



learn,
laugh,
live

hwu3a.org.uk

HWu3a

Magazine of the
Harborough Welland u3a

Issue No. 58

Best of British

October 2026



Welcome and Committee news

Welcome to the October edition (No. 58) of the HWu3a magazine. We asked for your views on what could be called Best of British. No shortage of ideas out there; from Tumble driers to fish and chips, *Strictly* to pre British Rail companies. *Ced Bufton and David Martin, Publishing team.*
Cover photo credits: Clockwise from Top Left; Gerry Growney, D.M and A.I, Gavin Ramsay, Steven Kim, D.M and A.I.

Contents

P. 2	Welcome, Committee Report	Ps 11-14	Best of British
Ps 3-6	Best of British	P. 15	Speakers' Corner
P. 7	Group and Holiday News List of Group	P. 16	Upcoming events,
Ps 8 – 10	List of Group Details		Committee contact details

PLEASE NOTE: As a non-religious and non-political organisation, the HWu3a is unable to include magazine articles relating to either subject. The Committee does not wish opinions based on stereotypes to be included in the magazine and is mindful of the need to show respect and consideration when submitting articles. *Louise Elsome, Chair.*

News from the Committee - Sept. 2026

Creative Groups Showcase - 19th September: I'd like to say a huge thank you to participating Group Coordinators, volunteers, publicity and marketing teams, as well as everyone who came along to support this successful event. You can read all about it on page 18 in the online version.

Gift Aid: Thanks to those members who allow us to claim Gift Aid related to membership fees. This has resulted in a payment from HMRC of £1978.75.

Groups' Finance: Clare Heaton, Treasurer, continues to work with and support all Group Coordinators and their assistants following changes made last year regarding financial operating and recording systems. Many Group Coordinators now use the Finance Ledger on Beacon and new instructions to help them in their understanding of the process are currently being put in place. The new procedures have led to an initial increase in workload both for Clare and the Assistant Treasurer, Linda Reed, but it is hoped that, long term, they should be beneficial and ease the pressure for the year end. I would like to request, on Clare and Linda's behalf, that if you pay your group subs directly into the HWu3a bank account, always include the group reference and your initials, e.g. BOOKWORMS LE, so that they know who is paying in and which group the payment relates to.

HWu3a Membership: The late summer months saw a higher number of new members joining than usual for this time of year and our total membership stands at 1233 - and growing!

STOP PRESS: Monthly Meetings: Our booking at the Methodist Church for the two monthly meetings now ends at 12 noon. I would be grateful if you could vacate the building as soon as possible after the meeting ends to allow us to clear up and return the main hall to normal. If you wish to help with this, you're very welcome to do so.

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

By the members, for the members



One Roof, Four Families: Notes on the Eccentric Cohabitation of the United Kingdom

Steven Kim

I arrived in Britain in 1990 clutching a small, romantic fantasy: the Land of Gentlemen. Tea at four, umbrellas at the ready, everyone terribly polite. What I actually found, once the suitcase was unpacked, was something closer to a large, slightly awkward family reunion - four nations under one roof, muttering in four different registers, each keeping half an eye on the door in case things got tense. Rather like a Boxing Day gathering that never quite ends: "Lovely to see you!" on the surface, "when can I decently leave?" underneath.

The country's full name doesn't help matters. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland sounds less like a nation and more like a firm of solicitors that merged one time too many. No wonder everyone just says "the UK." Life's too short for the whole letterhead.

England: the art of not having feelings .English politeness is a genuine craft. I once tried counting how many times I heard "sorry" in a single day and gave up somewhere past forty - including, memorably, from the person whose foot I had just stood on. This is not manners so much as a national coping mechanism.

Then there's the weather-as-small-talk trick. "Turned out nice again, hasn't it?" is not really a question about meteorology; it is a polite force field that means "please do not ask me anything real." I have come to think of it as the English equivalent of asking a stranger in a lift which floor they want.

Even the food is emotionally restrained. Fish and chips arrive in a crisp, confident jacket, but the inside is determinedly mild - not so much "crispy outside, juicy inside" as "crispy outside, terribly reasonable inside." The lawns, similarly, are clipped into quiet, dignified order, as if even the grass had been raised to know better than to make a fuss.

Scotland: "We are not English, thank you"

Say "You're British, then?" to a Scot at your peril. You will be corrected - firmly, and usually before you've finished the sentence. It's not unlike telling someone from Yorkshire that they must be from London really.

National pride here runs to the sartorial: the kilt remains a garment usually reserved for special occasions - traditionally minus certain undergarments, which strikes me as a bold decision for a country not famous for its warm winters.

Haggis, similarly, requires nerve on the first attempt and produces real affection on the second (my advice: ask what's in it after you've eaten it). And whisky is discussed with the seriousness other nations reserve for constitutional law: Scotch is the truth, and everything else is merely a rumour.

