



Lindsey U3A Quarterly

NEWSLETTER

Edition No. 55 (January 2012)



The Gardening Group at Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate

LINDSEY U3A COMMITTEE MEMBERS & DUTIES

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Chairman | Peter Abela | |
| | lindseyu3a@gmail.com | |
| Vice Chairman | Pamela Huggett | |
| | pamelahuggett@btinternet.com | |
| Secretary | Elizabeth Walker | |
| | pmw@avoncroft.freeserve.co.uk | |
| Treasurer | Mike Kirkby | |
| | mike-helen@sudbrooke.eclipse.co.uk | |
| Groups Co-ordinator & Club Group Treasurer | Christa Brimley | |
| | christabrimley@gmail.com | |
| Membership | Alan Turner | |
| | alanturnoru3a@btinternet.com | |
| Welfare | Margaret Champion | |
| | margaret.champion@btinternet.com | |
| Hall Representative | Norman Clarke | |
| | nclarke828@btinternet.com | |
| Hall Organiser | Robin Gulliver | |
| | robin.g@talktalk.net | |
| Vote of Thanks | Jo Smith | |
| | joansmith10@aol.com | |
| Speaker Finder | Jim Smith | |
| | jimdnsmith@hotmail.co.uk | |

Lindsey U3A Website

<http://community.lincolnshire.gov.uk/LindseyU3A/>

Webmaster: Henry Jones

Email handb@handb.me.uk

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Welfare Committee Member

Margaret Campion is the Welfare Committee Member.

If you know of anyone sick or someone who has been absent for a while and unwell, or if you think a card from the Committee would be welcome, then let Margaret know and she will send a suitable message.

Margaret Campion's contact details can be found on page 2.

Note from the Editor



A very Happy New Year and welcome to 2012.

I wish to thank all of you who sent in news, reports, photographs and information about forthcoming group events for this Newsletter.

This Newsletter is published 4 times a year, in January, April, July and October. The deadline for the April 2012 publication is Friday 16th March. Contact details for the Newsletter are:

Email: lindseyu3a@gmail.com

Thanks also to the Editorial Team: Sub-Editor: Dawn Bowskill,
Member: Anne Driver.

Peter Abela, Editor

Door Rota

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Jan | Edna and Barry Brooke |
| Feb | Marian and Michael Cave |
| Mar | Kathleen Warner and Margaret Thomas |

Tea and Coffee Rota

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jan | Val Dunn, Jean Rowell, Pat Meanwell, Mary Smith Jean Stevenson |
| Feb | Jill Phillips, Pam and Alan Monigham, Mollie Winter |
| Mar | June Cooper, Sylvia Staehel Nielsen, Derek and Pam Huggett |

General Monthly Meetings

Thu Jan 5 at 10.30

U3A Members present: "Just a Minute 2"

Thu 2 Feb at 10.30

"Further Archaeological finds in Lincoln" by Adam Daubney
Thanks: John Smallwood

Thu 1 Mar at 10.30

AGM and "John Cooke and Sons A Lincolnshire Enterprise"
by Hugh Cooke. Thanks: Robin Gulliver

Thu 5 Apr at 10.30

"What happened to the Faberge Eggs?" By Gerry Burrows..
Thanks: Elizabeth Walker

Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance

(September General Meeting)



**Lincs & Notts
Air Ambulance**

A joint presentation was made at the September meeting by Ann and Geoff of the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance fund raising section.

They explained that consultants at the Pilgrim Hospital, Boston proposed that a helicopter service would be an excellent service to ferry the seriously ill patients to specialist units at other hospitals thus drastically reducing transit times. This proposal resulted in the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance being formed at RAF Waddington in April 1997.

The charitable trust was formed on the 9th February, 1993 with its main office in Bracebridge Heath, close to the helicopter base. The service was extended to Nottinghamshire in 1997 with a satellite office being opened near Nottingham Racecourse.

The cost of operating the service is in excess of £1.7 million per annum and receives no government or lottery funding. Income is raised by donations from business groups and individuals. It also has charity shops in Grantham, Grimsby, Market Rasen, North Hykeham, Spalding, Wragby and Mansfield Woodhouse.

The original helicopter used by the service was a MBB BO105 serving between 1994 and 2000, which was replaced by another serving during 2000 – 2010. In November 2010 it took delivery of a brand new MD902 Explorer, capable of flying for longer, faster and fully equipped for night flying operations.

