

Lincoln u3a Magazine May 2026



See page 14.

News and Announcements

Lincoln.u3asite.uk



Guest Speaker at 3rd March meeting

Were you there? I know the AGM can sometimes seem a bit dry, but it was worth sitting through that to then be entertained by Patrick Bond! He read, in a variety of voices, from several poems, some humorous and some thought provoking, all with a keen wit and a clear emphasis on the words and rhymes. The extracts from the poems he read were from:

John Masefield – I must go down to the seas again...
Basil Bunting – What the Chairman told Tom
William Wordsworth – I wandered lonely as a cloud
Jackie Kay – Sassenachs
Stevie Smith – The Jungle Husband
W. H. Auden – A note on Intellectuals
Pam Ayres – I wish I'd looked after me teeth!
June English – Meeting Hitler, and Teaching Aunt Gwen to Honk
Robert Lawrence – Night Fighter Pilot
Michael Kelly RN – HMS Rockingham will detach
Benjamin Zephaniah – Talking Turkeys!
Victoria Wood – Saturday night

I would encourage you to seek out these gems on the internet, or in the library, to enjoy them in their fullest. It will be time well spent!
John Wilson

Officers and Committee Members 2026/7

Chair	Jim Innes	jim.innes21@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Sue Firth	suefirthhr@aol.com
Secretary	Sally Graves	graves_sally@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Mary York	maryyork880@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	John Wilson	jwtransmit@gmail.com
Groups Coordinator	Sarah Hawley	sarah.hawley@live.co.uk
Social Secretary	Andy Briggs	briggsandrew272@gmail.com
Welfare Officer	Anita Innes	anita.innes@outlook.com
Committee Member	John White	jonellie51@gmail.com
Webmaster	Sue Firth	suefirthhr@aol.com
Refreshment Hostess	Linda Ash	linda.ash103@gmail.com
Newsletter Distributor	Mary York	maryyork880@gmail.com
Speaker Finder	Mary York	maryyork880@gmail.com
Magazine Editor	Andi Bradley	andrewbradley@railmags.org

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 the 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.

Chairman's Notes: May 2026

Membership.

At time of writing and with the deadline for renewals now well behind us, our membership stands at 260. Our continued year on year growth in membership provides new opportunities for interest groups and for volunteers to help assist with the running of Lincoln u3a. 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.



Beacon.

On 1st January 2026, our Membership records on the central u3a database went live. Since then, we have been updating Beacon records for those who have paid their 2026 subs. A personalised email was sent directly from Beacon to those who had yet to renew.

To help to identify that an e-mail you receive is actually from Lincoln u3a and has been sent via Beacon, it will contain the following sentence "This email was sent by Beacon on behalf of".

Members of your Committee are now taking part in familiarisation sessions, to enable them to utilise Beacon in their various duties.

Committee.

At time of writing, we have all Committee roles filled for the coming year. However, we would still like someone to take on the role of Speaker Finder. This would allow Mary York to focus on her Treasurer role and the further implementation of the finance modules of Beacon. A new Committee role of Publicity Officer is also being considered.

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

The 34th Lincoln u3a AGM took place on Tuesday March 3rd, 2026, at the North Hykeham Memorial Hall. A copy of the minutes from the AGM will be made available on the website. Some points of interest from the AGM:

- In 2025 our membership grew by just under 20%.
- Social coach trips have re-started.
- Attendance at our monthly meetings have also increased with between 65 – 90 enjoying a very wide range of speakers and entertainers.
 - Thanks were offered to the three retiring Committee members: David Hunter, Marie Elliott and Mitch Elliott.
 - Thanks were also offered to the following non-Committee members that regularly give their time to help the smooth running of Lincoln u3a:

- Andi Bradley - Magazine Editor
- Chris Pritchard & Anne Birkett - Book Corner exchange
- Sylvia & Brian Windsor - sound system management
- Penny Chafik & Jayne Turk - Meet & Greet team
- Operating profit for the year ending December 31st was £1,085.
- Our revised Lincoln u3a Constitution and local rules documents were formally ratified and adopted.
 - Your new Committee officers were formally proposed, seconded and elected. The full list is available on page 3.

Your 2026 Committee as elected at the AGM: See picture on the back page.

Following the AGM, Patrick Bond provided some poetry reading, which was enjoyed by all attending. Patrick will be setting up a new Poetry group shortly; details are shown on page 12, and will be on the website in due course.

North Hykeham Town Council Community Group Fair

Following on from last year's attendance, Lincoln u3a attended the Community Fair at Sir Robert Patterson school on 9th April 2026. The event immediately preceded the Town Council meeting and was well attended.

We had some strong interest from visitors which we are sure will result in a several new members. It was also a great opportunity to liaise with other voluntary groups in the area, and some useful contacts were made.

Regular monthly meetings.

A reminder that all our regular monthly meetings commence at 10:15 with doors open from 09:30. The cost of entry is now £2 which helps to cover the speaker fee, hall hire fee and refreshments. Details of all remaining monthly meetings and speakers for 2026, are on the website.

