened and it hailed! Birds are an indication as to the health of the land and numbers have been tracked with BirdWeather PUC to check improvements through environmental change. You can see the results on line.

We returned to the car park via the Bothy at the Walled Garden which is a little step back in time, past the replanted Lime Tree Avenue. The hot tea and coffee was very much appreciated as we sheltered from the hail, as was the Gin tasting! Some members treated themselves to a bottle to remember the trip by. Next time we will try the wine from the newly planted vineyard and then we can raise a toast and wish The Estate every success in their innovative approach to farming, education, business, entrepreneurship and rural community life.

Rosey Thompson

Visit to The Bubble Car Museum

On a blistering hot day in June a small group of members set out in their air conditioned cars to Langrick to travel back in time.

The Bubble Car Museum is a little hidden gem, not just a collection of cars but a quaint array of memorabilia from the era when cars were small, travelling was an adventure and there was a whole world for the family to explore.

After a restorative visit to the reasonably priced café we toured the museum and all picked out our favourites. The stylish English made Bond MK F was liked by many and it was very popular when introduced in the late 1940's as it was very economical on fuel. Still a consideration today.

Of course, there was a Messerschmitt, originally designed as an invalid carriage (and there was one of the UK traditional blue ones that we all remembered dashing about, but cornering carefully!) A Fiat 500 to remind us of Audrey Hepburn and another star of screen - the Pink Panther was on the bonnet of the pink

Cursor, especially designed to appeal to 16 year olds. My personal favourite was the shiny blue Scootacar built in Leeds, one of only 130 produced by a railway locomotive builder.

We all admired the little recreations of life from the 1950's, reminding us of Grandmothers and great Aunts, (or even our own childhoods) but in particular the family holiday selection with a flat pack caravan that had mudguards made of a washing up bowl sawn in half, but at least it had a shelf for the baby to sleep on.

But the best was yet to come. Luckily the Heinkel Trojan was in full working order and three brave ladies took it in turns to go for a spin out onto the main road and then bounced along the field roads. How close the tarmac seemed. How fast we went. How we struggled to get in and out with grace and decorum. How health and safety regulations were left far behind! Definitely a trip to remember.

Rosey Thompson

Garden Group Visit to Barbara Kamal's garden July 2026.

Our hosts Mr & Mrs Kamal gave us a warm welcome to their lovely garden.

The garden contains a variety of trees, shrubs and perennials. A winding gravel path weaves between the borders, allowing easy access and views of the plants. The tall trees gave us welcome shade on the hot day of our visit.



There are many plants which are not usually found in a typical back garden such as the variegated Wedding Cake Tree, Holly-leaved sweet spire, with its long, tendrils of tiny, green flowers and a Pomegranate tree with small fruits.

Several bamboo, one of which is very tall, with stems thick

enough to cut and use in a garden. Box hedges and topiary add formal structure here and there.

Our hosts offered explanations of the plants and some welcome gardening tips too.

There are several seating areas in the garden where we took refuge from the hot sun and



enjoyed delicious refreshments. The group enjoyed their visit to this delightful garden. Our many thanks to our hosts.

Louise Kevill

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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
10 a.m.	Herbal Group	Jo Johnston josephineljohnston@icloud.com
<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
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>		
<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	
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. Herbal Group	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 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				



Two examples of exhibits at the Bubble car museum - Visits Group visit July



Visits Group members at Heckington Mill, July