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HWu3a

Magazine of the
Harborough Welland u3a

Issue No. 54

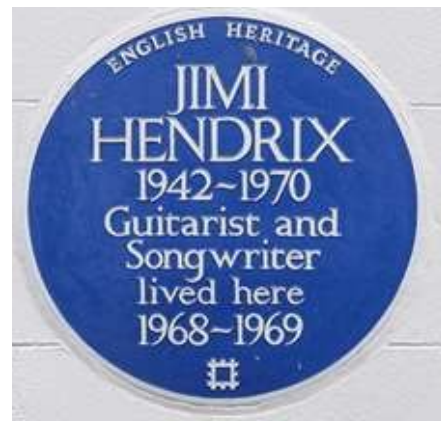
It's Not only Rock and Roll!

June 2026



**Flaming
June**

**The heat is on!
Have you
renewed your
Membership?**



Welcome and Committee news

Welcome to the June edition (No. 534) of the HWu3a magazine. This month's theme is It's **NOT only Rock and Roll**. Thank you to all contributors. We asked for music, and boy we got something for all tastes. Also a nod to some recent hot weather. Flaming June!

Enjoy! Ced Bufton and David Martin, Publishing team.

Cover photo credits: Clockwise from Top Left; Editors, Fran Sandham, David Evans, ©English Heritage, Helen Salisbury, Pru Normand, Mike Goldsmith. Centre: Ced Bufton

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News from the Committee -

Creative Event - September 2026: To celebrate National u3a Week and also Creative Harborough's month of events, HWu3a's creative groups have been asked to take part in a celebration of all the arts we represent on Saturday 19th September in the Symington Building. This interactive event is free and will be open to the public who we hope will enjoy seeing different crafts and perhaps learning new skills. This is still in the early planning stages but we are hopeful of a positive response from all groups taking part.

Adriana White, New Groups Facilitator: Adriana is standing down after several years in this role. She has done a tremendous job helping to start up new groups and giving support to new Group Coordinators. Adriana has also joined in some Committee meetings as a non-Trustee member and her input has been much valued. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to this very time-consuming role. Peter Saunders, Groups Facilitator, will provide cover as a temporary measure until a replacement is found.

PAT Testing: I'd like to remind all Group Coordinators who use electrical equipment for their group activities to bring it along to the 'HW Get Together' on Monday 22nd June in the Methodist Church Lounge from 10.00—11.30. Any electrical equipment, whether owned by HWU3A or personally, should be tested. Kevin Millard will carry out the obligatory PAT test. Any Group Coordinators who cannot attend must arrange for another group member to go in their place as this is the only session available.

Other News:

❖ Copyright: Following recent advice regarding the minefield that is Copyright, all Group Coordinators were sent a helpful video explaining the do's and don'ts of publicising images, photos, maps, music, etc. on websites, social media and magazines. HWu3a endeavours to check to ensure that these are either in the public domain or we have permission from the copyright holder

❖ Dave Martin - Croquet Day organiser: As I write this, the HWu3a Croquet Day has got under way in the May heatwave. I would like to thank Dave whose first Croquet Day had to be cancelled due to the threat of hailstones, cold temperatures and heavy rain - what a difference a couple of weeks makes! The event requires a lot of organisation and the Committee is very grateful to him, along with Leicester Croquet Club, for arranging such an enjoyable day!

Louise Elsome, Chair, Harborough Welland u3a chair@hwu3a.org.uk

Born in the U3A - All about strictly Ukeles

I know. Ever since you have been captivated by a performance by Strictly Ukuleles, you have wondered how such a talented group has come about. Well, here's how.

The origins go back to 2014, when the Ukulele group was launched as a new group within the South Leicestershire U3A (later, within HWu3a). The first meeting comprised just three attendees - myself, Hugh and Liz. But word soon got around about the musical fun to be had, and a year later we were up to 15 members.

Our approach has always been to play and sing a variety of songs, so our sessions have embraced almost all genres. Traditional old songs from 1800s, Celtic Irish, Scots, Welsh; Songs from 1930s, 40s, 50s, 60s, even Punk; Pop, Folk, Ballads, Blues, Gospel, Spirituals, Rock n Roll, Country, Skiffle, Musicals, Music Hall, and even Nellie the Elephant.

By 2016, we were being approached by retirement homes, community groups and other such to give concerts, and Hugh valiantly stepped up to arrange a concert programme.

As a performing identity, we decided to call ourselves STRICTLY UKULELES and obtained some



Photo Dave M. Dec 2025

blue polo tops badged with a Strictly Ukuleles logo. Our first concert was Maxwell Lodge in November 2016.

From the start, it was agreed that we would not charge a fee for giving a concert, since the primary purpose has always been to provide an entertainment. However, any donations given to us by way of appreciation would be passed on to local charities, and to date we have passed on over £4000 in this way.

A supplementary Beginners Group was started up in 2023 and continues as an Introductory group to this day. Some players are now members of both ukulele groups. Eric has kindly taken over responsibility for Strictly Ukuleles concerts (now more than 2 a month!) and Caroline has created our own Facebook page, Strictly Ukuleles HWu3a.

So, there you have it, thriving ukulele groups – and a brief history of Strictly Ukuleles.

David Evans, May 2026.

'All The Bells' - and more! Belleplates group. Pru Normand

The date, July 12th 2012. The venue, the Old Grammar School, Market Harborough. The occasion, ringing in the 2012 London Summer Olympics.

The U3A Belleplates group had enthusiastically signed up to join in Turner prize winner Martin Creed's work No 1197 'All The Bells'. A mass ringing of bells throughout the UK to mark the start of the summer Olympics.



We were ready to do our bit. Kitted out in red, white and blue, with Olympic flag in hand, 'Barry and His Beautiful Belles' as we dubbed ourselves, where all keen and ready by 8.00 am to await Big Ben's chimes precisely timed for 8.12 am, 12 hrs before the official opening ceremony commenced at 20.12. The ringing was to last 3 minutes, and to add to our excitement, Radio Leicester had contacted us for an interview and to record our contribution for Leicestershire listeners to hear, it all added to the fun.

Pam gave a splendid interview outlining the history of the group and detailing the ringing of the chimes sequence we were to play.



There was quiet anticipation and then, over the radio, the first of Big Ben's 40 chimes rang out and with it our gentle top G belle to start our sequence. But to our surprise the St Dionysius church bells also rang out from the belltower behind us, loud and clear and to the exclusion of all else. We'd understood they wouldn't be ringing but somewhere along the

line there must have been a change of plan. No matter, we continued on valiantly with our contribution completely drowned out by the magnificent larger bells but at the end we all had large smiles on our faces and many apologies to radio Leicester, whose listeners must have been bemused by the sound they thought we'd produced.

Were we disappointed? Not at all. Breakfast at the nearby café, Simply Simon's (no longer there unfortunately) was a joyous affair. Making music together, whether large, loud and boisterous or small, quiet and reflective, is always a joy and the companionship and laughter afterwards, typified so much of what the u3a is all about.

Classical Guitar

A Musical Memoir in Three Acts (and Several Tremolo Notes)

Let me be clear from the outset: I have never crowd-surfed. I have never worn leather trousers. And the closest I have come to a mosh pit was the scrum at the Market Harborough Waitrose reduced-items shelf on a Saturday afternoon.

No. My musical heartland is altogether more refined. My music is the classical guitar - and if you've just pictured a Spanish café, a warm evening, and a glass of something excellent, then you are already halfway to understanding why.

It began, as so many great things do, with a father.