Coming up in the next 3 months we have:

- May 5th - A talk on antiques - Tim Stubbs
- June 2nd - Inn and out at the top - Neil Hanson will be entertaining us with tales of the highs and lows of running Britain's highest inn in the 1980's.
- July 7th - Lincs emergency blood bikes service.

Generic Lincoln u3a leaflet.

A new A5 fold over leaflet has been designed and will be printed shortly. It will also be available to view or download from the website. This is aimed at anyone who wants to know what Lincoln u3a has to offer and will hopefully aid the ongoing membership recruitment campaign. We aim to distribute this leaflet to local libraries and other relevant support groups in the Lincoln area. If any current member would like some of these leaflets to distribute locally, please contact any Committee member. Copies will also be available at every monthly meeting at the Memorial Hall.

Jim Innes

Speakers at Monthly Meetings 2026

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.
4 August 26	Judith Hedley	'Teas with Mr Darcy'
1 September 26	Rosanna McGlone	'History of Feisty Females'
6 October 26	'Sing it Loud'	A Choir
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.
1 December 26	The Ukelele Band	Christmas Carols, songs and merriment.
Further speakers will be added as and when they are booked to appear. Some Speakers are already booked for 2027, but other suggestions are always welcome.		

Hablamos Espanol - Spanish Conversation Group

The Spanish Conversation Group meets every Thursday of the month at 2pm-4pm. 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 the Group Leader via the website or at any Monthly Meeting.
Looking forward to hearing from you!

Table Tennis

Table Tennis for All group is seeking new members.

We've decided to increase the maximum number of participants for the above group, and are seeking new members. We meet on the first and third Fridays of each month (and fifth Friday when there is one) from 10am-11am at Ruston's Sports Centre, Newark Road. You are equally welcome whether you are an experienced player or are new to the game. The group is suitable for anyone who wants to play in a relaxed and not too competitive setting. If you're interested please contact Maria North.

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 & Anne

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 Elaine Lewis, at any Monthly Meeting or via the website.

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.

BACS Payments

Now that we have an active Social Secretary in Andy Briggs, and events and trips are being arranged, we realised that it would be best to use a separate bank account for those activities. This will mean that payments for social events are more easily recognised. We therefore now have two accounts into which you can make BACS payments, and we thought that we should clearly identify which is which for you.

For Social Activities

Account Name: Social Fund, Sort code: 20-50-21, Account number: 80886203

For Membership subscriptions

Account Name: Lincoln u3a, Sort code: 20-50-21, Account number: 50899038

In either case, it is helpful if you put your surname as the Reference.

We will always include these details for you whenever we ask for a payment from you (for example on event notices or Membership Renewal) but thought that you might like to make a note of them to avoid any confusion. Thank you.

John Wilson, Membership Secretary

WORDSEARCH - BOOK TITLES

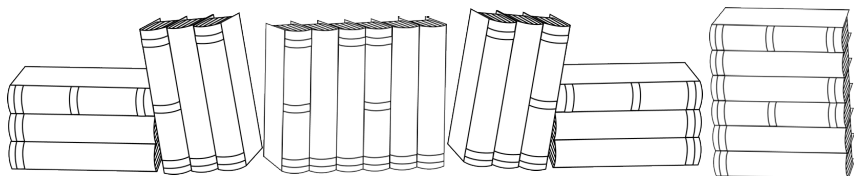


44 famous book titles to find.

How many of them have you read?

Solution upside down overleaf on page 10.

E A M U C N B Z N Z E Q I I Q G Z T B T R C B W P P D X N J
W Q I H X V E W R Q I N F C G L T H U I S E R Y C X N B A H
W J D H N P E G G F U R Y C L K M H G A X P W X Y N F N K E
A G D D K N K Z Y S A O Y T V A I F E R H A X P S Q E S C O
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X J A M R O M N Y Y D K P L J R T C S P Q J D V T W I E G A
G B N I O R T T N A T P L P R I D E A N D P R E J U D I C E
K Q C I F J R A N A R Y I C F K F R N T O O Z H F O M G T R
R C N E T I P R R A K C R W P M G U W I L M N Y B O G H G T
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T P R B R A V E N E W W O R L D M E G U T Q H S B Y G S S H
M O H X L C T K O K N Y R S P A Y N T M R A F L A M I N A I
C J T L D N B B T F D Y Y P K A P A S S A G E T O I N D I A
M I Y L S C A M K J F L R U N R J M J F T A M C T K H C O K



ANIMAL FARM
A PASSAGE TO INDIA
A ROOM WITH A VIEW

BRAVE NEW WORLD
BRIGHTON ROCK

DON JUAN
DON QUIXOTE
DRACULA
DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE

EAST OF EDEN

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS
FRANKENSTEIN

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

I, CLAUDIUS
IVANHOE
JANE EYRE

KIDNAPPED
KIM
KING SOLOMON'S MINES

LITTLE WOMEN
LORNA DOONE
MIDDLEMARCH

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

OUR MAN IN HAVANA

PETER PAN
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

ROBINSON CRUSOE

SHE
SILAS MARNER
SONS AND LOVERS

THE CANTERBURY TALES
THE CRUEL SEA
THE GRAPES OF WRATH
THE GREAT GATSBY
THE LORD OF THE RINGS

THE SECRET AGENT
THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS
THE TIME MACHINE
THE WAR OF THE WORLDS
THREE MEN IN A BOAT
TREASURE ISLAND

ULYSSES

WAR AND PEACE
WUTHERING HEIGHTS

Joker's Corner

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, "Dam."

