



Lincoln u3a



Newsletter

November 2025



News and Announcements

Lincoln.u3asite.uk

u3a Creative Writing Group

A Tribute to Lenice Hunter



Lenice was an integral member of the Lincoln u3a Creative Writing Group.

Having joined Lincoln u3a at the time of its beginnings, Lenice was soon busy organizing a Creative Writing Group. The group was a success and, as joint Convenor with Liz, Lenice continued this role over the years, only taking a break when her husband became ill.

But Lenice returned to her role as soon as she was able. It was not until recent years, due to ill health, she had sought extra help from Ed, and then Joan, whilst still playing her part beside them. A few months ago Lenice eventually handed over the reins to Penny and Richard. It must have been quite a wrench for her to let go. Nonetheless, she was still present at every meeting, quietly monitoring proceedings, and offering guidance when needed.

Our writing group has remained steadfast all this time. Members have left from time to time, and new members have taken their place, but Lenice continued as a member and Convenor throughout the years.

We will carry on without Lenice, as she would want us to, but we will always remember this kind, lovely lady who gave us the chance and inclination to create stories and narratives which would have remained unwritten, and to form lovely friendships into the bargain.

Thank you Lenice, we will miss you.

Front cover: Getting the potatoes in - Beamish style. Picture taken during a visit to Beamish on 16 September 2018. Old time reconstruction of the way we used to do things out in the fields. (picture Andi Bradley)

Officers and Committee Members 2025

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Chairman's Notes: November 2025

Membership.

At time of writing our membership has risen to 262 and continues to keep our 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.



Committee.

At our October Committee meeting we were delighted to co-opt Andy Briggs onto your Committee as our new Social Secretary. In addition to the visit to Chatsworth this month, Andy is also planning a full programme of events for next year.

Vacancies remain on your Committee for the following roles: Vice Chair, Chair of Convenors and Speaker Finder. The Vice Chair role is one that we would really 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 either now or in the future.

AGM

Our next AGM will take place on Tuesday March 3rd 2026 at the North Hykeham Memorial Hall commencing at 10:15 with doors open from 09:30. The AGM usually takes about 25 - 30 minutes and we like to follow this with some entertainment, typically from one of our members or groups. If you have any ideas for something suitable, please contact myself or any Committee member. The agenda/proxy voting form and the agenda/nomination form are included with this newsletter.

Regular monthly meetings.

A reminder that our regular monthly meetings now commence at 10:15 with doors open from 09:30.

There will be a free prize draw at our December meeting in addition to our new regular 50/50 draw. adding to the entertainment from the Lincoln Ukulele Band.

Jim Innes

This picture shows Paul Scot, Chair and Collections manager of The Joseph Banks Society CIO.

He gave a very informative talk at the 7th October monthly meeting, about much of the life of Joseph Banks and how much more than just plants and Kew gardens he was involved in.

From engineering, politics, drainage, canals. It was his idea to grow tea in India and Ceylon, as it was at the time, To make it cheaper than buying it from China.



At the 2nd September monthly meeting, great entertainment was provided by Roger Browne. He sang, played and put a lot of humour in his talk on the American song book. His keyboard must have done the rounds as it was patched up with bodge tape!



We were not allowed to photograph one of our recent speakers.

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

Speakers at Monthly Meetings 2025/26

4 November 25	Alan Stennett	Lincolnshire Railways.
2 December 25	Xmas meeting	Lincoln Ukulele Band.
6 January 26	Paul Stafford	A Trip to the most bizarre country - North Korea.
3 February 26	Nigel and Teri	Music and singing.
3 March 26	AGM	
7 April 26	Fran Sandham	Solo walk across Africa.
5 May 26	Tim Stubbs	Talk on Antiques
2 June 26	Neil Hanson	'Inn and Out at the Top.' Time running the highest inn in Britain in the 1980's.
7 July 26	Roland James	Lincs Emergency Blood Bikes Service.
3 November 26	David Harrison	'Wines for Christmas' with a 'Best Value' selection, a 'Budget Choice' and a 'Push the Boat Out Set'. All available locally.
Further speakers will be added as and when they are booked to appear.		

We are still looking for a Christmas theme speaker for December 2026 and would appreciate any suggestions.

**Please
note:**

The Editor has a new email address, all emails should be sent to the new address, the old one no longer works. If you do send 'stuff' to the old email address I am likely to never see it.

andrewbradley@railmags.org

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

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.

