

Lincoln u3a Newsletter May 2025



News and Announcements

Lincoln.u3asite.uk



Above: There was a last minute change of speaker at February's meeting due to illness, so Mary booked a Folk singer husband and wife duo, Nigel & Teri. They played several different instruments and sang a number of Lincolnshire folk songs, which was very entertaining. (*Marie Elliott*).

Below: Two views from the March AGM. A 'goodly crowd' attended to hear Chairman Jim Innes explain in detail what had happened over the last year, and what was hoped would happen over the forthcoming year. (*Editor*).



Officers and Committee Members 2025

Honorary Life President	Molly Ellicott	
Chairman	Jim Innes	07803 827878 jim.innes21@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	John Wilson	01522 212028 jwtransmit@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mary York	01522 683288 maryyork880@gmail.com
Secretary	Sally Graves	07516 519655 graves_sally@yahoo.co.uk
Minute Secretary	Marie Elliott	mariewsh@hotmail.co.uk
Chairman of Convenors	David Hunter	07903 501205 david.hunter.tutor@hotmail.co.uk
Webmaster	John White	07860 649620 jonellie51@gmail.com
Committee Member	Mitch Elliott	01522 869407 elliott.mitch@gmail.com
Social Secretary (Non-Committee)	Penny Chaffik	07533 834339 jabbess@aol.com
Welfare Officer	Anita Innes	07795 598958 anita.innes@outlook.com
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	Linda Ash	01522 500004
Newsletter Distributor	Mary York	01522 683288
Speaker Finder	Mary York	01522 683288
Newsletter Editor	Andi Bradley	(24hr Ans Phone) 01522 826274 andrewbradley@railmags.org

Please note:

The Editor has a new email address, all emails should be sent to the new address, the old one is no longer being used or monitored.

andrewbradley@railmags.org

Chairman's Notes: May 2025

Membership

2025 has got off to a strong start with membership growing at around 10 per month. This is certainly keeping our new Membership Secretary, John Wilson, very busy. Growth in membership provides new opportunities for interest groups and for volunteers to help assist with the running of Lincoln u3a.

Can I extend a very warm welcome to all our new members, you are vital to the future success of our organisation, and I am always available to listen to any new ideas that you may have to further enrich our group.

Vacancies remain on your Committee for the following roles: Vice Chair and Speaker Finder. The Vice Chair role is one that we would like to fulfil during this calendar year. The aim is to shadow myself, with a view to taking over the role of Chairman when I come to the end of my 3-year term in March 2027. We would also like to hear from any members who would like to be considered for any Committee role in the future.



Lincolnshire Co-Op Community Champion award

In June 2024 our fund-raising application to become a Lincolnshire Co-Op Community Champion was accepted. During the period September 2024 to March 2025, Lincolnshire Co-Op members, using their dividend cards, contributed to a fund on behalf of the selected Community Champions in their area. I am delighted to announce that Lincoln u3a received £844 from this fund-raising exercise. We would like to record our thanks to Lincolnshire Co-Op and their customers, for their fantastic support.



North Hykeham Community Awards 2025

I am also pleased to announce that we were one of six organisations nominated for the North Hykeham Community Awards 2025, in the category of Contribution to Health & Wellbeing. The awards ceremony took place at the Robert Pattinson School on April 10th.

This took place alongside the Community Groups fair and the North Hykeham Annual Town Meeting. Whilst we did not win the award, the event provided a great opportunity to promote Lincoln u3a and, in particular, the upcoming Open Day. Our stand at the Community Groups Fair was very busy and we spoke to a large number of visitors who stated that they would be attending.



Next Open Day & Coffee Morning

Our next Open Day & Coffee Morning will be held at the North Hykeham Memorial Hall on 27 May 2025. Planning is well underway but at time of writing, we do need

some more volunteers. This year we are putting more emphasis on the coffee morning aspect. We will have more tables and seating in the main hall, with interest groups tables around the edge of the hall. Our special guests this year are Lincoln City Foundation. More details on the separate article in this newsletter.

AGM

Our AGM on March 4th was very well attended and all business was successfully transacted. Updated details of the Lincoln u3a Committee are on the Committee page of this newsletter. Our thanks to Barbara Bond for providing the Qi-gong demonstration, complete with some audience participation, immediately following the AGM. I am pleased to see that the Qi-gong group is growing rapidly, so if you want to take part contact Barbara or check on the Website.

Regular monthly meetings.

A reminder that our regular monthly meetings (except the AGM) now commence at 10:15 with doors open from 9:30.

Jim Innes

Hablamos Espanol - Spanish Conversation Group

The Spanish Conversation Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 10.30am. A more advanced group will meet once a month for a coffee and Spanish Conversation. We haven't arranged a definite day of the month for this yet.

Contact details: **maryyork880@gmail.com**

Looking forward to hearing from you!

History in May.

1 May 1707 - Great Britain was formed from a union between England and Scotland. The union included Wales which had already been part of England since the 1500's. The United Kingdom today consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3 May 1469 - Italian writer and statesman Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527) was born in Florence, Italy. He offered a blunt, realistic view of human nature and power in his works *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*.