Why did the employee get fired from the calendar factory?
She took a day off.

Why is a swordfish's nose 11 inches long?
Because if it were 12 inches, it would be a foot.

Why don't eggs tell jokes?
They'd crack each other up.

Changes to making contact with Lincoln u3a

During the recent Convenors / Group Leaders meeting, concern was expressed that Leaders were receiving phone calls out of the blue about Lincoln u3a and their Group. These calls were often at inconvenient times, or were off topic.

Discussion led to the belief that the provision of Leaders phone numbers on the website, and in the Magazine, were responsible for this and so we have removed them.

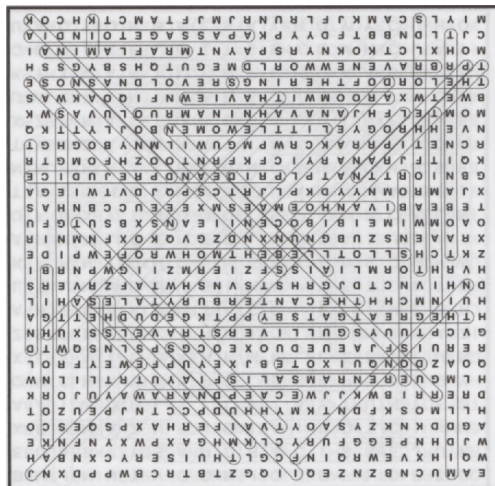
It is acknowledged that this makes contact with Lincoln u3a more difficult, but there are still ways in which this can be done:

- The website has a “Contacts” section, where an enquirer can click on a role title and send an email. This does not reveal the email or phone details of the person being contacted, but does route the email directly to them. For example, click on the “Groups Coordinator” button and a pro forma email layout is provided, which will be sent directly to Sarah Hawley;
- If you are not web-savvy, all of the Committee are listed at the front of the Magazine, with an email address, and the enquirer can send an email directly to the most appropriate Committee member;
- If you are not sure who to address your query to, just send an email to **lincolnu3a@gmail.com** This is monitored by two of our committee members, and they will route your enquiry on to the correct person.

We trust that you will understand why this has been done. Thank you.

John Wilson, Membership Secretary

(Please see the revised Group Leaders table opposite).



Lincoln u3a Group Leaders

<u>Group</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Art	Margaret Carstairs
Badminton	Rob Dummer
Circle Dancing	Linda Stringer
Creative Writing	Richard Stagg Penelope Hammerton
French Boule	Cynthia Knox
French Conversation	Christine Pritchard
Friday Gardens	Pam Ann
Mah Jong	John Wilson
New Age Curling	Linda Ash
Philosophy	Lindsay Cutts
Qi Gong	Barbara Bond
Quiz (General Knowledge)	Pat Lucas
Scrabble	Margaret Ford
Spanish Conversation	Mary York
Table Tennis - Monday	Elaine Lewis
Table Tennis - Wednesday	John Wilson
Table Tennis for All - Friday	Maria North
Ten Pin Bowling	Mike Lucas
Wednesday Lunches	Audrey Elliss
Walking Group - Tuesday	Lesley Tapley

If you wish more information about any of these groups, or wish to suggest a new one, please contact the Groups Co-ordinator, Sarah Hawley

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

Poetry: The Play of Words

Proposal for a new poetry appreciation group within Lincoln u3a

I first started a poetry appreciation group in 2007, based on my church community in Woodingdean, Sussex. This ran fortnightly until I left Sussex in 2022. The impetus was always my wish to share my love of poems, and in particular, the idea that poetry has to be read aloud, in company. A poem in print, and read silently, is only half alive. The sound of a poem is a kind of music, and that music is part of the meaning. Put another way, the music is the spirit of the poem.

I called my Sussex group "Poems Out Loud". Children love to be read to, as I did with my children; but adults read silently, or watch moving images. Our ability to listen whole-heartedly and without distraction has shrunk with lack of practice. Yet people always knew how to listen, repeat, and remember. The earliest poems would have been chanted, danced, and committed to memory as a communal act of participation; poetry came long before prose.

My voice is my special gift in reading out loud. The vital spirit of the poem, and the poet's voice, both seem to come alive in my throat and in my body. So I become a performer of the poem. I have also studied poetry all my life. I read spontaneously from writings old and new. We can therefore explore poets from 1370 to the present day, and develop that ancient skill of listening with wonder, joy, and laughter.

The group worked by being very relaxed, and we chatted about each poem, or I read it again. Not all poems are suitable for group sharing, of course -- too long, or too tightly packed. But everyone has favourite poets, and unique personal experiences of individual poems. We enrich each other when we tell those stories, and read or listen to the poem again.

My poetry qualifications include degrees at all levels, and years of study. I am a poet, and have been trying to write a decent poem since 1964. It's a work in progress, as they say. A poem is something to be feasted upon and celebrated, like a fine wine for the mind. It invites you to read and re-read it, each time revealing new patterns and meanings. Coming to love poems is a lifetime's journey, and I love to share that excitement.