As for the scenery - misty lochs, brooding glens, the odd ruined castle - it is entirely plausible that something large and monstrous lives in one of those lakes. Visitors who fail to spot it at Loch Ness tend to leave faintly disappointed, as though the monster had let the side down.



Wales: a language that sings

Nothing prepared me for Welsh place names. Somewhere in Anglesey sits a village whose full name runs to 58 letters, roughly translating as "St Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near the rapid whirlpool, and St Tysilio's Church near the red cave." Even the Welsh, sensibly, call it Llanfair PG.

Male voice choirs turn up in the most unlikely places - walk down a Valleys high street and you may well hear four-part harmony drifting out of a pub, in tune, despite the pints already consumed. I remain impressed by this feat of coordination under the circumstances.

Wales is also, statistically, a country run by sheep rather than merely containing them - something in the region of three sheep for every person. This explains the wool jumpers, several of which, worn on a damp day, will remind you rather pointedly of their origins. Call it rustic authenticity.



Northern Ireland: the diplomat of the family, and the republic of the potato

Northern Irish conversation has the careful footwork of a seasoned diplomat - hardly surprising, given the historical tightrope of sitting between Britain and Ireland. Words are chosen the way one might cross a minefield: carefully, and one at a time.

The potato, meanwhile, is treated with something close to reverence. Boiled, mashed, roasted, fried, turned into farls or bread - it is genuinely difficult to find a meal that hasn't found a way to include one. In an Irish stew, the potato is unmistakably the star and the meat merely a supporting act, rather as *kimchi* quietly runs the show at a Korean table.

The coastline is properly dramatic - cliffs, green headlands, the works - but the weather has commitment issues. Sunshine at eleven, biblical rain by five past. An umbrella here is not optional equipment; it is a moral obligation. (*More from Steven in the online version*).



The Best of BritishThe Coastal Path. Anne Appleyard



Directions:

Take the A1 - pass Newcastle.
Turn off through Morpeth and follow the sign for the Scenic Coastal Route.
Park at Craster and enjoy the easy wide grassy stretch to Dunstanburgh Castle, about a mile or so, with the sea crashing onto the shore on the right hand side. The castle is English Heritage and open every day.

OR: Park at Craster in the morning and take the local bus service up to Embleton village. From here start walking back towards Dunstanburgh. Follow the wide sweep of Embleton Bay via the beach and coastal path with the castle ruins always in view. It's only as you get closer that you can appreciate the castle wall dropping into the sheer cliff and then straight into the sea and the relentless pounding of the strong current.

No matter where in the UK you access the path it offers a marked route, be it a pleasant stroll on the cliff tops or a more challenging rocky ascent/descent. And always accompanied by the sounds of the sea and a soft, sea breeze!





Made in England



When I married in 1961, I was given a British made Servis washing machine and the accompanying Servis tumble dryer. We left the washing machine at our first house for the new owner. By then it was 28 years old and in perfect working order. We took the tumble dryer to our new house and it carried on working for another 20 years. It was still working when we replaced it with a Hotpoint one which matched our new kitchen.

Pat Aldaya

Best of British Railways— *Gavin Ramsay*

Up until 1948 our Railway system was made up of five or six independent Company's principally the Great Western Railway, The Southern Railway, The London Midland Scottish Railway, the London North Eastern Railway etc. But in that year our good friend Doctor Beeching Nationalised the Railways and the assembled Company's became known collectively as "British Railways", naturally with change came the criticisms of "loss of identity", trains now not running to schedule, fare increases etc. when the reality was that this consolidated model was undoubtedly the way forward bring uniformity, certainly "cross fertilisation of services" and consistency in fares over distance.

Upon Nationalisation British Railways introduced corporate signage in the form of the "hot dog" or totem sign but in a concession to the now obsolete independent Company's produced them in different colours for what were the original "geographical boundaries" the Midland region signs were Maroon & White, Southern were Green & White, Eastern were Blue & White, Western were Chocolate & Cream, North Eastern were Tangerine & White and Scottish Region light Blue & White.





Best of British – Rohini Corfield

I was born in Kenya and moved to England when I was six years old. I remember thinking why are we leaving this tropical sunshine for the grey skies of England?

Over the last 54 years I have gone to school in Bristol , been to university at Cambridge, Leicester and London, worked across England and recently retired in Market Harborough giving me the opportunity to embrace English culture from different perspectives



I really enjoy the food and drink - yes honestly - what's there to dislike about cooked breakfast, roast lunches, fish and chips at the seaside and tea and scones/cake? I look forward to Pimms /punting in the summer and warming stews on crisp winter days. I also appreciate the rolling English countryside with picturesque villages, quirky towns, bustling cities, the fabulous National Parks, the canal networks, the rivers, hills and the stunning coast.

