



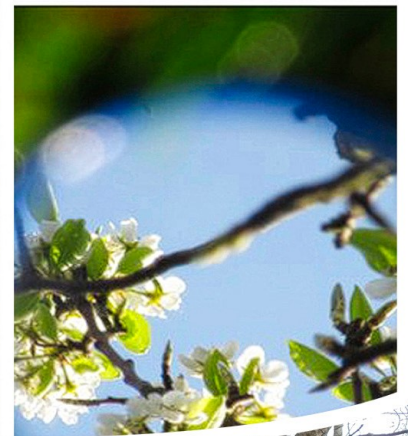
learn,
laugh,
live

HWu3a

Newsletter of the
Harborough Welland u3a

Issue No. 3

March 2022



An Interview with Andrew West Treasurer Elect HWu3a

Q. Andrew what made you want to join the u3a?

My wife, Anita, and I retired just over two years ago, a period of time which has been largely dominated by the pandemic. With our daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren now living in Berlin we have given a lot of thought to where we wanted to settle to enjoy our 'third age' - I'm from Sheffield and Anita grew up in Bournemouth - and finally concluded to continue our twenty-year association with Harborough. Once we knew that this was the area for us then the natural course of things was to look to get much more involved in what was on offer to enrich our lives and the u3a is a very important element of that network of activities.



Q. Why did you put yourself forward for the treasurer's role?

When I retired in 2019, I had spent just over forty years in banking and wider finance. In the first couple of years of retirement I brought all that financial acumen to bear on our household budget much to the frustration of Anita! It felt like it was time to offer my services to support local activities and I mentioned this to a neighbour, Garry Begley, who is a u3a member. When the vacancy with the u3a came up, Garry kindly remembered our conversation and put me in touch with the Chair, Helen Salisbury.

Q How can you help HWu3a in your new role?

A lot of my working life has been involved with financial control and evidencing that all is as it should be to outside bodies such as The Charity Commission. This will be the foundation of what I bring to the role. In addition it is really important that I play a full part in the committee to ensure that the finance role is seen as supporting and indeed enabling the successful growth of HWu3a. Whilst finance can be seen as a rather dry subject, I hope to engage with everyone in a very positive way.

Q. What gives you the most satisfaction in your life?

The pandemic has really shown the importance of mental and physical wellbeing and heightened my appreciation of sharing experiences with family and friends. Covid made these aims harder to attain and therefore that much more pleasurable when experienced. Our second grandchild was born in 2019 and for her first 18 months we were very limited in being able to see her and her brother other than on a screen. In the second half of last year, we were able to make three journeys to Berlin to see the family and that was very special to us - perhaps we can all be together at Christmas 2022?

Q. How do you spend your time when away from the u3a?

I've only just joined the u3a and so Anita and I have been scouring the list of available activities. In retirement we have been fairly avid walkers and so have immediately signed up for one of the half day walks with the added attraction of lunch at the end. I was drawn to tennis and badminton but have now realised that my rackets were the victims of one our garage clearance exercises!

I've played golf infrequently and badly for many years. The last couple of summers I've travelled to Sheffield for a round with an old school friend but this year determined that it would be best to play locally and have joined Cold Ashby Golf Club. I am a supporter of Derby County, a fact of which I am proud but probably at the moment the least said is best.

I have a long-standing interest in history which I think is a subject that provides me with perspective and a sense of balance. I have always shied away from science but am now focusing more time on trying to grasp a better basic understanding - perhaps the 'big bang' in this regard was my grandson's keen interest in dinosaurs.

I have dabbled with learning German for obvious reasons, but I need to be more conscientious in this regard. If there is any u3a member that feels able and willing to set up a German for beginners' course then you will have two willing members from this household.

The Oak Tree continued

I was interested to read Gavin Ramsay's appreciative account of the Oak Tree in Great Bowden rec. and the work done to it. I am glad it has given pleasure to him and his dog as they walk through the park. As clerk to the Parish Council I can tell you that they have worked alongside experts to provide the best environment to nourish and protect this ancient oak over the last few years. At the moment I think it's outcome may be a little uncertain but along with Gavin I hope it may still be there for future generations to enjoy.

Lindsey Wolstencroft



HWu3a Market Harborough Retail Premises Project



In September 2020 a team of local u3a volunteers were part of a national project recording retail premises across the UK with a view to assessing the impact of the Covid pandemic

The local team consisted of Geoff Woods, John Hammond, Alastair and Christine Willis, Rosemary Holden, Linda Lawton and Gill Langrick. They recorded details and took photographs of over 300 premises in all the major shopping streets in the town centre.

