



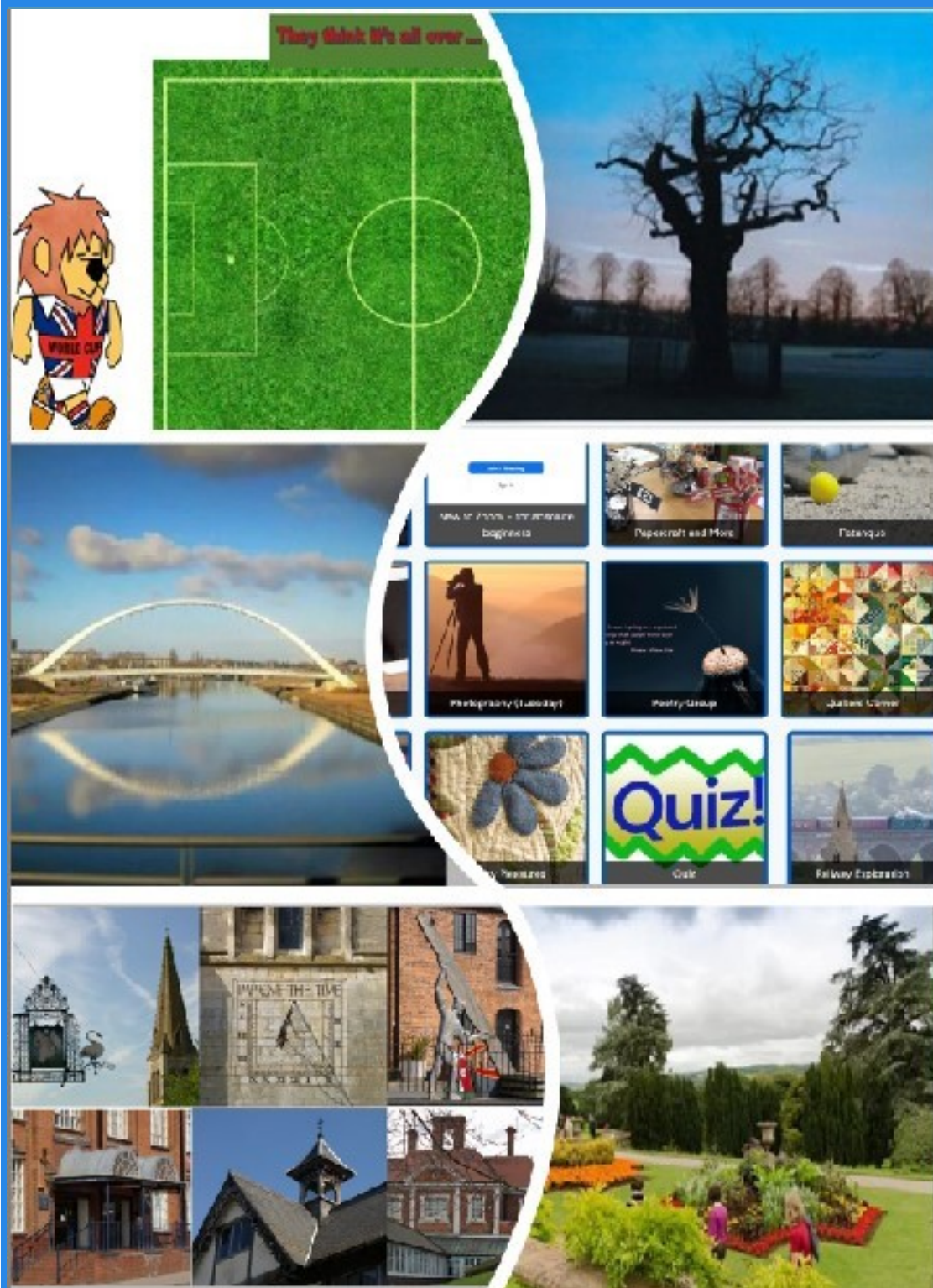
learn,
laugh,
live

HWu3a

Newsletter of the
Harborough Welland u3a

Issue No. 2

February 2022



We have lift-off!



An interview with Stella Freeman, Vice Chair of HWu3a

Q. Stella, for the benefit of the former slu3a members, could you explain your role(s) in the Market Harborough u3a?

A. I joined Market Harborough u3a with my late husband in 2013, we found we could enjoy speakers at the General and garden group meetings together despite his frailty. When I returned in 2015, on my own, I found being involved with the work of the u3a was a great help.

In my time in office, first as Group Coordinator and then as Chair, I saw many changes but always had a great deal of support from membership and committee. I tried to engender a friendly and welcoming atmosphere at all our meetings. When Ruth Wallet decided to give up organising the garden group in 2018, I was happy to take over. Unfortunately, after just one year, Covid closed everything down.

Q. We understand that when the Steering Committee finishes, it is your intention to step down from being a trustee. What will you do then?

A. I plan to do more travelling while I am still able to drive myself and get out and about. I would like to go abroad again when things have settled down, but there are many places nearer home that are well worth a visit.

For many years I have been involved in organising festivals to raise funds and awareness at my local church; I will continue to do this. Much of the fund raising comes from my home-made produce, so jam, marmalade and chutney making will keep me busy.

I also enjoy singing with Harborough Choral and taking part in concerts. These have become less frequent due to Covid restrictions but hopefully we will get a few more opportunities before my voice cracks too much.