The sporting calendar is varied too with Wimbledon, football, cricket, rugby, horse racing to mention a few. National Trust and Historic Houses are also diverse and interesting ways to learn about history.

BBC shows like Strictly and Traitors are very entertaining. We are blessed with a variety of local theatres and I have enjoyed the excellent plays at Harborough Theatre, outside performances at Kilworth House and Tolethorpe, and the drama and musical events at Little Theatre, The Curve, The Lighthouse etc

I also admire the culture of volunteering - just look at what volunteers do in Harborough like running HFM, u3a, Harborough in Bloom, VASL projects, Home Start, Oxfam, Harborough theatre, Eco Harborough, Morsbags and all the charity shops and fundraising events - impressive!

I love travelling locally and internationally so can still enjoy tropical



delights . I now embrace the changing seasons of Britain and love the contrast of muted winter colours with the brightness of spring, the vibrant tumbling flowers of summer and the autumn palate of cinnamon oranges.

I've met fascinating British people from all walks of life but my favourite English connection has to be my husband Chris who has introduced me to so many of these great British treasures.

Groups Noticeboard

Note from our Day Trips Coordinator.

To alleviate any confusion, the day trips that are arranged by us are open to all members. There is no separate group that you need to be part of.

When a trip is arranged, it will be advertised in the magazine. If interested, then you will need to make contact with the Coordinator at trips1@hwu3a.org.uk

Reservations will be on a 1st come - 1st served basis.

There are no trips organised for October at the present.

Note from our Movie Group Coordinator

The movie group is re-commencing after a few months summer break.

Our first meeting will take place on the 7th October at the Harborough Community Church in Bath Street at 10am in room 2. *Dick Van Aken, Jim Tyson*

moviegroup@hwu3a.org.uk

The Chatroom

Our two new Chatroom groups started last month and proved enjoyable. We are hoping for a few more participants to add to those waiting to complete a third group. Email Peter at chatroom@hwu3a.org.uk

Request

There are often occasions when one has an issue or problem with a mobile device or laptop. Often it is something reasonably straightforward to solve..... if you know the solution. Is there anyone who can attend the monthly get-togethers to be on hand on a 'Helpdesk'? If not every month, then every other month.

Email Peter at groups@hwu3a.org.uk if you think you could assist and want to chat it over. I think this could be a useful addition for us.

Peter Saunders - Groups Facilitator groups@hwu3a.org.uk

Holiday Group News

Holiday Group 1 Read all about the September break in Plymouth in the online version. Page 25

Holiday Group 2 There are still some spaces available—*Jersey Wednesday 5th May - Sunday 9th May. 2027* £775 pp; Single Supplement £316

NEW! Cyprus 8 Days, 7 nights departing 24th Feb 2027. £1259 pp, no single person supplement. For more details go to page 24, online version or contact Gerry Grownay at holiday.group2@hwu3a.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	07732 511572	Lounge Room, Meth Church	1 st Monday	2 pm
Backgammon	Peter Saunders	07341 528450	Youth Wing, Methodist Ch.	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		Methodist Church,	2 nd Monday	2 - 3.30pm
	open.books@hwu3a.org.uk				
Pétanque	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Welland Park, nr Café.	1 st & 3 rd Mon	10 am to 2pm
Quilty Pleasures	Celia Herrick	07934442287.	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
Tai Chi	Lynn Thacker	taichi@hwu3a.org.uk	Jubilee Hall, Cong'nal Church	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.30 - 12.00
Ukuleles Introductory	David Evans	01858 463045	Community Church	1 st & 3 rd Mon	2-4 pm
Ukuleles	David Evans	01858 463045	Community Church	2 nd & 4 th 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: Ashley	4 th Tuesday	2.30 -4.30
	art.appreciation@hwu3a.org.uk		Room		
The Chat Room	Peter Saunders/Hilary Bufton		Various		
	chatroom@hwu3a.org.uk				
German Conversation	Liam Lomasley	07772 325594	Louisa's Place	Every Tues	2-3.30
Bookworms	Louise Elsome	07740 572956	Baptist Church	2 nd Tuesday	2.30
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	2 nd and 4 th Tues	11.15 – 13.15
Local History	Linda Swallow		Congregational Church	1st Tuesday	2-3.30
	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 Tues	10.30 am
The Readers	Susan Trevorrow	07999 082657	Various	1 st Tuesday	2.30-4.30
Tuesday Chat & Craft	Yvonne Starkey	Tarskey2015@gmail.com	Louisa's Café	Every Other Tuesday	10-11.30
Walking Half Day 2	Diana Baxter	01162 792947	Outside	1 st Tuesday	Various