Mine was a man of many gifts - a cartoonist by trade, which means he spent his days wrestling inspiration from thin air and turning it into something that made people laugh. A professional maker of joy. When the ideas dried up - as ideas occasionally do, even for the gifted - or when a hard day's cartooning finally drew to a close, he would reach for his guitar. And out would pour *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* - that shimmering, trembling cascade of notes that sounds like sunlight on a Moorish fountain. Or *Romance d'Amour*, tender and unhurried, filling the room like something you couldn't quite name but knew you needed.

I grew up on that music the way other children grew up on nursery rhymes. It became the soundtrack of home.

So naturally, as a teenager in the 1970s - an era more commonly associated with platform shoes and prog rock epics that lasted longer than some marriages - I did something rather unexpected: I asked my father to teach me. He did. I learnt *Romance d'Amour*, note by painstaking note. And then - in a moment that still makes me stand a little taller - I performed it in front of a large audience at my local church, for a Korean Thanksgiving festival.

Reader, I did not drop a single note. (I choose not to remember if I did.)

The 1980s arrived, as decades will, and swept me away into studying and working and all the relentless business of being in one's twenties. The guitar went quiet. But the music never did. I simply moved from player to listener - and there is, let me tell you, great dignity in that. Not everyone can be a virtuoso. Someone has to be the appreciative audience.

Then came the pilgrimage.

I went to Granada, Spain. I stood inside the Alhambra Palace - those honeycomb ceilings, those whispering courtyards, that geometry that makes you feel mathematics might actually be beautiful after all - and I thought of my father. I heard the music in my head, clear as if he were playing right there among the Moorish arches. It was one of those moments that needs no photograph, because it prints itself directly onto the memory.

My father is gone now. But here is the remarkable thing about classical guitar music, and perhaps about music in general: it does not observe the usual rules of time. When *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* begins - those rolling, hypnotic arpeggios - he is simply *there*. Alive, present, smiling over the guitar's body. Music, I have concluded, is the only time machine that actually works.

And the story doesn't end there. My nephew - who as a small boy in the 1980s was taught classical guitar by my father - went on to study at music college and is now a professional classical guitarist. My father's gift, passed hand to hand across the generations like a torch that gets brighter rather than dimmer.

(Cont'd on next page)

Classical Guitar 2

So when the newsletter editor asked us to reflect on music's role in our lives, I confess I didn't think of Woodstock, or the Beatles, or any of the great seismic events of popular music history. I thought of a cartoonist in a quiet room, chasing inspiration with six strings and a trembling right hand. I thought of a teenage boy terrified and thrilled before a church full of people. I thought of a palace in Granada, shimmering in the Spanish sun.

Classical guitar is not merely music to me. It is energy. It is memory. It is the conversation between the living and the dead that never quite ends.

And if that sounds rather grand - well. It probably is.

But then, so is the Alhambra.

"Without music, life would be a mistake." - Friedrich Nietzsche, who almost certainly never crowd-surfed either.

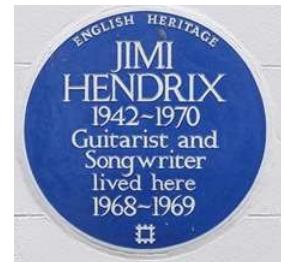
Here is a link for Steven's nephew's guitar playing.

[김현규 클래식기타 - Google Search](#)

The Infamous 27 club



In the 1970's several rock icons all died at the age of 27 which led to some sort of urban myth about Rock Stars and untimely death. They included Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, and Brian Jones.



While the notion of a 'curse' is largely mythological, many members showed high risk lifestyles involving substance abuse, mental health struggles, or violent circumstances. D.M

They do live on through their various recordings. What do you know about them? Try the quiz below. Answer on page 15.

Name	GROUP	RECORDING
Jimi Hendrix	The Doors	Riders on the Storm
Janis Joplin	The Rolling Stones	Paint it Black
Jim Morrison	The Experience	Move Over
Brian Jones	Big Brother & the Holding Company	Purple Haze

Interestingly, Jimi Hendrix's first floor flat is now owned by English Heritage. This is open to the public, but which famous musician once lived next door?

[Jimi Hendrix | Guitarist | Blue Plaques | English Heritage](#)

Groups Noticeboard

Launch of Market Harborough's literary festival.

There will be a launch event on Tuesday 9th June, 6.30 – 8.30pm, in Louisa's Place. If you enjoy reading then please come along to find out more details.

All welcome.

This month sees the commencement of a new literary group looking at the works of William Shakespeare. Each month, the group will be viewing a DVD then discussing it. We wish Anne Wilson well with it.

If anyone is possibly interested in Table Skittles, we could set up a group to meet weekly in The Royalist pub on Western Ave. There wouldn't be a charge for this other than buying our own drinks. We could hold this in the afternoon or evening. If there is interest then I will go there and see what the set-up and availability is. We would need someone to be a Coordinator for this of course, liaising with the participants and the pub. No finances need looking after, so an easy straightforward role. Let me know.

The Backgammon group is holding its first 'Championship' competition this month and next. Watch this space for the declaration of the 2026 Backgammon Champion.

What about our other sporting and games groups? Can our other Coordinators start similar? Badminton, Mah Jong, Scrabble, Petanque, Kurling, Table Tennis, Canasta, Cribbage, Bridge, Walking Football – goal scorer of the year.

I am having to start thinking about our Xmas Extravaganza again. I'd like to think of something extra or different but still involving our usual talented groups. If anyone has thoughts/ideas, please let me know. This can also be the event to present the 2026 Champions of the above competitions. I look forward to stream of ideas from you all.

Peter Saunders – Groups Facilitator

BOAT TRIP ON THAMES FROM WESTMINSTER TO GREENWICH

CORRECTION **THURSDAY 9th JULY 2026**

Greenwich on the banks of the Thames, known for its maritime history and is home to the Cutty Sark, National Maritime Museum and the Old Royal Naval College. The Royal Observatory in Greenwich Park is the site of the Greenwich meridian line.

