



learn,  
laugh,  
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# HWu3a

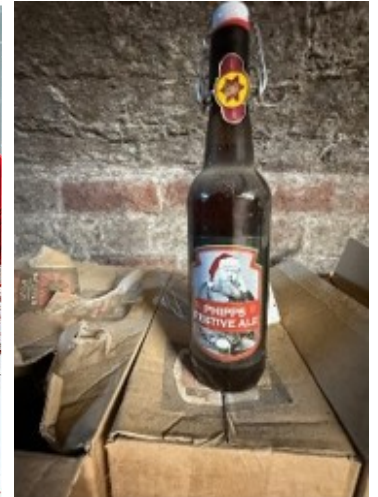
Magazine of the

hwu3a.org.uk Harborough Welland u3a

Issue No. 48

**Quiz Whizz Edition**

December 2025



Welcome to the December edition (No. 48) of the HWu3a magazine. So, that's nearly 4 years of this magazine and of course the HWu3a's creation. We hope you enjoy the Quizzes sent in by members.

*Dave Martin and Jack Horton, Publishing Team.*

Cover photos – Chat and Craft, Yvonne Starkey. Papercraft Christmas Trees-Janice Collins. Beer Bottle- Kevin Millard. Fabric Wreath with Lights -Diane Miles. Centre Parks Silver Tree - Christine Whitehead and St. Pancras Christmas tree - Angela Deane.

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### News from the Committee

#### December 2025 Christmas Meeting on 8th December:

Plans are well underway with musical and poetry groups polishing their performances, mince pies ordered and Quiz questions devised. It's all happening at The Methodist Church at 10.30am - and IT'S FREE!

**Group Coordinators' Workshop:** Around 90% of HWu3a Group Coordinators met up on Friday 31st October to learn about new financial proposals, how to update group information on our website and in the monthly magazine, as well as share their successes. Groups are at the heart of our u3a and without volunteers to run them the organisation could not function. Thank you to everyone who took part.

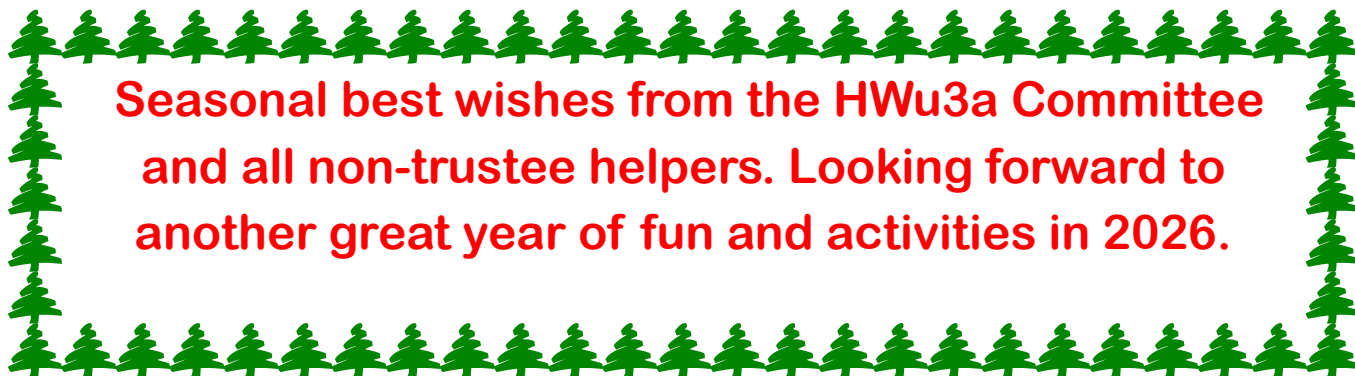
**Leicestershire & Rutland Network of u3as:** Helen Salisbury and I attended a meeting in Glenfield on 17th November aimed at resurrecting the Network which brings local u3as together to share ideas and resources. There was sufficient interest to set up three further meetings in 2026.

**Other News:** - The Millennium Tapestry film has been shown at St Dionysius Church and on the big screen at Market Harborough Cinema.

Membership continues to increase and currently stands at 1274

*Louise Elsome, Chair, Harborough Welland* [u3a\\_chair@hwu3a.org.uk](mailto:u3a_chair@hwu3a.org.uk)

*By the members, for the members*



**Seasonal best wishes from the HWu3a Committee  
and all non-trustee helpers. Looking forward to  
another great year of fun and activities in 2026.**

## HWu3a Speaker Coordinator Opportunity

Despite widespread advertising, this post remains vacant. If you want HWu3a to continue to offer monthly Speaker Meetings, please give this some consideration.

For further details, please contact: Louise Elsome [chair@hwu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@hwu3a.org.uk)

NO SPEAKER COORDINATOR = NO SPEAKER MEETINGS!



Let the good times roll!

***You could help to make this happen.***

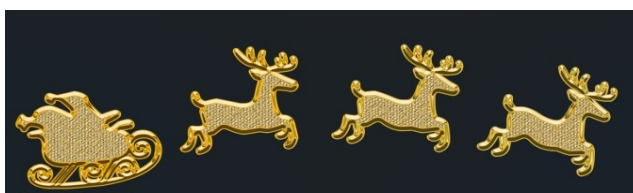
### Database of u3a talks

The above resource and the online learning community is mentioned in the November edition of the u3a Friends Newsletter.

If you are the Speaker Secretary for your u3a, or just want to find a speaker for your u3a interest group, you might be interested in our *Find a Speaker* database. It is full of knowledgeable and interesting speakers happy to give talks on specific subjects, to be delivered in-person to your u3a or online. [See the list of speakers.](#)

### u3a online learning community

If you are looking to learn new things beyond your local u3a, you might be interested in joining *Interest Groups Online*. It has a wide range of interest groups and activities that can be joined from anywhere. And, just like with your local u3a, if you'd like to join a group that doesn't yet exist, you can always start a new one. Find out more on the [Interest Groups Online page](#).



## Quiz Time

### City Quiz – Can you name the cities with these nicknames?

Clue: 5 are in the USA, 9 are in Europe, 2 are elsewhere.



1. Forbidden City
2. City of Love
3. Windy City
4. Floating City
5. Magic City
6. Eternal City
7. City of Gold
8. Fashion Capital of the World
9. The Smoke
10. City that never sleeps
11. The Fair City
12. Sin City
13. City of Music
14. The Peace Capital
15. City of Angels
16. The Granite City

Dave Martin

Answers on page 13

### Art History Quiz – Angela Deane

Test your knowledge. Many of these artists have featured in an Art History report over the past year.



1. Who painted 'Winter Landscape with Ice skaters and Bird Trap' in 1565?

- a) Pieter Bruegel the Elder
- b) Guiseppe Arcimboldo
- C) Hendrick Avercamp

## Quiz Time

2. The Sistine Chapel is the famous accomplishment of which High Renaissance Artist?  
a) Leonardo da Vinci b) Titian c) Michelangelo
3. Which German artist made a self-portrait in silverpoint when he was just 13 years old?  
a) Max Ernst b) Albrecht Durer c) Lucas Cranach
4. Which tiny creature can be found in the painting 'Rain, Steam and Speed' by JMW Turner?  
a) Cat b) Hare c) Bird
5. Name the female artist whose designs inspired those used by the Swedish firm IKEA.  
a) Karin Larsson b) Berthe Morisot c) Gertrude Jekyll
6. Caravaggio was known for his use of 'chiaroscuro' but what is this technique?  
a) Thickly applied opaque paint b) The twisting torso of a figure  
c) Contrasting effects of light and shade
7. There is a bronze statue of Robin Hood by the sculptor James Woodford installed outside which castle?  
a) Warwick b) Nottingham c) Norwich
8. What does the dog symbolise in the 'Arnolfini Portrait' by Jan van Eyck?  
a) Wisdom b) Peace c) Fidelity

Answers on page 13

Angela Deane



### Service of Remembrance Assistance

Following a request from the District Council to HWu3a, which was circulated to the membership, on November 9<sup>th</sup> a small group of members joined the teams responsible for erecting the barriers to block the roads through Harborough centre for the duration of the parades to and from the Square and St Dionysius' Church for the annual Service of Remembrance.

We were particularly involved with blocking the High St, Church St and St Mary's Rd whilst the parades were under way.

The members taking part received a personal thanks from the organiser at the Council.

Ian Webb

## Quiz Time

### QUIZ – CRAFTING – Helen Salisbury



1. Another word for gauge
2. The name of the craft that uses twine and knots
3. Collective term for different types of handiwork that use various needles and threads
4. Finished bottom edge of a garment
5. Name of craft that uses folded paper to make different shapes
6. Another word for tacking

7. Decorative cotton fabric covered in embroidery

8. A single loop

9. To undo a section of crochet or sewn work by pulling out stitches, originating from the 'rip it, rip it' sound

10. Factory finished edge of a piece of fabric

11. Technique where two stitches pass over each other

12. To knit backwards in order to undo a mistake stitch by stitch

13. Jagged teeth-like ridges on a sewing machine

14. and 15 When weaving fabric, the threads that are strung vertically are the .... ? and the ones running horizontally in and out of them are the ....?