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

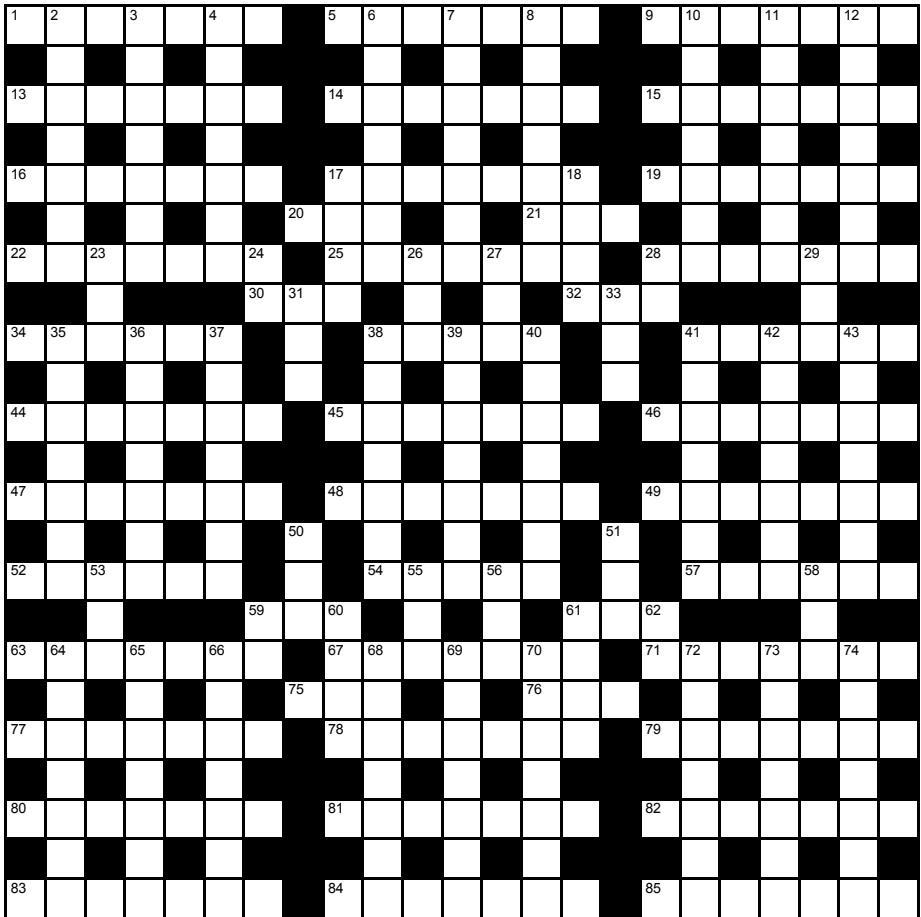
Looking forward to hearing from you!

Table Tennis

The title of the fortnightly table tennis group has been changed to 'Table Tennis for All'. The previous title, which defined the group as 'Rusty and Rookie', did not do justice to some of the current participants. Please note we have no spaces at the moment but we'll keep your name on a waiting list if you're interested.

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



Across

- 1 Calendar book (7)
- 5 Knot of hair (7)
- 9 Dog breed (4-3)
- 13 Refrain from doing (7)
- 14 Disclose (7)
- 15 Strip of material worn around the arm as a sign of mourning (7)
- 16 Limp (7)
- 17 Black and white stripey label (3,4)
- 19 Directly proving (7)
- 20 Anger (3)
- 21 Uniform Resource Locator (inits) (3)
- 22 Lags behind (7)

- 25 One who esteems or loves greatly (7)
- 28 Policeman (7)
- 30 Elderly (3)
- 32 Religious transgression (3)
- 34 An ideal perfect place (6)
- 38 Do well at (5)
- 41 Central Mexico race of peoples (6)
- 44 Exceptional (7)
- 45 Part of chair that supports the upper limb (7)
- 46 Love potion (7)
- 47 Sausage (7)
- 48 Vivid red (7)
- 49 Barium sulphate (7)

X-Word

Answers are on page 23.

- 52 Elephant keeper/driver (6)
- 54 Protective lubricant coating (5)
- 57 Dives down (6)
- 59 Small, round green vegetable (3)
- 61 Exaggerated self-importance (3)
- 63 Pasta meat dish (7)
- 67 Beer mug (7)
- 71 Maybe Dollars? (7)
- 75 Indication of purpose (3)
- 76 Long past (3)
- 77 Raise up (7)
- 78 Scarcity (7)
- 79 Vertical (7)
- 80 Thin paper for copying drawings (7)
- 81 Italian rice dish (7)
- 82 All humans in general (7)
- 83 Similar word (7)
- 84 Material (7)
- 85 Rich (7)
- 26 Amalgamate (3)
- 27 Fish spawn (3)
- 28 Not off (2)
- 29 Snooker stick (3)
- 31 Allow (3)
- 33 Frozen water (3)
- 35 Frog spawn pudding! (7)
- 36 Musical instrument (7)
- 37 Direct opposition (7)
- 38 Head timpani (7)
- 39 Hard, brittle, heat-resistant material (7)
- 40 Sore wounds (7)
- 41 Secluded religious hermitage (7)
- 42 Huntsman's cry (5-2)
- 43 Divide into smaller parts (5,2)
- 50 Employ (3)
- 51 Insect (3)
- 53 Virus that attacks the body's immune system (3)
- 55 Vase (3)
- 56 America (inits) (3)
- 58 Rotten (3)
- 59 3.14 (2)
- 60 On top of (4)
- 61 Nervous (4)
- 62 Originating at (2)
- 64 Sensitivity to certain substances (7)
- 65 In a vacuum (2,5)
- 66 Measurement of delay (7)
- 68 Coffee beans (7)
- 69 Start football game (7)
- 70 Swiftly repeated knocking (3-1-3)
- 72 Beg (7)
- 73 Insignificant (7)
- 74 Disconnect trailer (7)

Down

- 2 Garden plant (7)
- 3 Heartburn medicine (7)
- 4 Colourless, oily, poisonous benzene derivative used to make rubber, dyes, resins etc. (7)
- 6 Dyed with Henna (7)
- 7 Italian pasta-like dumplings (7)
- 8 Past its date (7)
- 10 She (7)
- 11 Portable charcoal-burning brazier (7)
- 12 Native zinc oxide (7)
- 17 Small wire nail (4)
- 18 Make a mistake (4)
- 23 World Health Organisation (inits) (3)
- 24 To a great extent (2)

	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	Table Tennis for All 10am-11am	Badminton 1.30pm-3.30pm	Friday Gardens 10.30am Qi Gong 10.15am-11.00am	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	Table Tennis for All 10am-11am	Badminton 1.30pm-3.30pm	Qi Gong 10.15am-11.00am	Badminton 1.30pm-3.30pm

Brain Teaser

This teaser is posed by Diophantus of Alexandria about 250AD.