Q. Gardens and gardening are obviously a focal point in your life. When do you think this first started?

A. My parents were keen gardeners, and I was encouraged to help; I can remember washing flowerpots with Jeyes fluid and my hands smelling of the stuff for hours.

When we had our own garden we took pleasure in planning it and drew on all the skills picked up from spending time on parents' allotments. I even competed in flower shows, showing dahlias at local and national events. I remember driving down the Edgware Road early in the morning with a car full of dahlias on our way to the Royal Horticultural halls.

Q. You have organised many visits to various gardens. What is your favourite Spring and Summer garden to visit?

A. Garden design is an art form and very much a matter of personal taste. I like naturalistic gardens, with moving water and natural looking planting, like Bodnant gardens in north Wales or the Beth Chatto gardens in Essex. My real favourite is the Longstock water garden in Hampshire built on disused gravel pits and full of hostas. Although I do admire a striped lawn.

Q. How would you describe your own garden? Given perfect conditions, what would you like to grow that you cannot, at the moment?

A. My garden is constantly evolving, as any garden should. A garden is never ever finished. It may not be to everyone's taste, but it works for me. Visitors have said that they feel relaxed



in my garden which is the perfect compliment.

I open for the National Garden Scheme and for various other charities in the summer. I well remember the sense of pride and relief when we were accepted for the "yellow book".

The secret of successful gardening is to put a plant where it wants to grow; I have given up struggling to grow things that are just not happy in my conditions such as meconopsis or Himalayan poppies which grow like weeds in parts of Scotland but don't like my well-drained soil and lack of shade. I brought some protea seeds back from South Africa where I was assured that they would grow in the UK. I managed to germinate them but then they disliked the British winter. I will stick to what I know works.

My plan for the future is to continue to share my love of gardening with my garden visitors and my Garden Group friends in HWu3a.



Why not join our STAR volunteers? This is what two of them say

Pat

I don't want to be on the committee but I want to support them by doing some of the smaller, occasional tasks like the refreshments at general meetings. I also get to talk to lots of different people this way.

Sylvia

It was a job that needed to be done. I like meeting and greeting people and chatting to them. I've run the rota for a number of years now.

If you'd like to join our STARs, please contact Kate, call 07817 735784 or by email: marketing@hwu3a.org.uk. The more volunteers we have the less often you have to do the job. Remember HWu3a is run 'by the members for the members'.

They think it's all over....

1 What was the name of the trophy? (two words, not World Cup!)

Q2 Apart from Geoff Hurst, who else scored for England?

Q3 What colour shirts did the West German team wear?

Q4 Who was wearing No9 for England?

Q5 "There are fans on the pitch. They think it's all over..."

5a Who uttered these words?

5b What happened next on the pitch?

5c Which words followed.. ?

Answers? Turn to page 14

Dear Readers, I received many replies to my request for stories with a Valentine theme, all of them very touching, either from couples who met long before U3A and are still living happily together after several decades (Medals all around). Sadly, some told me of deceased partners and how much they were still missed. Thank you for all your replies. However, there was one reply which 'ticked all the boxes', including photo of the happy couple. It's a classic girl meets boy tale with a U3A twist. Thank you, Susan (and Philip).



Dave Martin

I joined the U3A when I retired and was looking forward to meeting new people and learning new things. I became part of a walking group where I met Philip who stood out in his country gentleman tweeds and we started to chat on the walks. We met again at the architecture group where he could frequently be found dozing at the back of the room. Fortunately, he woke up, we went for a coffee, and the rest, as they say, is history!



HWU3A BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 21st MAY 2022
 JUBILEE HALL, CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 MARKET HARBOROUGH
LIVE BAND AND CALLER, BAR, LIGHT SUPPER
 7.30 till 10.30pm
 Tickets available from Sharon Webb 07886855931
 Also at meeting in the Methodist Church, Mon. Feb 28th

LES MISERABLES

Milton Keynes Theatre, 12th May, 2.30pm
 Ticket and coach: £53, MH Bus Station 10.30am
 To book contact Maryan Richardson 01858 462573

HALF A SIXPENCE

Kilworth House Theatre
 Wed. 10 August, 2.30 matinee
 Cost £45, book by 20 March
 To book please ring Sue Colledge 01162593209
 Make your own way

HWu3a Holiday in Northumberland

11-15 September 2022
 Derwent Manor Hotel, Consett
 Booked through Norman Allen Group Travel
 More Info: Maryan 01858 462573 or
 trips1@hwu3a.org.uk
Details of all these trips on our website HWu3a.org.uk

VASL Needs Volunteers



VASL needs volunteers for:

- Driving people to appointments
- Phone calls to unpaid carers
- Calls to people who want to improve their wellbeing
- Calls/visits to lonely older people

Training and expenses provided

Call, email or apply online

www.vasl.org.uk

T: 01858 433 232

E: admin@vasl.org

Scan the QR code to go directly to the website



The Oak Tree

Sitting in Great Bowden Park is a wonderful old oak tree which is gnarled, missing branches and bark and looking rather forlorn. The tree is an amazing 480 years old having been planted in the 1540's, by my reckoning during the reign of King Henry VIII (I am sure that if I am wrong somebody in one of the U3A History groups will put me right).