Please get in touch if you would like to join the group. At present, the plan is to meet on a Monday afternoon for two hours, once a month, initially at my house in Thorpe-on-the-Hill. Once we get to know each other, we will finalise the arrangements to suit everyone.

Patrick Bond, 07425 011341. Email: patrickgpbond@yahoo.co.uk

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



The power of advertising!

In the previous Magazine, I advised that there would be a New Table Tennis session, on a Wednesday afternoon ... and we are now up and running with 11 members taking part!

We meet at Ruston's sports hall from 2pm to 4pm and can still take more players, as there are three tables available.



For further information, or to advise that you would like to join us, please contact John Wilson

We look forward to pinging your pong!

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 Group Leader via the website or at any Monthly Meeting.

Tuesday Trotters 2026



Group Leader - Lesley Tapley

May 12th	Linda and Elaine	(Le) Swanholme
May 26th	Janet and Keith	Normanby by Spital
June 9th	Elaine	(Lo) TBC
June 23rd	Lesley	TBC
July 14th	Linda and Elaine	(Le) TBC
July 28th	John	TBC
All walks are 5-6 miles long but there may on occasion be a shorter walk also available starting and finishing at the same place. Lunch is optional and all are most welcome.		
Contact by the u3A website or at the monthly meeting.		

Cover Picture:

Lincoln Cathedral viewed through the archway from Castle Square (Exchequer gate). Taken on 25 October 2025 on a dismally miserable, dreary, wet day. I got soaked through to the skin in an allegedly waterproof coat, having a walk in town, up Steep Hill, around the Bailgate, Church Lane, Northgate, where I waited for a bus opposite the hotel. Back into town in the dry bus! A much better walk when it is sunshining.

I was lucky that there are no obstructions in view, just a couple of cars in the distance. My Sister tried to take a similar picture today (15th April) and there was a car parked right in front, then a bus came round, and there were quite a lot of people about as a wedding was taking place on our right, and there was a lot of other people milling about too. I think the rain was probably instrumental in keeping the crowds away for my picture.

A lovely reflective shine to the wet road and pavements.

Picture was taken with a Samsung S23 camera/phone.



2026 Away Days

Stratford upon Avon—19 May

The trip will start from the North Hykeham Memorial Hall at 9.00am and you will be dropped in the centre of Stratford to enjoy the many delights of the town. The coach will return you to the Memorial Hall around 6.00pm. You may leave your car at the Hall. The cost is £35 per head for members (£40 for guests).



See Shakespeare's birthplace and Ann Hathaway's Cottage, visit a living history experience at Tudor World, take a canal & river tour down the Stratford Canal to the River Avon, see the sights from an open-top bus, or simply wander at your leisure around this historic town



Payments should be made by Lincoln u3a members using BACS to:

Sort code: 20-50-21 A/c No: 80886203

Please add your surname in the reference field.

Please let Andy Briggs the Social Secretary know when you have paid.

Call 07725 257440 or email briggsandrew272@gmail.com



Woodpeckers - Hartsholme Park. What appears to be the male feeding the female? Possible with eggs in a nest? No idea I am just guessing. Thanks to Vera Holmes for sending in the picture.



Doddington Hall. Top. These are young grebes, most likely Great Crested Grebe chicks. **Lower.** Common Moorhen chicks.

Thanks again to Vera Holmes for sending in both pictures.





A couple of pictures from our Christmas/December 2025 monthly meeting which I forgot about for the February 26 magazine. The Lincoln Ukulele Band performed Carols and other Christmas Songs, plus there was a quiz running through the performance too. It was a Jolly good sing-song. (Pictures by the Editor).



U3A Tea And Coffee Rota 2026

Refreshment Hostess - Linda Ash.



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

May 5th	Jude White, Jenny Evans, Christine ?, Viv Grayson
June 2nd	Lindsay Cutts, Lesley Tapley, Jan Phillips, Norman Phillips
July 7th	Jude White, Sue Williams



A Big Thank You to all our Volunteers for their help with the Teas and Coffees



sessions at our Monthly Meetings, as you can see more volunteers are needed. If you feel you can help, then please let Linda Ash know via the website, which date(s) you can help with. Alternatively, put your name in the book at any of the Monthly Meetings.

Any offers to fill the gaps in July and the remaining months of the year would be gratefully appreciated. Just one hour of your time, if you are able, would make all the difference. Thank you to everyone who helps.

Why Worry?

There are only to things you need to worry about; Either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well then there is nothing to worry about; But if you are sick, there are two things you need to worry about; Either you will get well, or you will die.

If you get weel, then there is nothing to worry about.

If you die, then there are only two things you need to worry about; Either you will go to Heaven or you will go to Hell.

If you go to Heaven, then there is nothing to worry about, but if you go to Hell, you'll be so damned busy shaking hands with friends, you won't have time to worry!

A bit of fun kindly submitted by Ted Groombridge....Don't Worry!