6 May 1856 - Psychoanalysis founder Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) was born in Freiberg, Moravia.

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CROQUET

Are you interested in trying something fun and new? North Hykeham Croquet Club meets every Tuesday at 1.00pm and would welcome new players. There is no need to worry about equipment as we can supply you with a mallet, which is all you would need.



We play at Hartsholme Cricket Ground off Skellingthorpe Road and the season started in May. If you are interested please contact me, Elaine Lewis, on 01522 686481.

Please come and join us for an afternoon of fun as well as strategy. It's always fun to knock an opponent's croquet ball out of the way!

We look forward to meeting you.

Elaine Lewis.

Speakers at Monthly Meetings 2025

6 May 2025	Simon Castleman	An introduction to Beekeeping. Covers the physiology of the Honey Bee, stings, swarming and the products of the hive.
3 June 25	Richard Kubon	Fraud Protection Advice from the Police.
1 July 25	Co-op Estate Planning	"Tax, Care and Estate Planning", 30 Minutes Talk and 15 minutes Questions and Answers.
5 August 25	Mike Burton	"The Maori - Great Canoes and Mighty Myths."
2 September 25	Roger Browne	"The Great American SongBook."
7 October 25	Paul Scott	Sir Joseph Banks.
4 November 25	Alan Stennett	Lincolnshire Railways.
2 December 25	Xmas meeting	Lincoln Ukulele Band.

Further speakers will be added as and when they are booked to appear.

U3A Quiz Group

The Quiz continues with the same format, meeting at 10.00am on the first Monday of the month at the Bud Robinson Community Centre in Bracebridge. We hope to see all the regular quiz goers and any new members who would like to join us for a friendly get together and a little mental stimulation.



Please contact Pat Lucas by phone on either 07739 535109 or 01522 788593; or send an email to pmlucaslincs@btinternet.com for further information.

French Boule

The venue is Boultham Park, where it's free to play. Weather permitting, from 10am until 11.30am. It is to be held weekly until October.

If this group interests you, please email me on cynthiak53@googlemail.com, so I can ensure we have sufficient equipment.

Cynthia Knox

Lincoln u3a Book Corner

As most Lincoln u3a members know there are books available to borrow at each monthly meeting. When you return or donate a book please put them in the box at the end of the table. We check & date each book and when they have been with us for at least a year we move them on – usually to a charity. You can borrow as many books as you like each time & even keep some if you want!

Christine Pritchard & Anne Birkett

From page 5

10 May 1994 - Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as president of South Africa. Mandela had won the first free election in South Africa despite attempts by various political foes to deter the outcome.

11 May 1888 - Songwriter Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was born (as Israel Isidore Baline) in Tyumen, Russia.

12 May 1937 - George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey in London, following the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. King George reigned until his death in 1952. He was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth (Queen Elizabeth II).

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Message from Welfare Officer

It is so nice to see the lighter nights and hopefully sunny days!

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me regarding members who are ill or sadly passed away.



Once I am informed, I spring into action, sending an appropriate card with a message or an email.

I will not cold call anyone so if you get a message and have not heard from me previously, please delete it as it is possibly a spam. If you have not met me yet, please come and say hello either at a monthly meeting or at the Open Day.

Best wishes,

Anita Innes

07795 598958

What do you call a vicious growling novelist?

Snarls Dickens!

Speakers at Monthly Meetings

As I have now booked Speakers for 2025, I am looking for ideas and suggestions for 2026.

Can you please contact me and let me know of any speakers you know of, that might be of interest to our members or alternatively the type of speakers you would like to have at the monthly meetings in 2026.

My contact details are **maryyork880@gmail.com** and 01522 683288.

I look forward to hearing from you with your ideas.

Mary York
Speaker Finder

List of Groups and Convenors 2025

<u>Group</u>	<u>Convenor</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Art Group	Margaret Carstairs	01522 692656
Badminton	Rob Dummer	01522 801621
Circle Dancing	Margaret Doughty	01522 697177
Crafts	Elaine Harris	07970 431916
Creative Writing	Richard Staggs Penelope Hammerton	01522 262697 01522 617353
French Boule	Cynthia Knox	07766 575511
French Conversation	Christine Pritchard	07913 248116
Friday Gardens	Pam Derby	01522 720762
	Ann Smith	01522 788017
Mah-Jong	John Wilson	01522 212028
New Age Curling	Linda Ash	01522 500004
Philosophy	Lindsay Cutts	01522 705089
Photography	Mike Lincoln	07926 152058
Poetry for Pleasure	Lindsay Cutts	01522 705089
Qi Gong	Barbara Bond	07733 396891
Quiz (General Knowledge)	Pat Lucas	07739 535109
Scrabble	Margaret Ford	01522 534028
Spanish Conversation	Mary York	01522 683288
Table Tennis	Elaine Lewis	01522 686481
Table Tennis (Rookie & Rusty)	Maria North	01522 425529
Ten Pin Bowling	Mike Lucas	01522 788593
Wednesday Lunches	Audrey Elliss	01522 731543
Walking Group A (Tuesday Trotters)	Mari Bebbington	01522 688102 01522 689315

Rusty and Rookie Table Tennis Group

From December it will be every first and third weeks of the month, plus the fifth when there is one, on Fridays 10am-11am, at Ruston's Sports Centre, Newark Road.