The good news is either the Local Council or some Heritage Organisation has undertaken to try and re generate both its life and growth; whilst walking my dog in the park I met with a village local who seemed to be the local sage/arboriculturist who had witnessed the process at other locations where they can "bring a tree back to life". Incidentally it does not involve any of the techniques Frankenstein employed.

They have dug away the earth in about a 4 metre circumference of the tree and this area has been lined with a life giving substance to add nutrition, and fenced off for protection.

As I walk the park on a daily basis, I will be keeping an eye out for any new signs of life, but in reality, it could be another 480 years before anybody will know if the process has been a success.

Gavin Ramsay



Art History

The programme this year will use DVDs from the BBC series 'The Private Life of a Masterpiece' as well as contributions from the group on an agreed theme. Our 'Masterpiece' for February is 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' which is a wood-block print by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai. It was published sometime between 1829 and 1833 as the first print in Hokusai's series, 'Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji'. The

image depicts an enormous wave threatening three boats off the coast in the bay while a snow-capped Mount Fuji rises in the background. In Japanese woodblock printing the artist's final sketch is taken to a block carver, who glues the thin paper to a block of wood and then carefully carves it away to form a relief of the lines of the image. In the process, the drawing is lost. With all the necessary blocks in place (usually one for each colour) a printer places the printing paper on each block consecutively and rubs the back with a hand-tool. There could be a great number of impressions produced, sometimes thousands, before the blocks wore out. This image was a best seller and it is likely that around 5,000 prints were taken but many were destroyed in wars, earthquakes and fires.

In March we will look at 'Arrangement in Grey and Black No.1' (better known as 'Whistler's Mother'). This oil painting was created by the American-born painter James McNeill Whistler in 1871. It is held by the [Musée d'Orsay](#) in [Paris](#), having been bought by the French state in 1891.

u3a Online Learning Events: There are two art talks coming up. They are free and held online via Zoom:

Rembrandt and the Third Age (repeat talk) on Tuesday 15th February at 10 am.

Geometric Abstraction on Thursday 24th February at 2 pm.

For more information and to register go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Angela Deane arthistory@hwu3a.org.uk

The Coffee Hub (via Zoom)

Next Session – Tuesday, 22nd February 2022, 10.30am – 11.45am

Why not come and join us for an online alternative to traditional group meetings. The format of each monthly session varies and would appeal to a wide range of members. You can expect a variety of topics, guests, short talks, quizzes and games. The emphasis is on providing an informal meeting place where members learn something new, share ideas and get to know each other better. We sometimes divide into 'coffee tables' (smaller groups) to make it easier to talk on Zoom. Occasionally, we also meet for coffee in person.

We have a very chilled out session for you this month! Our special 'pop up' guest will be Carmen Harrington, a Hypnotherapist, from ['Inspired to Change'](#). Carmen will give us a fascinating overview of hypnotherapy and lead us through a calming relaxation session at the end of her talk. To find out more about The Coffee Hub and be included on our mailing list for the Zoom link, please email me. [Denise Smith](mailto:Denise.Smith@hwu3a.org.uk), coffee.hub@hwu3a.org.uk

Discovering Poetry

After a very pleasant session reading poems on Wishes and Hopes at the Three Swans, followed by lunch, we shall return to the upper room in the Methodist church at the beginning of February when the theme will be Feeling cold – Keeping warm. We meet on the first Friday of the month at 10 am.

Jill Hart

Drawing & Painting

Artists in residence again! I am pleased to report that the Drawing and Painting Group is resuming meetings from Thursday 3rd February at 2pm at Oxendon Village Hall. We shall be delighted to welcome members old and new, but would ask that no one attends if they have any sort of cold like symptoms. To ensure maximum safety, we also ask that anyone attending completes a negative lateral flow test prior to meeting. Some members have indicated that they want to wear masks throughout our time together. Anyone who cannot, or who does not wish to do this, must please be extra vigilant in maintaining social distancing. We do hope that with good ventilation in the room, well spaced out tables and chairs, and sensible precautions, everyone will be able to relax and enjoy each other's company, and rekindle the hobby we enjoy so much.

Elaine Scarlett



A Quiz from Richard Underwood – Sounds the same / spelt differently. 2 answers to each question.. Answers on Page 9

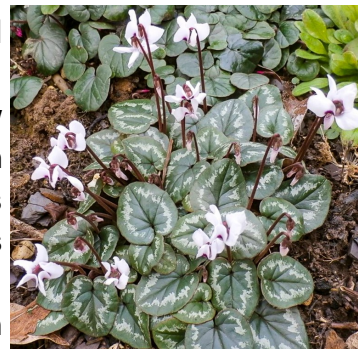
1. DNA in casual wear
2. Ejected from the seat of power
3. Hid in the corner like a yellow-belly
4. Kismet at the local fund-raiser
5. Something for a computer nerd to get his teeth into
6. Rotate to play this part
7. A perjurer playing an ancient instrument
8. A bitter taste in the mouth of an old Frenchman
9. A local dignitary riding a horse
10. Remained respectable

Garden Group

We got off to a fantastic start with a well attended first meeting and growing interest from members who now number more than 100.

Our speaker on Feb.17th will be Colin Ward from Swines Meadow nursery. Colin has entitled his talk "Colins Choice" which gives him free reign to talk about a range of items. Swines meadow specialises in exotics and our speaker said he would have a look to see what is beginning to grow in these cold winter months.