Answers on page 14.

### Chat and Craft

A new group **Craft and Chatter** has been established, meeting every other Tuesday morning for a coffee at Louisa's Place, Market Harborough. As you can imagine there are lots of conversations, whilst getting on with the latest creation you may be working on. It can range from knitting, crochet, embroidery, quilting, needlepoint, basically anything that you can carry easily to the venue. You do not need to be proficient at any other these hobbies. If, like me you are left handed, and cannot crochet, don't worry there is plenty of help, support and encouragement available from the other members. If you feel you would like to take part, please get in touch. It is open to any of our members. Yvonne Starkey



## Harborough Welland u3a - Group Activities

### MONDAY

<b>ART HISTORY</b>	Angela Deane	01858 431111	Congregation Ch	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	10.00 am
<b>BOOK TALK</b>	Andrew & Nita West	00001858 461517	Lounge Room, Meth Church	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	2 pm
<b>BACKGAMMON</b>	Peter Saunders	07341 528450		1st and 3rd Monday	11 am 1pm
<b>CRAFTING FOR CHARITIES</b>	Helen Salisbury	07837 410575	Louisa's Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	2.30 pm
<b>CRAFTING FOR CHARITIES 2</b>	Judith Sampson	07724 807482	Louisa's Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	2-4 pm
<b>FRENCH REFRESHERS</b>	Rosemary Holden	001858 682623	Please call	Weekly	11.00 am
<b>FRENCH IMPROVERS</b>	Julie Jarosz	01536 712119	Please call	Weekly	pm
<b>HANDBELLS</b>	Helen Green	07840 543379	Various	Weekly	2-3 pm
<b>OPEN BOOK</b>	Judy Rowley		Baptist Church, Coventry Rd.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	2 - 3.30pm
<b>PETANQUE</b>	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Fairfield Road C.C	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	10 am to 1 pm
<b>QUILTY PLEASURES</b>	Diane Miles	01858 468357	Gt Bowden Village Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	2-4 pm
<b>SEW 'N' SEW</b>	Helen Salisbury	07837 410575	Louisa's Place	1st Monday	2-3.30 pm
<b>SONGS OF LEONARD COHEN</b>	Jonathan Chappell	0116 279 2915	Community Church	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	2 pm
<b>TABLE TENNIS 1</b>	Keith Keeble	07795 434076	Please call	Weekly	Morning
<b>UKULELES BEGINNERS</b>	David Evans	01858 463045	Community Church	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	
<b>UKULELES</b>	David Evans	01858 463045	Community Church	Alternate Mondays	2-4 pm
<b>WALKING FOOTBALL</b>	Peter Prickett	07751 362857	Leisure Centre	Mondays	Afternoon
<b>WINE EXPLORERS</b>	Louise Elsome	07740 572956	Please call	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	7.30 pm
<b>TUESDAY</b>					
<b>ARCHITECTURE</b>	Colin Cohen	07973 348817	Methodist Ch	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Afternoon
<b>ART APPRECIATION</b>	Hilary Bufton		Congregational Ch	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	2.30 - 4.30pm
<b>GERMAN CONVERSATION</b>	Liam Lomasley	07772 325594	Ashley Room Louisa's Place	Every Tuesday	2-3.30 pm
<b>BOOKWORMS</b>	Louise Elsome	07740 572956	Baptist Church	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	2.30 pm
<b>BRIDGE - SOCIAL</b>	Don Collins	01858 462409	Bowls Club, Little Bowden	Weekly	2 pm
<b>COUNTRY DANCING</b>	Sharon Webb	01858 440851	Congregation Ch	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	2-4 pm
<b>FRENCH - LES BAVARDS</b>	Sheridan New	07795 872496	Enigma Cafe	Weekly	10.30 am
<b>Jamming Workshop</b>	Bob Morris	07939 988595	Various	Fortnightly	10.30 to 12.30
<b>LISTENING TO JAZZ</b>	Mike Goldsmith	01536 770122	Please call	Last Tuesday	2.15-4.15 pm
<b>MUSIC, EXPLORING</b>	Kate Helm	07817 735784	Community Church	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	10 am
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY - TUESDAY</b>	Jack Horton	07511 749462	Community Church	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	2.30 pm
<b>CHOIR - LADIES CHOIR</b>	Liz Brett	07907 631529	Cong Church	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	10.30 am
<b>THE READERS</b>	Susan Trevorrow	07999 082657	Various	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	2.30-4.30 pm
<b>Tuesday Chat &amp; Craft</b>	Yvonne Starkey		Louisa's Café	Every Other Tuesday	10-11.30 am
<b>WALKING HALF DAY 2</b>	Diana Baxter	01162 792947	Outside	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Various
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>					
<b>BADMINTON</b>	Carole Winfield	01858 432540	Meadowdale School	Weekly	5.45-7 pm

<b>BELLEPLATES</b>	Pru Normand	<a href="mailto:belleplates@hwu3a.org.uk">belleplates@hwu3a.org.uk</a>	Community Ch	Weekly	2-4 pm
<b>BIRDING WEDNESDAY</b>	Pam Duffin Linda Lawton	<a href="mailto:birding.wednesday@hwu3a.org.uk">birding.wednesday@hwu3a.org.uk</a>		2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	am
<b>CANASTA</b>	David Parsons	07796 816650	Little Bowden Bowls Club	Wednesday	2-4 pm
<b>NEW AGE KURLING</b>	Ian Webb	<a href="mailto:beacon@hwu3a.org.uk">beacon@hwu3a.org.uk</a>	Congregation Ch	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	2 pm
<b>NEW AGE KURLING 2</b>	Pat Middleton Julia Granger	07703 399432 07909 330715	Congregation Ch	3 <sup>RD</sup> WED	2-3 PM
<b>MOVIE GROUP</b>	Jack Horton	<a href="mailto:jkhorton@btinternet.com">jkhorton@btinternet.com</a>	Community Ch	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	10 am
<b>QUILTING</b>	Heather Watts	01858 434272	Community Ch	3rd Wed	10 am
<b>RAILWAY EXPLORATION</b>	Dudley Brown	07775 900243	Bowls Club, Little Bowden	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	10 am
<b>SCRABBLE FOR FUN</b>	Toni Parsons	01858 431944	Community Ch	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10 am – 12 pm
<b>TABLE TENNIS 3</b>	Jenny Acaster	07530999850	MH Leisure Centre	Weekly	9 am
<b>TRANSPORT GROUP</b>	Michael Milsom	01858 419874	Bowls Club, Little Bowden	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	10 am
<b>WALKING HALF DAY 1</b>	Bruce White	07919 935496	Outside	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	Morning
<b>WALKING WED STROLLERS</b>	Linda Reed	07986 460319	Various	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	10.15 am
<b>WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB</b>	Les Dodd	01858 462244	Members homes on a rota basis	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	1.30-3pm
<b>Wednesday Chat &amp; Craft</b>	Jacqui Crowe Adriana White	<a href="mailto:wednesday.book@hwu3a.org.uk">wednesday.book@hwu3a.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:newgroups@hwu3a.org.uk">newgroups@hwu3a.org.uk</a>	Louisa's Café	Every other Wednesday	10-11.30am
<b>THURSDAY</b>					
<b>BIRDING THURSDAY</b>	Bruce White	07919 935496	Outside	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	Morning
<b>Cribbage</b>	Colin Smith and Anne Wilson	<a href="mailto:cribbage@hwu3a.org.uk">cribbage@hwu3a.org.uk</a>	Little Bowden Bowls Club	Every Thursday	10am – 12noon
<b>DRAWING &amp; PAINTING</b>	Elaine Scarlett	01858 432 029	Oxendon Village Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	pm
<b>FAMILY HISTORY</b>	Maryan Richardson	01858 462573	Community Ch	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	10 am – 12 pm
<b>FRENCH CONVERSATION GARDEN GROUP</b>	Hilary Pollak	07854 120605	Please call	Weekly	2.30 pm
<b>HISTORY, ASPECTS OF</b>	Stella Freeman	01536 760124	Meth Church (winter)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	2 pm
<b>INTERMEDIATE GERMAN</b>	Ernie Parsons	01536 760141	Desborough FC	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	Pm
<b>MAH JONG</b>	Frances Parsons	07910 029273	E-mail for venue	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30 am
<b>PLAY READING 1</b>	Pamela Costall	07803 204464	Baptist Church	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	9.45 am
<b>PLAY READING 2</b>	Carole Winfield	07966 442583	Methodist Ch	2nd Thursday	10 - 12
<b>SPANISH BEGINNERS</b>	Alan Gurr	07967 566970	Community Ch	2nd Thursday	2-4
<b>SPANISH IMPROVERS</b>	Alan Gurr	07967 566970	Community Ch	Weekly	2 pm
<b>TABLE TENNIS 2</b>	Don Collins	01858 462409	Community Ch	Weekly	10 am
<b>TENNIS</b>	Don Collins	01858 462409	Community Ch	Weekly	10 am
<b>Urban Thursday Walks</b>	Sheridan New	<a href="mailto:sheridan.new1@gmail.com">sheridan.new1@gmail.com</a>	MH Leisure Centre	Weekly	Midday
<b>WALKING ALL DAY</b>	Neil & Mags	01858 431 665	Gt Bowden Tennis Courts	Weekly	10 am
<b>WALKING HALF DAY 4</b>	Gina and Graham	<a href="mailto:urban.walks@hwu3a.org.uk">urban.walks@hwu3a.org.uk</a>	MH	1st Thursday	11 am
	Edith/Eddie Dixon	01858 468758	Outside, various	Last Thursday	10 am
	Alan and Linda Reed	<a href="mailto:walking4.thursday@hwu3a.org.uk">walking4.thursday@hwu3a.org.uk</a>	Outside, various	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	