Contact Maria North, 01522 425529 or email (preferred): marianorth@hotmail.co.uk

	WEEK ONE		WEEK TWO	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
MONDAY	Quiz 10am-12pm	Art 2pm-4pm Table Tennis 2pm-4pm	Ten Pin Bowling 9.45 for 10am start	Art 2pm-4pm Table Tennis 2pm-4pm
TUESDAY	General Meeting 9.30am-12pm		Tuesday Trotters 9.45am for 10am Spanish Conversation 10.30am	
WEDNESDAY	French Boule 10am-11.30am 5th March until October		French Boule 10am-11.30am 5th March until October	
THURSDAY		Photography Group 2pm-4pm Mah-Jong 2.30pm-4.30pm	New Age Kurling 10.30am-12.30pm	Creative Writing 1pm-3pm for winter 2pm-4pm for summer French Conversation 2pm-3.30pm
FRIDAY	Rusty & Rookie Table Tennis Group 10am-11am	Badminton 1.30pm-3.30pm	Friday Gardens 10.30am Qi Gong 10.45am-11.30am	Badminton 1.30pm-3.30pm

Lincoln U3A Ten Pin Bowling Group - News

9.45 for 10am start. A session costs £6.60 person which includes shoe hire if needed. Drinks are extra.

We now have between 18 and 22 regular players. The current list has 30 names on it but thankfully everyone doesn't come at once. We can normally accommodate a maximum of 24 players per session so if you would like to try your hand contact the Convenor Mike Lucas on 01522 788593 or mikelucas593@gmail.com

	WEEK THREE		WEEK FOUR	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
MONDAY	Ten Pin Bowling 9.45am for 10am start	Art 2pm-4pm Table Tennis 2pm-4pm Poetry for Pleasure 2pm-4pm Scrabble 2pm-4pm	Ten Pin Bowling 9.45 for 10am start Philosophy 10am-11.30am	Art 2pm-4pm Table Tennis 2pm-4pm
TUESDAY			Tuesday Trotters 9.45am for 10am Spanish Conversation 10.30am	
WEDNESDAY	French Boule 10am-11.30am 5th March until October Aspects of History 10am for 10.30am Circle Dancing 10am-11.30am	Wednesday Lunches 12pm for 12.30pm	French Boule 10am-11.30am 5th March until October	
THURSDAY		Mah-Jong 2.30pm-4.30pm	New Age Kurling 10.30am-12.30pm	French Conversation 2pm-3.30pm
FRIDAY	Rusty & Rookie Table Tennis Group 10am-11am	Badminton 1.30pm-3.30pm	Qi Gong 10.45am-11.30am	Badminton 1.30pm-3.30pm

From page 7

12 May 1820 - British nurse and public health activist Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) was born in Florence, Italy.

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U3A Tea And Coffee Rota 2024



Hostess - Joy Power 01522 870191.

Volunteers are needed to help with serving tea and coffee, between 9am - 10am at the monthly meetings.

May 6th	Lindsey Cutts, Sally Ellington, Jan Phillips, Norman Phillips, Debbie Hunter.
June 3rd	Jude White, please could we have three more helpers for this month.
July 1st	Lesley Talley, Lindsey Cutts, please could we have two more helpers for this month.
August 5th	Jenny Evan, Isobel Amoi, Christine Broom. Apologies for wrong Surname spellings for the last two helpers (not easy to read the letters).



A Big Thank You to all our Volunteers for their help with the Teas and Coffees sessions at our Monthly Meetings, but, as you can see lots more volunteers are needed, if you feel you can help, then please let Joy Power 01522 870191 or Linda Ash 01522 500004 know which date(s) you can help with.

On the front page: 15 August 2012. I was going out the back door and noticed it sunning itself on the concrete pavement. Dashed inside to get my camera, and took this picture. The butterfly is a European Peacock (*Aglais io*), sometimes just called the Peacock butterfly.

How to recognize it:

- Bright reddish wings
- Four striking eyespots (one on each wing)
- Black wing edges
- Fuzzy, brownish thorax and body

Fun facts:

- Very common in Europe and parts of Asia.
- The eyespots are used to scare off predators.
- Often one of the first butterflies seen in early spring.

I am still interested in seeing your picture(s) for use on the front cover. Just make sure they are colour, and not altered from the original. That is, send them just as they are (landscape pictures preferred).

New to Lincoln?

My wife, Susan, and I moved to Lincoln from North Devon in August 2024, and have noticed several differences about this area which would not necessarily have been obvious to those of you who have always lived here, so I thought that I should share them with you.

The Roads:

It is a delight to us how well the main junctions have separate and clearly signed road markings to help traffic move more readily. This includes all of the “left”, “right” and “straight on” signage at traffic lights and major junctions. We have found this very helpful in getting to know the city. And, by and large, the main route road surfaces are good, not full of potholes.