In September 2021 the local project team were out again recording changes that had taken place in Market Harborough since the original survey. While there had been a number of shop closures and openings over this time, with the pandemic continuing for longer than originally anticipated, it was too early to gauge its lasting impact on the retail sector. This local initiative has nevertheless provided a fascinating insight into the changing face of Market Harborough town centre during a challenging time for retailers.

Thanks to Peter Mothersole of The Harborough History Website we are now able to display the results of our efforts so far, in the form of the complete photographic record for September 2020 and the changes which had occurred by September 2021. We hope to continue this survey in future years and update this website accordingly.

If you wish to view this database the link is:

http://harboroughhistory.org.uk/HWU3A_StreetProject/intro.html

Changes in Editorial Policy: With effect from the April newsletter, we are planning to introduce some changes in the way we edit the newsletter. The changes are designed to produce a wider range of features and articles and provide enhanced reader experience and at the same time reduce the cost of production by limiting the printed version to 12 pages. This means that members' contributions may well be edited to reduce the length of some articles. In addition, the newsletter will contain a notice board of regular events such as walks and other group activities.

However, we are also planning an additional online version where contributions can be longer and are only likely to be edited in terms of accuracy of content etc.

We will constantly review the policy and adjust it as necessary to accommodate readers views from ongoing research and reader feedback.

David Martin, Jack Horton

WORDLE - what do you think of it? Are you hooked? Please share your views with us. D.M.

Thank you

Getting HWu3a up and running by your steering group has been a huge task behind the scenes and I should like to take this opportunity to thank those members involved: Stella Freeman, Dave Martin, Eileen Robinson, Ian Webb, Louise Elsome, Kate Helm, Stuart Irons, Jack Horton, Elizabeth New, Liz Brett and Fiona Barnaby. Their time and commitment have been invaluable in making this happen. I should particularly like to thank Ian Webb, Membership Secretary, not only for his role in the autumn with the Beacon team to merge two Beacon membership databases, but also for his valiant role of processing approximately 800 renewals (I understand there are approximately 77 outstanding). The delay in setting up a new bank account exacerbated the situation and not being able to offer on line payment via Beacon. Instead, there has been reliance on checking bank transfers plus processing cheque and cash payments. Thanks go too, to Liz Brett, New Member Coordinator, who has also taken on the additional task of processing new applications (approximately 100 to date).

Renewals in the future should get much easier. As soon as we receive confirmation of a number from the Charity Commission, we can set up a PayPal account, enabling new members to join on line and, for future years, accept renewals on line. We are hoping for a big uptake by members as this makes life much, much simpler for the Membership Secretary! Something to be aware of though is that for the majority of these transactions, we are now subject to bank charges (a sign of the times) and you will see this reflected in future accounts.

Helen Salisbury



HWu3a HOLIDAY - NORTHUMBERLAND

11 SEPTEMBER - 15 SEPTEMBER 2022

4* DERWENT MANOR HOTEL, CONSETT - 4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD

The holiday includes trips to Alnwick Castle & Gardens, Holy Island, Chesters Roman Fort (Hadrian's Wall), Newcastle & Tynemouth

Cost per person sharing double or twin room is £579 Single room supplement is £91

This is booked through Norman Allen Group Travel and is using Swift Valley Coaches

For further information please contact Maryan Richardson

Tel. 01858 462573 or email - trips1@hwu3a.



The next network quiz on Zoom is on 21st March. [See the details on our website here.](#) I hear the last quiz was a bit too difficult and they have taken this on board when setting the Spring one.

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 07886
855931

Also at meeting in the Methodist Church, Mon.
Feb 28th

As of the April edition I will be passing the job of producing the newsletter over to Jack Horton and Dave Martin. I will still be helping with the website and other IT aspects of HWu3a. My thanks to all who contributed to the SLu3a newsletter over the last few years.

Stephen Joy.

Architecture

At our **February meeting**, Geoff Woods gave a fascinating talk about the architect Edward Burgess. He was working in Leicester in the latter part of the Victorian era and the early part of the twentieth century. A number of his buildings remain in use today although his name appears to have been largely forgotten. His legacy to Leicester includes the central reference library on Bishop Street, the former Leicester Savings Bank building in Greyfriars, the Leicester Age UK building on Humberstone Gate and several of the properties once operated by the now-defunct Leicester Coffee and Cocoa House Company Ltd.

Amongst many buildings of distinction two of the finest are the Victoria Coffee House on Granby Street, and Alexandra House on Rutland Street, Leicester. The latter was described by architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner as “the finest warehouse in Leicester and one of the finest in the country” it stands at the heart of what is now the cultural quarter standing alongside the Curve Theatre and a short walk from the Phoenix Cinema and Art Centre.

Our **March meeting** will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 22 March, and you will be in for a treat as we have three very fine speakers: Hilary Hearnshaw will give talk about the architect Renzo Piano; Roger Lewin will be talking about rock-hewn churches in Ethiopia and Trish Woods will be talking about windows of the world.