The sums of four numbers, omitting each of the numbers in turn, are

22, 24, 27 and 20 respectively. What are the numbers?

Answer on page 19.

David Hunter

What's In a Name?

Surnames in the UK often originated during the Norman Conquest and can be categorized into types such as occupational (e.g., Smith), descriptive (e.g., Short), topographical (e.g., Hill), and patronymic (e.g., Johnson, meaning "son of John"). Each surname reflects aspects of ancestry, profession, or geographic origin, providing insights into family history and social structure.

Overview of Surname Origins in the UK

Surnames in the UK have diverse origins, reflecting the country's rich history and cultural influences. They can be categorized into several main types:

Types of Surnames

Type	Description	Examples
Occupational	Derived from a person's job or trade.	Smith, Baker, Miller
Toponymic	Based on geographical locations or features.	Lancaster, Burton
Patronymic	Indicating lineage, often meaning "son of" a specific person.	Johnson (son of John), Harrison (son of Harry)
Nicknames	Originating from personal characteristics or traits.	Brown (brown hair), Short
Baptismal	Derived from given names, often indicating a familial connection.	Davidson (son of David)

Historical Context

Surnames became common in England after the Norman Conquest in 1066. Before this, individuals were typically known by a single name or a nickname. As populations grew, the need for additional identifiers led to the adoption of surnames.

Evolution of Surnames

Pre-Norman Conquest: People used personal names or nicknames.

Post-1066: The introduction of hereditary surnames began, with names often reflecting occupations, locations, or lineage.

Continued Development: New surnames emerged over time, influenced by immigration and cultural changes.

Significance of Surnames

Surnames provide insight into family history and heritage. They can reveal information about a person's ancestry, occupation, or geographic origin.

Understanding the meaning of a surname can help individuals connect with their family roots and cultural identity.

My surname, Bradley, is of English origin and has two possible meanings. Firstly, it

cont on page 13 🍷

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



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for 2026

I know that it is still only early November, but as your Membership Secretary my thoughts are already turning to ensuring that we retain you into 2026. Indeed, you will find a Renewal invitation form accompanying this Newsletter.

Each year, we have had a number of members “falling by the wayside” at this time of year, and we have little or no information on why they go.

If 2025 membership has been a disappointment to you, if we haven’t lived up to your expectations, or not offered events/interest groups that you would like to see, then please let me know that. It is highly probable that, given this information, we can bring about change. It is also very true that without your feedback we will be unable to satisfy your wishes, and that we would lose you, and we don’t want that.

So, if there is something missing from what Lincoln u3a offers for you, please let us know and give us the opportunity to fix it.

John Wilson, Membership Secretary
jwtransmit@gmail.com
01522 212028



is derived from the Old English words “brad” meaning “broad” and “leah” meaning “wood” or “clearing,” suggesting someone who lives near a broad clearing in the woods. Secondly, it can also be a transferred surname, originating from a place name meaning “broad meadow.” Overall, the name Bradley signifies someone who is associated with a wide, open space or clearing. What does yours mean?

The Editor

Tuesday Trotters - Walking Group 'A'

Convenor - Mari Bebbington, 01522 688102.



November 11th	Mari	Woodcocks pub, Saxilby Road
November 25th	Elaine Lovell	TBA
December 9th	Sylvia	Xmas Lunch, Royal Oak, Scopwick
Jan. 13th	TBA	
Jan. 27th	TBA	
Feb. 10th	TBA	
Feb. 24th	TBA	
5 - 6 mile walks with an optional pub lunch afterwards.		

Third Table Tennis Group

I know ...

We have been here before ...

But we have been building a "Waiting List" of people who would like to play. The two current groups are both at or nearing capacity, and so now is the time to start an additional group.

We are therefore proposing to hold a third session on a Wednesday afternoon, at Ruston's Sports Centre on Newark Road (LN6 8RN) from 2pm to 4pm. We will advise starting date, etc, via an email, but would you please let me know whether you would be likely to attend this extra session, even if you have contacted me before.

Thanks

John Wilson

jwtransmit@gmail.com

01522 212028

Have a Cup of Tea!

Sharing a hot drink can be the shorthand for many things. I once had a job where part of my role was to spend time with people, listening and holding space for them somewhere outside their homes. On one occasion when someone failed to turn up I worked out that if I continued doing this for ten years, I would have been paid to drink about 80,000 cups of tea! That ubiquitous drink says “I care”, “I am listening”, “I am here for you.....” and the cup itself symbolises the warmth being offered and, even, I have found, having something to stir, hold or focus on means there can be profound communication without eye contact.



Tea is as ancient as Chinese Medicine and has long been associated with the practice of meditation. To continue the Buddhist tale about the great monk Bodhidharma, who practiced a nine year vigil during which he tried to remain wakeful, fell asleep and was so angry when he awoke that he cut off his eyelids. Tradition says that his eyelids fell to the ground and from this arose the first tea plant in China. East Asian medicine regards any tea; black or green as long as it is from the *camellia sinensis* plant, as medicine.

I love this poem from Lu Tong, 8th Century Chinese poet

In Gratitude for a gift of fresh tea

The first bowl moistens my lips and throat; the second bowl banishes all loneliness;
The third bowl clears my mind of words and books;
At the fourth cup, I begin to perspire – life’s troubles evaporate through my pores.
The fifth cup cleanses my entire being.
Six cups and I am in the realm of the Divine.
Seven cups – ah but I can drink no more:
I can only feel the gentle breeze blowing through my sleeves,
Wafting me away to the Isle of Immortality.