Relative distances:

Lincoln is a nice compact city. I can get from top to bottom in just a few minutes, on the bypass, and even through routes move relatively quickly. There are, of course, a couple of areas of traffic density, especially at commuter hours, but these are fairly few.

Trees:

... grow well here! There are several large specimens to be seen on out-of-town routes, and they stand straight and tall. In North Devon they were usually stunted or blown sideways by the prevailing winds.

Facilities:

Being a university town, there are many and varied eateries, places of entertainment, and things to do. The cathedral and castle are, of course, must visit sites to anyone who visits us.

The bus and train networks connect well, with their hubs within yards of each other, making travel easier.

All of the major retail giants have one or more outlets here, but the well-connected city centre shopping area offers many local and specialist stores.

... and the u3a:

We had tried to get involved with u3a in North Devon, but the options were not as varied as are offered here, nor the people so welcoming.

So, we consider ourselves lucky to be here!

John Wilson

From page 11

14 May 1796 - Smallpox vaccine was developed by Dr. Edward Jenner, a physician in rural England. He coined the term vaccination for the new procedure of injecting a milder form of the disease into healthy persons resulting in immunity. Within 18 months, 12,000 persons in England had been vaccinated and the number of smallpox deaths dropped by two-thirds.

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Tuesday Trotters - Walking Group 'A'



Convenor - Mari Bebbington, 01522 688102.

May 13th	Elaine Lewis	TBA
May 27th	Linda	TBA
June 10th	Elaine Lovell	TBA
June 24th	Lesley	TBA
July 8th	Sarah	TBA
July 22nd	Sean	TBA
August 12th	Linda	TBA
August 26th	Sylvia	TBA
5 - 6 mile walks with an optional pub lunch afterwards.		

Craft Group

Meeting every other week for a couple of hours to chat about all things 'crafty'. Anyone interested please contact by email

Elaine - elainejharris@hotmail.co.uk

From page 13

18 May 1980 - Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in southwestern Washington State spewing steam and ash over 11 miles into the sky. This was the first major eruption since 1857.

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Friday Garden Visit Group

Our first visit of the year took place on Friday 14th February to Bolham Manor Bolham near Retford. This was to take a look at their extensive amount of snowdrops and hellebores. They also have an area of topiary sculptures. A lovely morning was enjoyed by all followed by lunch in Harby.

Pamela Derby



Ireland August 2024

I took myself off over to Ireland last year for a few days, from the end of July to the 13th August, to see my Son and DinL. The first weekend of August is a Bank Holiday in Ireland and on that Bank Holiday weekend the Stradbally Steam Rally is held at Woodlands Estate, Stradbally, Co. Laois, Ireland. This just happens to be a few kilometers up the road from where my Son lives. It is organised by the Irish Steam Preservation Society.

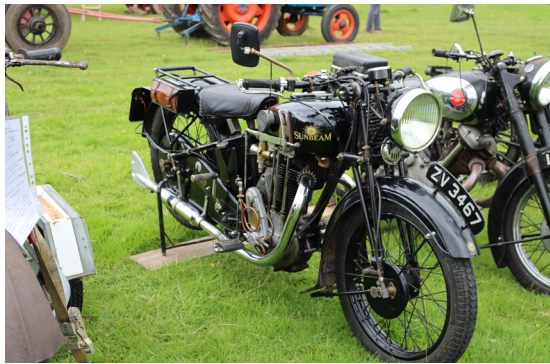
So off we went on the Sunday morning, cold drinks and sandwiches packed in a bag with some cakes and other goodies. The day was pleasant enough, sunny with a light breeze. Rain was forecast for later in the day and sure enough around 2pm it chucked it down, but not before I had walked my feet and legs off and had managed to take upwards of 400 photographs.

There was so much to see. Traction engines, old tractors and farm machinery, old lorries and some new lorries too, old cars, motorcycles, even some old bicycles as well. A fire engine, and an ice cream cart (an old one, not selling ice cream). There were demonstration stalls of old crafts, some demonstrations showing how traction engines were used for powering machinery on the farm. There was so much to see!

Here are a few of the pictures I took. It was at times quite a smokey atmosphere with all the traction engines in steam! There was even a traction engine made in Lincoln (Clayton and Shuttleworth) (see top right picture).

All pictures taken 4 August 2024.
Copyright the Editor.





Chicken, Leek and Mushroom Pie

Serves 4-6

Ingredients

40g butter
2 small leeks, sliced
100g button mushrooms, sliced
40g plain flour
300ml chicken stock
100ml milk
70g cheddar grated
1 teaspoon thyme, chopped
300g cooked chicken breast, chopped
1 x 320g Ready Rolled Puff Pastry
1 egg, beaten



Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C Fan.

Melt the butter in a saucepan. Add the leeks and cook until soft. Add the mushrooms and cook for 4 minutes. Sprinkle in the flour, then blend in the stock and milk. Stir until thickened. Add the cheese, thyme and chicken. Spoon into a small ovenproof dish. Leave to cool.