WEDNESDAY				
Badminton	Stuart Irons	Meadowdale School	Weekly	5 - 6.30pm
Belleplates	Pru Normand belleplates@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Church	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 07703 399432 Julia Granger 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 onthededge@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
Shakespeare	Anna Wilson shakespeare@hwu3a.org.uk	Congregational Church	2nd Weds	10 -12
Scrabble for fun	Toni Parsons 01858 431944	Community Ch	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10 – 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 walking1.wednesday@hwu3a.org.uk	Outside	2 nd Wed	Morning
Walking Wed Strollers	Linda Reed 07986 460319 Les Dodd 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
Wine Tasting	Naomi /Jonathan Shaw 01858 682133	Please call	Every 3 rd Wed	Various
THURSDAY				
Birding Thursday	Bruce White 07919 935496 birding.thursday@hwu3a.org.uk	Outside	3 rd Thursday	Morning
Cribbage	Colin Smith cribbage@hwu3a.org.uk	Little Bowden Bowls Club	Every Thurs- day	10am – 12noon
Drawing & Painting	Elaine Scarlett 01858 432 029	Oxendon Village Hall	1 st and 3 rd Thu	Afternoon
Family History	Rob Green familyhistory@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Church	3 rd Thursday	10 – 12
French Conversation	Hilary Pollak 07854 120605	Please call	Weekly	2.30 pm
Garden Group	Stella Freeman 01536 760124	Meth Church (winter)	3 rd Thurs	2 pm
History, Aspects of Intermediate German	Ernie Parsons 01536 760141 Frances Parsons 07910 029273	Desborough Town FC E-mail for venue	FINAL Thurs 2 nd and 4 th	2pm 10-11.30
Listening to Jazz	Mike Goldsmith 01536 770122	Please call	Second Tues	2.15 - 4.15
Mah Jong	Pamela Costall 07803 204464 Carole Winfield 07966 442583	BAPTIST CHURCH, Coventry Road	2 nd and 4 th Thurs	9.45 am
Play Reading 1	Alan Gurr 07967 566970	Methodist Ch	2 nd Thursday	10 - 12
Play Reading 2	Alan Gurr 07967 566970	Community Ch	2 nd Thursday	2 - 4
Spanish – Basic	Peter Mothersole espanol1@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Ch	Weekly	2 pm
Spanish Improvers	Don Collins 01858 462409	Community Ch	Weekly	10 am
Table Tennis 2	Sheridan New 07795 872496 sheridan.new1@gmail.com	MH Leisure Centre	Weekly	Midday

Tennis	Neil & Maggie		Gt Bowden Tennis Club	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
Thursday Pub Walks	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, Up- per 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 & 4 th Fri	Afternoon
Society Today	Martin Gossage society.today@hwu3a.org.uk		Methodist Church, Activity Room	3 RD FRIDAY	2-4 PM
Tai Chi	Lynn Thacker taichi@hwu3a.org.uk		Sports Hall, Leisure Cen.	1st & 3rd Fri	10.30 - 12
Vegetarian & Vegan	Chris Hobson	01858 289784	Various	3 RD FRIDAY	12-2pm
Walking, Fri Strollers	Carol Harvey Michael Parsons	07855 738706 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 1	Maryan Richardson trips1@hwu3a.org.uk		Advertised to group	Normally 5 days	various
Holiday Group 2	Gerry Gowney holiday.group2@hwu3a.org.uk			As advertised for each trip	
New Experiences	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Various	Various	Various
Trips (Open to all mem- bers)	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



A Great Scot - Louise Elsome

When you think of famous Scots whose creations and inventions had a huge universal impact, perhaps the ones that spring to mind are Robert Burns, Alexander Graham Bell or John Logie Baird, to name but a few. Roy Williamson may not be as well known, but his lasting legacy is a song which resonates with many Scots and which is sung at sporting spectacles throughout the world - 'Flower of Scotland'. Roy was a songwriter and folk musician, best known as one half of the folk duo, The Corries, along with his great friend Ronnie Browne. The two men complemented each other perfectly; Roy was a singer who was also a gifted multi-instrumentalist and Ronnie was a gifted singer who had learned to play many instruments. Roy was a man of many talents including art and woodworking; he co-designed a boat and in 1969 he invented the 'combolins', two complementary instruments that combined several instruments into a single one. Ronnie's instrument contained a mandolin with a guitar (along with four bass strings operated with slides); Roy's had a guitar as well as the 12-string Spanish bandurria. Roy wrote 'Flower of Scotland' in the mid 1960s and it soon became the final song to be played at all their concerts, guaranteed to get the patriotic audience joining in. Its lyrics describe the victory of Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, over Edward II, King of England, at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. It was written as a folk song, nothing more, but in 1990 it was adopted as the pre-game anthem for the 1990 Five Nations Championship. When Scotland, as underdogs, went into the deciding match against England at Murrayfield, they went on to beat the Auld Enemy 13-7 to win the Grand Slam - I remember it well! How apt that Roy and Ronnie's favourite sport of rugby chose to honour 'Flower of Scotland' that day and has continued to do so. It went on to be adopted by The Scottish Football Association in 1997 and was used as the victory anthem of Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Games in 2010. Sadly, Roy died aged 54 in 1990, long enough to hear his composition being played at Murrayfield earlier in the year, but never to know just how popular it would become. I went to see The Corries in concert at least 20 times



throughout the 1970s and 80s - you could say I was a fan! Their perfect harmonies and skilled musicianship combined with a great sense of humour made each occasion a night to remember. Roy Williamson - a great talent and a great Scot!