The U3A Qi Gong group sadly missed their first birthday tea party at the beginning of October, due to a certain virus I was determined not to share with everyone, but we will make up for that. Anita has already provided me with a banner!

We meet on 2nd and 4th Fridays, 10.15-11am at Rustons Newark Rd Lincoln LN6 8RN.
4th Friday in December is Boxing Day so last one for 2025 is on December 12th

Friday Garden Visit Group

On Friday 10th October the Friday Garden Visit Group visited Norwell Nursery and were treated to a very interesting talk and guided tour around the nursery with Andrew Ward. Andrew is a renowned authority and was extremely interesting telling us about his recent plants developed along with areas of the nursery. There was an exceptional amount of colour i.e Asters, chrysanthemums. A wonderful morning.

The next visit we make in November is the final one for the year and that is to Floral Media in Caunton. We have made this our final outing of the year for several years and look forward to the hospitality of Paula and Stephen.

The group then meet for a lunch in January and hopefully make our first visit of 2026 in February for the spring bulbs.

Pam Derby







✂ Craft Group ✂

Why not join us in the new year?
Make 2026 a Happy Crafting Year.



Contact the 2 Elaines for details.

Elaine Harris...elainejharris@hotmail.co.uk

Elaine White...elaine.wht@outlook.com



A squirrel. I wonder if it is Squirrel Nutkin? Maybe not!
Anyway, the picture was taken by Vera Holmes in her back garden.

Mystery Coach Trip - 23 September 2025

The day dawned dry but dull and, after parking up in the designated area especially for u3a members at the Memorial Hall, we boarded the coach (PC Coaches) which was there waiting for us. There was a general air of excitement and anticipation - where would we be going? The driver, Joe, was a cheery and competent driver who looked after us for the day.

Our first mystery stop was at Tattershall Castle, a National Trust property. Unfortunately, we were turned away and told that it was closed because of an insurance issue. That was disappointing but, never mind, we drove on a few miles to Woodhall Spa for a short stop where some of us took advantage of a choice of cafes to enjoy a coffee break. Onwards heading towards Horncastle our main lunch stop was at the Horncastle Garden Centre (Crowders). We were allocated a seating area and the menu was quite varied and the food good. With such a large number of us to cater for, it did take up most of the time that we'd been given, so there wasn't much chance to look around at the plants afterwards.

I was a bit surprised that we headed off towards Skegness as it was already well into the afternoon but we finally arrived at the North Sea Observatory near Chapel St Leonards about 3.15pm. The sun had broken through the clouds (as it had done intermittently throughout the day) and the sea looked blue to greet us. It was also very blowy! From inside the building you got a panoramic view of the North Sea with the wind turbines in the distance. There was also a gallery space in the building used for art exhibitions, meetings, etc. The room was open as there had been a meeting but, apart from a few photographs, sadly no artwork on display. We didn't feel the need for any more refreshments, though they were available. We simply had a browse around and took in some bracing sea air before boarding the coach again for our return to Lincoln. We arrived back about 5pm.

I think everyone had enjoyed the day out, despite the disappointment at Tattershall. I know I did, and I'd like to say a big 'thank you' to the organisers for arranging the first of, hopefully, more outings in the future.

Sue Williams

PS: The quiz about Lincolnshire that we did on the return journey unfortunately only served to show me how unknowledgeable I am about my home county, with a miserable score of only 4/10!

Answer to Brain Teaser page 11.
Let the numbers be a, b, c and d.
Then $b + c + d = 22$, $a + c + d = 24$, $a + b + d = 27$ and $a + b + c + d = 20$.
By adding all these together, $3a + 3b + 3c + 3d = 93$ or $a + b + c + d = 31$.
Hence a, b, c and d are 9, 7, 4 and 11 respectively.

Sheepwash Community Trips

SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2026

NOTTINGHAM DAY TRIP

with the RSC's HAMLET (Optional)

Have a day out in Nottingham

- explore history at Nottingham Castle, the National Justice Museum, the underground City of Caves, Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem (the city's oldest pub), the Lace Market (with its independent shops, cafes and restaurants).

- enjoy a spot of retail therapy!

- go ice skating at Torvill and Dean's local rink.

- watch the RSC's "must see" new production of **Hamlet**.

Hamlet's mother has married his uncle, and at a less than decent interval since the death of his father. As he pulls at the threads of his not-so-happy new family, Hamlet unravels a web of deceit and immorality that leads to the ultimate crisis of conscience

PROGRAMME

Parking available by kind permission of Branston Community Academy

Depart Branston Community Academy	9.00am
(Pick up along Newark Road / North Hykeham possible - please ask).	
Arrive Nottingham Theatre Royal	10.45am
The Royal Shakespeare Company's Hamlet	2.00pm
Depart Nottingham Theatre Royal	5.30pm
Arrive Branston Community Academy	7.15pm

(**Please note** that no breaks en route are planned, there will be a toilet on the coach for emergencies)

COST

Coach only	£14
Hamlet (stalls ticket) and coach	£56

BOOKING

Please state number of **coach only** /or **coach and theatre seats** required.

Please send **THE FULL AMOUNT** to Jacqui and Steve Spalding at 62 Washingborough Road, Heighington, Lincoln LN4 1QR as soon as possible

Cheques should be made payable to

SHEEPWASH TRIPS

PLEASE ENCLOSE S.A.E. FOR CONFIRMATION / FURTHER DETAILS

A Woodroffe Family follow up

A couple of years ago I wrote in the u3a magazine about a “long lost cousin.” John found me through the “ancestry” messaging service in 2010. He was born in 1945 and had been put into a childrens’ home until he was adopted at the age of four. In his 60s he went through the official channels to access his adoption records to see if he could find out who his birth parents were. I had known nothing about his existence until then.