Entry to National Maritime Museum and the Queens House are free

Cutty Sark is £22 and Royal Observatory is £24

The coach will leave outside the Market Hall at 8.30am

Cost of coach and river trip £30

To book contact Maryan Richardson Tel – 01858 462573

Email - trips@hww3a.org.uk

Harborough Welland u3a - Group Activities

MONDAY					
ART HISTORY	Angela Deane	01858 431111	Congregation Ch	1 st Monday	10.00 am
BOOK TALK	Andrew & Nita West	01858 461517	Lounge Room, Meth Church	1 st Monday	2 pm
BACKGAMMON	Peter Saunders	07341 528450		1st and 3rd Monday	11 am -1pm
CRAFTING FOR CHARITIES	Helen Salisbury	07837 410575	Louisa's Place	3 rd Monday	2.30 pm
CRAFTING FOR CHARITIES 2	Judith Sampson	07724 807482	Louisa's Place	4 th Monday	2-4 pm
FRENCH REFRESHERS	Rosemary Holden	07799 627145	Please call	Weekly	11.00 am
FRENCH IMPROVERS	Julie Jarosz	01536 712119	Please call	Weekly	pm
HANDBELLS	Helen Green	07840 543379	Various	Weekly	2-3 pm
OPEN BOOK	Judy Rowley	open.books@hwu3a.org.uk	Methodist Church, North-ampton Rd. Welland Park, nr Café.	2 nd Monday	2 - 3.30pm
PETANQUE	Kevin Millard	01858 468015		1 st & 3 rd Mon	10 am to 2pm
QUILTY PLEASURES	Diane Miles	01858 468357	Gt Bowden Village Hall	1 st & 3 rd Mon	2-4 pm
SEW 'N' SEW	Helen Salisbury	07837 410575	Louisa's Place	1st Monday	2-4 pm
SONGS OF LEONARD COHEN	Phil Aldridge	ptaldridge@aol.com	Community Church	4 th Monday	2 pm
TABLE TENNIS 1	Keith Keeble	07795 434076	Please call	Weekly	11am—1pm
UKULELES INTRODUCTORY	David Evans	01858 463045	Community Church	1 st & 3 rd Mon	2-4 pm
UKULELES	David Evans	01858 463045	Community Church	2nd & 4th Mon	2-4 pm
WALKING FOOTBALL	Peter Prickett	07751 362857	Leisure Centre	Mondays	Afternoon
WINE EXPLORERS	Louise Elsome	07740 572956	Please call	2 nd Monday	7.30 pm
TUESDAY					
ARCHITECTURE	Colin Cohen		Methodist Ch	4 th Tuesday	2pm
		architecture@hwu3a.org.uk			
ART APPRECIATION	Hilary Bufton		Congregational Ch	Ash-	4 th Tuesday
		art.appreciation@hwu3a.org.uk	ley Room		2.30 - 4.30pm
GERMAN CONVERSATION	Liam Lomasley	07772 325594	Louisa's Place	Every Tues	2-3.30 pm
BOOKWORMS	Louise Elsome	07740 572956	Homestart, 121 Coventry Rd.	2 nd Tuesday	2.30 pm
BRIDGE – SOCIAL	Don Collins	01858 462409	Bowls Club, Little Bowden	Weekly	2 pm
COUNTRY DANCING	Sharon Webb	07886 855931	Congregation Ch	4 th Tuesday	2-4 pm
FRENCH – LES BAVARDS	Sheridan New	07795 872496	Enigma Cafe	Weekly	10.30 am
Jamming Workshop	Bob Morris	07939 988595	Various	2nd and 4th Tues	10.30 to 12.30
LOCAL HISTORY	Linda Swallow		Congregational Church	1st Tuesday	2-3.30pm
		Local.history@hwu3a.org.uk			
MUSIC, EXPLORING	Kate Helm	07817 735784	Community Church	1 st Tuesday	10 am
PHOTOGRAPHY - TUESDAY	Angela Lloyd		Community Church	3 rd Tuesday	2.30 pm
		photography.Tuesday@hwu3a.org.uk			
CHOIR - LADIES CHOIR	Liz Brett	07907 631529	Cong Church	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday	10.30 am
THE READERS	Susan Trevorrow	07999 082657	Various	1 st Tuesday	2.30-4.30
TUESDAY CRAFT and CHAT	Yvonne Starkey	Tarskey2015@gmail.com	Louisa's Café	Every Other Tuesday	10-11.30 am
WALKING HALF DAY 2	Diana Baxter	01162 792947	Outside	1 st Tuesday	Various
WEDNESDAY					
BADMINTON	Stuart Irons	07969 833342	Meadowdale School	Weekly	5.– 6.30pm

BELLEPLATES	Pru Normand Pam Duffin	belleplates@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Ch	NOT 3rd Weds	2-4 pm
BIRDING WEDNESDAY	Linda Lawton	birding.wednesday@hwu3a.org.uk	Outside	2 nd Wed	morning
CANASTA	David Parsons	07796 816650	Little Bowden Bowls Club	Wednesday	2-4 pm
NEW AGE KURLING	Ian Webb	beacon@hwu3a.org.uk	Congregation Ch	1 st Wed	2 pm
NEW AGE KURLING 2	Pat Middleton Julia Granger	07703 399432 07909 330715	Congregation Ch	3 RD WED	2-3 PM
MOVIE GROUP	Dick Van Aken, Jim Tyson	moviegroup@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Church	1 st Wed	10 am
On The Edge - Biographies	James Hobson	onthedge@hwu3a.org.uk	The Activity Room, Methodist Church	4 th Wed	2-4 pm
QUILTING	Anne Parker	quilting@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Ch	3rd Wed	10 am
RAILWAY EXPLORATION		railway.exploration@hwu3a.org.uk	Bowls Club, Little Bowden	3 rd Wed	10 am
SCRABBLE FOR FUN	Toni Parsons	01858 431944	Community Ch	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10 am – 12
TABLE TENNIS 3	Jenny Acaster	07530 999850	MH Leisure Centre	Weekly	9 am
TRANSPORT GROUP	Michael Milsom	01858 419874	Bowls Club, Little Bowden	1 st Wed	10 am
WALKING HALF DAY 1	Bruce White	07919 935496	Outside	2 nd Wed	Morning
WALKING WED STROLLERS	Linda Reed Les Dodd	07986 460319 01858 462244	Various	2 nd Wed	10.15 am
WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB	Jacqui Crowe	wednesday.book@hwu3a.org.uk	Members homes on a rota basis	2 nd Wed	1.30-3pm
Wednesday Chat & Craft	Adriana White	newgroups@hwu3a.org.uk	Louisa's Café	Every other Wednesday	10-11.30 am
Wine Tasting	Naomi /Jonathan Shaw	01858 682133	Please call	Every 4th Thursday	Various
THURSDAY					
BIRDING THURSDAY	Bruce White	07919 935496	Outside	3 rd Thursday	Morning
Cribbage	Colin Smith	cribbage@hwu3a.org.uk	Little Bowden Bowls Club	Every Thursday	10am – 12noon
DRAWING & PAINTING	Elaine Scarlett	01858 432 029	Oxendon Village Hall	1 st and 3 rd Thursday	Afternoon
FAMILY HISTORY	Rob Green	familyhistory@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Church	3 rd Thursday	10 am – 12
FRENCH CONVERSATION GARDEN GROUP	Hilary Pollak	07854 120605	Please call	Weekly	2.30 pm
HISTORY, ASPECTS OF INTERMEDIATE GERMAN	Stella Freeman Ernie Parsons Frances Parsons	01536 760124 01536 760141 07910 029273	Meth Church (winter) Desborough Town FC E-mail for venue	3 rd Thurs FINAL Thurs 2 nd and 4 th	2 pm 2pm 10-11.30
LISTENING TO JAZZ	Mike Goldsmith	01536 770122	Please call	Last Thursday	2.15 - 4.15
MAH JONG	Pamela Costall Carole Winfield	07803 204464 07966 442583	BAPTIST CHURCH, Coventry Road	2 nd and 4 th Thurs	9.45 am
PLAY READING 1	Alan Gurr	07967 566970	Methodist Ch	2nd Thursday	10 - 12
PLAY READING 2	Alan Gurr	07967 566970	Community Ch	2nd Thursday	2 - 4
SPANISH BEGINNERS	Don Collins	01858 462409	Community Ch	Weekly	2 pm
SPANISH IMPROVERS	Don Collins	01858 462409	Community Ch	Weekly	10 am
TABLE TENNIS 2	Sheridan New	07795 872496	MH Leisure Centre	Weekly	Midday
TENNIS	Neil & Maggie	01858 431 665	Gt Bowden Tennis Courts	Weekly	10 am