Louise Elsome (proud Scot)

If you are online, try clicking on the flag to hear The Corries.



The Best of British.... Mike Goldsmith

On reading this suggested topic, my immediate reaction was to ask - The Best of British What? After all the British have been and are best at many things, be it literature, art, inventions, food, drink, historic sites.... and so on.

Being a jazz fan I immediately thought who are the best British jazzmen, with those who 'made' it in the US such as pianists George Shearing and Marian McPartland coming to mind, or past musicians such as tenor players Ronnie Scott and Tubby Hayes or trumpeter Humphrey Lyttleton, or current musicians such as alto player Alan Barnes or the Scottish tenorist Tommy Smith. But then my mind wandered off to think about artists such as Constable, Turner, Lowry, Hockney or more recent ones such as Hirst and Emin – all of whom would represent the best of British. And what about literature – surely *Shakespeare* is not just the Best of British playwrights but the best of them all! And there are just too many authors who would all fall into the Best of British category...

Then there are places. People talk a lot about the attraction of the Cotswolds. When we moved to this part of the country, I received a letter from a friend who lived in the Cotswolds saying 'I hear you've moved to the East Midlands – a depressed region in decline' I immediately wrote back to say – 'Yes, it's just like the Cotswolds without the tourists – rolling hills, green and pleasant land, little villages...' even if I don't think it could compare with the Lake District we often visited when living 'up North.' Lakes such as Windermere, Coniston and its Old Man, Derwent and the hills around are surely one of the Best of British landscapes, though others might claim the North York moors run them close when the lavender is in full bloom! But since there are many places which would compete to be the Best of British, clearly choosing only one would not suffice to win the title.



So then I thought about food...what about the Bury black pudding, unknown anywhere else outside Britain, but then I knew not everyone likes black pudding! So what about cheese – surely a crumbly Lancashire, a blue Cheshire or our own Stilton or (my favourite) the hard Lincolnshire Poacher? All good cheeses, but

again too many from which to choose just one!

But there is one British dish which I would suggest we all enjoy from time to time, which is readily available from many places, and which other countries cannot quite manage to copy or equal – fish and chips!

Who can resist the crunch of well cooked batter as one sinks one's teeth in the soft fish below, whilst picking up a forkful of crispy chips to follow... I like the French moules/frites, their nearest equivalent, but it doesn't even start to compare. So there you are – my nomination for the Best of British is the simple dish of fish and chips!



MADE IN ENGLAND

The Bayeux tapestry returned to the UK after 900 years. It shows the sequence of events before, during and after the Battle of Hasting in 1066. It is referred to as a tapestry but as it is not a design woven into fabric, it is technically an embroidery. It is 9 panels stitched together. The end of the tapestry is missing. It was made in the area around Canterbury by nuns. The tapestry illustrates a moment in time which changed the history of England forever. It does raise many interesting questions, including ...



What happened to the 10th panel?

The last panel is estimated to be 1.5m long. In 1814 the French embroidered the words "*Et fuga veterunt Angli*" (and the English have turned in flight). I don't agree. In my opinion I think it was destroyed because it encouraged dangerous thinking about equality and the role of women.

The Bayeux tapestry has 58 panels and in them there are 623 men, 190 horses, 37 ships, 35 dogs, 500 birds and animals, 33 buildings and 3 women. Really? It's misogyny in material!

I am guessing that the last panel would have shown scenes of French and English women sipping mead and debating in a sisterly ordered fashion putting the Norman world to right an ancient "entente cordial". No large shiny weapons. Just peaceful co-operation.

Can't have that. So the whole panel disappeared. Fabric feminism could not be tolerated. In the language of science this feat of disappearance was achieved through stitch witchery.

Sheila Caberwal.