At the time I wrote the article I had been able to fill him in on his maternal side - we have the same maternal grandparents - but what about his father’s side? The adoption papers revealed no more than that “he was a married man”. I suggested a DNA test but John was not sure he wanted to, however since then he has changed his mind and did the test about 12 months ago.

Well at the current count he has 11,082 matches on his paternal side!

11,000 of those have too small a match to bother with but there are enough useful matches to narrow down the family and within that family 3 possible fathers, (2 brothers and their cousin). Additional circumstantial evidence (1939 census) shows some of this large family living in the next street to John’s mother’s family and three worked as coach builders as did John’s and my grandfather. There was only one coach/bus builder in Loughborough. From other bits I’ve been able to glean, one of those three is looking the most likely to be John’s father.

Some of the people I contacted via ancestry were very helpful although not necessarily able to help, we’re going back 70 years here. A couple of the others didn’t reply.

Because I was acting on John’s behalf I was even more scrupulous than usual about not disclosing any current identifiable information. To try and find out any more would involve searching out particular descendants and asking them if they would be willing to do a DNA test. We are not going to do this.

The ends are not quite tied up though. John has quite a good paternal DNA match with an 80+ year old man in Canada (I think it set him thinking Canadian forces WW2?).

This man is as intrigued to work out the connection as we are, all his family have been born in Canada for the last 5/6 generations and he has no DNA matches to what seems to be John’s paternal family in Loughborough. Well there’s my project for this winter.

If you enjoy watching “Long Lost Family” on television and have a mystery person in your family this is an even better pastime than jigsaws or reading detective stories.

Anne Birkett

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.

Do You Remember Corner??

Buses with slatted wooden seats and a central door at the back?

Cardboard milk bottle tops with a perforated hole in the middle for the straw.

And the pompoms you could make by winding wool round two of them?

What were those hard brown bean things that were a substitute for sweets?

Having a clean set of clothes on a Sunday and wearing them until the following Sunday?

The mangle with two big rollers, turned by hand of course and the tilt-top kitchen table that covered it the rest of the week?

There must be lots of other things you remember?

Anne Birkett

A Game Of Chance

To help with fund raising, your committee have come up with a way of having a bit of fun and you may win some money at each monthly meeting.

We have introduced a 50/50 draw, it's not compulsory but is open to all including visitors, so the more people that enter, the more the prize pot will be.

When you come to reception, you can enter by paying £1 and write your name on a ticket. All the proceeds will then be split 50/50 between the prize pot and the u3a funds. At the end of the meeting the Chairman will invite someone to draw a name from the hat to win.

So come armed with your £1 coins and fingers crossed - Good luck.

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.

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 Stagg Penelope Hammerton	01522 262697 07746 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 for All	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

Unitch.

Answers to Crossword on page 8.

Across: 1 Almanac, 5 Chignon, 9 Shih-Tzu, 13 Abstein, 14 Uncover, 15 Armband, 16 Flaccid, 17 Bar code, 19 Deltic, 20 Ire, 21 Uri, 22 Dawdles, 25 Admirer, 28 Officer, 30 Old, 32 Sin, 34 Utopia, 38 Excel, 41 Aztecs, 44 Special, 45 Armrest, 46 Philtre, 47 Bologna, 48 Crimson, 49 Barytes, 52 Mahout, 54 Mucus, 57 Swoops, 59 Pea, 61 Ego, 63 Ravioli, 67 Tankard, 71 Fistful, 75 For, 76 Ago, 77 Elevate, 78 Paucity, 79 Upright, 80 Tracing, 81 Risotto, 82 Society, 83 Synonym, 84 Taffeta, 85 Wealthy.

Down: 2 Lobelia, 3 Antacid, 4 Aniline, 6 Hennaed, 7 Gnocchi, 8 Overdue, 10 Herself, 11 Hibachi, 12 Zincite, 17 Brad, 18 Errs, 23 Who, 24 So, 26 Mix, 27 Roe, 28 On, 29 Cue, 31 Let, 32 Ice, 35 Tapoca, 36 Piccolo, 37 Agalinst, 38 Ear drum, 39 Ceramic, 40 Lesions, 41 Ashrams, 42 Tally-ho, 43 Carve up, 50 Use, 51 Bug, 53 HIV, 55 Urn, 56 USA, 58 Off, 59 Pi, 60 Atop, 61 Edgy, 62 Of, 64 Allergy, 65 In vacuo, 66 Latency, 68 Arabica, 69 Kickoff, 70 Rat-a-tat, 72 Implore, 73 Trivial, 74

The Sea

The sea, that beautiful blue veil that covers two thirds of the green planet and allows life to exist. A multitude of minor seas: the Red, the salty Dead, the historic Aegean, the war torn Crimean, all joining threads into oceans and then the great blue wrap around, that forms an inseparable bond with the moon, our earth Luna. The bond that creates tides of varying heights, and influences the weather of the earth.

Beneath the waves live some two to ten million species, with a quarter of a million known to us, but the remainder in the deep ocean, a hidden secret. A vestibule simultaneously of life and peril.