Thursday Ramblers	Helen Salisbury 07837 410575 walking1.allday@hwu3a.org.uk		Outside, various	Last Thursday	10 am
Urban Thursday Walks	Gina and Graham Handsley urban.walks@hwu3a.org.uk		MH	1st Thursday	11 am
WALKING HALF DAY 4	Alan and Linda Reed walking4.thursday@hwu3a.org.uk		Outside, various	4 th Thursday	Morning
WILDLIFE	Diana Baxter 0116 279 2947		Outside, various	2 nd Thursday	Morning
FRIDAY					
CREATIVE WRITING	Ann Eato/Nita West 01858 461517		MH Library	2 nd Friday	2.15 pm
CYCLING	Kevin Millard 01858 468015		Outside	1 st & 3 rd Fri- days	10.00am
HEALTH & WELLBEING	Rob & Kathy Davison 07983 948392 07881 816909		Methodist Church	2 nd Friday	10.30am
PHOTOGRAPHY FRIDAY	Phil Aldridge 07734 903737		Welland Place	3 RD FRIDAY	afternoon
PAPERCRAFT & MORE	Jan Collins 01858 462409		Please call	1 st & 3 rd Friday	morning
PAPERCRAFT – BEGINNERS	Jan Collins 01858 462409		Please call	2 nd & 4 th Fri- days	morning
DISCOVERING POETRY	Jill Hart 01858 469663		Methodist Church, Upper Room	1 st Friday	10 am
SEQUENCE DANCE	Christine Morris and Julie Holmes sequence.dance@hwu3a.org.uk		Little Bowden Bowls Club	1 st & 3 rd Fri- days	4.00 - 5.30 pm
SINGING FOR FUN	George Cashell 01858 467616		Methodist Church	2 nd and 4 th Fridays	afternoon
SOCIETY TODAY	Martin Gossage society.today@hwu3a.org.uk		Methodist Church, Activity Room	3 RD FRIDAY	2-4 PM
VEGETARIAN & VEGAN	Chris Hobson 01858 289784		Various	3 RD FRIDAY	12-2pm
WALKING, FRI STROLLERS	Carol Harvey 07855 738706 Michael Parsons 07940 185429		Outside	2 nd Friday	10.15 am
SUNDAY					
SINGLES SUNDAY LUNCH	Vivienne Murphy 01536 771410		Various	1 st , 3 rd & 4 th Sundays	Various
OTHER					
DO IT AGAIN GROUP	doitagaingroup@hwu3a.org.uk		Various	Various	Various
DRONES & PHOTOGRAPHY	Terry Eato 07943 732841		Outside	Various	Various
Evening Activities	Yvonne Starkey evening.activities@hwu3a.org.uk		Various	Various	Various
Holiday Group	Maryan Richardson trips1@hwu3a.org.uk		Advertised to group	Normally 5 days	various
NEW EXPERIENCES	Kevin Millard 01858 468015		Various	Various	Various
TRIPS	Maryan Richardson trips1@hwu3a.org.uk		See Events List	As advertised for each trip	
WALKING – EVENING	Linda Reed 07986 460319 membership@hwu3a.org.uk Louise Elsome 07740 572956 chair@hwu3a.org.uk		Outside, summer	Various	Various

'Why do I do this?' Mike Goldsmith

Having moved to the area over 15 years ago, unpacked everything, bought additional storage, I contemplated my large collection of jazz CDs and LPs and asked myself 'How do I manage to listen to all these before I move on?' Having joined the local U3A, the answer was obvious – start a *Listening to Jazz* group! So for over 15 years a small group of people have turned up at our house every month to listen to whatever I've pulled from my shelves and what one member might have brought with them to play for us.

Only a small minority of people like jazz, so the *Listening to Jazz* group has always been small, ranging between 10 and 15 members. Some have managed to be with it since the outset, others are much more recent joiners. Some are devotees, other know little or nothing about jazz. One or two have passed away, others probably found something better to do with their time than listen to me introducing some 16 different tracks ranging from say cornetist Bix Beiderbecke from the 1920s to guitarist Julian Lage in the 2020s via tenor saxist Coleman Hawkins, pianist Michel Petrucciani, trumpeter Miles Davis, saxist John Coltrane and various points in between. There are always a couple of tracks from a singer and three tracks selected by a group member. The latter are always interesting, sometimes overlapping something in my collection, occasionally letting me hear someone with whom I am not familiar – and at least there are tea and biscuits provided free! But even after all this time we have only begun to scratch the surface of my collection!

There is some overlap between the group membership and that of local jazz club Harborough Jazz. Though I still consider it one of Harborough's best kept secrets, the club meets monthly between September and June at the Three Swans and presents the best of British jazz along with the occasional visiting US star. How do I know this? Well, for about 15 years until recently I did the bookings for the club, tasked with bringing 10 bands a year to play. Booking jazz bands is not as easy as one might think.

Many jazz musicians don't have a website, or an easily accessible phone number, or simply don't reply to calls or messages. Some have managers, whose own fee has to be added into the cost of booking the band. The fee agreed has to be something which rewards the notoriously underpaid jazzmen, yet allows the club to charge an entrance price which would not lead to it losing money. Despite the occasional loss over the years for when I was responsible for the bookings, I still managed to bring in some great acts, including a couple of big bands, and came to know some fine musicians, even if sometimes I felt some were a little too demanding, or I was unsure if they would even arrive on time for their gig, and sometimes if they would turn up at all!

So, to answer the question at the head of this piece – why do I or did I do this?

Simply to share my enthusiasm for jazz with others, whether it be live or on record and I'm grateful for the opportunity I have had to perform both roles!



I know it's only Rock and Roll, but we like it.

My wife Ann and I are devoted Rock enthusiasts, with some exceptions. Our radio is tuned to *Planetrock*, and despite the repeated adverts, we enjoy the records played which date back to 1967. We often catch up with our favourite groups via Youtube, remarking how young they looked or is that really them when watching more recent videos.

I am particularly amused by the Rolling stones appearance on BBC Top of the Pops, performing, 'It's only Rock and Roll'. They were obviously miming, as was the case for all performers on TOTP which is just as well.



at



BBC Top of the Pops, 1974

Dressed in US sailors' uniforms, they became victims of an over effective bubble machine. Charlie Watts the drummer, disappearing at the end, beneath the suds.

Returning to *Planetrock*, where else? One of my favourite programmes is the *Sunday Brunch*, which is devoted to Blues and I do particularly enjoy this genre. Try [Blues Power - Latest Episodes - Listen Now on Planet Rock](#) with the Bluesmeister, Bernard Doherty.

One of our favourite artists is Kenny Wayne Shepherd, an American Blues guitarist. We have seen him several times when he tours the UK, playing in relatively small venues.

He and his band produce authentic blues music. He is a consummate performer on the electric guitar. The words virtuoso and prima donna can be applied to him.

Ann and I enjoy all sorts of live music, indeed Ann is a member of the HWu3a choir. I cannot claim any musical talent, unless you include whistling, but I do admire anyone who has the talent and chutzpah to stand up in front of an audience and perform, whatever style of music.

Dave and Ann Martin



KWS Official Website

Poets Corner

A little background: Members of the creative writing group, receive a short title at the end of each monthly meeting. We then have four weeks to produce something. This month's was particularly challenging: Up a Gumtree. Dave Martin

Stuck up a gumtree, without a paddle.

Here I am, stuck up a gumtree, without a paddle.

How do I find myself in this situation?

In this fix, up against it, under the cosh.

Here I am, in a hole and in deep water

Nearby, there's a cleft stick and a tight corner.

Time is against me. The deadly block

Not helped by being in the soup and hot water,

not to mention in a pretty pickle. I'm stuffed.

What will the group think? Me, looking like a numpty.

Trying to write something, while stuck up a gumtree,
without a paddle.



Stuck a gumtree, with a hint of a glimmer.

An idea is brewing, maybe my epiphany?

Could this moment of inspiration,

this spark of imagination, become a stroke of genius?

Should I go with my hunch, on the spur of the moment?

Brainwave or brainstorm, am I saved?