Unroll the pastry sheet and trim into a rectangle to fit the surface of the dish and place on top of the filling. Brush with beaten egg. Roll out the trimmings of the pastry and slice into thin strips and place over the top of the pastry to make a lattice effect. Brush with more egg.

Bake in the oven for 35 minutes until golden and crisp.

N.B. Picture is for illustration only. How you make your pie is your choice.

From page 14

18 May 1897 - Hollywood director Frank Capra (1897-1991) was born in Palermo, Sicily. His quintessential American films were affectionate portrayals of the common man and examined the strengths and foibles of American democracy. Best known for *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939), *It Happened One Night* (1934) and *You Can't Take It with You* (1938).

20 May 1927 - Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7.52am from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the Spirit of St. Louis attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600 mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname 'Lucky Lindy' and becoming an instant worldwide hero.

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U3a Lincoln - New Mah-Jong Group

Well! We are up and running!

There were eight people who expressed an interest in being involved with a Mah-Jong group, four players with experience and a further four who wished to learn about the game.

The experienced players have already met a couple of times, in each other's houses, and made arrangements for a few simple things:-

1. We have agreed that *The Game of Mah-Jong* book by Max Robertson will be used to decide how to play and score.
2. That we will meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:30pm to 4:30pm.
3. That we will enthusiastically welcome newcomers, whether it is just to watch how the game is played, or to learn and join in.

This last arrangement has initially been taken up by Sue Wilson and I, and we have seen two people so far who have had no previous experience. Either they are both lucky, or Sue and I are superb teachers ... because they each won the two demo games that we played!

A Mah-Jong set of tiles has three *suits* (characters, bamboo and circles) ranging from 1 to 9, plus Winds and Dragons tiles. The idea is to make sets (of three or more) or runs in the same suit. The photo above shows a game in progress.

If you would like to come and watch a session, or would like to learn how to play, please contact me, John Wilson, on 01522 212028, or jwtransmit@gmail.com

We look forward to playing this enjoyable game with you!

See the backcover for a picture of a game in progress.

From page 18

20 May 1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She departed Newfoundland, Canada, at 7pm and landed near Londonderry, Ireland, completing a 2,026-mile flight in about 13 hours. Five years later, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, she disappeared while trying to fly her twin-engine plane around the equator.

22 May 1972 - President Richard Nixon became the first American president to visit Moscow. Four days later, Nixon and Soviet Russia's leader Leonid Brezhnev signed a pact pledging to freeze nuclear arsenals at current levels.

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1	2	3	4		5	6			7	8	
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67			

Across

1. Remainder
5. Receptacle for Refuse
9. Throw
13. Literary Composition
14. Inborn
15. Fish Measure
16. Green
19. Wheel Hub
20. Human Organ
22. Famous Mountain
24. Male Human
25. Marked
26. Recline
28. German River
29. Beverage
31. Vast Quantities
34. Lesotho car plate code
35. Mounts
37. Animals
39. Rage
40. Grudge
41. Pardon
42. Plumes
44. King Charles (Abbrev.)
46. Sheep
48. Perpetuity (Contr.)
49. Linear Measure
51. Necessary to live
52. Firmness
53. Soaked
55. Heel
56. Consumed
58. Common Metal
60. Embrace
62. Insect
63. Transfer
64. Wage earners
65. A Biblical Garden
66. Enjoy
67. Forwarded

Down

1. Tribal Stock
2. Irregular
3. Top billing
4. Metal
5. Mathematical Subject (Abbrev.)
6. Peaceful
7. Senseless
8. Famous Bridge
9. Cask
10. Word of Mouth
11. Bitten by horse
12. Wheelless Conveyance
17. Coral Island
18. Cuts
21. Change
23. Wills
26. Comfort
27. A puzzling problem
29. Baby's unhappiest task
30. Vindicate
32. Serpents
33. Fixes
35. Destroyed
36. Give out
38. Point of Compass
39. Father (Relig. Contr.)
43. Honoured
44. Tree
45. Parted by force
47. Oriental
49. End
50. Meeting Places
53. Metal Thread
54. Book
56. Out of the Weather
57. Point of compass
59. Negative Prefix
60. Vehicle
61. Note in Tonic Scale
62. Fellow of Linnaran Society (Init.)

The crossword this month is acquired from an old magazine, June 1929 to be exact. I won't give you the name of the magazine, but it went out of print many, many years ago.

Answers are on page 26.

The Quiet Charm of Butterflies

There's something quietly magical about butterflies. One moment, you're weeding the garden or taking a stroll through the park, and suddenly a flash of colour flutters past your shoulder. These delicate, drifting creatures are more than just pretty decorations in nature—they are vital members of our ecosystem, with fascinating lives and surprising resilience.

A Colourful Cast of Characters

Britain is home to around 60 species of butterfly, each with its own story. Some are bold and unmistakable, like the Peacock with its dramatic eyespots that startle predators. Others are more subtle, such as the Speckled Wood, which prefers the dappled light of woodland edges. There's the migratory Painted Lady, which journeys thousands of miles from North Africa each year, and the humble Cabbage White, a familiar visitor to vegetable patches.