<b>WILDLIFE</b>	Diana Baxter	0116 279 2947	Outside, various	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	
<b>WINE TASTING</b>	Jonathan/Naomi Shaw	01858 682133	Please call	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	Various
<b>FRIDAY</b>					
<b>CREATIVE WRITING</b>	Ann Eato/Nita West	01858 461517	MH Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	2.15 pm
<b>CYCLING</b>	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Outside	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri- days	10.30 am
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING</b>	Rob & Kathy Davison	07983 948392 07881 816909	Methodist Church	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	10.30am
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY FRIDAY</b>	Phil Aldridge	07734903737	Welland Place	3 <sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY	pm
<b>PAPERCRAFT &amp; MORE</b>	Jan Collins	01858 462409	Please call	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	am
<b>PAPERCRAFT – BEGIN- NERS</b>	Jan Collins	01858 462409	Please call	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri- days	
<b>DISCOVERING POETRY</b>	Jill Hart	01858 469663	Meth Church, Upper Room	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	10 am
<b>SEQUENCE DANCE</b>	Christine Morris and Julie Holmes <a href="mailto:sequence.dance@hwu3a.org.uk">sequence.dance@hwu3a.org.uk</a>		Little Bowden Bowls Club	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri- days	2pm – 4pm
<b>SINGING FOR FUN</b>	George Cashell	01858 467616	Methodist Church	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Fridays	Pm
<b>SOCIETY TODAY</b>	Anne Pridmore	07872038370	Methodist Church, Youth Wing	3 <sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY	2-4 PM
<b>VEGETARIAN &amp; VEGAN</b>	Chris Hobson	01858 289784	Various	3 <sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY	12-2pm
<b>WALKING, FRI STROLLERS</b>	Carol Harvey Michael Parsons	07855 738706 07940185429	Outside	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	10.15 am
<b>SUNDAY</b>					
<b>SINGLES SUNDAY LUNCH</b>	Vivienne Murphy	01536 771410	Various	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	Various
<b>MUSIC – 60S/70S</b>	Rose & Tony Gale	01536 506434	Oathill Pub, MH	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	7 pm
<b>OTHER</b>					
<b>DO IT AGAIN GROUP</b>	<a href="mailto:doitagaingroup@hwu3a.org.uk">doitagaingroup@hwu3a.org.uk</a>		Various	Various	Various
<b>DRONES &amp; PHOTOG- RAPHY</b>	Terry Eato	07943 732841	Outside	Various	Various
<b>Holiday Group</b>	Maryan Richardson <a href="mailto:trips1@hwu3a.org.uk">trips1@hwu3a.org.uk</a>		Advertised to group	Normally 5 days	various
<b>NEW EXPERIENCES</b>	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Various	Various	Various
<b>TRIPS</b>	Maryan Richardson <a href="mailto:trips1@hwu3a.org.uk">trips1@hwu3a.org.uk</a>		See Events List	As advertised for each trip	
<b>WALKING – EVENING</b>	David Martin	01858 440530	Outside, summer	Various	Various

## Quiz Time

### The 60s/70s Music Group



The 60s/70s music group welcomes anyone who enjoys good music, a gentle quiz and chat.

We meet in The Oat Hill on the third Sunday of the month at 7pm. If anyone is interested can they contact me on 07598462675. We have dispensed with our landline.

Rose Gale

Here are some quiz questions from the 60s/70s music group from an earlier quiz meeting.

- 1 Who had a lonely feeling in 1974?
- 2 The legend of Xanadu was sung by who, and in what year?
- 3 A well known theatrical producer released a single in 1969. His initials are BK, name the man and the title of the record.
- 4 "The taxman's taken all my dough" is a line from which song? Also, name the band who originally released this song and the year of release.
- 5 Juke Box Jury ran originally from 1959 to 1967. Who was the first presenter?
- 6 What did Paper Lace tell Billy to do in 1974?

Answers on page 14.

"Just sending a personal Xmas card to all concerned in the running of this organisation so well.. "Hilary Willars.

I am passing on Hilary's kind comments to all volunteers and group coordinators that enable HWu3a to offer so much to our members.

Jack Horton



## Quiz Time

### A Quiz based on VE Day Celebrations.

Sheila Caberwal

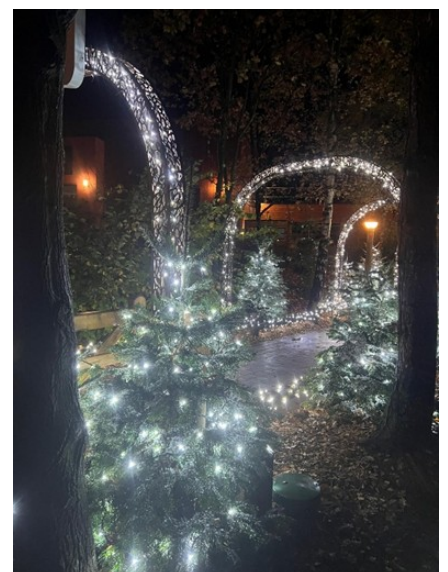
1. What was the date of the victory celebrations?  
A/ 7<sup>th</sup> June 1946    B/ 7<sup>th</sup> June 1947    C/ 8<sup>th</sup> June 1946    D/ 8<sup>th</sup> June 1947
2. How did the King and Queen travel?  
A/ On horseback    B/ in the state Landau    C/ in a land rover    D/ in a Daimler car
3. What time was the salute taken at the Mall?  
A/ 9.45 am    B/ 10.57 am    C/ 11.20 am    D/ 11.50 am
4. Which of these roads was not on the royal procession?  
A/ Marble Arch    B/ Charring Cross Road    C/ Whitehall    D/ Euston Road
5. Who rode first on their motor bikes?  
A/ Police motor cycle patrol    B/ Royal navy dispatch riders  
C/ Army dispatch riders    D/ Royal air force dispatch riders
6. How many different types of aircraft were in the fly past?  
A/ 5    B/ 7    C/ 9    D/ 13
7. Which of the civilian services paraded a debris tipper with skips?  
A/ Civil defence service    B/ Agricultural services    C/ Public utilities    D/ Transport
8. Who paraded mobile acetylene plants?  
A/ the Army    B/ the ordinance  
C/ the electrical & mechanical engineers    D/ the navy
9. How many countries from the allied forces provided a band for the march pass?  
A/ 10    B/ 16    C/ 21    D/ 28
10. Which service paraded their dogs?  
A/ Civil defence force    B/ National fire service    C/ Agricultural    D/ salvage corps
11. Which of these are not part of the post raid services?  
A/ billeting service    B/ mortuary service    C/ river emergency services    D/ tramways
12. Which bridges were floodlit and had coloured water displays by 500 jets?  
A/Hungerford and Vauxhall    B/ Westminster and Lambeth    C/ Hungerford and Lambeth  
D/ Westminster and Vauxhall

## Quiz Time

13. Which of these buildings were not floodlit from 10pm to midnight?  
A/ V & A museum    B/ Nelson's column    C/ Somerset House    D/ Tower of London
14. Which of these docks had 4 mine sweepers illuminated and on display?  
A/ Greenwich    B/ Woolwich    C/ Deptford    D/ Upper pool
15. Who provided the running commentary?  
A/ the RAF    B/ the BBC    C/ the civil defence service    D/ the Public utilities service
16. How heavy was the tank transporter which carried Cromwell tanks for REME?  
A/ 3 tons    B/ 20 tons    C/ 30 tons    D/ 40 tons
17. What was the play at the open-air theatre at Regents Park?  
A/ A Midsummers Night Dream    B/ As You Like It    C/ Much Ado About Nothing  
D/ The Tempest.
18. What accompanied the national anthem at the end of the display at 11.45pm?  
A/ 50 Magnesium shells firing    B/ a flypast of Spitfires    C/ radars in hot air balloons  
D/ a parachute drop.
19. How many times did the Punch and Judy puppets entertain children?  
A/ not at all    B/ once    C/ twice    D/ three times
20. How many rockets were set off by Brooks in the firework display?  
A/ 100    B/ 150    C/ 200    D/ 250

Answers on page 14.