In my garden the stars of the show this month are the Coum Cyclamen, pictured, which are popping up all over the place. "If winter's here can spring be far behind?"



Stella Freeman and Janet Bignell



The Jordan Jammers have been rehearsing weekly in Braybrooke Village Hall. They had time to stop for a photoshoot, including vocalist Fiona. Your next chance to see them – well, two of them, will be at the get together meeting on Feb 28th when Bob and Alan will bring their guitars along. You will be encouraged to have a go! D.M

Local History

A record number of members attended the first meeting under the umbrella of the Harborough Welland u3a. We welcomed Mike Stroud who gave us a potted history of the Symington brothers, William and James, and their families – the talk was entitled Soups to Suspenders.

They both hailed from Scotland and William, whilst travelling around this area, thought Market Harborough would be an ideal town to establish a shop selling tea and coffee. Over the years he had shops in various locations in the town. The range of goods expanded to include coffee bean roasting, pea flour, table creams, custard powder, etc, all produced at the building we all know on Springfield Street/Northampton Road.

James joined his brother in Market Harborough, but as a tailor, hatter and staymaker and his wife Sarah made corsets by hand. Their eldest son Robert met Isaac Singer, of sewing machine fame, and this led to the first machine-made corsets. Over the years the business expanded and, of course, produced the famous liberty bodices. The old factory now houses the council offices/library/museum. There were also many more factories in the UK, plus New Zealand and Australia.



Photo by John Hammond

Sadly nothing remains of these businesses in Market Harborough today, having been swallowed up by large conglomerates. The Symingtons and their descendants certainly had a huge impact on Market Harborough, employing many people and boosting the importance of the town.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 15 February, we welcome Colin Cohen – A Hypothetical History: The London That Never Was. Please note that the doors of the Methodist Church will be open from 1.45 pm with the talk commencing at 2.15 pm. We look forward to seeing you all.

Avril Pell and Ian Webb

local.history@hwu3a.org.uk

The HWu3a Choir

We have changed our name from The Ladies Choir to **The HWu3a Choir**. We hope this will attract more gentlemen to enquire about joining. SLu3a members may recall that we once had a good male section but due to changing circumstances these numbers reduced until we had none. We have just started to rehearse works by Andrew Lloyd Webber which, of course, include male parts. So please gentlemen, and ladies, we need you. We are a very friendly group and if you feel you would enjoy a good sing please get in touch.

Joy Swallow 01858 462368

New to Zoom

Next Session – Tuesday, 22nd February 2022 between 9.30am – 10.15am

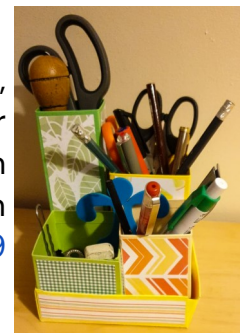
Our friendly sessions are designed especially for beginners so, if you are not familiar yet with using Zoom, why not come along. Zoom is a useful program to learn as it will expand the range of activities you can enjoy with the HWU3A. It will also allow you to join in with National U3A events on Zoom and connect with family and friends in different locations from the comfort of your own home.

You will learn how to set up your computer, iPad/tablet or smartphone with Zoom; adjust your settings, view meetings in different ways, use the Chat facility and switch subtitles on or off. You can come to one or two sessions or as many times as you like until you feel confident. To receive more information and the Zoom link to the meeting, email: d_a_smith35@hotmail.com [Denise Smith](#)



Papercraft and more

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy crafting together, having fun and laughing a lot. We made this desk tidy for our first meeting 'face to face' after a year or more of zoom demonstrations. If you are interested in coming to join us in Foxton Village Hall then please ring [Jan Collins 01858 462409](tel:01858462409) or email eldondon@btinternet.com.



Wildlife

The wildlife group met at Waterloo Farm on a cold frosty but gloriously sunny morning in January and we set off to walk along part of the Brampton Valley Way. Our main focus was to look for Lichens. Once we started to look Lichens appeared to be everywhere and we had soon found all three main types of these fascinating organisms, bushy, leafy and crusty. Lots of mossy red and green galls known as Robin's Pincushions were seen on wild roses and there were dense green clumps of mosses thriving in the damp and shady conditions of the old railway line. Several Fieldfares, the larger of our two winter visitor thrushes, were observed feeding on berries and a Redwing, Yellowhammer, Song thrush and numerous Blackbirds, Great tits and Robins were seen. On the nearby lakes a Heron and Moorhens were spotted and a Buzzard perched on a hedgerow a short distance away from a Red Kite. There were lots of signs of Badger activity where holes had been dug in their search for grubs. We



ended the visit taking much needed refreshments in the lovely warm conservatory of the Waterloo Farm tearoom.

Diana Baxter

Wine Tasting

Our theme for this year is Celebrations, a perfect start to the year as we celebrated the newly formed HWu3a. Each month we will be tasting three wines: sparkling, white and red.

Our first wine was a Cremen du Loire which at £8.95 from Lidl was not only good value but a lovely dry (but not too dry) start to the evening. As suggested it would be delicious served as an aperitif with savoury canapés. The Sancerre from Sainsbury's at £15 was an opportunity to try a wine costing more than any of us would usually spend (one of the benefits of being part of a group) but was rather disappointing.