Speakers' Corner



REVIEW OF MEETING 14 SEPT 2026

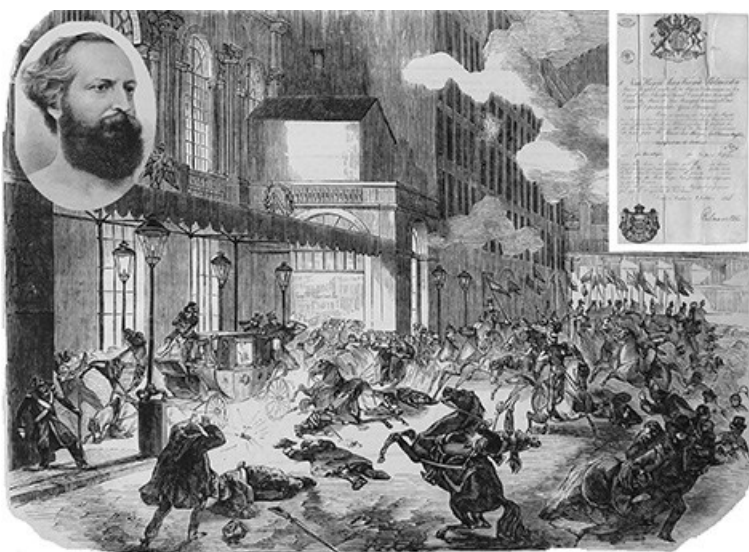
Dr Mike Pienkowski's talk "Why and how we restored Red Kites across Britain" included a 30-minute video including material filmed both in 1989-90 and around 2022, plus a shorter illustrated talk on the main outcomes of the Red Kite restoration and a Q&A section.

Mike was the chair of the group who planned and executed the reintroduction of Red Kites into those parts of the UK from which it had been missing for at least a century and a half, and the author of the book *When the Kite builds... WHY and HOW we restored Red Kites across Britain*. This tells the story of over three decades of work in some detail and with great authority.

The video explained the experiment starting in 1989, and covering a large area of the UK, primarily on our own doorstep at Finedon Woods, where I expect many a walking group and bird group have experienced the results of this amazing project. *Bea Martin*

12 OCTOBER 2026 Martin Lloyd - Passports, assassins, traitors, spies.

Martin worked for HM Immigration Service for 24 years. He now writes books, appears on television, talks on the radio and to groups such as U3As and the Arts Society._



Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies

'Thrill to stories of how three passports have played their influential role in the course of history: an attempted assassination which altered the regulations for issuing passports; the capture of a spy which caused a worldwide modification to the design of the document and for one person the passport itself which turned into a killer.'

Hwu3a SPEAKERS:-

12th October 2026

Martin Lloyd - Passports, assassins, traitors, spies.

9th November 2026

Alan Rogers - "A policeman's lot ..."

14th December 2026

Cast of thousands- CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Coming up

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

12th OCT. Martin Lloyd - Passports, assassins, traitors, spies.
26th OCT. **Get together** **9th NOV. 2026** Alan Rogers – “A policeman’s lot ...”
Alan Rogers MBE, retired police officer **23rd NOV.** **Get together**

Theme for November edition, Gentle Nature:- Following this Summer's catalogue of devastating natural disasters, it might be worth reflecting on the calming influence that Nature can exert. For me, it was tremendously uplifting to see the many parched grassland areas (my lawn in particular) return to their natural verdant best. So Nature Lovers, what do you particularly enjoy? Are there any garden fanatics, camping enthusiasts, anglers or hikers out there willing to share their views and hopefully some original photos. Send to newsletter@hwu3a.org.uk

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 November edition - Wednesday 28th October

STILL TO COME IN ONLINE VERSION: Reports and photos from Creative Harborough events. More Best of British including Britain’s Best Rock Bands. Usual reports from Hwu3a groups.

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

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 July 2026 Issue of the Magazine.

Thanks again to all members who have contributed to this edition. *Dave Martin, Ced Bufton*. Co-editors.

CONTENTS

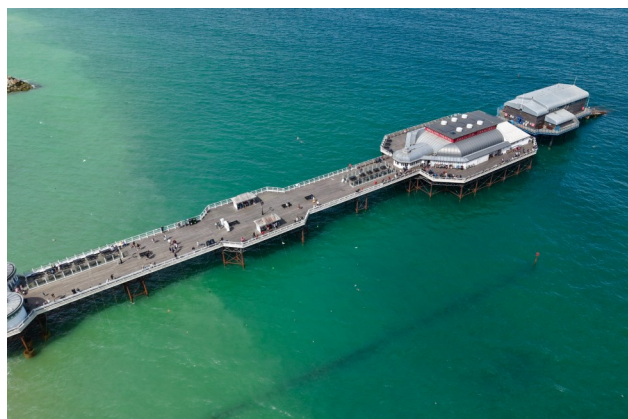
P. 17

On the morning of Saturday 19th September 2026, some of our creative groups and members set up their displays and presentations in The Symington Building's Council Chambers to celebrate National u3a Week and 'Creative Harborough's'



month of events in Market Harborough. What creative talent there is in HWu3a..... The Movie Group soon got to grips with the technical facilities to show The Millennium Tapestry film. A tempting selection of snacks, recipes and cookery books were on show at the Vegetarian and Vegan Cooking table. You could find out how to knit on four needles at The

Wednesday Chat and Craft table while admiring other examples of stitchcraft. Both quilting groups, Quilty Pleasures and Quilting, set up impressive displays of their colourful projects and finished pieces.