Christmas Images at Center  
Parcs. Christine Whitehead.  
More photos in the online edition.



## Quiz Time

**Quiz: The topic is foreign words or phrases used in English.** *Jane Coomber*

- [ 1] What Japanese word means the art of tending miniature trees?
- [ 2] What French phrase is commonly used in English to mean a social blunder ?
- [ 3] What Latin phrase means rejecting someone's argument by attacking the person rather than evaluating their argument on its merits?
- [ 4] In music, what Italian word means performed with sudden emphasis?
- [ 5] What word beginning with g refers to 10 to the 100th power?
- [ 6] What word, beginning with A, originally from Sanskrit meaning 'the manifestation of a god in bodily form' is now used to mean a person's representation in a virtual world?
- [ 7] What French phrase is used in English to mean 'complete freedom to act as one wishes'?
- [ 8] What game played with wooden blocks is named after the (African language) Swahili word for "build"?
- [ 9] In music, what Italian phrase is used to mean 'sung with no accompaniment'?
- [ 10] What is a kakapo and where does it live?
- [ 11] What French phrase is used in English to mean 'the feeling that one has lived through the present situation before' ?
- [ 12] What Italian phrase is used in English to mean cooked so as to be still firm when bitten?

---

### Quiz Answers

#### City Quiz

- |                    |                    |                            |                  |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Forbidden City   | <b>BEIJING</b>     | 2. City of Love            | <b>PARIS</b>     |
| 3. Windy City      | <b>CHICAGO</b>     | 4. Floating City           | <b>VENICE</b>    |
| 5. Magic City      | <b>MIAMI</b>       | 6. Eternal City            | <b>ROME</b>      |
| 7. City of Gold    | <b>JO'BURG</b>     | 8. Fashion Capital (World) | <b>MILAN</b>     |
| 9. The Smoke       | <b>LONDON</b>      | 10. City that never sleeps | <b>NEW YORK</b>  |
| 11. The Fair City  | <b>DUBLIN</b>      | 12. Sin City               | <b>LAS VEGAS</b> |
| 13. City of Music  | <b>VIENNA</b>      | 14. The Peace Capital      | <b>GENEVA</b>    |
| 15. City of Angels | <b>LOS ANGELES</b> | 16. The Granite City       | <b>ABERDEEN</b>  |

#### Art History

- 1a) Bruegel 2 c) Michelangelo 3 b) Durer 4b) Hare 5a) Karin Larsson  
6c) Contrasting effects of light and shade 7b) Nottingham 8C) Fidelity

## Quiz Answers

### Quiz Crafting Answers

- |                      |                  |               |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Tension           | 2. Macrame       | 3. Needlework |
| 4. Hem               | 5. Origami       | 6. Basting    |
| 7. Broderie anglaise | 8. Stitch        | 9. Frog       |
| 10. Selvedge         | 11. Cross stitch | 12. Tink      |
| 13. Feed dogs        | 14. Warp         | 15. Weft      |

### The 60s/70s Music Group Quiz

- |   |  |                              |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Brenda Lee                             | 2. Dave Dee, Beaky, Mick and Titch in 1968 | 3. Bill Kenwright, Sugar Man |
| 4. Lazy Sunday Afternoon, The Kinks, 1966 | 5. David Jacobs                            | 6. Don't be a hero           |

### VE Day Celebrations Quiz

- |                              |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. 8 <sup>th</sup> June 1946 | 2. In the state Landau       | 3. 10.57 am                    |
| 4. Euston Rd                 | 5. Police motor cycle patrol | 6. 13                          |
| 7. Civil defence service     | 8. The ordinance             | 9. 21                          |
| 10. Civil defence force      | 11. Tramways                 | 12. Westminster and Lambeth    |
| 13. V & A museum             | 14. Upper pool               | 15. The BBC                    |
| 16. 40 tons                  | 17. As you Like It           | 18. 50 Magnesium shells firing |
| 19. Twice                    | 20. 200                      |                                |

### ***So Quiz lovers, how are you doing?***

We have two more quizzes for you to enjoy from our regular contributors, Phil Aldridge and Steven Kim. You can find them in the online version. Phil's quiz will test your musical knowledge prior to the Christmas Singalong. Steven's is a bit of a mixed bag, including some 'porkie pies'. (*surely he means 'red herrings?'*)

*And there's more! Dave Martin has decided to rerun one of the online Quizzes that he created during the lockdown in 2022. This is pencilled in for Friday Dec 12th, 7.00- 8.30 p.m. You will receive an email later with confirmation and details.*

We always like to mention **OMNIPRINT** at this time of the year. The company always deliver us great service and support. The finished printed magazines are much appreciated by members. Sincere thanks from Jack H and Dave M.

## Groups Noticeboard

### Christmas Event

09.45	Ukelele group and choir to set up
09.45	<b>Doors open</b> for welcome drinks, and distribute quiz sheets etc
10.30	Welcome.....Peter Saunders
10.35	Poem.....David Martin
10.40	Ukuleles.....Ukuleles group
11.05	Short break to collect any mugs
11.10	Poem.....Poetry group
11.15	Choir.....Ladies Choir
11.35	Handbells video
11.40	Poems x 2.....Poetry group
11.45	Quiz answers...Peter Saunders
11.55	Songs for all.....Singing for Fun group
12.25	Thanks.....Louise Elsome
12.30	Clear away by volunteers
13.00	Vacate hall



### **Three New Groups have been formed:**

**Tuesday Chat and Craft** who meet every other Tuesday in Louisa's Café.

**Wednesday Chat and Craft** who also meet in Louisa's Café every other Wednesday.

**Vegetarian and Vegan group** meet at various locations on the 3rd Friday of the month.

[groups@hwu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@hwu3a.org.uk)

*Peter Saunders, Groups Facilitator.*

Last month, **the Quilty Pleasures group** spent an extended session crafting a fabric wreath with lights. Vicki, the sister of one of our members demonstrated the technique and we had an enjoyable time creating many different versions. Some of the group have since made additional wreaths to offer as gifts. *Diane Miles*



## Coming up

### UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> \*\*\* Christmas Event; music and poetry \*\*\* NO CHARGE

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> **NO MEETING**

Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 'Fraud Awareness' Rebecca Spilane, Leicester Police

Jan 26<sup>th</sup> Get Together

**'Fraud Awareness'** This is a presentation detailing current scams to look out for, how they work and more importantly, why they work. Rebecca will give advice about how to protect yourself from becoming a victim and what to do if you are a victim.

**Theme for January edition : Then and now?** We invite reflections that look back within living memory, rooted in your own personal experiences. Share a moment from the past - whether it's about technology, transport, or a familiar local place-and set it alongside how things are today. Try to keep your piece balanced rather than a rant: perhaps an old photo paired with a recent one, or a memory of how a street, or gadget once felt compared to now. The aim is to capture both change and continuity, weaving together nostalgia and perspective. As we step into a new year, these stories help us look backwards with appreciation and forwards with curiosity - reminding us how far we've come, and how much is still unfolding. Please send contributions to [newsletter@hwu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@hwu3a.org.uk), Jack Horton

You can read many more articles and see more photos in the online edition. Go to [hwu3a.org.uk](http://hwu3a.org.uk) then click on 'What's on' and 'Newsletters'. We would welcome your comments and your contributions for this online version. *Jack Horton & David Martin.*

Copy Deadline for January edition - Wednesday 31st of December

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Harborough Welland Facebook Page; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/202921518684959/>

## WELCOME TO THE ONLINE VERSION of the December 2025 Issue of the Magazine.

*We were very pleased to have received so many quiz contributions and there are still more Quizzes to be found in the following pages. At a recent Get Together, I asked members, "Who likes Quizzes?" I was gratified to see that over half of those present do indeed enjoy them. We will certainly welcome any further original Quizzes and Answers. It seems a while since we published any members' poems. Any offers? Best wishes Dave Martin, Jack Horton.*

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P.17 Introduction	P. 30, 31 Walking Groups
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P. 24 - 29 Group Reports	P. 37 Local Charity

Yes, more Quizzes. On Page 18, you will find Phil Aldridge's offering - **150** famous pop stars / singers /musicians. Needless to say, they are quite small **but** as this is the online version, you should have no difficulty if you enlarge your page sufficiently to view the photos. Similarly with the answers on page XX. Following on, we are featuring two of Steven Kim's festive offerings—we are keeping the others back for the New Year.