We finished with a Sainsbury's Taste The Difference Zinfandel, a firm favourite in our household and well received by the rest of the group. It's tasting notes say it all: Rich, ripe and juicy, this delicious Zinfandel ticks all the boxes for red wine lovers - velvety smooth, bags of plum and damson fruit and a vanilla spice kick

Naomi Shaw

Ukulele Group

The Ukulele Group met up for two sessions in January, and continued a theme of working our way alphabetically through song titles. We now reached 'R' and 'S', performing songs such as 'Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head' (as featured in The Sting) and 'Streets of London' (which was originally written as Streets of Paris). Not too many song titles to go before we reach 'Z'; are there any beginning with Z? Keep Strummin'. Be Happy

David Evans 01858 463045

Cycling

Two local 15 mile routes for members to try out: Our 1st Friday ride in January was a local 15 miler from East Farndon, around to Clipston & Arthingworth, see map below. We cancelled the longer 3rd Friday ride as it was -4 the night before and many of the little lanes we use don't get gritted. Our ride on Friday 4th Feb is another local 15 miler from Gumley. [See the maps in the cycling section on the website.](#) If you'd like to join the cycle group contact me



kevinamillard@gmail.com



If you are reading this on line, click on the image to read about what sounds like it could be a fun filled session (or visit hwu3a.org.uk and find it on the home page). A volunteer might like to set this up with host Roger, maybe near the April HWu3a launch event. If you are interested in organising this please contact us on enquiries@hwu3a.org.uk.

Answers for Richard's quiz (page 6) : 1. genes/jeans, 2. Thrown/throne, 3. cowered/coward, 4. fate/fete, 5. byte/bite, 6. roll/role, 7. liar/lyre, 8.gall/Gaul, 9. mayor/mare, 10. stayed/staid

Don't read this until you have seen the puzzles on page 14

And Rob's: 40

Answers for Phil's: They are the villages in Leicestershire that are furthest in the west south east and north directions respectively.

Walking All Day

The walk on 24th February 2022, will be led by Liz Brett and starts from the car park of The Horse and Jockey, Manton, Rutland, LE15 8SU at 10.00am. Please arrive in time to pre-book lunch. The 5 mile walk, takes in the village of Brooke, before heading back to Manton past the site of the medieval village of Martinthorpe. The walk is mostly on bridleways and field tracks, there are no styles or steep hills! Eddie or Edith Dixon Tel: 01858 468758.

Walking Half Day 4

Although originally it had been decided not to have a walk in January, a number of members seemed disappointed, so a last minute shortish walk was arranged. We had eleven walkers enjoying a walk from Gumley, across the fields to Foxton Locks and Foxton village, on a pleasantly warm and sunny morning, returning along the canal towpath to the always excellent hospitality at The Bell.

Our next walk will be on Thursday 24th February, starting from The Wharf at Welford – postcode NN6 6JQ. This will be led by Brian and Ann Knowles, and is about five miles, across field paths and tracks, and along by the canal. Please meet at 10.00 – 10.15am, so that we can order lunch and leave by 10.30am. If you would like to join the walk, please contact Brian and Ann by Monday 21st February - e-mail: brian.knowles3333@gmail.com.

Mike & Brenda Saywood 01536 770431, 07941 307 358, walking4.thursday@hwu3a.org.uk

Walking Third Thursday

Meet at 10.00a.m., Thursday 17th February in Smeeton Westerby at the junction of Mill Lane and Main Street, near the King's Head pub. Park in Mill Lane or Mill Close (where safe and not blocking a drive entrance). The walk will be 4–5miles long and will aim to be back at the cars about 12.30. The route will depend on weather conditions eg dry, wet, muddy or icy, but will probably be mainly on wide track and towpath. Stout walking shoes or boots are recommended. Please let Peter know if you plan to come. If you have any queries please phone 01858 432886 or email peterdevineuk@btinternet.com

Peter Devine

Walking Wednesday half day

Our first HWu3a walk was a 'lollypop' one from Brixworth Country Park on a beautiful, calm, sunny morning. A really good turnout saw 20 of us set off across Pitsford Water dam then

follow the perimeter path along the southern edge of the reservoir as far as Stone Barn Bay. Here we took the footpath off to the right and at the junction took the Pitsford fork that took us along field edges to the junction with the Centenary Way. Here, with a great view over the reservoir we stopped for a coffee break before continuing on past Moulton Grange Farm and Moulton Grange itself. Carrying on down the approach road we regained the perimeter path by Moulton Bay and thus back over the dam to the Country Park and our cars.

Bruce White



Wednesday Strollers

The walk on Wednesday 9th March will be led by Les Dodd. It is from Maidwell. The route will be determined by the weather conditions prior to and on the day itself but the aim is to proceed to the small village settlement of Draughton. Once we are there the stroll will

explore the first part of the Lamport road and, if time allows, the Harrington road. We will return to Maidwell for lunch. The route includes both down and uphill walking on a minor road. The current plan includes some field walking and there are two stiles. Suitable footwear recommended. We meet at the Stag, Harborough Rd (A508), Maidwell, NN6 9JA at 10.15 am for a 10.30am start. If you wish to come along please contact Les by noon on Monday 7th March. (email: les.dodd@hotmail.co.uk, phone 01858 462244). **John and Vivian Hammond**



Friday Strollers

On Friday 11th March we meet at The Coach & Horses in Lubenham, LE16 9TF, tel 01858 463183, the car park is to the left.