	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	
WEDNESDAY	French Boule 10am-11.30am 5th March until October	Table Tennis 2pm-4pm	French Boule 10am-11.30am 5th March until October	Table Tennis 2pm-4pm
THURSDAY		Mah-Jong 2.30pm-4.30pm Spanish Conversation 2pm-4pm	New Age Kurling 10.30am-12.30pm	Creative Writing 1pm-3pm for winter 2pm-4pm for summer French Conversation 2pm-3.30pm Spanish Conversation 2pm-4pm
FRIDAY	Table Tennis for All 10am-11am	Badminton 1.30pm-3.30pm	Friday Gardens 10.30am Qi Gong 10am-10.45am	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 Group Leader via the website or at any Monthly Meeting.

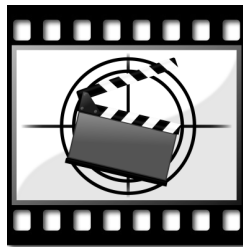
	WEEK THREE		WEEK FOUR	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
MONDAY	Ten Pin Bowling 9.45am for 10am start	Art 2pm-4pm Table Tennis 2pm-4pm Scrabble 2pm-4pm	Ten Pin Bowling 9.45 for 10am start Philosophy 10am-11.30am	Art 2pm-4pm Table Tennis 2pm-4pm
TUESDAY			Tuesday Trotters 9.45am for 10am	
WEDNESDAY	French Boule 10am-11.30am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

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, contact the Group Leader via the website or at any Monthly Meeting.

Seeking Film Buffs to Join a Group on Film Appreciation



Are you a film buff, or maybe somebody who just likes to watch films and talk about what you've seen? If so, would you be interested in joining a new Lincoln u3a group?

Sue Firth (Vice Chair and Webmaster) and Sarah Hawley (Groups Co-Ordinator) are proposing to set up a monthly group to run along the lines of a traditional reading group, but for films instead of books.

Each month one of the group would suggest a film for everyone to watch on one of the free streaming services (iPlayer, ITVX, YouTube, etc) and then the group would discuss the film at the next meeting. The person who had chosen the film could do a little background research to help them lead the group discussion. The areas looked at might, for example, be related to the genre of the film, the influences on the director, other similar films, the career of the leading actors – basically whatever they feel would be of interest.

The meetings will take place at Sarah's house in Lincoln. The day and time of the monthly meetings can be agreed by the initial group members before the first meeting.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Sue Firth by using the Webmaster contact link on the Lincoln u3a website or approach her at a monthly meeting.

SHEEPWASH COMMUNITY TRIPS
SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2026
SCARBOROUGH DAY TRIP
with theatre option
The Trial of Romeo Oscar

A new play written and directed by Alan Ayckbourn. In the year 2194, humanity is scattered around the solar system and day-to-day life on earth looks very different. Preparations are underway for a landmark legal case.

Romeo Oscar, a military issue android, is on trial for murder: the first non-human to be tried in a court of law. The circumstances surrounding the incident are unclear, the evidence is polarising and selecting an impartial jury is proving a challenge.

Alan Ayckbourn's latest play is a courtroom drama exploring a question that artists have been pursuing for centuries - what makes us human?

PROGRAMME

(Parking available by kind permission of Branston Community Academy)

Depart Branston Community Academy	7.45am
(Lincoln pick up by arrangement)	
Arrive Scarborough	10.40am
Performance (Stephen Joseph Theatre)	2.30pm
Depart Scarborough	5.45pm
Arrive Branston Community Academy	8.40pm

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

COST

Coach only	£21
Coach and Theatre ticket	£43

BOOKING

Please send **THE FULL AMOUNT** (stating number of coach and/or theatre seats required) to **Jacqui and Steve Spalding, Sheepwash Trips, 62 Washingborough Road, Heighington, Lincoln, LN4 1QR** or (Mob 07849 520247)

(If we are unavailable please leave a text message)

Cheques should be made payable to SHEEPWASH TRIPS

Please enclose Stamped Addressed for booking confirmation or further details

Stamp Collecting

Stamp collecting is the collecting of postage stamps and related objects. It is an area of philately, which is the study (or combined study and collection) of stamps. It has been one of the world's most popular hobbies since the late nineteenth century with the rapid growth of the postal service, as a stream of new stamps was produced by countries that sought to advertise their distinctiveness through their stamps.

Collecting

Stamp collecting is generally accepted as one of the areas that make up the wider subject of philately, which is the study of stamps. A philatelist may, but does not have to, collect stamps. It is not uncommon for the term philatelist to be used to mean a stamp collector. Many casual stamp collectors accumulate stamps for sheer enjoyment and relaxation without worrying about details. The creation of a large or comprehensive collection, however, generally requires some philatelic knowledge and will usually contain areas of philatelic studies.

Postage stamps are often collected for their historical value and geographical aspects and also for the many subjects depicted on them, ranging from ships, horses and birds to kings, queens and presidents. Before the era of jet travel, obtaining stamps from far away countries represented a way of learning something about that country and of having a souvenir made in that country.

Sales of postage stamps are an important source of income for some countries whose stamp issues may exceed their postal needs, but have designs that appeal to many stamp collectors.