Below the surface is a different world of over 3,700 shipwrecks, around our little island alone. Many keeping their dark secrets and treasures: some plundered for reward, and some brought to shore for the pleasure of many. The *Mary Rose*, one of the Navy Founding Father, Henry VIII's favourite, sunk in, 1545, with great loss of life, and raised in 1982, and returned home to Portsmouth Dockyard, where she had been built almost 500 years earlier. Countless sunken vessels remain in the clutches of the deep, their mysteries often untouchable despite human curiosity and greed. Invaders have arrived, explorers discovered, and tribes relocated. Parts of the seabed are peppered with evidence of ancient and fascinating times; of simple sea life and dinosaurs, of prehistoric forests, revealed and investigated by coastal path wanderers.

The briny brings challengers, and those coastal heroes, the lifeboatmen and women, resolve to contest her. One of the most remarkable rescues, was in 1883 when Eastbourne lifeboat men out of absolute necessity, carried out the most remarkable rescue from the boiling, raging waters off Beachy Head. The lifeboat *William and Mary* was dragged by 200 men and a team of ten horses on a wheeled carriage up the vertiginous slopes, in pouring rain. The access at Birling Gap, five miles away, was too narrow for the boat, and a ten foot drop was the alternative. Farmhands joined the team and by digging and using timber ramps, the lifeboat hit the waters. The men, wet to their waists in the sea, headed out to the Barque, *New Brunswick*, a mile away. An hour later, after battling waves, wind and spray, the ship was reached, all of the 11 Norwegian crew were rescued by line, one by one. The captain, the last to leave, bearing a Norwegian flag in his teeth. Alas, despite some successes, she can destroy human happiness all too easily, with men, women and children, along with their canine friends, swept out to her depths; folk labouring or relaxing, catching her fishy fruits, their boats upturned by revengeful waves, and lost forever. The sea magnetises: along with innocents and curious, the desperate and intoxicated, deliberately walking into dark skies and engulfing waters waiting to be swallowed up, and their misery ended. When the waters are calm and kind, glistening, and flat in the summer sun, she invites humanity to paddle, swim and dive in blue, brown and green waters, and children to explore her rock pools, for crabs and starfish. She evokes happiness and memories, rather than fear. The view ashore is of bodies on the beach, scanty dress, sunhats; sandcastles, and donkeys giving rides on the sands, flags and brightly coloured lights of the amusements. The young and beautiful, flaunt shapely and inviting forms, sometimes not so inviting. Fried fish and chips, beer cans and burgers; sometimes even salads. The calm inviting sea, a venue for joy and happiness, and making memories. Encircling seagulls, greedy to snatch food from naive city dwellers, who find them enchanting. Even then the sea will try to steal a child with her powerful tides, catching the unwary, supplanting with grief.

Autumn and winter brings bracing seafront autumnal and winter walks, defying the north easterlies with frozen bites to exposed ears and fingers. Some still take the waters, the seasoned tough seniors and the daring Christmas and New Year icy dippers braving the bitter cold before a voluminous lunch. Canine friends enjoying each minute of each and every day. The coastal born, return for salty refreshment after weeks of inland city living. A visit to the seafront always on their agenda. There are days of fury, when waves foaming white and yellow, rise above the prom, and throw themselves at passing traffic and whatever else can be breached; roads, homes, shops.

Coastlines are nibbled, and then bitten, sending gardens and home crashing to the base of cliffs. Places of personal heaven snatched away. In other areas, silt and sand is thrown up continually, sea outlets are blocked and ports are no more. They are towns, now miles away.

What of her future? She will reign indomitably, but with warming waters, ever furious winds, and rising levels. Will all her bounty be destroyed or taken? Will she become a hold for debris, and every kind of waste? Does man retain his respect and duty to her, or will she bring about his downfall?

Maria Crees

Message from Welfare Officer

Where has this year gone? Jim and I have been kept busy over the last few months with an adorable kitten (when he is not getting into mischief). We have named him Milo but he probably thinks his name is Milo Noooo! He is "helping" me to write this article!



With the nights getting dark so early now and when the curtains have been drawn, it can be a lonely time. If you want a chat please contact me by e-mail or text so that I can arrange a natter.

If you know any member, including yourself, who is ill or any member that has sadly passed away, please let me know. I can then contact them or the family and send an appropriate card.

Please also be aware of the many spam e-mail messages that continue to do the rounds, seeming to come from one of our Committee members. If it sounds strange just delete it straight away. If you are not sure you can always send a separate e-mail directly to Committee member for clarification.

If you have not met me yet, please come and say hello at a monthly meeting.

Best wishes,

Anita Innes 07795 598958

What I get from Creative Writing

Let me knock the myth on the head when people say “Oh! I couldn't possibly write creatively.” I don't have any ability to do anything like that. I think it would surprise you if you had a go I would reply. I read quite a bit especially history. So when I visit a castle, a monastery or historical site I imagine it peopled and further imagine myself living there and walking with the characters of the Castle or wherever. I cannot help myself I have to get these people down on paper and if I close my eyes I can see them and get involved with inventing their stories, their loves, their hopes, their joys, their power struggles and then these people become part of my life, like friends, I find myself adding a bit more to their stories because I know them now. And friends you keep in touch with and visit on a regular basis. I could be washing up or doing some grisly task I don't want to do, so it then it becomes necessary to visit my friends who live in the castle, what perfect escapism and before I know it, the grizzly task has been completed. I could be shopping and wondered how how they would be doing that in Medieval times. The excitement of making a completely imaginary story and being able to weave it in any direction that I want. I have a story in my head, arranged marriages, manipulating fathers, a neglected estate, extreme poverty, an illegitimate child, death of a Lord, rescuing a sister from a violent marriage, finding a mother in a nunnery, pulling together through a difficult winter and at last a surprising love emerges in thea nunnery, pulling together through a difficult winter and at last a surprising love emerges in the midst of it all. I should get this down on paper and maybe I should start it today. I have my heroine and my hero and now it's time to bring them to life.