We meet at 10.15am to order lunch for a 10.30am start. The stroll will be across fields towards Market Harborough returning along "Adams Mile", the line of the old railway track, mostly level paths, may be muddy, approx. 2 miles. If you will be joining us & would like lunch contact Ann & Brian Knowles on 01858 289438 by midday Tuesday 8th March. Once the mist had cleared the sun came through for our January stroll in and around Foxton. Mike and Toni showed us more of the alleyways and quiet backroads and a short stretch of muddy towpath it was all most enjoyable thank you Mike & Toni.

Julia and Colin Ford 01858 463129



40 Years a u3a Member

Sheila Pendered joined the u3a after seeing an article in the Harborough Mail in 1982. She was retired and looking for more things to do and thought Market Harborough U3A sounded interesting. She went along to the second meeting and has never looked back. She was part of the rapid growth of the organisation as it changed meeting venues to accommodate the numbers. The first meetings were held in the Methodist Church, moved to the Conservative Club then the Baptist Church and finally the Jubilee Hall.

Quite early on Sheila was asked to start a walking group, which she did with walks of about 3 miles; the Strollers are still going strong today, though no longer with Sheila at the helm. She was a member of her husband's photography group and also joined the committee of MHU3A continuing on it for about 12 years. When MHU3A celebrated its 25th birthday Sheila saved a photo of the cake.



The role that Sheila enjoyed most, though, was as the organiser of holidays for the members. Often there were 3 a year of these, many of them abroad. Asked what her highpoint of being a u3a member for so long was, Sheila replied, "Having been asked to take over organising the holidays, I was able to see places I wouldn't otherwise have been to. I really enjoyed the holidays." She then recounted one holiday to Holland where they discovered that there wasn't room for everyone so several members had to stay in a much nicer hotel for several nights, one that they later learned was actually a brothel!

Sheila has made so many friends through u3a and is still up for new experiences, having joined a different group this year with HWu3a. Sheila's message to others is "the more you put in, the more you get out of it". She's already attended both the Monday member meetings and, although she didn't recognise many people, she will keep coming back as u3a has been such a big part of her life for so long. It was a privilege to talk with her. **Kate Helm**

Membership Secretary

As this is my first report in the HWu3a Newsletter as the Membership Secretary, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 582 Members who have already paid their 2022 subscriptions. Your support of the new u3a is very much appreciated.

However, there are still 293 members who have not yet forwarded their payments to me. I must advise they have only up to the end of February to pay their subscriptions, otherwise their membership will cease and they will no longer be able to enjoy all the benefits of belonging to Harborough Welland u3a.

I am delighted to welcome all the 67 new and returning members, who joined us over the last month. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the HWu3a and trust that they will become fully involved, make new friends and enjoy the wide range of events and activities that are now becoming available.

I look forward to meeting them and all of you again at one of our Monthly Meetings in February in the Methodist Church on Northampton Road, Market Harborough.

Finally, many thanks to Liz Brett, our New Members Liaison for agreeing to take over responsibility for all aspects in respect of New Members to our u3a. Ian Webb

Renewing your membership or new members joining

You can find all the information you need for [renewing your membership](#) or [joining for the first time](#) on our website at hwu3a.org.uk. If you are unable to access the website or download the application form please contact Membership Secretary, Ian Webb (Tel: 01858 440851) if you are renewing your membership. However, if you are joining for the first time contact New Member Liaison Officer, Liz Brett (Tel: 07097 631529). You can also join or renew at our meetings on the 4th Monday of the month at the Methodist Church, 10.30am.

Coffee, Tea & Biscuits at the Monthly Meeting

Well here we are at our new monthly meeting venue, in a New Year and with a new name. Thank you Pauline, Toni, Carol and Julia for all your hard work at the first meeting. We require 4 volunteers each month and a board goes round for members to sign up a month or so ahead. About a week before the meeting we remind the volunteers for that month by phone and ask that they arrive at 9.30am to begin serving at about 9.40. We close the hatch at 10.20am so that the servers can finish up and take their seats before the meeting begins. We hope you will feel able to put your name on the board soon. Colin Ford 01858 463129

Group Coordinator

January proved to be a very busy month with most groups meeting up as soon as they could, while others preferred to wait until February. Please consider using Zoom if your group members are not yet ready to meet in person – let me know and I can help you set it up.

As a result of our first successful 'Harborough Welland Get Together', there has been a very positive response to the three new groups we hope to start up – Family History, Play Reading and Doll's House Club. Family History, in particular, has attracted a huge amount of interest and over the next few weeks I hope to put members' ideas into action – watch this space! At the February 'Get Together' you can chat to Denise Smith about her 'New to Zoom' and 'Coffee Hub' groups, and Alan Clementson of the 'Jordan Jammers' will bring along some musical instruments for you to try out. Recent ideas for new groups include Geology, Canasta/Cards for Fun, Evening Quiz (in person) and Astronomy. Contact me for information or if you could help with one of these. [Louise Elson groups@hwu3a.org.uk](mailto:Louise.Elson@hwu3a.org.uk) 07740572956

Speaker Coordinator

What a fabulous turn out of Members for HWu3a's first Monthly Meeting in January! We were delighted to see so many of you who came along to Caroline Roberts' enjoyable talk.