The machines are not owned by the trust but leased from Specialist Aviation Services at Staverton, Gloucestershire.

Travelling at 154 mph the helicopter takes less than 20 minutes to reach the furthest point in either county. It covers a total area of 3000 square miles and performs some 1000 operations per year with 50% of all call outs being to road traffic accidents.

Whilst the helicopter pilot is paid it should be noted that the doctors and paramedics give their time voluntarily and without them there would be no air ambulance.

The average journey time to hospital from an incident is 8 minutes, well within the “Golden Hour” the time where the victim’s chances of survival are greatest following traumatic injury being sustained.

Derek Huggett

Peter Carl Fabergé

(October General Meeting)



On 6th October Mr Gerry Burrows was our speaker. He had studied the life and works of Carl Fabergé and enjoyed sharing his knowledge with us.

Carl was born in 1846, was educated by a Finnish tutor, married and had five children, four of whom were boys who joined him in the business. He gave his children little animals made of precious stones. They were not, of course, allowed to play with them. He was able to travel the capitals of the world for his inspiration.

His talent was in designing beautiful objects and knowing the patterns, shapes and colours that would appeal to the wealthy. The Russian Royal family loved his work and bought Fabergé eggs as presents for their loved ones. Some of the eggs contained pendants and some models of trains, carriages etc. made of gold and precious stones – all very miniature as they were inside eggs measuring 3 to 5 inches in length.

The family owned a very large building in St Petersburg which contained design workshops, workrooms, showrooms and sale rooms and also living space. A very impressive building!

Carl sat at the back of the workers sorting and choosing the stones and from this position could keep an eye on everyone. Five hundred craftsmen were employed and anything that was not considered perfect was destroyed. Only perfection was allowed to survive. Six layers of enamel were used, using a different firing for each colour (100 and more different colours were used).

Although the 'eggs' were the most expensive and famous items, lots of practical and decorative items were made e.g. clocks, knitting needles, handles, cigarette cases, pens, paper knives, perpetual calendars, pen rests, whistles, opera glasses, frames for pictures and mirrors, tables, figurines, little animals, flowers, leaves and berries. One of the eggs sold recently for £8,000,000.

Mr Burrows told us how to recognise the hallmarks (in case we came across one at a car boot!) and gave us a canned history of the Romanovs.

Carl didn't allow the goods to become unfashionable so once a year everything not sold would be destroyed and new designs made. The gift boxes were made from holly wood.

For the Paris Exhibition in 1900 eggs belonging to the Tsar were borrowed for the show.

A few facts: (hope they are right) – There are 52 eggs, he had a shop in London frequented by Edward VII, Carl Fabergé died in 1920.

Mr Burrows was invited over to Russia to look at some of the treasures and was allowed to hold some of them and to take the wonderful photographs we were able to view.

A most fascinating and instructive talk – looking forward to the follow-up.

Ruby Crofts

*Come and find out “
What happened to the Faberge Eggs?”
Thu 5 Apr at 10.30am*

"The Black Death" by Eric Houlder

(November General Meeting)



COR! what a subject this was. I don't think that any of us were prepared for the depth and intensity of this 'Lecture'; there is absolutely no way in the world that this could be called a A COMMON OR GARDEN TALK

The year AD 540 is the earliest recorded mention of the plague but, it is now known to have been around in countries far to the east of us at a much earlier date. There are three types of plague; the first one's name escapes me though there was a small chance of recovery with this one. NUMBER 2 was the most common of the three, the one we have all heard of named the 'BUBONIC PLAGUE.' You had a minuscule chance of recovery from this though you were usually dead and buried within 24 to 48 hours. NUMBER 3 was the worst of all, the 'PNEUMONIC PLAGUE' - the sufferer always died within 12 to 24 hours of the onset of the disease.

This was probably the most harrowing talk we have ever sat through, the verbal descriptions and slides of extant drawings of the time of sores, pustules and bubo on the bodies were horrific.

There is no full tally of the dead in the British Isles. The registers were meticulously kept by the Parishes but many were lost in the following years' bad floods; though it is known that London lost around 38% of its population. We had a well known myth put to an end - the one about plague pits. There are none in G.B.! All the bodies were correctly buried and aligned in a dug grave. France and Spain did throw their corpses 'AD LIB' into pits but as

Eric said this was not for the Brits, they always did things the correct way.