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*). Orange, black, and white spotted wings.

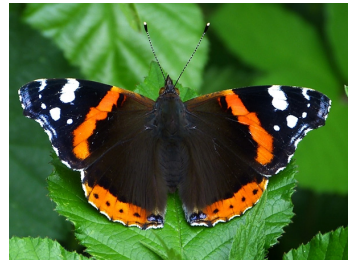
Butterflies come in all colours and sizes, often changing as they age. Males and females can even look different from each other—a sort of natural fashion statement.

A Life in Four Acts

Butterflies go through one of nature's most impressive transformations: metamorphosis. Their life cycle has four distinct stages—egg, caterpillar (larva), chrysalis (pupa), and adult butterfly.

Caterpillars spend their time eating and growing, sometimes shedding their skin multiple times as they outgrow it. Eventually, they form a chrysalis, and inside that quiet case, an incredible transformation takes place. Days or weeks later, a butterfly emerges, ready to fly, feed, and begin the cycle again.

Some species live for only a few weeks as adults, while others—like the Brimstone—hibernate and can live nearly a year.



Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*). Velvety black with red bands and white spots.

Why Butterflies Matter

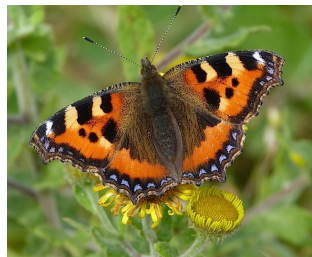
Aside from their visual charm, butterflies are important indicators of a healthy environment. Because they are sensitive to changes in climate and habitat, their presence—or absence—tells us a lot about the state of the natural world.

They are also part of the food chain, feeding birds, bats, and other creatures. And like bees, butterflies help with pollination as they move from flower to flower, sipping nectar.

Threats and Triumphs

Sadly, many butterfly species are in decline. Loss of wildflower meadows, use of pesticides, and the effects of climate change have taken a toll. According to the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, around three-quarters of native species have decreased in either abundance or distribution in the last 40 years.

But there is hope. Conservation efforts and changes in gardening habits are helping. Butterfly-friendly planting, wildflower corridors, and reduced mowing schedules in parks and public spaces are giving butterflies a fighting chance.



Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*). Bright orange with black and yellow patterns and blue edges.

What You Can Do

You don't need a sprawling estate to support butterflies. Even a small patch of garden or a few pots on a balcony can make a difference. Here are a few tips:

Plant nectar-rich flowers such as buddleia, lavender, and verbena.

Leave wild corners in your garden where native plants can grow.

Avoid pesticides, which harm butterflies and their caterpillars.

Provide caterpillar food plants, like nettles or wild carrot, tucked away in a quiet spot.

And most importantly, watch and enjoy. Butterflies remind us to slow down and appreciate the small wonders all around us.

A Hobby Worth Chasing

Butterfly watching can be a wonderfully relaxing hobby. It encourages time outdoors, attention to detail, and a deeper connection to the seasons. Whether you're noting the first Small Tortoiseshell of spring or trying to photograph a fast-moving Skipper, there's a quiet joy in following their fluttering paths.

Local nature reserves, gardens, and even churchyards can be surprisingly rich in butterfly life. There are also local recording schemes and groups you can join if you want to share your sightings or learn more.

In Closing

Butterflies are more than summer's fleeting guests—they are symbols of transformation, beauty, and balance in nature. By welcoming them into our gardens and appreciating their role in the world, we not only enrich our own lives but help ensure theirs can continue.

Many thanks to Dave for this article.

Lincoln Railways

“Quick” said Dad, “we are just in time to see a train”.

We were somewhere between the two sets of railway crossings in Lincoln High Street and I ran along next to Dad as he lengthened his stride.

The gates were already across and we could hear the train pulling away from the Central Station. Plumes of smoke and steam billowed into sight as the engine huffed and puffed towards us. At the age of five I was frightened of those hissing monsters as they passed so close to me, but Dad was always star struck. I preferred to watch the carriages as they came into view with excited families waving at the windows. Then it was gone leaving behind its own familiar smell which today still evokes nostalgia from my childhood.

Then Dad would point to the man in the signal box as he turned the wheel and the gates gradually clanked back. We were free to go.

At the time it didn't seem unusual to live in a town with two train stations a short distance apart on its main High Street. As children we didn't consider the huge delays they created. In Lincoln the railway lines crossed backwards and forwards haphazardly and train journeys were much more frequent than nowadays. This was especially noticeable in summer when extra trains were put on for holiday makers and day trippers, trip-week at the end of July being the busiest time of all. Like many other families we didn't have a car so we travelled by train for our annual holidays.



From a child's perspective those journeys were part of the holiday and anticipated with excitement. Inside the train I had no fear of the huge monster pulling us along.

My brother's version of the railways would no doubt differ. In those days every young boy aspired to be a train driver when they grew up. Train spotting was a very popular hobby for many boys, and men. When diesel locomotives began to replace steam engines the obsession with trains continued. I guess at some point it declined as boys moved with the changing times, leaving a selection of people from my era who continue to support the cause.