At the February meeting on the 14th, our speaker will be u3a member, David Clarke. David's talk is on his experiences of visiting, not only the original 'wobbly one' across the Thames, but in fact all 16 'Millennium funded' bridges from around the country!



In March, u3a member and popular speaker, Bruce White will show us what

'A Birder's Year' looks like in Autumn and Winter. We look forward to seeing you at our next Monthly Meeting. [Liz Brett](#)



Frank the Plank

Courtesy of John Hammond. John has supplied many photos to the MHu3a Gazette and here we feature another one. Unfortunately the information accompanying it is very untrustworthy. In truth, one of the 'facts' is completely made up – but which one?

1) The installation 'Frank the Plank' which can be seen at the Union Wharf/Marina, also doubles as a sundial.

2) The canal from Foxton to Market Harborough was completed in 1809.

3) In its early years, the wharf was used almost exclusively for tea, coffee and materials for the corset factory in town.

1)T 2)T 3)F The corset factory did not open until 1841.



HWu3a Steering Group

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Fiona Barnaby, Finance and

Membership Support



Alastair Willis



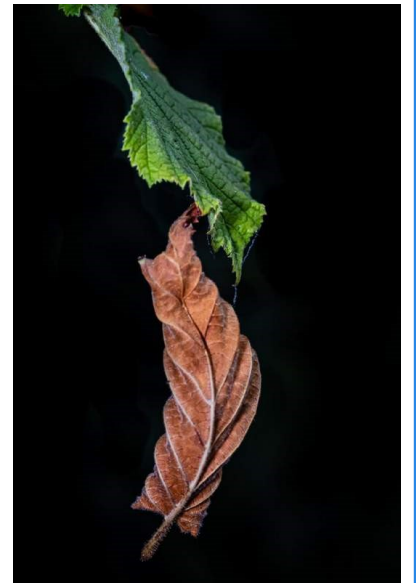
Phil Aldridge



Alisoun MacDermid



Jack Horton



Kenny Darling

Here is a selection of photographs taken by members of HWu3a. If you enjoy taking photographs, whether with a camera, phone or iPad, we have photography groups that meet on Tuesdays and Fridays. Look them up on pages 15 & 16.

You will see more photos on the HWu3a Facebook page as well as all manner of other contributions. It would be great if more members who enjoy social media were to post their photos, articles about their HWu3a activities and other items of interest to fellow members on our Facebook page.

Here is a brain teaser from Phil Hunt

Chilcote, Catthorpe, Great Easton, Bottesford – what is the special link between these villages? (google maps or an atlas will help – good detective work needed.)

Answers to both on page 9

And one from Dr Robert Davison

The area of a square is 10 times its perimeter. Find the length of a side of the square.'

Answers for 'They think it's all over' (page 3)

1. Jules Rimet. 2. Martin Peters. 3. White (England in red)
4. Bobby Charlton. 5a Kenneth Wolstenholme 5b Geoff Hurst scored a fourth goal. 5c IT IS NOW!

Next Quiz night: Wed. 23rd Feb. [More on our website](#). Go to the Quiz activity group section.

INTEREST GROUPS

MONDAY

Art History	Angela Deane	01858 431111	Congregational Ch.	1st Monday	10.00 am
Book Group	Jean West	01858 434914	Theatre Lounge	3rd Monday	2pm
Crafting for Charities	Helen Salisbury	07837 410575	Louisa's Place	3rd Monday	2.30pm
French Refreshers	Rosemary Holden	01858 682623	Please call	Weekly	11.00am
French Improvers	Julie Jarosz	01536 712119	Please call	Weekly	pm
French Rendez-vous	Marlis Naef	01858 466931	Please call	Weekly	2.30-4pm
Needlecraft	Anne Healy	01536 760346	Com'ity Church	1st & 3rd Mon	2.00pm
Petanque	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Fairfield Rd C.C	1st & 3rd Mon	10 -12:00
Poetry	Ann Hawkins	01858 467164	Cong.Hall Lounge,	1st & 3rd Mon	10.00 am
Quilty Pleasures	Diane Miles	01858 468357	Gt Bowden Village Hall	1st/3rd Mon	2-4pm
Songs of Leonard Cohen	Jonathan Chappell	0116 279 2915	Com'ity Church	4 th Monday	2pm
Table Tennis 1	Keith Keeble	07795 434076	Please call	Weekly	Morning
Wine Explorers	Melanie Nash	07939 872204	Please call	2nd Monday	7.30pm

TUESDAY

Architecture	Colin Cohen	07973 348817	Methodist Ch.	4th Tuesday	Afternoon
Bookworms	Ronnie Leech	01858 410072	Please call	2nd Tuesday	2.30pm
Bridge—Social	Don Collins	01858 462409	Bowls Club Lt.Bwdn	Weekly	2 pm
The Coffee Hub	Denise Smith	07527 801778	Zoom	4th Tuesday	10.30am
Country Dancing	Sharon Webb	01858 440851	Cong Church	4th Tuesday	2-4pm
French – Les Bavards	Sheridan New	07795 872496	Louisa's Place	weekly	10.30
Listening to Jazz	Mike Goldsmith	01536 770122	Please call	1st/last Tuesday	2.15-4.15
Local history	Avril Pell	01858 414871	Methodist Ch.	3rd Tuesday	2-4pm
Music Appreciation	Colin Cohen	07973 348817	Please call	3rd Tuesday	10.00am
Music, Exploring	Elizabeth New	07749 908907	Com'ty Church	1st Tuesday	10.00 am
New to Zoom	Denise Smith	07527 801778	Zoom	4th Tuesday	9.30am
Photography—Tues	John Hammond	01858 434272	tbc	3rd Tuesday	2.30pm
Singers—HWu3a Choir	Joy Swallow	01858 462368	Cong Church	2nd/4th Tues	10.30am
Ukuleles	David Evans	01858 463045	Methodist Church	Alternate Tues	2-4pm
Walking Half Day 2	Diana Baxter	0116 279 2947	Outside	1st Tuesday	Various
Wine Appreciation	Bob Crocker	01858 468531	Please call	1st Tuesday	7pm