Could I be rid of the epithet, Numpty?

This blinding flash – but I'm still stuck up a gumtree,
but with my mojo.



Stuck up a gumtree, as the similes flood in.

I'm as happy as Larry, pleased as Punch,

Like a dog with two tails.

I'm jumping for joy, walking on air.

No longer stuck down by the gum on the tree.

I'm over the moon, on cloud nine.

In raptures, beside myself,

I'm tickled pink.

Surely not a numpty,

Who's a clever boy, then?

Perched up a Gumtree.

As smug as a parrot.



Health and Wellbeing group.

One of our members, Naomi Shaw, mentioned a bread recipe which she uses - and several members have asked for the recipe. Here it is.

Spelt bread

Spelt has a delicious nutty flavour and has less gluten than traditional higher yield wheats, making it easier to digest for many people. It freezes really well in freezer bags, but don't keep bread in the fridge as it goes stale more quickly.

Makes one 2lb loaf

- Soft butter, for greasing loaf tin, or line with non-stick baking paper
- 500g wholemeal spelt flour
- 6g fast-acting dried yeast
- pinch crushed sea salt
- 125g mixed seeds (I use Holland & Barrett, Grape Tree or Tesco depending on offers!)
- 42ml extra virgin olive oil (about 3 tbs)
- Glug of maple syrup, or tbsp honey
- 300ml warm water (100 ml boiling, 200 cold)

1. Smear loaf tin with butter or line with paper. Mix all of the dry ingredients together in a bowl large enough to knead the dough in.
2. Mix in a jug the warm water, oil and sweetener. Add yeast and stir to dissolve. Pour into dry mix. Knead in the bowl (I use a kitchen mixer with a dough hook) for just a few minutes until smooth. You can add a little flour if it is too sticky, but remember the maxim – wetter is better. It doesn't matter if a little sticks to your hands.
3. Put it into the loaf tin and leave to rise. I have a 40C setting on the microwave combi-oven which takes 45-60 minutes depending on the flour. Or put the tin into a large plastic bin bag, which can be tucked under the tin to leave it enclosed with plenty of air. Leave until the dough has doubled in size. This will take about 2 hours in a warm kitchen.
4. Bake at 200C/400F/gas mark 6 for 30-40 minutes. Turn out and cool on a wire rack.

Variations

- You can use wholemeal flour if you can't get hold of spelt.
- We also mix with small amounts – about 20% max - of Rye, Gram, or buckwheat flour.
- If you like it a bit lighter, you can replace some of flour with strong white wheat or spelt flour.

Naomi Shaw



Blazing June

So, how did Ced create this lovely piece? Read on ...



On an extremely wet May afternoon 24 members of **The Do It Again Group** tried their hand at Wood Burning.

This involves using a very hot soldering iron to burn a picture onto a wooden disk. Most people used a template for their picture, but some also went "freehand" creating unique images.

Everyone created a beautiful piece of art, that could be hung up inside or if varnished outside.

Many thanks to Kevin from **New Experiences** for his invaluable help, guidance and use of equipment. *Yvonne Starkey*



Still to come -- in the online version...

- Mike Goldsmith shares more of his memories of Jazz.
- Read about the Croquet Event in Welland Park—WEATHER PERMITTING
- More photos from the Photographic group.
- Group reports and walking group arrangements.



Angela Lloyd

Answers to rock quiz, page 6. >>>

Jimi's unlikely 'neighbour' -
George Frentric HANDEL

Name	GROUP	RECORDING
Jimi Hendrix	The Experience	Purple Haze
Janis Joplin	Big Brother & the Holding Co.	Move Over
Jim Morrison	The Doors	Riders on the Storm
Brian Jones	Rolling Stones	Paint it Black

Coming up

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

- June 8th** **A walk across Africa - Fran Sandham** - Solo walk across Africa, from Namibia's Skeleton Coast on the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar (See photo, front cover)
- June 22nd** **Get Together**
- July 13th** **Pluto , pipeline under the ocean and a Slow Walk to Corby - Colin Ford**
- July 27th** **Get Together**

Theme for July edition : 'What did you learn today?'

From your school years, or maybe college, university, training; can you remember a 'eureka moment'? Were you ever responsible for one? Or is it possible that as a member of the *University of the 3rd Age*, as it was formerly known, you are still learning? Have you learned something interesting recently at one of the HWu3a group meetings?

Original poems and quizzes very welcome. Also photos you have taken of local interest.

Please send your contributions to newsletter@hwu3a.org.uk, Dave M

You can read many more articles and see more photos in the online edition. Go to hwu3a.org.uk then click on 'What's on' and 'Newsletters'. We would welcome your comments and your contributions for this online version. *Ced Bufton & David Martin*.

Copy Deadline for July edition - Tuesday 30th of June

HWu3a Executive Committee — Committee contact details

Louise Elsome, Chair

chair@hwu3a.org.uk 07740 572956

Ced Bufton, Marketing,

marketing@hwu3a.org.uk

Pamela Costall, Vice Chair and Secretary

secretary@hwu3a.org.uk 01858 682512

Clare Heaton, Treasurer.

treasurer@hwu3a.org.uk

Linda Reed, Membership Secretary

membership@hwu3a.org.uk 07986 460319

Peter Saunders, Group Facilitator

groups@hwu3a.org.uk 07341 528450

Robert Davison, Premises Coordinator

premises@hwu3a.org.uk Tel: 07983 948392

Halina Pasiecznik,

Community and New Members

community@hwu3a.org.uk

Key Support Roles

Helen Salisbury, Publicity Officer 07837 410575 publicity@hwu3a.org.uk

Stephen Joy, Website Editor, 07982 428397 website@hwu3a.org.uk

Ian Webb, Beacon Administrator beacon@hwu3a.org.uk

Anne Wilson, STARs Coordinator stars@hwu3a.org.uk

Bea Martin, Bridget Hankers, Speaker Coordinators speakers@hwu3a.org.uk

Jim Tyson, Technical Team Lead tech@hwu3a.org.uk

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

WELCOME TO THE ONLINE VERSION of the June 2026 Issue of the Magazine.

Thanks again to all members who have contributed to this edition. We welcome any views and ideas that you have for the HWu3a Magazine or general feedback. We tend to work in a vacuum and assume that everyone is happy with our efforts ... ?

Dave Martin, Ced Bufton. Co-editors.

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| P. 21 Croquet report | P. 27, 28 Local Charities |

As you will have read in the Chair's report, page 2, Copyright is a big issue, particularly as our magazine appears online.

A magazine with few photos would be rather sad, so we would love to feature some of your locally taken photos.

No prizes for guessing where I snapped this one!
D.M



3D PRINTER request.

Thanks to everyone who responded to our 'cry for help' with fabricating this small but vital piece of kit which enables us to use our pop up banners.

It was a real learning curve for me and I am very grateful for the detailed explanations of how this could best be achieved.

In the end, it was difficult to calculate the amount of stress involved (on the plastic, not me), and we opted to buy a replacement pole and fixing piece. It was very good to receive so many offers of support, thanks. D.M

BY THE MEMBERS, FOR THE MEMBERS.

Photography

The HWu3a Photography groups always supply us with vivid and interesting images. I wonder what you make of these? What could be the theme?



Clockwise from top left: Alison MacDermid, John Dyson, Angela Lloyd, Fiona Barnaby, Jeanette Judah, Alastair Willis.

There is no theme—just random images for your enjoyment. D.M





walking1.allday@hwu3a.org.uk

The Thursday Rambling group certainly chose a fine day for their May walk .