History

It has been suggested that John Bourke, Receiver General of Stamp Dues in Ireland, was the first collector. In 1774, he assembled a book of the existing embossed revenue stamps, ranging in value from 6 pounds to half a penny, as well as the hand stamped charge marks that were used with them. His collection is preserved in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

Postage stamp collecting began at the same time that stamps were first issued, and by 1860 thousands of collectors and stamp dealers were appearing around the world as this new study and hobby spread across Europe, European colonies, the United States and other parts of the world.

The first postage stamp, the Penny Black, was issued by Britain in May 1840 and pictured a young Queen Victoria. It was produced without perforations (imperforate) and consequently had to be cut from the sheet with scissors in order to be used. While unused examples of the Penny Black are quite scarce, used examples are quite common, and may be purchased for \$20 to \$200, depending upon condition.

People started to collect stamps almost immediately. One of the earliest and most notable was John Edward Gray. In 1862, Gray stated that he "began to collect postage stamps shortly after the system was established and before it had become a rage".

Female stamp collectors date from the earliest days of postage stamp collecting. One of the earliest was Adelaide Lucy Fenton who wrote articles in the 1860s for the journal *The Philatelist* under the name Herbert Camoens.

As the hobby and study of stamps began to grow, stamp albums and stamp related literature began to surface, and by the early 1880s publishers like Stanley Gibbons made a business out of this advent.

Children and teenagers were early collectors of stamps in the 1860s and 1870s. Many adults dismissed it as a childish pursuit but later many of those same collectors, as adults, began to systematically study the available postage stamps and publish books about them. Some stamps, such as the triangular issues of the Cape of Good Hope, have become legendary.

By the early 2000s, stamp collecting was seen to be in decline as the digital world surpassed traditional hobbies even though by 2013, *The Wall Street Journal* estimated the global number of stamp collectors was around 60 million. However, the hobby's unexpected appeal for a millennial audience was observed in a 2020 article for *The Guardian*.

Equipment

A few basic items of equipment are recommended for proper stamp collection. Stamp tongs help to handle stamps safely, a magnifying glass helps in viewing fine details and an album is a convenient way to store stamps. The stamps need to be attached to the pages of the album in some way, and stamp hinges are a cheap and simple way to do this. However, hinging stamps can damage them, thus reducing their value; today many collectors prefer more expensive hingeless mounts. Issued in various sizes, these are clear, chemically neutral thin plastic holders that open to receive stamps and are gummed on the back so that they stick to album pages. Another alternative is a stockbook, where the stamps drop into clear pockets without the need for a mount. Stamps should be stored away from light, heat and moisture or they will be damaged.

Acquiring stamps

The main ways of acquiring stamps are through retail market stamp dealers who have online websites, or post on eBay or other forums, and conduct local stamp show dealer "bourse" events. The way to buy wholesale is to attend auctions and there are many auction companies around the world that offer regular auctions, most lots sold at one advance over the underbidder no matter what the price. These are called unreserved auctions. Reserved auctions are the same except a minimum price or "reserve" is set to ensure the stamp does not sell below this level. If during the auction there are no bidders for the lot at the reserve price then the lot will be left unsold in the auction.

Buying at auction takes knowing the market and what stamps are worth at both a wholesale market level and what they can be then sold for in a retail market. Stamp values are heavily skewed to quality. The same stamp can sell for drastically different prices due to quality. The most sought after stamps are those that are fresh, have white

non-toned paper, have no hidden faults like hidden creases or thins, do not have any repairs and have not been regummed with fraudulent gum. Stamp pricing is also based on the look of the stamp, and the stamp that has an image that is very well centered will sell well. Mint (not used) full original gum stamps that have never been hinged will always sell for premiums. It is important to have certificates for rare and high quality stamps to certify they are fault free and genuine in all respects. Foundations like the Vincent Graves Greene are well respected for certifying Canadian stamps. They check for hidden faults like creases, tears and thins as well as lightened cancellations, repairs, re-perforated perforations and re-applied (regummed) fake gum.

Stamp list pricing is set in various stamp catalogues. For US and Canada stamps the standard catalogue is the Scott catalogue using Scott numbers. For Canadian stamps there is a specialized catalogue called the Unitrade (which reflects more accurately the actual values of the stamps vs the Scott catalogue values), and for Great Britain and Commonwealth stamps most collectors use Stanley Gibbons catalogues. Typically stamps will sell at auction for a range of 10–30% of catalogue list price, but if the stamp is of the very top quality then the sell price may exceed the catalogue list price. As with many collectables with no inherent value, sell pricing is set by the market bidding on the item at the time.

Many collectors also ask their family and friends to save stamps for them from their mail. Although the stamps received by major businesses and those kept by elderly relatives may be of international and historical interest, the stamps received from family members are often of the definitive sort. Definitives seem mundane but, considering their variety of colours, watermarks, paper differences, perforations and printing errors, they can fill many pages in a collection. Introducing either variety or specific focus to a collection can require the purchasing of stamps, either from a dealer or online. Online stamp collector clubs often contain a platform for buying/selling and trading. Large numbers of relatively recent stamps, often still attached to fragments or envelopes, may be obtained cheaply and easily. Rare and old stamps can also be obtained, but these can be very expensive.