At our U3A play-reading Group we read a play about Eyam, the Derbyshire Dales village that locked itself away in the hope that they would not spread The Plague that had arrived in the Parish carried by the infected fleas inside a trunk of second-hand clothing from London. At the end of their self-imposed isolation, which lasted for more than a year, over 360 of them were dead, but, as usual curious anomalies became apparent. Among those surviving were the landlady, in whose house the trunk was opened, and the two Parish priests who, along with the landlady, had constantly tended to the sick and dying. Also in this group were the old grave digger and his slightly 'below par' assistant who, between them had laid everybody carefully into the graves that they had dug for them and then, just as carefully covered them with earth after the priest had read the burial service. Very odd that those in such close proximity to infected parishioners should survive isn't it?

Eric is a professional archaeologist, which showed in his great depth of knowledge of his subject. He had us silently spellbound, in fact, in the good old vernacular, we were absolutely GOBSMACKED. I was s-o-o-h gobsmacked that I made 'A Right Muck Up' of the vote of thanks speech at the end! Eric can come back again.

Jo Smith

Yuletide Customs and Traditions

(December General Meeting)



This year my Christmas festivities began with Dr. David Bostick's talk about the history of Christmas, going right back to the beginning when the Christian story was incorporated into a much older

Pagan festival of the Winter Solstice. He kept the audience laughing almost continuously with anecdotes, cartoons and poetry, woven into a fascinating aspect of social history. Mythology from many cultures has gone into the melting pot from which Father Christmas, Yule logs, holly, mistletoe, Christmas trees, mince pies and much more have evolved.

Richard Carter

Architecture Group Programme



Architecture

Thursday 19 January at 10am

Planning Meeting. The venue is at Christa Brimley's house, 1, Dovecote Drive, Welton LN2 3UA.

Thursday 16 February at 10am

Guided tour of the Central Methodist Church, High Street Lincoln. This is a grade 1 listed building in the Art Nouveau Baroque style & well worth a visit. No charge but individual

donations welcome.

Margaret Campion

Art Appreciation

October Meeting

Fifteen members of this group gathered at The Bee Field to listen, look and handle (and in a few lucky cases, actually purchase) some of the huge variety of work undertaken by this well-known Lincoln Jeweller and Designer. "Richard Bett, Jeweller of Lincoln"



Art Appreciation

Richard started by giving a brief history of his winding route into the self-employed artist he now is, a route which started in a traditional way with Lincoln College of Art, where he was influenced and encouraged by Pete Moss (whose ceramic studio we visited earlier in the year), a course at Loughborough University and a stint with the Electron Gallery in London. At this point, somewhat discouraged with trying to make a living in art, he took a side-step and worked at Harmston Hall Hospital for five years which gave him time to consider what he really wanted to do - which was to design and make jewellery. Franklin's Jewellers' in Lincoln offered him a way into this by asking him to take over their repair department which gave him valuable insight into practical jewellery skills, and from that time he started working for himself and has continued doing so for over twenty years here in Lincoln.

He has always been greatly interested in the natural world; gardens, flowers and fruit feature heavily in his designs which are largely silver-on-gold or the three types of gold layered in a way that makes the designs merge and flow in an almost organic way. One particularly lovely pendant was made in this way and formed a shore line with waves gently lapping the beach – it really seemed to ebb and flow as one looked at it.

However, jewellery is not his only talent. Lately he has been involved in very big sculptural pieces on a commission basis and these can be seen at various locations locally, the most surprising (to me at any rate) is the Mayor's Chair on Steep Hill! I had realised that these seats had been changed recently but I would never have connected this very large piece of civic engineering with someone who could design and make the delicate and unusual pendants, earrings and bracelets shown to us at the conclusion of his talk!

Margaret Campion.

November Meeting

The Art Appreciation Group met at The Bee Field on November 14th to learn about "The Scottish Colourists". This group: John Duncan Fergusson, Samuel Peploe, Francis Cadell and Leslie Hunter, all brought up in Lowland Scotland, were greatly influenced by their visits to Paris and rural France in the years before WW1. Each in his own way was enchanted and inspired by the work of artists like Gauguin, Vlaminck, van Gogh and Matisse. As a result of time spent admiring and being inspired by these giants each separately redefined the painterly traditions of Scotland and brought light and colour to his work.

The 40 examples we viewed covered the early busy years, mostly in Paris and fashionable spas, then progressed through their work in the 1920s and 1930s when they went their own ways - back to Edinburgh, to London, to the Scottish Islands, to Provence and to other European locations.