Contact:

Helen Salisbury 07837
410575

Wednesday Strollers The May walk was based from The Black Horse at Foxton: our thanks to Fiona and Paul White for setting this up.

We welcomed two new prospective members and a visitor. Our prompt departure from the pub was delayed due to a sudden downpour of almost biblical proportions, including hail.

We are a doughty group and descended down to the swing bridge and then taking the footpath uphill adjacent to the local school. Turning away from the view of the prison development we strolled on to Gumley Road.

Here a second volley of rain and hail did its best to dishearten us, but to no avail. A bonus for us was to see a novice young horse in training followed by a vehicle at a pedestrian pace. We reached the road bridge beyond top lock and descended to the towpath. At the bottom lock we crossed over and took the towpath, eventually leaving near the Wooden footbridge. We crossed, now free of rain, dry cracked and colourful fields, rejoining the towpath and making our way back to the pub and welcome refreshment. *Les Dodd*

Friday Strollers

On Friday 10th July we meet at 10:30 for a stroll from Woodford Mill Tea Rooms. NN14 4DU. Parking is in the large car park at the top of the hill on the right as you approach the tea rooms.

The tea rooms require us to pre-order please, menu available online. Names and menu choices please by Monday 6th July. 20 strollers maximum please.

Carol and Val 07855738706

carol.harvey1@hotmail.co.uk

Evening Walking group Report

Thursday 21st May

A disappointingly small band of 6 set off from the Bell at Gumley for a season opening evening walk. We enjoyed a pleasant 3.7 mile meander across fields and towpaths, culminating in a climb back up the hill to the pub, having first negotiated a field of inquisitive cattle!

We hope to have more members joining in on the next walk on June 3rd.

Linda Reed and Louise Elsome



Thursday Half Day Walking— Report.

Thursday 28th May

A small group headed off from Great Glen, noticing that the temperature had plummeted from two days earlier to a more chilly 24 degrees! We headed to the north of the village past slumbering cattle, then enjoyed the fields full of excited spring lambs whilst looping round toward Burton Overy. Our return took us alongside pretty blue coloured crops, which after some debate were identified by an app as flax.

The Italian themed lunch was excellent although it has to be said the pizzas were too large for most! *Linda Reed*

The group is open to new members so if you fancy exercising with a 4-5 mile walk followed by a genial lunch then please get in touch.

WALKING HALF DAY 4 Alan and Linda Reed
walking4.thursday@hwu3a.org.uk Alan and Linda Reed



STOP PRESS! Evening Walks group report. JUNE - Page 30.

Croquet Event—May 26th Report

We finally played some croquet on May 26th, although for various reasons several of the original players could not make this date. It was most unfortunate that this happened but the phrase WEATHER PERMITTING is now writ large in my mind.

The initial event being postponed to temperatures of 12 °C and a very unpromising weather forecast. Jump forwards two weeks and what initially appeared as a spell of settled weather transpired to be the hottest day of the year so far. I admit to being rather frazzled at the end of a long day!

I hope everyone who managed to play enjoyed the experience. I have included a link to Leicester Croquet club below if anyone wants to take this taster session any further.

One good thing to come out of this was the generosity of many members who donated their refunds to the Rainbows Hospice charity. Together with the sale of a donated croquet set, we will giving over £80 to this worthy cause. *Dave Martin*



Hit your balls through the hoops before your opponent does. How difficult can that be? It sounds easy, but croquet is a game of skill and tactics, which is played socially as a pastime, or

competitively as a sport by adults just like you.

We were established in 1985 and play at Monks Rest Gardens, Old Humberstone. We run 'learn to play courses' throughout the season (April to October), and taster sessions .

www.leicestercroquet.org.uk [Leicester Croquet Club](#)

MEMORIES OF JAZZ -Mike Goldsmith

I have been listening to jazz, live, on air and on disc, for over 70 years, and have so many good memories, whether it be hearing Bechet, Mulligan and Peterson (amongst others) on Radio Luxembourg in my youth or Rob Luft and Dave O' Higgins live at Harborough Jazz. Whether it be seeing Humph with 'Dirty Bopper' alto player Bruce Turner live at age 15 or a 70 year old Scott Hamilton for the fifth time when in my middle 80s, being able to see both jazz stars and those not so well known playing the music I love has been an important part of my life. Turner, along with the Jazz Couriers of Ronnie Scott and Tubby Hayes, were the first bands I ever booked: Rob Luft and Dave O' Higgins amongst the last. Being able to bring stars like Hamilton to Harborough Jazz has been a particular pleasure, if only to hear one person say 'I never thought I would hear Scott Hamilton in Market Harborough.'

But then I never thought I would get to hear Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Thelonious Monk, Earl Hines or Lionel Hampton live (I was at Hampton's 'infamous' 1956 London appearance and enjoyed every moment!) when they were in the UK, or that I would be able to hear people like altoist Lee Konitz (three times), Mose Allison, the Great Guitars (Kessel, Ellis and Byrd), Carla Bley with her big band and trio or the Mingus Big Band, in places as diverse as Paris, Southport, Copenhagen, Washington and Oslo! Seeing drummer Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers in the early 80s, when he had a very young Wynton Marsalis in his band, was a particular pleasure, as was seeing saxist Ken Peplowski working with the Royal Northern College's big band, and pianist Ralph Sutton swinging at Manchester's Royal Exchange theatre.

For many years, being able to attend the Vannes Jazz Festival in Brittany provided opportunities to hear some really great jazz. Whether it be the Carla Bley big band, with trombonist Gary Valente echoing out over the town, or the Lincoln Centre big band doing likewise as they played their Coltrane tribute, or catching the Scandi trio EST, early Brad Mehldau, or singer Diana Krall with Russell Malone on guitar outshining organist Eddie Louiss, hearing these people and others like McCoy Tyner, Herbie Hancock with saxist Chris Potter, and altoist Kenny Garrett doing 'Happy People,' Vannes provided excellent music.

But one also got to hear some of the best of British jazz, one particular highlight being the Stan Tracey big band in full flight -what a pity that this festival is now no longer, a victim of economic circumstances which threaten similar festivals and jazz clubs around the country.



Riverside Records, 1957,
photo by Paul Weller

I've been a constant purchaser of records ever since I became a jazz fan, even in some financially difficult times. Most now is in cd form, with over 3000 of the discs stored around the house. When CDs first appeared my wife bought me a couple – the next time she looked she remarked that they appeared to breed like rabbits, and indeed their numbers increased over the years. I also had quite a large number of LPs, but I sold most of them at a point when they were taking up a lot of storage and I decided I needed a new amplifier. Their numbers are still rising, however, as I usually list vinyl as requests for Christmas and birthday presents from family members. Currently I am struggling to overcome my collectors disease, looking to thin out my CD numbers without noticeable success. Like most collectors, there is always 'just one more I must have.'

I draw on my collection to provide material for the U3A jazz appreciation group which I've now been running for 15 or more years. Each monthly session has a selection of some 16 different tracks covering a wide range of styles and eras, but I still have a feeling that we have only scratched the surface of my collection. What is also interesting is to hear the three tracks a member has brought for us to hear at each session: so far few have played anything which makes me want to go out and buy a copy of their disc, and hopefully things will stay that way in the future.