Colin Cohen

You can read the full [Architecture group article in our Activity Group section](#) on the website.

Art History

I am pleased that we are able to meet in person again and look forward to discovering some more great art.



Take a look at the image on the left and you will see a portrait of the artist's mother completed in 1871. However the official title of the piece is 'Arrangement in Grey and Black No 1', so what is going on here? You may be surprised to know that James Abbott McNeill Whistler did not set out to paint a portrait of his mother, Anna, but of a 15 year old model, Maggie Grahame. The model failed to show up and as the canvas was primed grey and ready to use, he asked his mother to stand in, or rather to sit in, as she was not able to stand for the time required. Whistler detested sentimentality and was not interested in telling a story. He was fascinated by colour and form and used musical terms

such as nocturne, arrangement and composition for the titles of his paintings. Even so he was reluctant to sell this painting and kept it for many years after his mother had died. In 1891 it was purchased by the French government at a knockdown price. The painting was exhibited in New York in the 1930s for 6 weeks and received 50,000 visitors. Later the image was used on a US postage stamp. 'Whistler's Mother' has become an American icon – she is featured on various merchandise including cushions, ice cream moulds, t-shirts, facemasks and Jim Beam Whiskey bottles. She is mentioned in a Cole Porter song and the painting is central to the plot of the comedy film 'Bean' (1997). How different the story might have been, had the original model turned up! To see the original painting displayed in a frame of Whistler's own design, you will need to visit the Musee d' Orsay, Paris. In the same room there is a painting by Edouard Manet - 'Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe' (1862 – 63) which caused quite a stir when it was first exhibited. Manet's painting will be the subject of our **next meeting on 4th April**.

Angela Deane

While reading Third Age Matters, I was struck by this fact. "In 1982, older people were watching 39 hours of TV a week." This was one reason why the founders of the U3A in Britain, were driven to set up the organisation with all the possible activities. Thank goodness!

What are your views on this statistic? Are things better now? We would like to hear from you. The Newsletter team.

David Martin newsletter@hwu3a.org.uk

Birding Wednesday



'Black Kite'

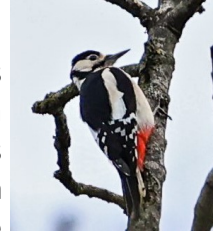
It was a misty, icy January morning as we drove over to Sywell Country Park but the sun came out and we enjoyed the bright blue skies and clear views as we walked. The reservoir trail is easy walking and we spent a couple of hours strolling around the 2.7 mile loop. We managed to spot 26 different species, including Gadwall duck, greylag geese and were pleased to see a Little Egret sitting in a tree, preening itself. But only a little further on, we came to the highlight of the visit which was watching a Great White Egret, a magnificent large white bird with a huge bright yellow beak. We had been told that one had been spotted in the area and were delighted when we then saw it sitting amongst trees on the edge of the water. A great start to our birdwatching in 2022.

Our February meet up was at Fosse Meadows Nature Area near Sharnford. The area was acquired by Blaby District Council in 1982 as bare farmland. It has since been transformed into a lovely walking area with a variety of habitats. Our first sighting was a Kite in a neighbouring field- sadly only a black plastic one on a string, being used as a



Song Thrush

bird scarer! Undeterred we set off on a circular walk through the reserve and fortunately there were plenty of birds in evidence, allowing us to spot a total of 19 species. We were serenaded by robins in each area we walked through, proclaiming their territory for the impending breeding season. It required considerable patience to see the Great Spotted Woodpecker, which we could hear for quite a while before finally catching sight of it. We stood in the same wooded area enjoying watching the Goldcrests flit around in the treetops. Other highlights were seeing a Redwing and then later a Song Thrush as sang its heart out at the top of a large tree.



Woodpecker



Redwing

Linda Lawton

Birding Thursday



Sandwiched between storms Dudley and Eunice, somehow we managed a good morning's birding at Sywell Country Park! Some Goldfinch, Siskin and Treecreepers were spotted in one of the tall trees in the car park. Once out in the open by the reservoir there were plenty of Tufted Duck, Pochard and Wigeon to be admired in the sunlight along with the Swans, Cormorants, Coots and Great Crested Grebes. Raptors were represented by a Red Kite and a hovering Kestrel. Coming around the first 'arm' of the reservoir a male Stonechat (pictured) displayed nicely for us as a few Meadow Pipit flew in and all but disappeared in the grass. Around the second arm a solitary Reed Bunting was found and later on more Siskin and Goldfinch were seen, again high up in a tall tree. Finally, in the outlet channel, first a Pied and then a Grey Wagtail revealed themselves.