The stunning photographs taken by the Drones and Photography Group attracted many visitors and not long before the room was open to the public, there was a steady stream of people filtering through.

By the time the Country Dancing Group was ready to perform, it was standing room only. The audience thoroughly enjoyed both their dances - in fact, some joined in the second one - and by the looks on their faces, the dancers were having a good time too.



September 2026

**Creative
Harborough**



Creative Writing Group supplement



NEVER GO BACK!



The Creative Writing group meet in the library on a monthly basis. We share our written work; stories, poems, playscripts. They are all based on the same title and each member writes in a style that they think fits best.

August's title was **Never Go back.**

You will find some examples of these inside.

The Creative Writers promoted their writing supplement themed 'Never Go Back!'. (Click on the NEVER GO BACK image to read the supplement.

Many thanks to all the groups involved for your input and support!

There is no doubt that we would not have had such a high number of visitors had it not been for our volunteers - Publicity Officer, Helen, who designed and distributed our flyers, Magazine Editors, Dave and Ced, who advertised the event in the monthly magazine, Gerry who was our official photographer and along with Robert and Bruce arrived early to set things up, Peter and David who went out into the streets 'touting for business' and handing out flyers, the Welcome Team comprising Rohini, Jan, Pat, Pamela and Liz and, last but not least, the Refreshments Team of Ann, Dacia, Celia and Pauline. Thanks also go to 'Creative Harborough' for advertising the event in its programme and website

and Harborough District Council for its cooperation and providing the signage in the building. It was a team effort which resulted in a very successful morning, lots of interest from potential new members and support from existing members.

The following email appeared in my inbox shortly after the event and I hope it sums up everyone's experience of the morning: *I just wanted to say what a brilliant job you all did. As we came into the library, there were ladies from the u3a welcoming us and giving out information. They were friendly, smiley and not at all intrusive or wanting to detain you for ages! And then when I came into the room, there was a friendly buzz and everything was well set out. Well done - it was great!* Louise Elsome, HWu3a Chair





HWu3a member, Sorrell Kinley, was one of many local artists whose work was on display at Newcombe House. He told a very interesting story about the artwork to his right. It started off during 2020 and Covid closedown as a card design to be sent to friends and family. Its essential message was one of hope and optimism symbolised by the by the swallow flying over the Sussex Downs.



One Roof, Four Families: Notes on the Eccentric Cohabitation of the United Kingdom

Steven Kim (contd)

What holds it all together: tea, the pub, and the weather

For all their differences, these four nations share a few sacred institutions. Eleven o'clock and four o'clock are treated with something close to reverence - there's a persistent (and rather charming) story that tea breaks continued even in wartime. Whether entirely true or not, it feels exactly right.

Then there's the pub - a place of quiet ritual where a pint after work is treated with something approaching religious observance, whatever's in the glass. And, of course, the weather: the great national opening line, deployed in approximately every conversation, ensuring that every citizen is, by necessity, an amateur forecaster.

Even Brexit, for all the upheaval, left the four o'clock cuppa entirely untouched. Britain may leave a trading bloc; it will not, under any circumstances, skip tea.

A visitor's cheat sheet

Should anyone be planning a tour of these islands, a few notes: apologise liberally and often; north of the border, avoid the word "British" and compliment the kilt; give way to sheep on country lanes, as they clearly believe the road is theirs; and never, ever turn down a potato. Above all, open with the weather - remark that it hasn't rained today and you'll have made a friend for life. Offer a cup of tea and you'll very nearly be family.

And that, in the end, is rather the point. Four nations who bicker splendidly among themselves but close ranks the moment anyone from outside has a go - not unlike any large family, ours included. The United Kingdom is really a working demonstration that people can live under one roof without agreeing on very much at all, so long as the kettle is always on.

Should the world ever feel like too much, there is, I've come to think, a genuinely useful British remedy: put the kettle on, remark on the weather, and apologise to absolutely nobody in particular.

Keep calm and drink tea.

- A rather belated convert to the Land of Gentlemen, thirty-six years and counting.



Editor's choice of British Rock Bands.

I am focusing on the 70's and 80's because they were the best.

Starting in Wales, I remember listening to Budgie while in the sixth form Common Room, (clearly not a working environment, but the swats were happy enough in the library.) Budgie's music was centred around some fine guitar playing and [Burke Shelley](#)'s vocals which have been compared to [Geddy Lee](#) (*Rush*) due to his similar approach of high-pitched banshee wails.

The Manic Street Preachers were a different kettle of fish, coming to prominence in the 1980's. Their music has been described as a '*Glam Punk*', which doesn't really do them justice in my opinion. They have headlined at Glastonbury. Their most successful albums coming inn 1996, 1998; '[Everything Must Go](#)', and '[This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours](#)', respectively.