I also like to read about jazz and jazz musicians, so my shelves also contain more of such books than I really need. Whether they are biographies, jazz histories or collections of essays, I find myself returning to many of them time and time again. But I don't consider myself an expert on jazz in any way – there is always something new to learn or someone new to hear, and I would not want it any other way. Jazz has sustained me for so long I

don't know what I would do without it. It was especially important when I was writing and editing academic books, the music somehow helping to keep the flow of words going. And it has been a music which I've been lucky to share with so many friends around the world, most of whom have also been sources of new sounds for me to hear. In these days jazz may well be a minority interest, but there are still enough jazz fans and

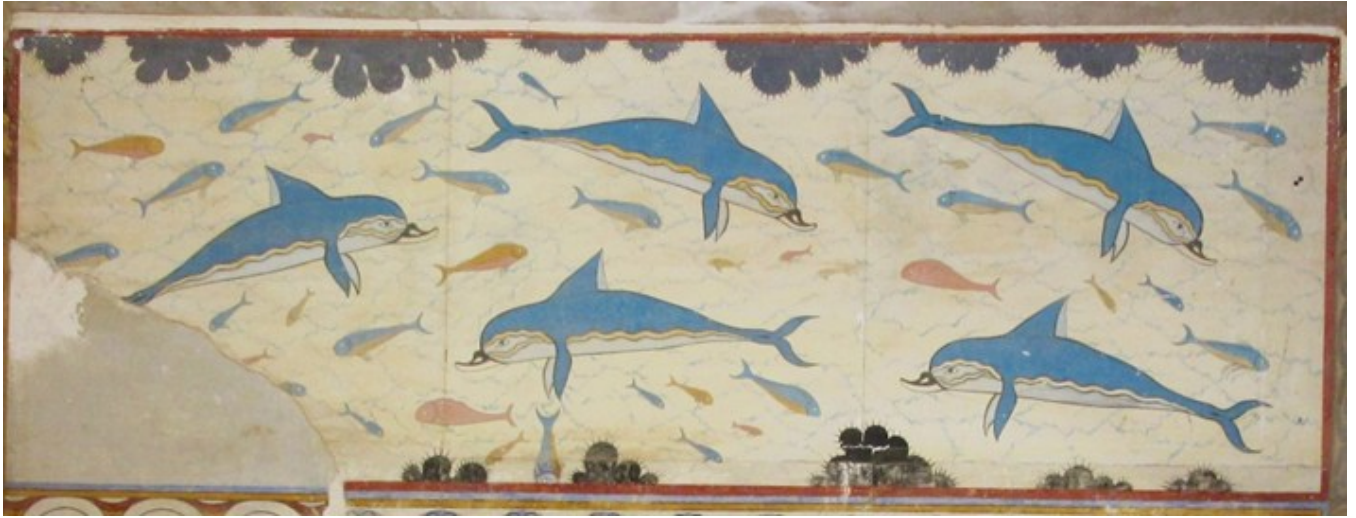


Atlantic Records, circa 1956,
photo by Lee Friedlander.

musicians around to keep the music alive – long may it be so!

Art History

Our topic for May was **Sea Creatures** with artworks chosen by members of the group.



There was a good variety of artists, style and techniques. Here are a few examples.

The Dolphin Fresco, a Minoan masterpiece at the Palace of Knossos, Crete, c 1500 BC.

'Big Fish Eat Little Fish' originated as a 1556 drawing by the Flemish artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder. The name derives from a Flemish proverb.

In the 19th century, increased exploration led to

more accurate

depictions of marine life, blending biology with art.

The intricate works of Ernst Haeckel revealed the beauty of jelly fish and sea anemones (1904). Many of these illustrations can be found here <https://publicdomainreview.org/collection/ernst-haeckels-jellyfish/>

In modern and contemporary art, the surrealist Salvador Dali used a plaster lobster as a telephone receiver (1936) and Paul Klee created a dreamlike

composition in his collage 'Fish Magic' (1925) shown on the left.

More recently, artists have been able to take photographs and make drawings underwater and then create large paintings in the studio. For information on Coral Reef paintings see the website of Roger Swainston <https://share.google/BHagXkWKJJ174V4qo>

Angela Deane



Summer Reading

Bookworms Report

Our book of choice for May was 'Trespass' by Rose Tremain, the award-winning author of, among others, the Whitbread Novel of the Year 'Music and Silence' and 'Restoration' which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

The story mainly takes place in a silent valley near the village of La Collune in southern France, where the isolated farmhouse of Mas Lunel stands amid the dense forests of the Cevennes. The stone building and its surroundings are in a state of neglect thanks to Aramon Lunel, an alcoholic, who lives there in squalor. His sister, Audrun, is forced to live alone in a cold bungalow within sight of the Mas, and is resentful of her brother's ownership of the former family home.

Into their lives comes Anthony Verey, a wealthy but disillusioned antiques dealer from London, who is seeking a new life in France. Anthony's sister, Veronica, is already settled in the Cevennes with her partner, Kitty, and is only too happy to help him find his ideal home. When Aramon puts Mas Lunel up for sale, Anthony can see its potential and his interest in the property sparks off a catastrophic series of consequences.

Before any of these characters are introduced, a shocking event takes place in the first chapter. This is almost forgotten as the reader is absorbed into the lives of the main characters, but gradually a feeling of suspicion and dread is woven into the story. Both Audrun and Aramon are haunted by unspoken betrayals and childhood memories. Anthony, too, revisits times spent with his mother, Lal, whose love he craved but rarely felt. In the heat of the long, dry summer with decay in the air, resentment builds and catastrophe is inevitable.

Trespass is a recurrent theme in the book and comes in different guises. Audrun's beloved mother, Bernadette, had warned her there could be trespass and that "People can come and steal from you.....Anything that has existence can be stolen or destroyed. So you must be vigilant."

Without exception, all group members were invested in this well-written piece of fiction. The characters are flawed yet fascinating, the setting evocative and the plot cleverly and subtly constructed.

Those of us who weren't already Rose Tremain fans, certainly are now!

Louise Elsome 'Bookworms' Group Coordinator

Literary quote.

'Just be yourself. Everyone else is taken.' - Oscar Wilde

The Readers: Book reviews, Caroline Weedon Taylor

3 March 2026; *The White Queen*, Philippa Gregory, Simon and Schuster, 2009

The White Queen is the first in Gregory's series of historical novels concerning the Wars of the Roses; the war between the houses of Lancaster and York, sometimes known as the Cousins War. It's a turbulent, complex and chaotic period of British history characterised by battles for the crown, shifting political alliances, betrayals, plots, murder and intrigue. Gregory takes Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward IV of York and mother to the princes in the tower as her lodestar to portray the period 1464-1485 through Elizabeth's experiences and her perspective.

Philippa Gregory's historical novels are always thoroughly researched and usually accurate in their period detail. She has remarked that in preparation for writing *The White Queen* she became a researcher in military history and the end result for some readers was too great an emphasis throughout the novel on the machinations of the battlefield - many battlefields in fact! She also weaves into an otherwise factual rendering of Elizabeth's story, a changeling pageboy to posit an explanation for the disappearance of her youngest son, Richard. There is some historical evidence for Richard's 'escape' but it is extremely tenuous. The story of the princes in the tower, surrounded as it is with myth, is nevertheless fertile ground for the novelist and Gregory takes up this thread in a later novel in the series.

Notwithstanding the female perspective that Gregory adopts in the novel, some also found the depiction of Elizabeth as a strong woman, a determined queen and a fearless mother but utterly powerless without her husband's protection, to be oppressively stereotypical – a true depiction, perhaps, but an uncomfortable one.

Historical novels may afford powerful insight to past times and past lives but on balance this book did not resonate with or enlighten most of our readers.

7 April 2026; *Charlotte Grey*, Sebastian Faulks, Vintage, 1999

Charlotte Grey is one of Faulks's three novels set in France against the background of the two world wars of the 20th century, the other two being *Birdsong* and *The Girl at the Lion d'Or* – it is the last in the trilogy and set largely in Vichy France, sometimes known as the free zone, the central and southern areas of France not occupied by the Germans but under the government of Petain and Laval, and in collaboration with the Germans.