I joined Creative group after I lost my mother who had been my friend and my travelling companion and I missed her. I knew I needed to find a new direction for this new sad gap in my life. I had written in the past but my offerings landed in file 13, file 13, the waste paper basket. I should not have done that, but I did. Now was time to re-awaken those imaginings. I never thought that I had any talent in writing creatively, but that was hardly the point. It was a journey to be enjoyed, a journey that could lead to which ever century I wanted, modern times, a romance, a thriller or stories for children and numerous other scenarios. So writing creatively can help you get through difficult times, a distraction from worry or pain.

Joining our creative writing group has enabled me to meet new friends, enjoy our hobby together and the sociability of cups of tea, cake and chats in our members homes which is much nicer than a hall or meeting room. There is no pressure to produce a masterpiece, just our own imaginings.

I'm sure each one of us here has their own reasons for writing creatively but these are mine and I hope someone here has written on this same subject, so I can hear what writing creatively means to them.

Penelope Hammerton

New Shoes

His waist with heavy apron tied
He pats her mane a quiet word
Dragon bellows, waken, anger
The beast with a red-hot temper

His pincers break off the clenches,
Click - click, chink - chink
Worn shoes sing, collide in a pile
See sparks dance on glowing metal

Paring the hoof near the white line,
He scorches a shape with crimson steel,
Sizzling behind a blue-smoke veil
A sickly smell burns nose and eyes

Veil lifts; man and horse reappear
New shoes tamed by heat and hammer,
Formed on the anvil by his skill
In steamy water, they hiss and squeal

Straightening up he rubs his back
Mops his feverish brow, takes a drink
Hat pushed on, new irons by his feet
Holding the clenches, like shark's teeth

With back bent over and arms taut
He taps on the shoes, a true fit
One - two - One - two - One - two
A fresh tune rings out, bouncing off

He twists the nails then beats them flat,
Lifts her leg to the stand, stretched out
Rasping down the sharp, silver points
In a snow-storm of ash-grey flakes

He oils the hooves, like treacle dipped
Loads up his box, tools with a thud,
Shoes swing a jingle on the edge
The beast lies down; is soon asleep

Diane Bailey

Letting Go

“Grab my hand, quickly now. The Karabiners are locked and the rappel thingy is firm. I’m still roped, so we’ll be fine.”

He grabbed her wrist. Glancing quickly down to the rocks hundreds of feet below, he gulped and immediately looked up to her face.

“Well done, girl. Are you able to slither backwards or pull me towards you?”

Her thoughts were racing like Formula One around and around her head; back and forth through the recent past, especially the last two or three years. Then, reflecting on their plight, she slowed her breathing and concentrated on the situation. They had been good friends for two years and were happy in each other’s company. Their friends, hobbies and interests were complementary. Moreover, she was only too aware of being 34, single and childless.

When they had first met after the dating agency had paired them up she knew almost instantly he would make a good kind father and a satisfactory husband. Yes, that was the right order, she thought; husbands were for the present, fathers for a lifetime. Since then, his sometimes overbearing, sometimes meek and sometimes disrespectful behaviour had vexed her sorely, but all men were deficient in some way or other. Her mother had taught her that much.

And now, wrists entwined, here they were. So, what if ?

She studied his eyes; mostly brown with green flecks. Mmm, ok, I suppose, she said to herself, not unattractive in a child after their “blue period”.

“Mike, will you marry me? Now, this month?”

“What! You ask me that. **Now!** With me dangling on this precipice. What is possessing you, girl? There’s a time and a place Anyway, aren’t I supposed to go down on one knee or something? Hardly appropriate at the moment. And yes, I’m the one to ask *you*, surely. Now come on, hoist me up. Rouse yourself, woman.”

“Mike,” she whispered, trying to soften her approach. “Will you marry me? Look, we’ve been together now for years and I want you to marry me. What’s wrong with that? I want four children and we can all live in your house, after a good clear out of all your stuff. And after I’ve sold my place we’ll be well off and you can go part-time in your job, so more time for you look after the babies and the house while I go to work. You know how much I love my job. It’s ideal.”

“And what about my profession?” exploded Mike. “I love my work too. It took me five years to qualify. And everyone in the office depends on me. I can’t just cut my hours.” Mike’s temperature was rising. Sweat formed on his brow, and his hand around her slender wrist felt slippery. He recalled his predicament, feeling that even suppressed panic and anger might not help his situation.

“What about your mother? Who will look out for her? She’ll be old before her time, especially at the rate she demolishes those Havanas and the bottles of Prosecco, vodka and gin. When she passes on that’ll be the time to think about our future. Surely?”

She was sensing a certain reluctance to commit. Women are more sensitive to these matters, coming as they reportedly do from Venus.

“Mike, do you remember John Bright? You said you were friends once. If you recall, he accidentally fell off these very cliffs a few years back. It didn’t come out at the Inquest but I was with him at the time, and yes, he slipped and went over the edge. Fortunately, he found a narrow foothold and I managed to catch his arm.