Bruce White

Bookworms

Our first meeting of 2022 was well attended and we were very pleased to welcome a new member of the group and look forward to meeting other new members. We are now up to twelve people which means we have a short waiting list. We had cancelled the January meeting because of Omicron so we discussed two books. The first "Lamplighters" by Emma Stone was based on the mystery of the disappearance of three keepers in a lighthouse who all disappeared leaving no clue as to why or how the tragedy happened. The contrast of life in isolation on the "Maiden" and life at home with all sorts of sub-plots proved a fascinating read. Our second book was so different (the joy of a book club) because it was a series of short stories "What we talk about when we talk about Love" by Ray Carver. The discussion proved interesting and the consensus of opinion was that we found the tone of most of the stories a bit dark and sad. The author is American and an alcoholic so perhaps that coloured the text for us!!

Ronnie Leech

Country Dancing

This month we had a very interesting session. We welcomed six new members and also Peter Meacock from Great Glen U3A. He came to see what we do and brought with him new dances for us to try. The first dance called Jamaica was from the Playford dances and was a bit tricky to say the least. I have to commend the group on giving it a go but in the end we didn't quite master it but perhaps we will try it another day. The second dance was a circle mixer called Halfe Hannikin Circle which we all enjoyed and ended the session very nicely. Even though the session was a bit different from our normal one, I think everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

Sharon Webb

Discovering Poetry

After we enjoyed trying to keep warm in verse in February we turn our attention to the themes of Relatives in March followed by April 1st and Spring actually on April 1st! This will be followed in May by our choice of poems written in the 15th and 16th century - a first for us!

We meet on the first Friday of the month in the upstairs room in the Methodist Church, 10am - 12 noon.

Jill Hart

Drawing and Painting

We enjoyed two successful meetings in February, meeting up with old friends and welcoming new members to the group. We are aware that a couple of our number have current health issues, and wish them a speedy recovery. Whilst we remain a largely recreational group, we decided to try and polish up on some techniques and practices after such a long time without meeting. To this end, we explored some of the strengths and problems of using colour washes, and this month will have a short discussion on the use of acrylics and then pastels. Group members are then free to choose whether to explore these topics further, or continue with their own artwork.

Elaine Scarlett



French Refreshers

This is by way of an update of recent activity in the French Refreshers group. As leader of the group I happen to subscribe to a regular French newsletter by Laetitia Perraut (One thing in a French day.com) and recently I responded to her by sending an audio. She surprised me by replying so we all listened to her wishing our group well and commenting on the book we are currently reading and translating, Un Drame dans les Airs by Jules Verne – all about the history of ballooning. What don't we know now about ballast (remember to not send a full sack of sand overboard, but to open it up first – think about it !), the nature of different gases, how to avoid setting fire to the balloon and much much more as they say.

Rosemary Holden



Garden Group

We had another well attended meeting to hear Colin Ward talking about exotic plants. Colin brought along a selection of plants for us to buy and at the end of the afternoon the full table was much reduced and a lot of us left with a new plant or two.

This month we have John Gibson coming to talk about Daffodils. Our summer outings are selling well, garden group members have priority booking, but if there are spaces available on the coach later, they will be offered to the whole membership. Looking forward to those dancing daffodils.

Stella Freeman

Local History

London could have looked so different today with the various designs and plans submitted over the years from the 1600s to the present day. Colin Cohen in his talk – A Hypothetical History: The London That Never Was – outlined the ideas for buildings, bridges, transport, monuments, etc. Future plans also include some very innovative ideas. It will be interesting to see whether The Tulip and The Green Bird

are ever built!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 15 March at 2.15 pm in the Methodist Church (the doors will be open at 1.45 pm). We will be welcoming Steve Pateman, who will tell us the real story about Kinky Boots. We look forward to seeing you all. [Avril Pell and Ian Webb local.history@hwu3a.org.uk](mailto:local.history@hwu3a.org.uk)

Petanque

We've wrapped up warm and kept going through most of the winter, enjoying the social as much as the Petanque. The practice is paying off and we are definitely improving, look at the grouping in this picture.

[Kevin Millard](#)



Papercraft and more

We have been enjoying making some different sorts of cards this month and look forward to using multimedia items next month. We enjoy our mornings at Foxton Village Hall on the first and third Friday and making different items as the year progresses. We welcomed a new member to our group and look forward to seeing more members. We are an experienced group and as such, beginners may find it difficult to fit in. However, if there are sufficient people that wish to learn papercrafting in particular, I would be willing to start a new group. Please contact me if you are interested.