It is not surprising that throughout my childhood railways featured heavily. We continued to travel by train to our holiday destinations through the fifties and sixties. I also vaguely remember the Lincoln to Grantham trains from St Marks station passing close to my infant's school playground, much to the delight of all the little boys at playtime.

As for Dad, he didn't mind that his office was situated between the two railway stations, as it gave him a good view of all the trains from his upstairs window.

However the congestion created by two sets of crossings was not quite so popular with many people.

There seemed to be lines everywhere throughout the centre of Lincoln, criss-crossing this way and that. A huge addition to the chaos was at Pelham Street where the Durham Ox junction (named after a pub) with many lines crossing over a busy road. This junction became so complicated that at one point six men were needed to operate the signal box at the same time. The building of Pelham Bridge did help matters but it was not until the junction closed that this area became less congested.

Another common sight took place on weekdays when hundreds of southbound workers on bikes burst out of the factories at home time and converged on the High Street. If the gates were across at either of the crossings it was quite usual to see rows and rows of bikes queued across the width of the road. As soon as the gates began to open the front row of bikes were already funneling through the gap and gradually spreading out as they weaved towards St Marks crossing. On a bad day they would then get snarled up again. Having lived through the days when traffic flowed along the whole of High Street and under Stonebow, I now find it hard to imagine this happening. At the time it was spectacular to watch if you were seated upstairs at the front of a double-decker bus.

In 1985 the powers that be eventually decided Lincoln no longer needed two train stations and closed St Marks.

Note: These are my recollections and some help from the internet, so apologies if any information is incorrect.

Joan Shawe

Change of Address and/or Telephone Number

Name _____ Membership Number _____

New Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Please forward the completed form to the Membership Secretary



Circle Dancing Group

The venue for this group is Moorland Park Methodist Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, LN6 7RB.

They meet from 10am to 11.30am on the third Wednesday morning of each month. In Circle Dancing the participants form a circle and hold hands as they move round to varied music. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable activity.

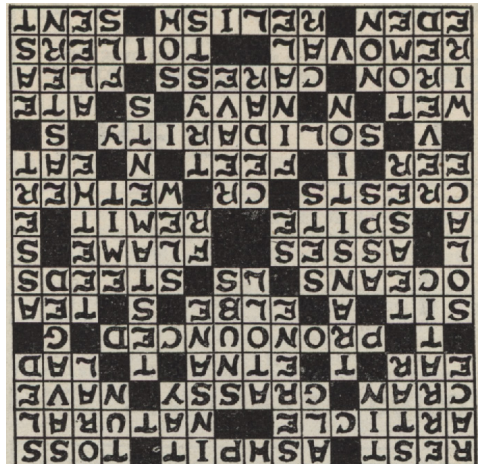


For further information please contact the Convenor, Margaret Doughty on Lincoln (01522) 697177.

Knock, Knock!

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Cows go
Cows go who?
No, cows go moo, owls go who!

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Tank!
Tank who?
You're welcome!



No Data Base.

Imagine one morning waking to find,
Your memory bank had crashed in the night.
All details on file erased from the screen,
deleted as though you'd never been.

With no recall button to reconnect,
what had you done with the years now spent?
A blanked out screen no knowledge retained,
no input, no output not even a name.

Yours views and opinions recollections of life,
no logic or reason not even hindsight.
No visual display of reality,
alone and empty what were your dreams?

No thoughts to inspire imagination,
just endless total obliteration.
Beyond the grasp of sense and time,
a living hell with no signs of life.

© V. Holmes.

Progress towards the move to the BEACON database

As has been previously advised, u3a Lincoln is looking to change over from our current limited Excel spreadsheet to the fuller featured U3A UK database. To this end, you will have had sent to you a dual-purpose form, which seeks to:

- (a) Check that the details that we already have about you are correct (and this has already proved worthwhile, as you have identified eight email address errors);
- (b) Ask for a few Additional Details that the BEACON database requests.

I am pleased to be able to report that nearly two thirds of our membership have responded and provided the requested details, by email, by phone, or by post. However, that still leaves around 75 members who have yet to respond. If you know that you have not replied to the request - perhaps you cannot open or print the form that I emailed to you - then please ring me and we can do it over the phone.

John Wilson
01522 212028
jwtransmit@gmail.com

Help Wanted

North Hykeham Town Twinning Assn is appealing for hosts for a party of German visitors from North Hykeham's twin town of Denzlingen in the Black Forest. The party is here over the first weekend in September, arriving on Friday 5th and departing on Tuesday 9th.

The exact number of visitors isn't set in stone but there will probably be 25 to 30 or so. Some will be staying with people they already know but there will be *new* people who will need accommodation.

The visit is being organised by the North Hykeham Town Twinning Association but our membership area is the whole of the Greater Lincoln/Hykeham area.

If you feel you can help please get in touch, contact details below.