There are several activity group reports and photos of what groups have been getting up to, starting page 24. Also some festive photos for you to enjoy. Thanks again to all contributors. Here is a little taster





P. 23  
- 24

### Quiz 1: "The Festive Fibber"

*Three statements, one porky pie. Can you spot the festive faker?*

#### 1. Royal Christmas Capers:

- a) The Royal Family exchanges gifts on Christmas Eve, following German tradition
- b) Guests at Sandringham are weighed before and after Christmas dinner
- c) The King's Christmas pudding must contain exactly 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and the apostles

#### 2. Reindeer Revelations:

- a) Reindeer can see ultraviolet light, helping them spot predators in snow
- b) All of Santa's reindeer must be female, as males shed their antlers in winter
- c) Norwegian Airlines once airlifted 5,000 reindeer to Svalbard for a "Santa recruitment drive"

#### 3. Brussels Sprout Bombshells:

- a) Britain grows enough sprouts each year to fill 3,750 double-decker buses
- b) Brussels sprouts sales increase by 1,200% in December
- c) The sprout was first cultivated in Belgium in the 13th century

#### 4. Christmas Cracker Facts:

- a) Tom Smith invented Christmas crackers after being inspired by French bonbons
- b) The world's longest Christmas cracker was 63.1 metres long
- c) It's illegal to sell Christmas crackers in Australia without a special licence

#### 5. Festive Food Frolics:

- a) The average British Christmas dinner contains over 6,000 calories
- b) Mince pies were briefly banned during Oliver Cromwell's time
- c) Turkey only became the traditional Christmas bird in Britain after Queen Victoria married Albert

*Answers on page 21*

### Quiz 2: "December Delights & Winter Wonders"

*A seasonal smorgasbord of silly and serious questions*

#### 1. Pantomime Puzzler: Which of these is NOT a traditional pantomime?

- o a) Robinson Crusoe b) The Wizard of Oz c) Dick Whittington

#### 2. Shortest Day: The winter solstice falls on December 21st this year. In Market Harborough, roughly how many hours of daylight will we get?

- o a) 5 hours 30 minutes b) 7 hours 50 minutes c) 9 hours 10 minutes

#### 3. Festive Films: In "It's a Wonderful Life," what happens every time a bell rings?

## More Quizzes

### Quiz 2: "December Delights & Winter Wonders" (contd.)

3. **Festive Films:** In "It's a Wonderful Life," what happens every time a bell rings?

- a) An angel gets its wings
- b) Someone tells a lie
- c) George loses more money

4. **Christmas Number Ones:** Which of these unlikely artists had a UK Christmas number one?

- a) Mr Blobby
- b) Bob the Builder
- c) Both of them (yes, really)

5. **Winter Warmers:** Which English county is famous for its "Wassail" tradition of singing to apple trees?

- a) Kent
- b) Somerset
- c) Cornwall

6. **Charitable Chuckle:** The first Christmas charity appeal on British TV featured which animal?

- a) A donkey
- b) A robin
- c) A reindeer with a limp

7. **Literary Link:** Which Charles Dickens novel (other than A Christmas Carol) is set partly at Christmas?

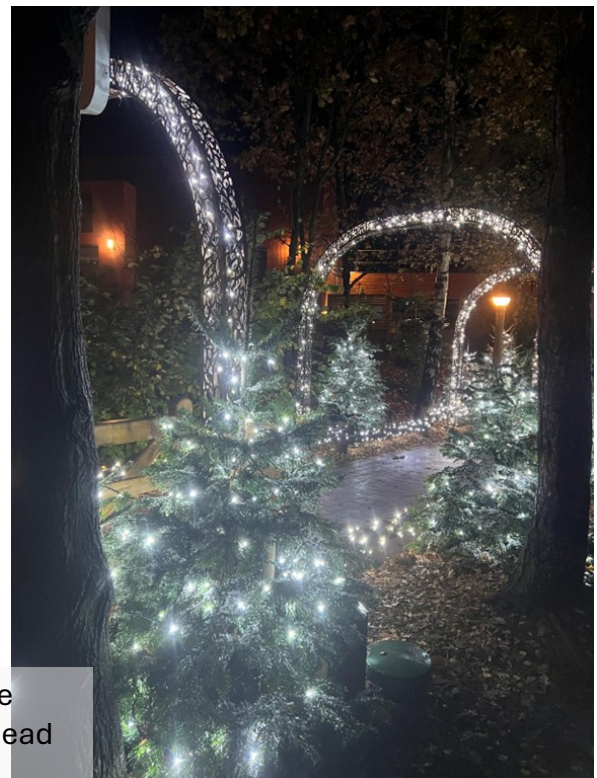
- a) The Pickwick Papers
- b) Oliver Twist
- c) Great Expectations

8. **Festive Fashion:** In Victorian times, what colour was Father Christmas's suit before Coca-Cola "made him red"?

Answers on page 21



Alison  
MacDermid



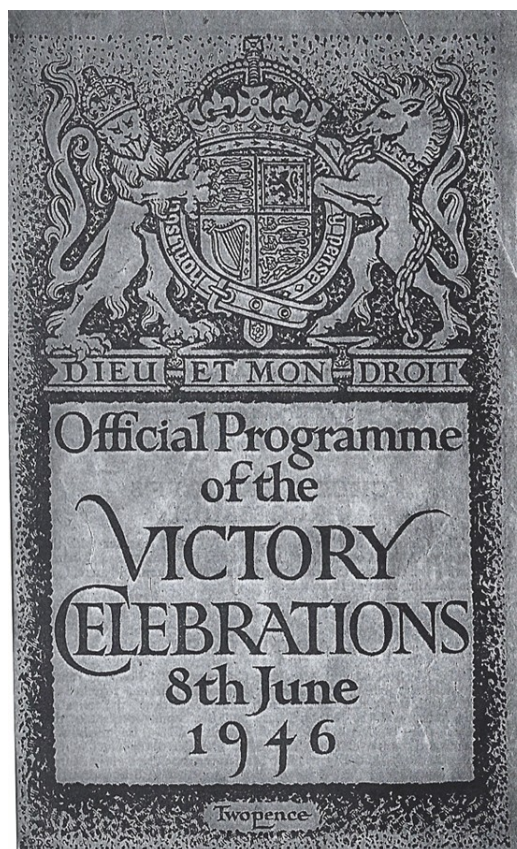
Chritine  
Whitehead

## And here are those answers ...

The Hollies	Max Bygraves	Kathy Kirby	The Platters	Manfred Mann	Mary Hopkin	Ralph McTell	Tony Christie	Donnie Osmond	Celine Dion
Frank Ifield	Dana	Brotherhood Of Man	Leonard Cohen	Chubby Checker	Westlife	The Everly Brothers	Bobby Darin	Sony and Cher	Sting
The Righteous Brothers	Shane McGowan	George Formby	Gracie Fields	The Bay City Rollers	John Lennon	Pete Seeger	The Supremes	Paul McCartney	Nancy Sinatra
Bonnie Tyler	Van Morrison	Dean Martin	Judy Collins	Roger Whittaker	Hank Williams	Katie Melua	The Proclaimers	Neil Diamond	Al Martino
Billy Fury	Chas and Dave	Tony Bennett	Elton John	Cher	Gerry and The Pacemakers	Jerry Lee Lewis	Lulu	Peter, Paul and Mary	Doris Day
The Walker Brothers	Peter Noone	Bryan Ferry	Flanagan and Allen	Stevie Wonder	Frank Sinatra	Dionne Warwick	Bill Haley and His Comets	Leo Sayer	Charles Aznavour
John Denver	Shirley Bassey	The Seekers	Pat Boone	Nana Mouskouri	The Bachelors	Ronan Keating	George Harrison	Helen Shapiro	The Archies
Judy Garland	The Mamas and The Papas	Harry Belafonte	Adam Faith	The Osmonds	Roger Miller	Andy Stewart	Carole King	Val Doonican	Del Shannon
Tommy Steele	Elvis Presley	Cilla Black	The Drifters	Louis Armstrong	Martene Dietrich	Queen	Nat King Cole	Billy J Kramer	Peter and Gordon
Steve Harley	Frankie Vaughan	Petula Clark	The Beatles	Kris Kristofferson	Bob Dylan	The Village People	The Scaffold	Buddy Holly	Matt Monro
Shakin' Stevens	Georgie Fame	Tony Orlando	Lonnie Donegan	Jimmy Osmond	Tina Turner	Sandie Shaw	Noel Harrison	Chuck Berry	The Carpenters
Don McLean	Mama Cass Elliot	Joan Baez	Gene Kelly	Julie Andrews	The Kinks	Jeff Lynne	Ruby Murray	The Rolling Stones	Michael Bubl�
Engelbert Humperdinck	Connie Francis	Tom Jones	ABBA	Anthony Newley	Bucks Fizz	The Beach Noys	Billy Joel	Black Lace	S Club 7
Cat Stevens	John Travolta AND Olivia Newton John	Mick Hucknall (Simply Red)	Gene Pitney	Dusty Springfield	Ray Charles	Johnny Cash	Andy Williams	The Troggs	Perry Como
Neil Sedaka	Cliff Richard	Simon and Garfunkel	Roy Orbison	Glenn Campbell	Joni Mitchell	The Monkees	Jim Reeves	Vera Lynn	Rod Stewart

**Quiz 1.** Answers: 1-c (no specific number required!), 2-c (complete nonsense), 3-b (more like 300%), 4-c (they're legal!), 5-c (turkey was popular long before Victoria)

**Quiz 2.** Answers: 1-b (Wizard of Oz isn't traditional British panto), 2-b, 3-a, 4-c (the 90s were wild), 5-b (Somerset cider country), 6-a (1955, for the RSPCA), 7-a (Pickwick has lovely Christmas scenes), 8-c (common myth debunked!)