[Jan Collins 01858 462409 or email eldondon@btinternet.com](mailto:eldondon@btinternet.com)

Play Reading: I ran a play reading group for SLu3a for 12 years from 2008 until Covid started in 2020. I would like to thank those of you who contacted me to show interest in starting up again, but I was unable to find enough numbers to make this idea possible. Therefore I am sad to say I will not be taking this group from now onwards. Thanking you,

[David Ginns](#)

Railway Exploration

We always start our meetings with some railway-themed art. Last time it was a stunning Shell Petroleum advertising poster and the only one I've ever seen with a railway connection. From the School of Vorticism, the picture is by Alexander STUART-HILL (1889-1948). If you weren't with us – you can see it here: <https://nationalmotormuseum.org.uk/shell-collection/mousehole-penzance-shell-poster/>

After two years of lockdown and all that goes with it I thought that for our first meeting, in February, we all deserved a good laugh – and the Two Ronnies obliged us with a clever play on London underground station names. We also went on the 1940s holiday train to Florida, looked at a disused railway garden in Nuneaton and learned of historical railway "punch-ups" in Leicestershire. During March we are again going on holiday by train, to a favourite East Midlands destination – the Norfolk coast. In contrast to that we shall come back home to ride on a 1950s steam Ironstone railway line just a few miles from Harborough: a favourite of Thomas Tank Engine author Rev. Wilbert Awdry.

[Dudley Brown](#)

Transport Group

"Normality has returned"; the next meeting of the Transport Group will take place on Wednesday 6th of April in the Little Bowden Bowls Club at 10am. I will be presenting a talk about Sir William Lyons the founder of Jaguar Cars.

[Michael Milsom 01858 419874 m_milsom@hotmail.com](mailto:m_milsom@hotmail.com)

Ukulele Group

The Ukulele Group completed working its way alphabetically through song titles. Looking back, it is surprising how many of the song titles included a male or female name. The following are all songs we have done. Can you complete the song titles? Alexanders R.B.; Cathy's C.; D. B. Lulu; Frankie and J.; G. Irene; Henry T.E.; Lili M.; Michael R.T.B.; P.L.B.-E. Susie; S. Georgia B.; Tom D.; Waltzing M. Keep Strummin'. Be Happy.

[David Evans 01858 463045](#)

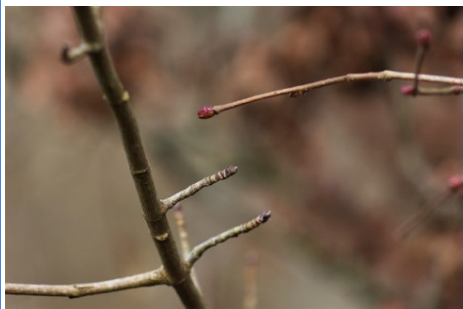
Wildlife

The wildlife group enjoyed a pleasant walk through ancient woodland near the village of Sudborough in February.

When deciduous trees shed their leaves in winter telling one species from another can be tricky but by looking at the twigs and buds on trees we tried to identify a few of the trees.

A common jelly fungus was found and growing on a dead willow branch was some aged blushing bracket fungus which was a striking red-brown colour.

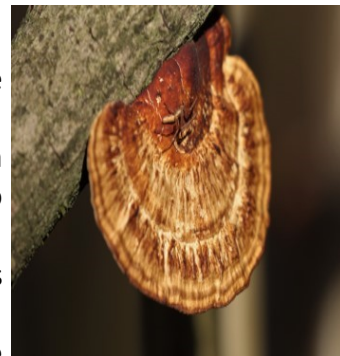
After following numerous two toed hoof print tracks on winding paths we



caught a glimpse of a small herd of deer who crossed a clearing in front of us before quickly disappearing into the forest. Several red kites soared overhead in the thermals and one flew so close we were able to see its rusty reddish-brown body and pale grey head. A tawny owl and nuthatch were heard and several different woodland birds were seen by the group.

A wander through woodland is a real treat for the senses as were the lovely cakes in the delightful Bake and Brew cafe in Brigstock village.

Diana Baxter



HWu3a Steering Group

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chair@hwu3a.org.uk 07837 410575

Stella Freeman, Vice-Chair.

vicechair@hwu3a.org.uk 01536 760124

Dave Martin, Secretary.

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speakers@hwu3a.org.uk 07907 631529

Fiona Barnaby, Finance and

Membership Support

March Quiz – Courtesy of Phil Hunt

All of the answers contain "mar" somewhere (not just at the start)

1. Superhero with a naval rank?
2. Venetian adventurer?
3. First round of US election?
4. A European Country?
5. A Scottish shipping forecast area?
6. An antipodean type of animal?
7. A beer brewed in Burton on Trent?
8. The main ingredient is Seville oranges
9. What was John Wayne's real first name?
10. The town in Tony Christie's / Peter Kay's most famous song?

Ma Mar March

11. The plant "love-lies bleeding"
12. A type of cherry
13. Pheidipides famous race
14. A herb from Scarborough fair
15. The highest rank in the Army
16. Famous Suffolk racecourse
17. 19th C German statesman; capital of North Dakota
18. Italian dish of squid
19. A novel by George Eliot
20. The "Little Women" family name?