So, he was sort of in your position right now, I suppose, Mike.
As he was hanging there I asked him, ever so politely Mike, to marry me and he refused. They found him on those rocks down there. I was asked to identify the body the next day as we had been going out for two years, why just like us Mike.
Ooh, another inch, this sun is so hot, Mike, it's making my hand slip. Ooh, I don't think I'll be able to hang on much longer. Ooh, my arm hurts now.
You know, Mike, I think next time I'll admit to the Coroner that I was with you but you were such a heavy man, and I'll wear a sling, and that short black dress you like, with heels and my hair down, and I'll talk in my little girl voice, you know, the one you used to love. That should do it, don't you think?
So, Mike, will you?"

There was a long silence. Mike had his eyes shut; partly because his sweat was making them smart and probably more because of the surreal nature of the plight he now found himself in. He didn't enjoy being bullied, not like this, but what choice did he have? He liked her, to be sure, but Marriage? Four Children? His possessions? Her Mother? There was a limit. He searched around for a soothing answer he could use to delay her with. When all at once, before he could open his mouth, he found himself floating, free, flying, plummeting.

Back on top, to the breeze and the occasional passing seagull she cried out. "Sorry, but I can't spend the rest of my life with someone who can't make up his mind. Ah well, after two years I suppose it was inevitable. It's time to contact the agency again. And to let go."

Richard Stagg

Creative Writing Group

6 July 2025

'Honey' our Springer Spaniel.

We loved her from the moment our eyes met in the pound,
And she knew in that instant, a new home she had found.
Her owners had abandoned her and she'd become a stray,
She led us quite a dog's life at first she'd not obey.

She'd be away for hours and far and wide she'd roam,
But what a lovely greeting, when at last she did come home.
She use to love the cornfields where she run wild and free,
At times like this her happiness was there for all to see.

She had the sweetest nature and her eyes were big and brown,
Instinctively she seemed to know when you were feeling down.
She'd come and snuggle up to you and nudge you with her nose,
And give you such a loving look dispelling all your woes.

For twelve years we had the pleasure of a loving loyal friend,
And never once did she complain, not even at the end.
The Lord he took for his own where she is truly free,
To live with all God's creatures in peaceful harmony.

V.Holmes©.



U3A Tea And Coffee Rota 2024

Refreshment Hostess - Linda Ash 01522 500004.

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

November 4th	Stephen Turk, Anita Harrington, Leslie Tapley
December 2nd	Pat and Mike Lucas, Sue Williams, Sarah Hawley, Mary Daulton
January 6th	Lindsay Cutts, Jude White
February 3rd	Sonia Maynard



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 Linda Ash 01522 500004 know which date(s) you can help with.

Are there any volunteers for January 2026 (two more required), and three more required for the February 2026 meeting. If you feel you can lend a hand, then get in touch with Linda by phone or at the monthly meetings.

Speakers at Monthly Meetings

As you will see, Speakers for 2025 are booked until the end of the year. We are now looking for ideas and suggestions for 2026.

Please do contact me if you know of any speakers that would interest our members. Alternatively also please let me know what type of speakers you would like to have at the monthly meetings in 2026.

My contact details are maryyork880@gmail.com or 01522 683288.

Looking forward to hearing from you with your ideas.

Mary York
Speaker Finder

Studying at the Open University.

What are you going to do when you retire? Coming towards the end of my working life last year this seemed to be a constant question. Sleep was the flippant answer. Until a close friend asked the question seriously. What are you going to do? Is there anything you always wanted to do and never had the time? Well yes there was. I've always wanted to study for an Open University degree. I didn't go to university when I had the chance after leaving school and I have regretted it ever since.

Spurred on I looked into it and found to my delight and horror that there is no upper age limit to applying or for getting a student loan. The oldest student I have come across is eighty-six but there are also nineteen-year-olds. There are also no educational requirements. Anyone can do an Open University degree.

The choice of subject was easy. History has always been my passion. You can do a degree in history or combine two subjects or an open degree where you can pick and choose whatever course takes your fancy. You can also choose how much you study, two modules are equivalent to one year at university. You can do two at once and study full time or just one a year which takes six years to complete instead of three. For one module you need to study sixteen to eighteen hours a week which is plenty if you have other things in your life like the U3A.

The first surprise when you start is everything is online or from a course book that they send in the post. We don't get to see each other face to face at all. We have tutorials where we can see the tutor and the slides but not each other. If there is only a handful of students, we do talk on the microphone but mostly we ask our questions or answer the tutor in a chat box at the side of the screen. The course work is partly reading from a course book which is very heavy but well set out with a margin down the side for notes, or online with interactive exercises, videos to watch and audio recordings.

The first module everybody studies is an introduction to Arts and Humanities. You study eight subjects, history, art history, classical studies, literature, creative writing, philosophy, religious studies, and music. But the interesting thing is you aren't studying them in isolation. They are mixed up together. We studied portraits of Elizabeth I for history and art history. In studying the ancient Greek play *Antigone* in classical studies and literature we were led onto a modern interpretation of it called *The Island* which is a play about apartheid in South Africa and so to modern history. But what you also learn are study skills. We have tutorials in how to take notes, how to plan and write an essay and even how to read the books to the best advantage. And I have also taught myself to type with more than two fingers!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year studying at the Open University and I can recommend it. I loved the history and found a new interest in more modern history. I thought I would enjoy philosophy, but it is really hard. I rediscovered my love of poetry and art history. but in the music units I just enjoyed listening. It keeps your brain alive and anyone who knows me will know that I can't stop talking about all the new things I have learnt. Give it a go if you fancy it. Or if its too much of a commitment I can also recommend Open Learn which has hundreds of free, non-obligatory short courses (eight to ten hours) on every subject you can imagine.

Happy Learning

Sarah Parkinson





Another nature picture from Vera Holmes also taken in her back garden. It would seem that Vera has a garden teeming with wildlife?

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

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