### The story behind a quiz.

**Sheila Caberwell** explains how this document led her to create one of our Quizzes. (Page 11)

The year 2025 will be remembered for the VE 80 and VJ 80 Day celebrations when Britain won the war. Except Britain did not win the war. Britain and her Allies won the war.

The following year a victory celebration was held in London. Local resident Peter Longhurst was 10 years old when he went to the parade. The programme of events lists the 64 nations that took part and the complete cross section of British society that played their part in the war effort is documented and celebrated.

Hope you enjoy the quiz based on this book.



### *The World Is More Than We Know*

The star ship hovered effortlessly before lowering its belly gently onto the surface. Bartlet cut the motors. The crew breathed sighs of relief, unstrapped, and those who were quickest rushed to the port window. Everywhere was green. No division between sky or ground – only a mass of dark green vegetation. Hoffman gave the thumbs up as the probe confirmed the planet's atmosphere was breathable. Carson and Greer, already suited and booted, entered the airlock.

'Remain in radio contact,' warned Bartlet. 'We just want a quick overview for now'.

Outside, Greer closely examined the ground, whilst Carson kept watch gun at the ready. The terrain was rough – thick, springy vegetation constantly impeded their progress until they were forced to turn back. They entered the ship breathing heavily.

'Not as much oxygen in the air as we'd hoped,' gasped Carson. He flung his weapon down, 'It's damned heavy going.'

Greer held up his gloves, ripped and torn. 'We'll need strong cutters if we're to collect any specimens successfully. That vegetation won't give itself up easily.'

It was agreed the next morning to send out two groups. The ship had landed at a set of crossed pathways all very similar in appearance, and the groups, armed with heavy duty cutters, set off in different directions. Initially they made good progress as there were enough crew members to hold down the vegetation, while the cutters sliced through the spiky fronds fairly easily. They cleared the way ahead satisfactorily and managed to bottle some specimens. But the rarefied air, together with the tangled construction of the pathways, began to take its toll. At one point Huns lost his footing, toppled off and swung in mid air suspended by his safety rope. He was ignominiously hauled back amid much laughter and wise cracks. But eventually everyone was exhausted and as darkness descended it was decided to call it a day.

The next few outings saw them adapt original plans as they encountered new and unexpected obstacles. The pathways varied in length, width and vegetation density. Even when a group reached what they judged to be the end of a pathway, there was no change in the scenery further ahead. Only a rolling vista of more green, spiky vegetation. It was frustrating. The crew eventually opted to wear helmets and carry oxygen packs. But whilst this allowed them to work longer without becoming breathless, it hampered their vision and restricted movement. They saw no signs of other life and there was a constant nagging feeling that they were missing important things.

After three days it was decided to make one last push before bringing the venture to a close. Bartlet divided the crew into a number of groups, all equipped with ropes which they used to connect with other pathways, both above and below the ship. This enabled them to climb further down until they were able to glimpse a different kind of terrain. But it was way off and the ropes were not long enough to reach. It became apparent that there was other life, although fairly primitive – but all that they encountered proved to be too large to fit into the specimen jars.

Overall the expedition was a disappointment. Bartlet recorded in the ship's log that any future investigations of the planet *might* give up more of its secrets. But he could not recommend another journey as a priority. It was agreed to start for home first thing in the morning.

## Christmas Story (contd)

\*

Mary shivered, wrapping the scarf more tightly round her head. It was bitter cold and even under the shelter of the trees, the blizzard of snowflakes throughout the night had found a way through the dense branches and was beginning to settle on the forest floor. Her dog's paw prints stood out in relief against the white carpet. She could hear Cody barking, and gingerly followed his tracks, careful not to slip. She did not want any more accidents. It was enough to have lost her dear husband, and life's companion. John's death continued to bring an ache of loneliness, an emptiness that no-one except perhaps Cody, could ever hope to fill. Her first Christmas alone for fifty years. She imagined a succession of similar desolate Christmases to come. All lacking hope, magic, and miracles.

She reached the top of a small rise. Cody stood on his hind legs, barking excitedly, front paws scrabbling against the trunk of a tall Pine tree.

'No squirrels here Cody, what can you see?' She followed his gaze up into the thick dark green branches and stood transfixed.

The tree was covered in thousands of fragile, translucent threads that weaved their way through the foliage, each covered in droplets of morning dew, shining like jewels. They reminded her of lacy spider webs, but on closer inspection they looked strangely more like little ladders strung between each branch. Crystal fingers of frost encircled the trunk and the tip of each green leafy branch was decorated in snow. All was lit from above, by a warm golden glow. As Mary watched in awe, a tiny radiant eight pointed star lifted from the top of the tree and hovered for a moment, before climbing a pathway of hope into the heavens. *Elaine Ramsay*

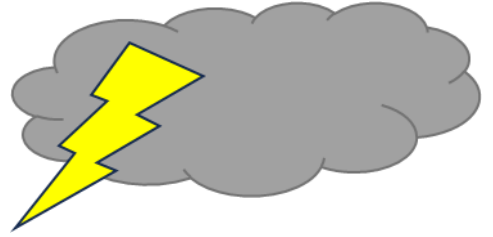


**The HWu3a Creative Writing Group** met in the library on Friday, 14th November to share and discuss our stories with the shared title, '**The Gathering Storm**'.

Read them here ...

<https://hwu3a.org.uk/agroupnews/creative-writing-contributions-november-theme-the-gathering-storm/>

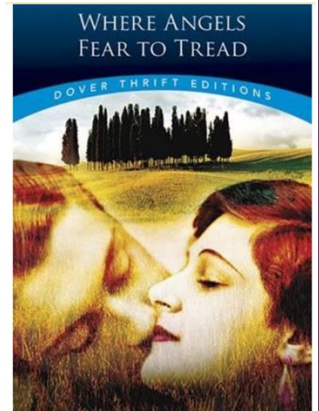
As usual, it was a very lively and thought-provoking meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 12th December, 2025 at 2:00pm for a 2:15pm start and our title for next month is 'The Garden Gate'. *Nita West*



### Bookworms Report

E. M. Forster's first novel, 'Where Angels Fear to Tread', was our November book choice. It was published in 1905 following the author's travels in Europe when he was only 26 years old and the title comes from a line in Alexander Pope's poem, An Essay on Criticism - "For fools rush in where angels fear to tread".

Set in Edwardian times, the story centres on a young widow, Lilia Herriton, who travels to Tuscany with her companion, Caroline Abbot, leaving her daughter, Irma, to be looked after by her mother-in-law, the controlling Mrs Herriton. Lilia immerses herself in Italian culture and soon falls in love with Gino, a handsome Italian much younger than herself who is deemed most unsuitable by her late husband's family for being classless, uncouth and the son of a dentist. Her brother-in-law, Philip, is sent to the small Tuscan town of Monteriano to prevent this misalliance, but arrives too late as Lilia and Gino have already married. Lilia's hopes of a happy union are subsequently dashed as she gradually realises that her new husband is feckless and only interested in her as a means of producing a son. When she tragically dies in childbirth, leaving her baby son in Gino's care, Caroline, followed by Philip and his sister Harriet, attempt to save the family's reputation by obtaining custody of the child. Their endeavours end in tragedy, causing Harriet to have a breakdown, while Caroline and Philip struggle to deal with their internal emotions. Although the novel clearly compares the contrasting cultures of Edwardian England and rural Italy, it also highlights the difference between aesthetic and emotional connections. Philip is the epitome of someone who values the beauty of Italy's countryside, paintings and sculptures but is unable to see life as anything other than a spectacle - "He concluded that nothing could happen, not knowing that human love and love of truth sometimes conquer where love of beauty fails".