Answers on page 13

Tues Walking Group — February

Twenty three walkers set off from East Carlton Country park on a sunny February morning. After spotting some reindeer and miniature donkeys we made our way along the Jurassic Way, enjoying the lovely rural views and came across a colourful cockerel as we walked. Passing through the villages of Middleton and Cottingham we stopped briefly to look at some cute alpacas. We made our way past St Mary Magdalene church and then walked over the fields and through Blackthorn Wood golf course before returning to Middleton and back into East Carlton park where we saw some beautiful snowdrops and aconites.

Diana Baxter



Walking Wednesday half day



Starting off from Deenethorpe, our walk went through the village, across the Airfield where much time was spent in de-clagging our boots! The rest of the walk was mainly farm tracks and wide grassy bridleways until we reached the main A43 road. Crossing over, we then took the lane that went through the Brudenell Estate village of Deene and onto the footpath across Deene Park. A photo stop was made in the woods to admire the sweeping

display of snowdrops. Pushing on over the last rather boggy bit we arrived back at the A43, crossed over, nipped through the newly planted woodland and back to our cars. Our thanks to Helen (and an absent Bob) for a good walk, to most if not all, through some unfamiliar walking territory.

Bruce White



Walking Half Day 4 Thursday

With a cold wind, rain and possibly snow forecast, and recent wet weather causing very muddy conditions, it was decided the sensible option was to unfortunately cancel our February walk. However, most members still seemed keen to meet up, so a total of sixteen of us enjoyed an excellent lunch at The Wharf, Welford, which not only provided a nice social gathering for us, but also ensured we did not let the pub down.

Mike & Brenda Saywood

Tues Walking Group — March

A pleasant 5 mile walk was enjoyed by the group around Watermead Country park. After leaving the Harrow Inn car park in Thurmaston we set off over a small footbridge and walked along a riverside path to a bridge across a weir before joining the canal towpath. Then we walked round a small lake. After walking along a gravelled path we passed by the scene with King Lear in sculpture and stopped to look at a Gey Heron before heading in the direction of Birstall. We crossed a couple of footbridges and then made our way back to the Harrow inn where we all enjoyed our lunch.

Diana Baxter



Friday Strollers



In February, 21 of us strolled along the Brampton Valley Way past engines and carriages awaiting refurbishment, past open countryside to Merry Tom's Lane and back, the weather was bright the company very good and we welcomed several new members to the group. Thank you to 2 Pats for taking us to the railway.

Julia and Colin Ford 01858 463129

Arrangements for this month's walks on Page 11.

Groups Noticeboard

Thursday Half Day walking group (4) – next walk 24th Feb. The Wharf at Welford. NN6 6JQ. 5 mile walk, please meet 10:00 – 10:15 in order to order lunch. Contact brian.knowles3333@gmail.com

Friday Strollers: We meet at the The Stag in Maidwell NN6 9JA tel 01604 686700 at 10.30am on Friday April 8th to order lunch for a 10.45am start, stroll takes about an hour. If you will be joining us and would like lunch telephone Julia & Colin by midday on Tuesday 5th April on 01858463129 so that we can give our number for lunches to the pub. Our plan is to walk in fields with sheep and lambs, there are 2 sturdy and solid stiles on route, Julia & Colin managed to cross them and will assist anyone who struggles. Walking boots advised.

Walking - Third Thursday (Half-day): Our next walk is on **31st (not the 17th)** March starting at 10.00 am. It will be from Brixworth Country Park main car park, which is left at the (second) roundabout off the A508, at the south end of the village bypass. The car park charges are £3.20 for up to 4 hours. A cafe and toilets are available. The walk will cover about 5.0 miles mainly on single track road, the Brampton Valley Way, village streets and a small section of the path round Pitsford Water. We should finish at about 12.30 pm. **Please let us know if you would like to take part.** New members welcome. Alastair & Christine Willis, Peter Devine 01858 419262

WALKING Half Day 4 Thursday: Our next walk is on Thursday 24th March, starting from The Queen's Head at Main Street, Saddington, LE8 0QH. This walk will be led by Malcolm, and is an undulating route of about four and a half miles, mostly over field paths, with good views over the Leicestershire countryside. Please meet at 10.00 – 10.15am, to give us time to order lunch and leave by 10.30am. If you would like to join us, please contact Mike & Brenda by Monday 21st March, on e-mail mikesaywood@outlook.com or telephone 01536 770431.