Thin Lizzy are one of my favourite Irish Bands but although some members of the group were from Northern Ireland, their iconic leader, Phil Lynott was born in England and raised in Dublin. If you like your Rock Blues to be raw and loud, check out Rory Gallagher*, a virtuosos guitarist described as 'the greatest guitarist you've never heard'.

If you prefer a more melodic, haunting type of blues but no less skilful, look no further than Gary Moore. Once a member of Thin Lizzy, his later solo work including 'Parisienne Walkways' and 'Still got the blues'. Tragically both he and Rory Gallagher both died at the relatively early ages of 58 and 47. But their music lives on!

*It transpires that Rory Gallagher was born in County Donegal, which is in Eire but very much in the North of the country. I was slightly confused because one of his most famous concerts was at Belfast Ulster Hall. His statue stands proudly outside.

Home-Start South Leicestershire

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday October 31st 0-12pm

The Theatre Lounge, Market Harborough

Home-Start South Leicestershire would like to welcome you to their fund-raising Coffee Morning.

The “not so spooky” event will include something for adults and children including stalls, Tombola, face-painting, a craft workshop and a Deluxe Raffle with fantastic prizes donated by local businesses.

Perfect for a morning with grandchildren or by yourself. Those who wish can come dressed for a fun Halloween event and maybe take a selfie or two! Halloween costumes are also for sale on the day.

Tea and coffee are available for a donation and sweet and savoury snacks will be available to buy.

Raffle tickets can also be bought from the Home-Start Office at 121 Coventry Road, Market Harborough or email emma@home-startsouthleicestershire.org.uk or 01858 467982

Home-Start South Leicestershire is a charity based in Market Harborough that supports vulnerable families with very young children across the Harborough district. Many of you will remember supporting them by buying the beautiful Snowdrop cards at the Monday morning meeting earlier this year. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at the Coffee morning on October 31st.



The Jordan Jammers are back!

Join us for a fun and relaxed Halloween themed evening of your favourite songs from the 60s, 70s and beyond



Fancy dress if you wish



Saturday 31st October 2026
7.30 pm

Desborough Library and Community Hub

High St, Desborough NN14 2QS

Bar (cash only). Doors open from 7 pm

Tickets £5 each available from the Library

Event organised by Desborough Library and Community Hub

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/list-libraries/desborough-community-library>

THE MARKET HARBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
History Day on 31st October.

A NATION IN TURMOIL: ASPECTS OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS 1642 -1649

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A NATION TURNS ON ITSELF?
JOIN US FOR OUR 2026 HISTORY DAY AS WE EXPLORE SOME LESSER-KNOWN
ASPECTS OF ENGLAND'S YEARS OF CIVIL WAR, 1642 TO 1649 – A TIME OF
UPHEAVAL, CONVICTION AND LASTING CHANGE!

THE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE:

'DISCOVERING KING CHARLES 1ST' – PROF. RICHARD CUST

'TURNCOATS AND RENEGADES: CHANGING SIDES DURING THE ENGLISH CIVIL
WARS' – PROF. ANDREW HOPPER

'WOMEN ACTIVISTS AND THE CHALLENGES TO PATRIARCHY IN THE ENGLISH
REVOLUTION' – DR KATE PETERS

'TREATING THE WOUNDED' – DR ISMINI PELLIS

DATE: SATURDAY OCTOBER 31ST,
VENUE: OCTAGON HALL, WELLAND PARK ACADEMY, WELLAND PARK ROAD MARKET
HARBOROUGH, LE16 9DR
FREE CAR PARKING AVAILABLE
START TIME: 10.00AM FOR 10.30AM
TICKET INFORMATION: £15. PER HEAD. £3. PER HEAD FOR STUDENTS 18 TO 25
TEA/COFFEE AND BUFFET WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE EVENT
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS OCTOBER 17TH.



Payment by Bank Transfer to Market Harborough Historical Society.

Our Bank: Natwest. Sort Code: 53-81-46.

Account no: 87272601.

Reference: please quote MHHS and your Surname and initials.

When purchased please email: mikestroud01@aol.com,

Your registration will be confirmed by email



NEW! Cyprus 8 Days, 7 nights departing 24th Feb 2027. £1259 pp, no single person supplement.



PRICE

£1,259 per person

No single supplement

20 Rooms available! ABTOT & ATOL protected for your peace of mind.

Holiday Highlights

- + Knowledgeable local guide
- + Paphos orientation walking tour included
- + Full-day excursion to Nicosia
- + Flights included from Birmingham
- + Transfers & Luggage included as standard

Your Holiday

BOARD BASIS	Half Board, breakfast and dinner
ACCOMMODATION	Athena Beach Hotel
DEPOSIT	25% at the time of booking
BALANCE DUE	56 days before departure date



For more details contact Gerry Growney at holiday.group2@hwu3a.org.uk