Each of these artists had his own style and it was an interesting journey to compare and contrast, to see who influenced whom and for each of us to decide which of them you liked or disliked. Personally I am torn between the work of Peploe and Fergusson; two contrasting personalities with contrasting styles but all four with a love of colour, hence their group name - given to them in 1948 by a Gallery owner almost a decade after three of the four had died.

An interesting introduction to this group of artists for most of us.

Elsbeth Young.

Art Appreciation Programme

Monday 9 January 2pm

Planning Meeting hosted by Elspeth Young.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP



Family History

The Family History Group points its members in directions which can facilitate their individual needs and provides mutual support to its members. Over the last 6 months we have visited Lincolnshire Archives, The Mormon Church on Skellingthorpe Road and the Lincolnshire Family History Society on Monks Road and these visits have been well received.

We have also had a talk from Linda Hotchiss on getting started in the trail of our Family Tree and have met in members' homes to share progress and ideas which has been very interesting and helpful.

The membership has now decided to hold future meetings from December 19th 2011 on the third Monday of each month at 10am at the Lincolnshire Family History Society premises where research facilities are available free of charge. It is hoped that any other interested U3A members will join them there.

The varied stories unravelling within the group have been interesting and varied and as co-ordinator I would like to thank my group for their commitment and perseverance in what is a fascinating journey.

Elizabeth Walker

Next Newsletter "My Great Grandfather the Dutch Captain"
Findings by one of the Family History Group members

Gardening



Gardening

Harlow Carr is a garden dominated by water, stone and woodland and is very much part of the surrounding Yorkshire landscape.

U3A Gardening Group visited Harlow Carr on Tuesday 27th September. Forty five members set off by Hodson's Coaches en route to Harrogate, under a cloudless blue sky to what turned out to be a delightful, very warm and sunny day.

On arrival our members were met by four very knowledgeable guides, all from "Friends of Harlow Carr", we were divided into four groups and went with our guide for an in depth tour of the garden. Our guide Angela Henson, told us about the origins of the garden under the umbrella of the Northern Horticultural Society, before being taken over by the RHS.



Gardening Group at Harlow Carr

The Society leased 10.5 hectares of mixed woodland, pasture and arable land at Harlow Hill from Harrogate Corporation and opened the Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens in 1950. The chief aim was to set up a trial ground where the suitability of plants for growing in northern climates could be assessed and the original 10.5 hectares has since been extended to 27.5.

The gardens stand on what was once part of the Forest of Knaresborough, an ancient royal hunting ground. Springs of sulphur water were discovered here in 1734 but development of the site as a spa did not take place for over a hundred years. In 1840, Henry Wright, the owner of the estate, cleaned out and

protected one of the wells and four years later built a hotel and a bath house.

Since the merger with the RHS there have been many developments at the garden including the creation of the Rose Revolution Borders, Gardens through Time and the Winter Walk. The Main Borders have undergone a stunning redesign and Annuals Meadows have been creatively themed using willow woven sculptures. The Woodland has been regenerated and now includes a Rhododendron Glade full of spring flowering bulbs. A new Alpine House has now opened. There is an exciting new Learning Centre, designed to be one of the greenest buildings in the country.

Work on the Alpine Zone, an exciting new home for Harlow Carr's beautiful collection of alpines, was completed in spring 2010. The alpine house is a third bigger than the old glasshouses and will eventually be totally self-sufficient for watering. Wide paths also enable easy wheelchair access. External contemporary landscaping at the front reflects the varied native habitats of alpines, from low level meadows to high mountain plateaus, with creative container planting ideas to the rear of the house.

The history of alpines in Yorkshire is a long one. Harlow Carr's collection includes over 2,000 different plants, and with many alpines under threat in their native habitats, Harlow Carr provides a valuable setting for the display of these inspiring little gems.

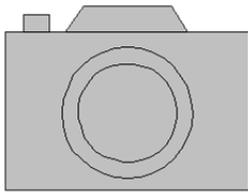
We gave Angela a huge thank you for a very interesting garden tour and including all that history. Many of us felt, including your writer, that we should adjourn to the famous Bettys Café Tea Rooms for lunch (Yes Betty's had a restaurant on site). A superb lunch and a glass of Chardonnay made the next part of the visit more tolerable. A VISIT TO THE PLACE WHICH SOLD PLANTS! Three carrier bags later, we made our way to the pick-

up point for our coach for the journey home. Now I know why coaches have all that storage space underneath.