Wednesday Strollers: The stroll on the 13th April will be led by Myrtle and Michael Cook with Jo Elliott. It will start from Welford wharf and include the site of Sulby Abbey, long gone! It is approximately 3 miles in length and could be dependent on weather conditions as in some areas it includes feeder channels to the canal from Naseby reservoir. Boots are recommended. The terrain is field, some stiles and part road. We meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start from the car park behind the The Wharf Inn, Welford Northants, NN6 6JQ. Lunch will be available at the pub after the walk. If you wish to come please contact Jo Elliott by 11th April, (email: jmelliott28@googlemail.com or phone 01858880715). John and Vivian Hammond

Membership Secretary

There is nothing that raises the stress levels of an old Membership Secretary more than having to issue regular reminders to members to pay their subscriptions. Unfortunately, there are still approximately 70 members who are still causing this anxiety to me and I must remind them that they have only two more weeks in which to pay, otherwise their membership will automatically cease. This would be a shame because for only £5.00, these members can be part of our new exciting organisation with over 70 activity groups. However, I would like to thank the 830 members who have paid the subscriptions to us.

I am delighted to welcome all the 54 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 and to thank Liz Brett for all her hard work.

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

Ian Webb

Coffee, Tea & Biscuits at the Monthly Meeting

Pleased to report that from your donations towards tea & coffee we have been able to pass £50.00 to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you Liz, Liz, Chris and Linda for serving and washing up in February. We have volunteer kitchen helpers for April and May and can now serve Decaff coffee, please ask if this is your choice. On the serving hatch counter you will see our new up to date menu thanks to the computer skills of our Secretary, thank you David.

Colin Ford Refreshment coordinator telephone 01858 463129

Group News

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP - The new group will be launched on Thursday 21st April at 10am in the Community Church, Bath Street.

NEW ACTIVITY GROUPS - 'New Adventures', 'Writing for Fun' and 'Italian Beginners' - if you haven't already signed up, why don't you think about taking on a new interest?

'HARBOROUGH WELLAND GET TOGETHER' on 28th MARCH - Please come along and meet Jenny Young from VASL (Voluntary Action South Leicestershire) and members of the HWu3a Choir. For information on new and existing groups please contact: [Louise Elsome - groups@hwu3a.org.uk](mailto:Louise.Elsome@hwu3a.org.uk) or 07740572956

Speaker Coordinator

In February, HWu3a member David Clarke, gave us an interesting and very entertaining talk, on the 16 Millennium Bridges that he and his wife Crystal had visited around 20 years ago. Thank you David, it was most enjoyable.

Members will remember that back in September, speaker and HWu3a member Bruce White told us about the many birds that he had seen throughout the Welland Valley during the Spring and Summer. This month Bruce is back with the second part - 'A Birder's Year' - Autumn and Winter. Bruce's popular talks are always informative and remind us to be more observant when we are out and about!

We hope to see many of you at the meeting on Monday, 14th March.

Liz Brett

Jubilee Food Bank The Methodist Church have arranged a monthly pick up for donations to the [Jubilee Food Bank](#) based in Market Harborough. They will pick up our contributions on the **first Tuesday of each month**, these can be put in the plastic tub/s marked 'Food Bank' located just inside the entrance doorway of the church. The current Food Bank shopping list can also be accessed with the Google search: **'Jubilee Food Bank Market Harborough'** Items most in need at present are: Tinned Meatballs; Tinned Red Meat; Tinned Chicken in Sauce; Tinned Fruit; Tinned Potatoes; Tinned Rice; Hotdogs; UHT Semi Skimmed milk; Crackers; Custard, Sugar (small bags); Corned beef; Pasta Sauce; Sweetcorn. They do not require:- Beans (Baked Beans, Chick Peas, Red Kidney Beans) or Biscuits

Your opportunity to help take HWu3a forwards

Elections for the new HWu3a will take place in April and this is your chance to take an active part in maintaining its current success.

Why should I volunteer? Here are the views of several of the current Steering Group trustees.

'Being a member of a u3a Committee has given me a much broader understanding of the u3a ethos and how it can be implemented within HWu3a. In my role as Group Coordinator, I enjoy working with the different groups and their leaders, supporting them when required and helping to launch new groups.'

'Knowing that you are working with a very supportive and enthusiastic team of volunteers to launch an exciting new u3a that provides so many opportunities for members to meet friends, learn new things and meet new people. A chance to embrace new challenges and have a clear vision of where you want to be.' Chair

What roles are needed for the HWu3a Executive Committee?

Interested applicants must put themselves forward specifically for election to the Officer roles: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Other roles will be by agreement and include Group Coordinator, Premises and Accessibility Coordinator, New Member Coordinator, Speaker Coordinator, Publicity and Marketing.

How do I find out more about the roles?

Check out [Job Roles](#) on our website.