E. M. Forster's book generated mixed reactions from group members, some finding it depressing and melodramatic, while others enjoyed his gentle attack on decorous Edwardian values and sympathetic portrayal of the contrasting cultures. It has been described as a witty comedy of manners tinged with tragedy and, although not everyone agreed with that description, all opinions were respectfully considered as usual.

*Louise Elsome* Bookworms Group Coordinator

## Group Reports

**New Experiences Group** visited the Northampton Cheese and Charcuterie and Phipps / NBC Brewery in November.

'Cheese & Beer go so well together, so when I heard there was an artisan cheese maker; The Northampton Cheese Company, <https://northamptoncheese.com/> in the Phipps brewery building, right in the middle of Northampton town, we just had to visit them.'



Steve Reid, who runs the Company, offered to open up especially for us, for a tour and tastings at the cheese making unit.

After travelling down to Northampton on the X7, it was a short stroll down the hill to Kingswell St & the Amazing Victorian building they're based in.

We learnt all about the history of the building and then saw the cheesemaking unit, which although small produces some marvelous cheeses, many of which have won national awards.

We also had a short tour of the brewery with a visit to the "King's Well", then all enjoyed sampling their delicious cheeses, charcuterie and beer, before heading safely back home on the bus, what a great day. *Kevin Millard, Group Coordinator*



## Group Reports

**The papercrafting groups** are small but we have a great time making cards and boxes, especially at this time of year. We have been given surplus card etc. from a member and the morning group have made 70 Christmas cards with it that we are donating to a local care home, see packages photo. The other photos are from both groups and you can see what lovely things they produce while having a sociable meeting, lots of chat goes on but we all end up with finished projects. *Jan Collins*



### Health and Wellbeing – November 2025 meeting

In November the Health and Wellbeing group enjoyed a talk entitled '**How Healthy is Your Home?**', delivered with relaxed skill by Professor Paul Harrison.

Paul is a toxicologist with an impressive career background – he co-authored a key government report on the effects of smoking, which led ultimately to legislation banning smoking in public places.

He gave a worrying long list of sources of pollution in the home: cooking, burning food (think toast), open fires, house dust mites, candles, damp and mould, air fresheners, mice, cleaning materials... and so on. All this is in addition to the sources of toxins in the fabric of the house itself – chipboard, plastics, insulation, paint. It was a depressingly long list, all dealt with humour and light-heartedness by Paul.

And of course we must remember, smoking, car exhausts, factory emissions, and landfill sites are all sources of toxins.

He kept the positive part of his talk to the end – actions we can take to minimize the effect of these toxins. These include

*Keep your house ventilated*

*Keep your house clean and vacuum regularly to minimize dust*

*Reduce to a minimum the use of sprays, especially aerosols*

*Reduce to a minimum the use of air fresheners and candles*

*Use extractor hoods if fitted*

*Keep chimneys and flues clear and clean*

*Ensure gas appliances are serviced regularly*

*NEVER have a BBQ indoors, that includes tents.*

*Be aware of any lead paint that may still be present (especially in old properties)*

*Be aware of any asbestos in the home (do not disturb it)*

*Fit a CO detector/alarm in any room with a gas appliance.*

As always there followed several questions, which were all answered fully and reassuringly by Paul.

Our next talk (12<sup>th</sup> December) will be delivered by Ms Shusha Walmesley who is a registered homeopathic practitioner. For more details see the Health and Wellbeing page on the HWU3A website.

*Robert Davison*

### The Readers, October and November Book Reviews.

#### 7 October 2025, *There are Rivers in the Sky*, Elif Shafak, 2024

Through an ancient poem, *The Epic of Gilgamesh* and through the connections in a single drop of water, Shafak weaves a story of three lives that cross time, continents and cultures. Arthur born into poverty on the banks of the Thames in Victorian London, teaches himself in the British Museum to decipher the cuneiform tablets from the treasures of Nineveh and eventually to excavate at Nineveh by the River Tigris in his search for missing fragments of the poem. Narin, a Yazidi girl living in Turkey by the River Tigris travels with her grandmother in 2014 to her baptism but is caught up in a brutal conflict at the hands of ISIS militants. Zaleekhah, leaving her broken marriage and living on a houseboat on the River Thames, gradually comes to find uncomfortable family truths and travels to Castrum Kefa by the River Tigris in pursuit of redemption.

Shafak's style is at times lyrical and mystical; she recounts the story of a single drop of water from 630 BCE to current day London, she explores the idea that water has memory, and imbues in her storytelling the connectedness and universality of experience. This is juxtaposed with brutal elements in her narrative; massacres repeated over time; the cruel exploitation of women and children and with big ideas and sharp questions about who owns history and its cultural artefacts. Shafak is acknowledged as '*a unique and powerful voice in world literature*' (Ian McEwen) and as a group we found it a stimulating read although some found the mystical elements which are reminiscent of magical realism, distracting and unconvincing and the construction of the novel too obviously pitched to be an epic tale – too obviously staking its claim to be a great work of literature. By contrast others found her writing style which she has described as following where her characters lead, to be compelling, enthralling and convincing.

#### 4 November 2025, *Out Stealing Horses*, Per Petterson, 2003

*Out Stealing Horses*, is an arresting title and an ambiguous one. Fifteen year old Trond and his enigmatic friend Jon are not stealing horses, merely riding them without permission; it's a fine distinction. Such ambiguity flows through this novel set in Norway which moves between Trond's adolescence in the 1940s and his isolated life as an old man living a remote Norwegian forest. In 1948, (the year of stealing horses), he is holidaying with his father in what will be the last months he will ever spend with his father. Although he does not know this, his father will leave him, his sister and his mother to live with Jon's mother. And Jon, after 'stealing' the horses, leaves an unguarded, loaded shotgun, which in a fatal accident, his younger brother, Lars shoots and kills his own twin brother. In old age, living alone, Trond finds Lars is his nearest neighbour and

### The Readers, October and November Book Reviews.

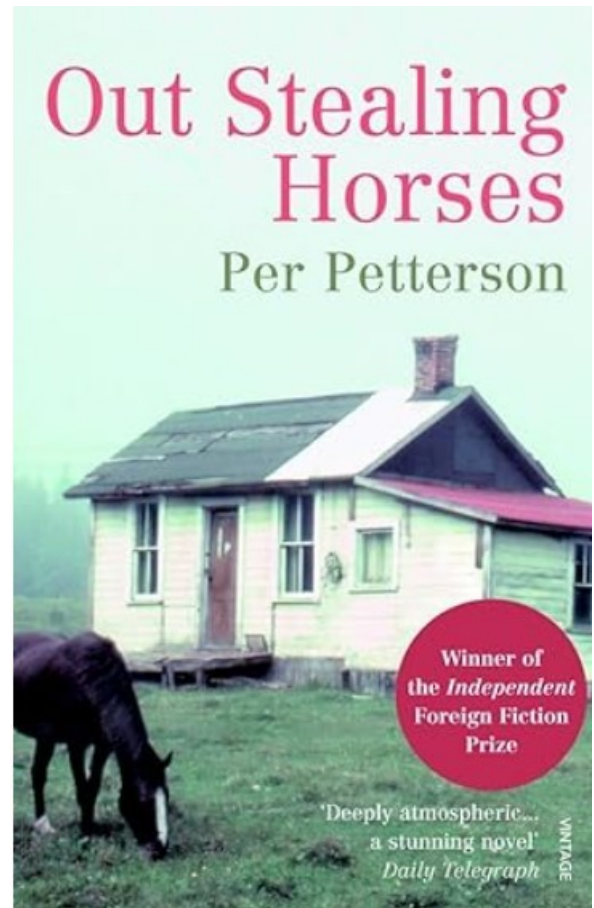
and the events of that summer of 1948 come back to the fore of his mind.

The narrative moves between these two parts of Trond's life in a way that lays out the events of both but fails to really enlighten the reader – we think, intentionally. Ambiguity, enigma and loose ends are in abundance; there are no neat resolutions. Jon disappears from the story, his parents seem unperturbed by the death of their child, Trond's mother generates no respect and can offer no security for Trond in the absence of his father, Trond and Lars when they meet again barely acknowledge the events of the summer of 1948, and Trond as an adult, as his father did to him, absents himself from his daughter's life.

Petterson's prose has been described as 'limpid' and his story as 'luminous' and while we agreed that his style was clear and unfussy, as readers, we felt that by the end of the novel, there much left unknown and unresolved.

Perhaps this novel is best captured as a study of benevolent alienation; lives lived with trauma, not unhappily but without deep connections, protectively, independently, successfully. Like the title it is an arresting notion.

**Caroline Taylor Weedon**



## Walking groups

### Friday Strollers

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January our first stroll of 2026 we will meet at 10-30 in Ashley village. LE16 8HF. Park alongside church wall, Hall Lane. Our stroll will take us around Ashley village, some parts could be muddy, please wear sturdy footwear.

Our meal will be at The Wheel and Compass, Weston by Welland. LE16 8HZ.