It's an historical novel and reviewers and critics point, to the meticulous research which underlies Faulks's writing which enables him to so clearly capture places and times. Reading *Charlotte Grey* conjures the austerity of Vichy France, the stale wine, the sour coffee and the beetroot salads.

Faulks wrote of his motivation for writing *Charlotte Grey* that "I wanted to look at the insidious way that war affects individual lives." In doing so, he explores personal, political and moral ambiguities in the community of Lavaurette in the Free Zone where Charlotte is working under cover for the resistance and where everything and everyone is normal until nothing is normal. He shows how ordinary people are affected – to betray, to fear, to be kind, to turn away, to compromise, to resist, to be courageous.

Summer Reading

This is an immensely rich and thought-provoking novel. It is not one to read quickly; it almost requires the reader to slow down. Very little happens and much that does is opaque: a local gendarme arrests the parents of two boys; they disappear and their boys are taken into hiding and cared for and life goes on. Subsequently the boys are taken from Lavaurette to Paris and confined in a disused housing estate where they are cared for again as well as could be possible and then with many others, they board the wagon of a train bound for eastern Europe watched by commuters in a suburban Parisian station. Much may be inferred from these sequences but not all is explicit. Some found this style of Faulks' writing frustrating in its lack of clarity, and others, that such sequences were both compelling and deeply disturbing.

But Faulks, in writing of this period of history which is still tortuous for many French people, without sentimentality and without turning people into heroes or villains, has crafted a deeply humane story.

5 May 2026; *Raising Hare*, Chloe Dalton, Canongate, 2025

Raising Hare is Chloe Dalton's first book and with it she won the Wainwright Prize and the Books are my Bag Readers Award. *Raising Hare* was also shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction. It chronicles the author's extraordinary experience of first saving, then living with a leveret (a baby hare), as it grew to adulthood and motherhood, the quiet joy that this brought her, and the connection it helped her to forge with the land in which she lived.

Dalton was a city dwelling professional, working as a political advisor when the covid lockdowns drew her back to her isolated rural barn conversion home, where on one bitterly cold February day she found and rescued the leveret. She had no knowledge of hares or how to care for them but found a way with a little help from her sister and books borrowed and sent to her from the London Library. Her account is suffused with the closest observations of the hare's physical characteristics, its habits and its surroundings. She writes with great clarity and precision and without any hint of sentimentality and she is as alert to her own responses as she is to the hare's gradual transformation under her care.

As ever, this book divided opinions, some found the story compelling and inspiring, others while appreciating the latter, found the author's diversions into her research about hares, hare folk lore, or the effects of farming on the hare's environment, much less engaging. The Prologue and Afterword seemed slightly odd adjuncts to the core text, the former being imaginary and the latter a mixed account of her book promotion tours, further hare narrative and ecological issues. The book itself is beautifully produced, with elegant line drawings on each cover, inside and out and at the head of each chapter.

One reviewer wrote this about *Raising Hare*; 'Come look through this brilliant keyhole of a book to see the life of a single wild animal down to its finest hairs and gestures. Your ears will perk and your body will leap.'

This we were all happy to do.

Caroline Weedon Taylor

Can you help?



Do you fancy volunteering at Kettering General Hospital?

They are currently recruiting for **Ward Volunteers** and **Response Volunteers** to support patients and staff.

Volunteer shifts (Monday–Friday):

- 8:30am – 12:30pm
- 12:30pm – 4:30pm

Ward Volunteers support patients by spending time with them, chatting, reading, offering a listening ear, and making tea or coffee.

Response Volunteers help by delivering notes, medication, and equipment, guiding patients around the hospital, and much more.

Mihaela Salcuceanu, Volunteer Coordinator
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Tel: 01536 491 589 / 07540 673 612
message@volunteer2mail.com

Can you help?



Participants Needed for NHS Study

We are seeking volunteers over the age of 55 years old to take part in a research study, looking at visual function and eye health.

The purpose of the research is to develop visual assessments that monitor changes in eye health associated with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

What's involved?

Testing will take place at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Testing involves one 40-minute testing session, which includes:

- An optical coherence tomography (OCT) scan of the retina in one eye.
- Completing four visual assessments.

Optional: You can volunteer to complete one 15-minute visual assessment, on a separate date, completed online and from home.

Who can take part?

- Adults over the age of 55 years old
- with no history of eye disease (e.g., AMD, cataract, glaucoma)

Compensation

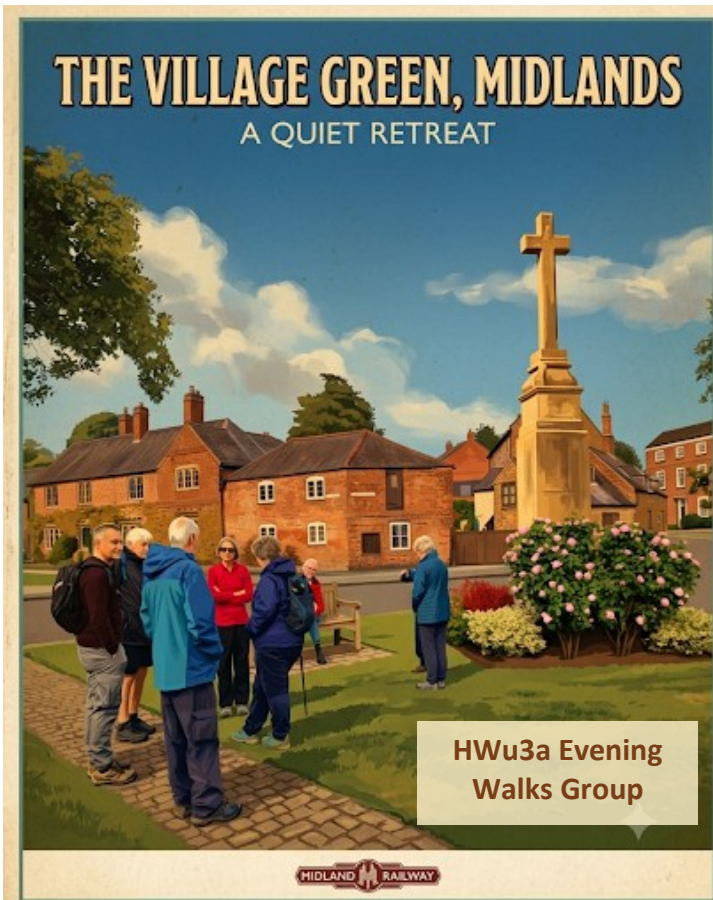
You will be compensated for your time and any travel costs you may incur.

Contact

If interested, please contact Michael Hisaund at mh486@le.ac.uk or 0116 252 5855 for more information or to sign up.

Participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time.

Thank you for supporting clinical vision research!



Poster designed using Gemini AI—inspired by a conversation with David Appleyard.

Billesden was the village in question. The weather was definitely changeable, but despite some very heavy clouds the 12 walkers were spared a soaking. Instead they were treated to a beautiful rainbow at the midway point.

The route soon took us into the countryside where we walked through ripening wheat and rapeseed. The latter had contrived to block the path and it required close attention on the walkers' part, to avoid being tripped by this tenacious crop.

Happily we arrived back at the Crown with no further mishaps.

Here there were various estimates at the actual length of the walk—most of them longer than the promised 4 miles.

Thanks to Steve for leading a great walk. Dave M