'The role of secretary puts one in the centre of events, not just as a recorder but hopefully sometimes one has the opportunity to have a positive influence. It has also meant being part of a team and appreciating how the other trustees' roles all contribute to the smooth running of the HWu3a. I have also learned that minute taking is a skill to be acquired and not at all like creative writing (which I actually prefer).' Dave Martin, Secretary

'A Trustee's rewards - being part of an enthusiastic and dedicated team, contributing to the direction of the organisation and witnessing the results!'

How will HWu3a's first Executive Committee be elected?

HWu3a has been successfully launched under the direction of a steering group comprising former trustees of both MHu3a and SLu3a. Under our new Constitution there will be a special general meeting prior to the monthly meeting on Monday 11th April 2022, where members will have the chance to elect an Executive Committee. Details of how to vote on the day, electronically or by post will be available later this month.

There can be a maximum of 12 trustees and a minimum of 5. All HWu3a trustees can only hold a role for 3 years before standing down for at least a year and then cannot hold the same role again. All roles are open for election. Several members of the current steering group have expressed their interest in standing again to ensure continuity in the coming months. However, and **most importantly**, it is vital that members come forwards and either take on new roles immediately or begin to shadow them. There will be lots of support at all times.

Benefits of Being a Committee Member

To meet, socialise with some inspiring and talented people with a common purpose to develop the aims and growth of Hwu3a.

To use skills and develop new skills which one has not used since leaving full time employment.

To be able to assist members of Hwu3a and play a part in providing an array of activities that members can enjoy

It is also a privilege to be invited to serve in such a position. Jack Horton, Marketing

Answers: to 'March' quiz- 1. Captain **Marvel** 2. **Marco Polo** 3. **Primary** 4. **Denmark** 5. **Cromarty**
6. **Marsupial** 7. **Marstons** 8. **Marmalade** 9. **Marion** 10. **Amarillo** 11. **Amaranthus** 12. **Maraschino**
13. **Marathon** 14. **Rosemary** 15. **Field Marshall** 16. **Newmarket** 17. **Bismarck** 18. **Calamari**
19. **Middlemarch** 20. **March**



WinterAconites

A fine display of winter aconites and snowdrops on the Tuesday group's February walk at East Carlton park. Winter aconites I discovered are not a native plant of the UK and originally came from Southern Europe and were introduced in the UK in 1596. They are a glimmer of hope in January: the very first of the Spring flowers, taking advantage of the light that filters through the

trees before the foliage appears. Aconites are a member of the buttercup family and are readily identified from the bright yellow flowers surrounded by a collar of green leaves, like a regal ruff. They are shallow rooted, producing tubers just below the soil surface unlike snowdrops and crocus which grow from bulbs. The yellow cup shaped blooms attract early emerging pollinators. The aconite flower will then fade away after a few days, leaving the foliage which will die back and become dormant until next Spring.

Diana Baxter



Photos of the New Experiences trip to a roller skating rink.

TWAM

It stands for Tools With A Mission. They collect unwanted and surplus tools, refurbish them if needed, and send them to various African countries to help people to become self-supporting using craft skills. They need people to donate tools and volunteers to collect the tools and get them to their new Midlands Refurbishment Centre. Read more at www.twam.uk or on our [website](#).

Easily recognisable, **Market Harborough railway station**. But can you spot the false information, below? (Many thanks to Dudley Brown on this, but it's still not completely true!). Answer: P16.

There have been two railway stations in Market Harborough.

The last train to run on the Market Harborough to Northampton line was in 1981.

The current station building was opened in 1884 by Queen Victoria.



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 | Baptist Church | 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 | 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 | Cong Church | 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 | Community Ch | 4th Thursday | 2.30pm |
| Drawing & Painting | Elaine Scarlett | 01858 432029 | Oxendon Village Hall | 1st/3rd Thurs | Afternoon |
| Family History | Maryan Richardson | 01858 462573 | Community Ch | 3rd Thursday | 10am-12 |
| 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 | Ernie Parsons | 01536 760141 | Desborough FC | 4th Thursday | Afternoon |
| Ancient Greek Plays | Jill Nisbet | 01604 882672 | Community Ch | 1st Thursday | 2.00pm |
| Spanish Beginners | Don Collins | 01858 462409 | Methodist Church | Weekly | 2.00pm |
| Spanish Improvers | Don Collins | 01858 462409 | Methodist Church | Weekly | 10.00am |
| Table Tennis 2 | Jenny Acaster | 01858 446862 | M H Leisure Cntr | Weekly | Midday |
| Tennis | Rita Moth | 01858 432275 | Gt Bowden Tennis Courts | Weekly | 10.00am |
| Theatre of the Absurd | Jonathan Chappell | 0116 2792915 | Community Ch | 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 | 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 |

From P.14: No 3 – It was opened in 1884 but not by Queen Victoria.

COPY DEADLINE for April newsletter: Wednesday 30th March 2022

Please send contributions to:

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