The pub would like us to pre-order please. Names and choices by Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

20 strollers maximum please. looking forward to seeing you there.

Carol 07855738706 or [carol.harvey1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carol.harvey1@hotmail.co.uk)

Best wishes for a Happy and prosperous New Year. Carol and Mike.

### Wednesday Strollers

Our well attended November meeting was based in Clipston at the local pub, The Bull's Head, led by Paulene and Les. The field paths were not tackled as the rain had been heavy previously; we explored the gated road that eventually leads up to the Little and Great Oxendon road. There were clear views of the undulating countryside, the A508 in the distance and some livestock. We then returned and explored the single track road that leads eventually to both Marston Trussell and Sibbertoft .

We turned left walking up a gentle incline and passed the large Baptist Chapel, a feature of the village, as were the number of benches near a green spot by the village war memorial with the recently placed wreaths . We went down past the Anglican church, then passing by the village hall eventually returning along the Kelmarsh road; at which point Les was stunned to see a "fellow (?!) " ex work colleague, out walking her dog. Both joined us for a bit but they were not asked for a temporary membership fee!

We returned to have a pleasant and convivial lunch. Possibly a little shorter stroll than usual but good to overcome the elements very doughty these Strollers! I wont say hearts of oak as the adjacent oak to my property went mad on acorns this year! *Les Dodd*



## Walking groups

### Thursday Half Day walk

After last month's over reliance on the BBC weather forecast (other forecasters are available!) causing unnecessary cancellation of the October walk (although we still enjoyed the lunch) we ploughed on regardless with the November walk from Gumley.

The promised blustery wind was present but fortunately the rain, yet again, was absent! Given the recent very heavy downpours we decided against the planned field paths and utilised the firm surface of the gated road to Laughton; occasional forays onto the muddy verges were required to allow passing traffic through. On arrival in Laughton a keen gardener enthusiastically enquired to which group we belonged. After a couple "of u3a what?" questions and an explanation, we were informed that he was a member of a walking group called "Over the Hill".

This sounds like a splendid title for any future HWu3a walking group formed! After a quick circuit of the very small village we retraced our steps to Gumley and enjoyed a pleasant lunch at The Bell, joined by former leaders Mike and Brenda.

This was our last walk of 2025, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

*Linda and Alan Reed*



## Jordan Jammers

Lubenham Village Hall was rocking on Saturday 15 November to the music of the Jordan Jammers, and the evening raised over £700 for the Bowel Cancer UK charity.

The band originally started from a jamming workshop that was run by the U3A, and we play songs from the 1960s up to the present day and from every decade in between. We really enjoy making music together, and we take great pleasure in performing on a regular basis at venues in and around Market Harborough.

The photo shows the members of the band. From left to right - Terry Grimley, Colin Cohen, Bob Morris, Fiona Howes, Peter Dix, and hiding behind Fiona on the drums is Wayne Andrews.

Our next performance will be at Desborough Library on 28 February 2026.

*Colin Cohen*



More photos from the event on the next page.





The 2025 Christmas Tree 'Powered by Dreams' has been created in partnership with Great Ormond Street Hospital. Inspired by a vintage musical box, the 12-metre-tall Christmas tree gently rotates and is topped by an illuminated ballerina. Watch the timelapse video to see the tree's construction unfold.

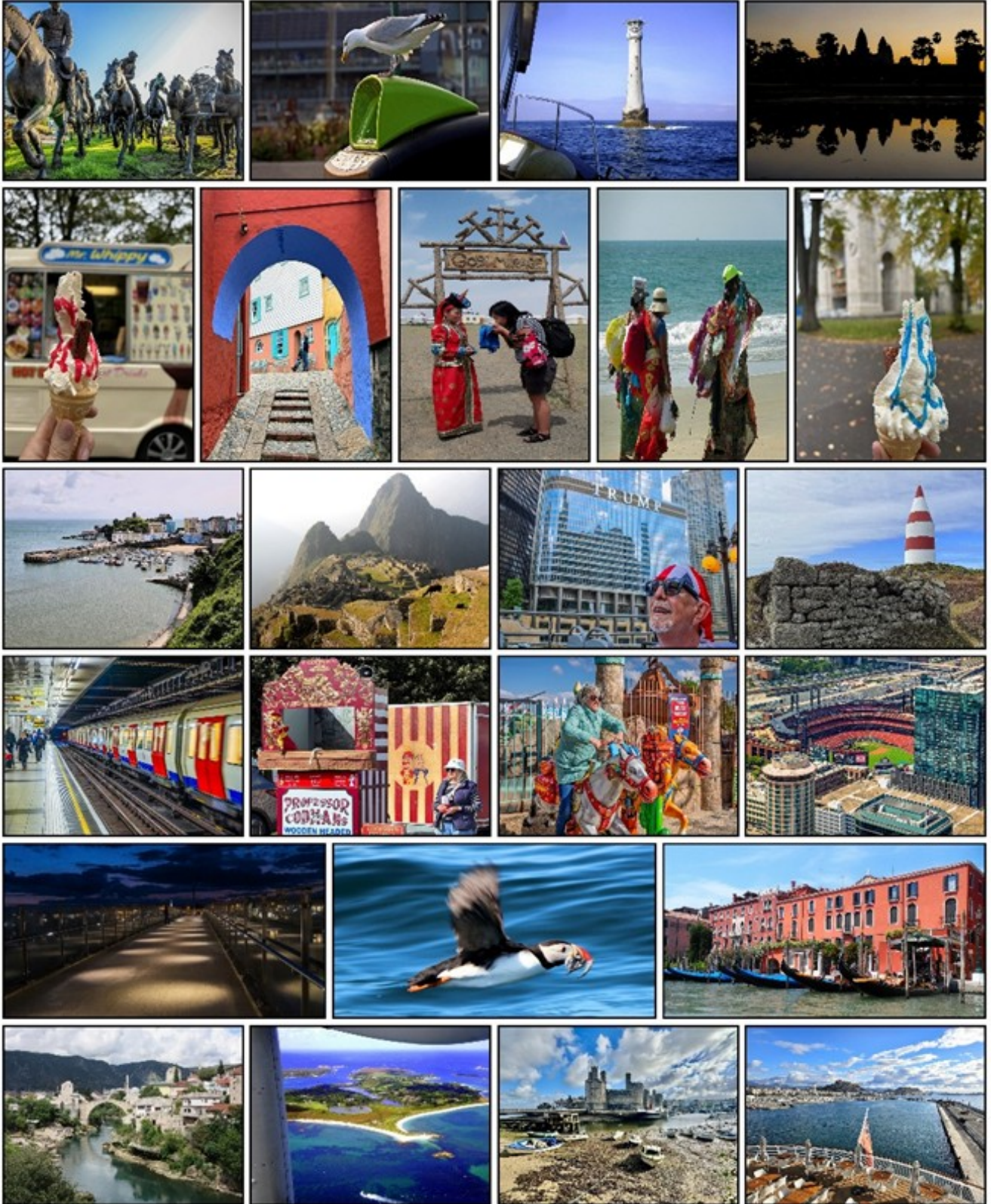
<https://www.gosh.org/news/a-magical-christmas-in-motion-gosh-charity-st-pancras-rotating-tree>  
*Angela Deane*

# Photography groups

## Photo Friday– Phil Aldridge

Here are some photos from our October meeting. The subject was “Holidays”.

(Try enlarging view for better view of photos.)



# Photography groups

## Photography Tuesday

Members showed their portfolio of work at the November meeting. Each member showed up to a maximum of fifteen photos covering all genres of Photography. Shown below is a small selection. *Jack Horton*



Stuart Irons



Fiona Barnaby



Steph Goodway



Eileen Robinson



Alistair Willis



Jim Tyson



Alisoun Macdermid



Jeanette Judah

# LOCAL Christmas Card Delivery

☰ MARKET HARBOROUGH LIONS CLUB CIO  
WILL DELIVER CARDS IN MARKET HARBOROUGH,  
LITTLE AND GREAT BOWDEN ONLY

☰ SIMPLY POST YOUR CARDS, WITH YOUR  
DONATION IN AN ENVELOPE, IN ONE OF OUR  
BOXES (WE SUGGEST A MINIMUM OF 35P A CARD)

BOXES LOCATED AT:

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ THE COUNCIL                 | ✓ THE CO-OP              |
| ✓ FARNDON FIELDS FARM<br>SHOP | ✓ ST DIONYSIUS<br>CHURCH |
| ✓ THE MEDICAL CENTRE          | ✓ TESCO (TOWN)           |
| ✓ SAINSBURYS                  | ✓ WAITROSE               |

☰ *DON'T FORGET TO PUT THE FULL ADDRESS ON*



☰ POST ENDS ON THE 18TH DECEMBER

ALL PROCEEDS TO LIONS CLUB CHARITIES