Duplicate stamps are those a collector already has and are not required, therefore, to fill a gap in a collection. Duplicate stamps can be sold or traded, so they are an important medium of exchange among collectors.

Many dealers sell stamps through the Internet while others have neighborhood shops which are among the best resources for beginning and intermediate collectors. Some dealers also jointly set up week-end stamp markets called "bourses" that move around a region from week to week. One of the most well known bourses is the Carré Marigny in Paris. They also meet collectors at regional exhibitions and stamp shows.

Collecting specialties

A worldwide collection would be enormous, running to thousands of volumes, and would be incredibly expensive to acquire. Many consider that Count Philipp von Ferrary's collection at the beginning of the 20th century was the most complete ever formed. Many collectors limit their collecting to particular countries, certain time periods or particular subjects (called "topicals") like birds or aircraft.

Some of the more popular collecting areas include:

Postage stamps – particular countries and/or time periods

Airmail stamps – stamps may be required for airmail, which is typically more expensive and has special postage rates.

Commemorative stamps – stamps to commemorate events, anniversaries, etc., on sale for a limited time.

Definitive stamps – the most common type of stamps

Postage due stamps are special stamps applied by a post office to mail bearing insufficient postage. The stamps were issued in several denominations to make up different amounts due.

Topical stamp collecting - many collectors choose to organize their philatelic collection on the theme of the stamps, covers, or postmarks. Popular topical themes are animals, dogs, cats, butterflies, birds, flowers, art, sports, Olympics, maps, Disney, scouting, space, ships, Americana (topics relating to the US), stamps on stamps, famous people, chess, Chinese new year, and many others.

Birds, Cats, Coffees, Ships, Insects, People, Stamps on stamps

Postal stationery – includes government-issued postal cards, aerograms, letter card, wrappers, envelopes, etc., that usually have an imprinted stamp.

Sheets

Sheetlets – this is a format that is now issued regularly by postal administrations.

Instead of issuing stamps in large sheets of 40, 100 or even 200 stamps, smaller sheetlets with 20 to 24 stamps are issued with a large selvedge area which may incorporate part of the stamp design or theme.

Souvenir sheets – many postal services sometimes release stamps in a format that look like a sheet with a big picture. Various parts of the picture can be torn out and used as postage stamps. Souvenir sheets should be distinguished from souvenir cards, which are souvenirs of a philatelic meeting or exhibition but are not valid for postage.

Miniature sheet – is very similar to a souvenir sheet, being in a sheetlet with a single or a number of stamps embedded in it.

Corner blocks or plate blocks – compose a block of stamps from one of the four corners of the stamp sheet. Collectors usually opt for a block of four stamps, complete with the selvedge area which will sometimes have the printing details on it.

Coil strips – Pairs or more of stamps from rolls, premium ones showing the plate number or a coil line pair which shows the seam between the edges of the plate.

Revenue stamps – stamps issued to pay taxes.

Federal Duck Stamps (stamps for duck hunting licenses, mainly U.S. with some other countries such as Canada and New Zealand)

First day cover (FDCs) – envelopes with stamps attached and canceled on the first day that the stamp was issued. Most modern FDCs bear designs, called "cachets", related to the theme of the stamp issued.

Maximum cards – these are postcards where the stamp is on the same side as the picture and they have a close connection.

Souvenir pages – with first day canceled stamps on a page describing all design, printing and issuing details. These are similar to first day covers except that they are issued as printed sheets of paper instead of envelopes, and the specification of the stamp is

printed by the official source.

Cinderella stamps – stamp-like labels that are not valid for postage.

Postmarks or postal markings in general.

Organizations

There are thousands of organizations for collectors: local stamp clubs, special-interest groups, and national organizations. Most nations have a national collectors' organization, including the American Philatelic Society (APS) in the United States; the Royal Philatelic Society London and Philatelic Traders Society in United Kingdom; and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. The Internet has greatly expanded the availability of information and made it easier to obtain stamps and other philatelic material. The American Topical Association is now a part of the APS and promotes thematic collecting as well as encouraging sub-groups of numerous topics. The Collectors Club, often referred to as the Collectors Club of New York, is a private club and philatelic society in New York City. Founded in 1896, it is one of the oldest existing philatelic societies in the United States. This club like many others has made the transition to Zoom virtual meetings due to Covid and has decided to keep the forum for the future as membership and attendance at club events has grown substantially since they have made their meetings accessible via the internet.

Stamp clubs and philatelic societies can add a social aspect to stamp collecting and provide a forum where novices can meet experienced collectors. Although such organizations are often advertised in stamp magazines and online, the relatively small number of collectors – especially outside urban areas – means that a club may be difficult to set up and sustain. The Internet partially solves this problem, as the association of collectors online is not limited by geographical distance. For this reason, many highly specific stamp clubs have been established on the Web, with international membership.

Organizations such as the Cinderella Stamp Club (UK) retain hundreds of members interested in a specific aspect of collecting. Social organizations, such as the Lions Club and Rotary International, have also formed stamp collecting groups specific to those stamps that are issued from many countries worldwide that display the organization's logo.