Many thanks,

John Lingard
(Vice-Chair North Hykeham Town Twinning Assn.)
01522 882014
john.lingard@ntlworld.com

From page 19

25 May 1803 - American author and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was born in Boston, Massachusetts.

26 May 1940 - The Dunkirk evacuation began in order to save the British Expeditionary Force *trapped* by advancing German armies on the northern coast of France. Boats and vessels of all shapes and sizes ferried 200,000 British and 140,000 French and Belgian soldiers across the English Channel by June 2nd.

26 May 1886 - Actor, singer Al Jolson (1886-1950) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia (as Asa Yoelson). One of the premier American vaudeville entertainers of his day, he appeared in the first motion picture with full sound, *The Jazz Singer*, in 1927.

27 May 1937 - In San Francisco, 200,000 people celebrated the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by walking across it.

Cont page 30

First Flight

She is sheeny like satin, the Silver Blane
Speedy and sleek as a graceful bird
I check my parachute, the canopy clicks
We are skimming, daisy-cutting the ground

Aeroplane tower tugs the slack, we lift
Rocketing to freedom and gaining height
The tug drops this lone, slippery craft
Blue sky and white-wool clouds lighten the spirit

With this pure air and quiet, knock of rudder
Climbing, levelling off, flying slowly
Eel-grey roads follow a sparkling river
Patchwork fields, blank-figures by Lowry

Chasing a thermal, we are spiralling higher
Escaping the ties with terra firma
Hovering for a breathless moment there
A pale-raptor, she swoops lower

Falling straight to earth on steady wings
Swishing air, a thud and the dazzling sun
Hitting a wall, but cocooned, the hearts sings
The canopy lifts, reality and gravity, confine me again

Diane Bailey
Creative Writing Group
Lincoln U3A

Photography Group

Group Convenor: Mike Lincoln - Linxpix@gmail.com

Venue

Jubilee Hall St Giles on the corner of Lamb Gardens and Marlow Avenue, LN2 4EH.
There is plenty of parking, full disabled access if required, coffee and tea are provided by the hall. First Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm, with a cost of £3 per member to cover the hire of the room.

Lincoln Open Day & Coffee Morning - 27th May 2025

Planning for our next Open Day and Coffee Morning is well underway. The event will take place at the North Hykeham Memorial Hall on 27th May from 11am to 3pm.



As we saw from last year's event, new members are a rich source of potential new group leaders and Committee members. The main difference this year is that we will be putting more emphasis on the coffee morning aspect. To aid this we will be having more seating & tables in the main hall as well as an opportunity for those groups with spare capacity to showcase themselves at tables spread around the edges of the hall. Also, we would like to make a special effort to find new group leaders to start a second group, where an existing group is full, with a waiting list, or has limited capacity.

Also, for newly proposed groups that require leaders and/or members to become established. A separate table will be provided to accommodate both requirements. Our special guests this year are *Lincoln City Foundation*. This is a great opportunity to learn about the various activities that they offer. They have also kindly donated a signed Lincoln City football shirt which will included in our *free prize draw*.

The event will be publicised by half page advertisements in the May editions of two local magazines:

North Hykeham Gazette
Lindum Colonia

These have a combined circulation of around 24,000 homes throughout our catchment area. We will also be preparing some posters to distribute locally. I will also actively promote the event during my regular quarterly interview with Graham King on Lincoln City Radio on 17th April.

Light refreshments will be available throughout the day. Further details of the Open Day event will be published and updated on the website.

Jim Innes

From page 28

27 May 1837 - Legendary Wild West figure Wild Bill Hickok (1837-1876) was born in Troy Grove, Illinois. He was a frontiersman, lawman, legendary marksman, army scout and gambler. On 2 August 1876, he was shot dead during a poker game by a drunk in the Number Ten saloon in Deadwood, in the Dakota Territory. In his hand he held a pair of eights and a pair of aces which became known as the 'dead man's hand.'



LEARN,
LAUGH,
LIVE



LINCOLN u3a OPEN DAY MAY 27th 2025

NORTH HYKEHAM MEMORIAL HALL

317 NEWARK ROAD LN6 9RY

11:00 - 15:00

Retired, semi-retired, no longer
in full time employment?

Want to have some fun, share or learn a new skill?

Want to meet new friends? Join us for a coffee & find out about our
many & varied activities.

Together, let's see what we can achieve.

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS:



FREE PRIZE DRAW

PUT THE DATE IN
YOUR DIARY TODAY

MORE DETAILS

Lincoln.u3asite.uk

MORE DETAILS



From the Editor:

My inbox is at andrewbradley@railmags.org or you can phone me on 01522 826274 (24hr ans phone). If you get the answer phone, please leave your name and number and I'll get back to you. **Note the new email address!**

All copy for publication should ideally be in a **plain text** document attached to an email, or simply in the body of an email. Make sure you put U3A in the subject line. Pictures should be **attached** to an email. If you send copy as a written document, please write legibly, preferably double-spaced.



If you send any pictures, please send them as they are. That is, in colour (if they are colour photos), not cropped, no captions on them, and not resized. It's a big in-box, big pictures are good!

Copy for the August 2025 issue should be with me no later than 13th July 2025. You don't have to wait till the deadline! This is your Newsletter, I only edit it.

Registered Charity No.1036049

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