WEDNESDAY

Badminton	Carole Winfield	01858 432540	Meadowdale	Weekly	5.45-7pm
Belleplates	Pam Duffin	01858 414975	Com'ty Church	Weekly *	2-4pm
Birding Wednesday	Linda Lawton	01858 880503	Outside	2nd Wed	Morning
Book Group, The Sleuths	David Still	07746455193	Please call	1st Weds	2.00pm
Italian All Comers	Franc Colombo	01858 431473	Zoom	Weekly	Morning
New Age Kurling	Jane Wilkins	01858 461801	Cong Church	1st Wed	2.00pm
Quilting	Vivian Hammond	01858 434272	Com'ty Church	3rd Weds	2.00pm
Quiznight	Dave Martin	01858 440530	Zoom	Last Wed	7.30pm
Railway Exploration	Dudley Brown	01858 419134	Bowling Club	3rd Wed	10.00am
Scrabble for Fun	Lesley Milsom	01858 419874	Bowls Club Lt.Bwn	4th Wed	Morning

Table Tennis 3	Jenny Acaster	01858 446862	Leisure Centre	Weds Weekly	9.00am
Transport Group	Michael Milsom	01858 419874	Bowling Club	1st Wed	10.00am
Walking Half Day 1	Bruce White	01858 467976	Outside	2nd Wed	Morning
Walking, Wed. Strollers	John/Vivian Hammond	01858 434272	Various	2nd Weds	10.15 am

THURSDAY

Birding Thursday	Bruce White	01858 467976	Outside	3rd Thursday	Morning
Crotchety Knitters	Stella Freeman	01536 760124	Com'ty Church	4th Thursday	2.30pm
Drawing & Painting	Elaine Scarlett	01858 432029	Oxendon Village Hall	1st/3rd Thurs	Afternoon
French Conversation	Melanie Nash	07939 872204	Please call	Weekly	2.30pm
Garden Group	Stella Freeman	01536 760124	Meth Church (Winter)	3rd Thurs	2pm
History, Aspects of Ancient Greek Plays	Ernie Parsons	01536 760141	Desborough FC	4th Thursday	Afternoon
Spanish Beginners	Jill Nisbet	01604 882672	Com'ty Church	1st Thursday	2.00pm
Spanish Improvers	Don Collins	01858 462409	Methodist Church	Weekly	2.00pm
Table Tennis 2	Don Collins	01858 462409	Methodist Church	Weekly	10.00am
Tennis	Jenny Ancaster	01858 446862	M H Leisure Cntr	Weekly	Midday
	Rita Moth	01858 432275	Gt Bowden Tennis	Courts Weekly	10.00am
Theatre of the Absurd	Jonathan Chappell	0116 2792915	Com'ty Church	2nd Thursday	2.00pm
Walking All Day	Eddie/Edith Dixon	01858 468758	Outside	Last Thursday	Various
Walking Half Day 3	Alastair/Chris Willis	01858 419262	Outside	3rd Thursday	Various
Walking Half Day 4	Mike & Brenda Saywood	01536 770431	Outside	4th Thursday	Various
Wildlife	Diana Baxter	0116 279 2947	Outside	2nd Thursday	Various
Wine Tasting	Jonathan/Naomi Shaw	01858 682133	Please call	3rd Thursday	Various

FRIDAY

Cycling	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Outside	1st & 3rd Fri	10.30am
Photography Friday	Phil Aldridge	07734 903737	Zoom/Outside	3rd Friday	Afternoon
Jordan Jammers	Alan Clementson	01858 461088	Please call	Weekly	Afternoon
Papercraft & More	Jan Collins	01858 462409	Foxton VH	1st/3rd Fri	Morning
Discovering Poetry	Jill Hart	01858 469663	Methodist Ch, Upper Rm	1st Friday	10.00am
Singing for Fun	George Cashell	01858 467616	Methodist Church	2nd/4th Fri	Afternoon
Walking, Fri. Strollers	Colin & Julia Ford	01858 463129	Outside	2nd Friday	10.15am

SUNDAY

Singles Sunday Lunch	Jan Tilley	01858 461186	Various	1/2/4 Sundays	Various
Music - 60s Quiz	Alec Hodgson	01858 288923	Oathill Pub, M H	3rd Sunday	7.00pm

OTHER

Walking—Evening	David Martin	01858 440530	Outside	Summer, Various	Various
New Experiences	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Various	Various	Various

COPY DEADLINE for March newsletter: Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Please send contributions to:

newsletter@hwu3a.org.uk (Please note new email address)