Rare stamps

Rare stamps are often old and many have interesting stories attached to them. Some include:

British Guiana 1c magenta is the world's most famous and valuable rare stamp.

Canada 12d Penny Black

Canada 2c Large Queen on laid paper

Hawaiian Missionary Issue

United States "Inverted Jenny" (which is actually a printing error)

United States "1-cent Z grill"

United States One Dollar Trans-Mississippi Issue "Cattle in the Storm" – widely considered to be America's Most Beautiful Stamp

The Three-Skilling Yellow of Sweden was sold for CHF 2.88 million (then about \$2,300,000) in 1996 and again for an undisclosed amount in 2010.

Mauritius "Post Office" issue. David Feldman sold a Blue Mauritius stamp for CHF 1,610,000 (approx. \$1.1 million) in 1993. An orange stamp was sold for CHF 1,725,000 (approx \$1.2 million) in 1993.

British Penny Red plate 77

Notable collectors

The stamp collection assembled by French-Austrian aristocrat Philipp von Ferrary (1850–1917) at the beginning of the 20th century is widely considered the most complete stamp collection ever formed (or likely to be formed). It included, for example, all of the rare stamps described above that had been issued by 1917. However, as Ferrary was an Austrian citizen, the collection was broken up and sold by the French government after the First World War, as war reparations.

The Tapling Collection of postage stamps was donated to the British Museum from the estate of Thomas Tapling in 1891. It currently forms the Tapling Collection in the Philatelic Collections of the British Library.

Several European monarchs were keen stamp collectors, including King George V of the United Kingdom and King Carol II of Romania. King George V possessed one of the most valuable stamp collections in the world and became President of the Royal Philatelic Society. His collection was passed on to Queen Elizabeth II who, while not a serious philatelist, had a collection of British and Commonwealth first day covers which she started in 1952.

U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a stamp collector; he designed several American commemorative stamps during his term. Late in life Ayn Rand renewed her childhood interest in stamps and became an enthusiastic collector. Several entertainment and sport personalities have been known to be collectors. Freddie Mercury, lead singer of the band Queen, collected stamps as a child. His childhood stamp album is in the collection of the British Postal Museum & Archive. John Lennon of The Beatles was a childhood stamp collector. His stamp album is held by the National Postal Museum.

Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov has amassed a huge stamp collection over the decades, led by stamps from Belgium and Belgian Congo, that has been estimated to be worth \$15 million.

Herbert Pitman, best known for being third officer and survivor of RMS Titanic, was an avid, life-long stamp collector. He brought his collection aboard Titanic with him; it was subsequently lost in the sinking.

Some stamp collecting examples are shown on page 31.

(With thanks to Dave for help in compiling this article).

What's the point?

I am of course referring to an acupuncture point – and we will be exploring energy channels and therapeutic touch at a special workshop in June (details below)

QiGong – or nurturing your life force, is a recognised part of East Asian Medicine. In Japan, certainly in 20th century, this knowledge of energetic pathways was widely applied as shiatsu. This therapeutic bodywork was common in supporting family and friends with everyday wellness.

A German physio and shiatsu practitioner, Karin Kalbantner- Wernicke, spent some years working in Japan alongside the traditional midwives, learning how they applied the East Asian medicine understanding of energetic development and brought back to the West a programme for a more embodied approach to child development than we currently use. She called it the Samurai programme because as well as being strong and brave, the Samurai had a very strong morality, were creative and the Samurai tradition had equally important roles for men and women.

Karin and her husband, Thomas, a Doctor also noted that for older people – especially those who lived in care settings, connecting with others via touch could be very restricted. And so a programme for Adults came into being.

I went to Glasgow to study with her – a plan interrupted by the pandemic. Whilst it was very frustrating to have my studies put on hold, caring for people in those times really illustrated how important touch and connection is.

We will be exploring working in pairs on each others hands, arms, back and shoulders. The whole session is seated and both the “giver” and the “receiver” benefit from the routine. We will swap so you can experience both roles.

The session will equip you to do doing relaxing bodywork on your family and friends. If you know any one who is a carer, this is particularly supportive for them.



Samurai Shiatsu Workshop

June 26th 11-12.00 Rustons Newark Rd LN6 8RN

Free for QiGong Group members

Non QG group members welcome £5

please contact me via the website to book a place



Do you remember some of these?

I certainly do, and I used to collect a few of them also in my younger days!

25 used rainbow old British postage stamps, with over 60 years of philatelic history! The monarchs featured are:
 - King Edward VIII - King George V - King George VI - Queen Elizabeth II (all pre-decimalisation, so older than 1971!)



Queen Victoria's profile was a staple on 19th century stamps of the British Empire, shown here on a half-penny stamp of the Falkland Islands, 1891.



First UK commemorative stamps, 1924



United States Air Mail stamp depicting birds



Your 2026 Committee as elected at the 2026 AGM: (l-r) Mary York, Sarah Hawley, Sally Graves, Jim Innes, Sue Firth, Anita Innes, Andy Briggs, John White.

From the Editor:

My inbox is at andrewbradley@railmags.org

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 must 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 2026 issue should be with me no later than 13 July 2026. You don't have to wait till the deadline! This is your Magazine, I only do the editing.

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