A very worthwhile visit. We will definitely go back for a second look. Many thanks to our convener, Pauline for the organisation despite a few initial blips.

John Haley

Photography Group Programme



Photograph

26th Jan

A fun session where we each bring our (almost) worst pictures. Hopefully not as bad as those taken by my father-in-law looking through the viewfinder the wrong way and getting close ups of his own nose - but ideally with each picture containing a classic mistake from which we can all learn.

23rd Feb

Review of your autumn pictures, and we will be having the last Photoshop workshop of the winter, where we help each other individually. Hopefully from now on we will be able to get outside and take more pictures.

22nd Mar

A possible visit to Louth, to include St Peter's Church if we can book, and perhaps meet up with some of Louth U3A photo group members.

26th Apr

To be confirmed.

Jim Smith

Theatre Group



Theatre

I am sure we are all familiar with the story of Cleopatra, if only from the epic film starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, but when set to music and danced as a ballet it took on a special magic all of its own.

The Northern Ballet Company is well known for their dramatic productions with a modern twist and the Lindsey theatre group have enjoyed several of their productions over the past few years. So it was with a sense of anticipation that we set off for the Theatre Royal in Nottingham on a bright sunny morning in October.....and we were not disappointed.

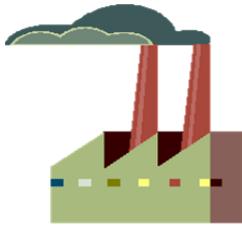
This was a newly commissioned work, directed by David Nixon OBE. It was the company's first new full length ballet in over two years and depicted the story of Queen Cleopatra, arguably the most powerful woman in the world at the time, who defied convention and changed the course of history through her passionate affairs with Julius Caesar and Marc Antony.

I thought the stage sets and costumes were beautiful. I loved the way the mood of the dance shifted from the sensual, soft, floaty Egyptians to the stronger, powerful Romans with their slightly sinister air of menace - a feeling that was amplified by the music. This new score, written by Claude-Michel Schonberg, whose previous compositions include Miss Saigon and Les Miserables, was just lovely. I don't think I remember a ballet where I have been as conscious of the music as I was on this occasion.

We all agreed it was a most enjoyable day out and our thanks go to the theatre group organisers.

Prue Chadderton.

Visits Group



Visits Group

Visit to a Vintage Vehicle Restorer.

On 9th September five of us paid a visit to Mr John Selway of Heapham. A retired engineer, Mr Selway is an enthusiast and restores veteran cars.

We were shown round two Calthorpe cars, one of which was finished and the other still being worked on. I personally had never heard of a Calthorpe.

They were made about 1920 and never hit mass production. John told us the histories. One was in a Motor Museum in Scotland which was dispersed and he managed to purchase the car in a raw state and lovingly restored it. The other was dismantled ready for restoration, but things changed and it sat in boxes in a farm barn for 25 years before it eventually came to John. Restoring both was not a two week job!

John also restores cars for other people and showed us a vintage MG which was being fitted into a different chassis, and an engine from a different AC car was being installed. Fitting one non-standard bit involves altering or repositioning other bits, and requires lots of custom made bits which can never be purchased 'off the peg'.



Admiring a Calthorpe Car

John had a well-equipped workshop and did all the work himself from rebuilding engines and gear boxes, to making and shaping aluminium mudguards or sewing up fabric for the 'soft top' models.

He also showed us one completed sports car called an HRG. There were few made, and even fewer survived, and this car is worth a fortune. I was invited to sit in it for a picture, but decided that to drive comfortably one should be a midget. I could sit in it but not bend my knees and get them down to the pedals.

We were left with a deep admiration for a man who was an enthusiast and could literally turn his hand to anything, and do it well.

Alan Champion

Visit to Rolls Royce Heritage Sites

Twenty-four U3A members visited two of the exhibition sites based at the Rolls Royce Engines facility in Derby, on Tuesday 4th October 2011.

The first exhibition was based at the Rolls Royce Career Development Centre and the exhibits covered a history of the development of cars and aero engines. This included one of the earliest cars made by Royce which is valued at several million pounds. Aero engines on display showed several piston engines and turbine engines through to the massive present day Trent Aero Engine.

The second exhibition, in the afternoon, at the Rolls Royce former light alloy foundry, was much more comprehensive in terms of engine development and early cars. We were given an excellent insight, by two tour guides, into many aspects of aero engine design and manufacture and explanations were given on how the engines worked, from the earliest jets with Frank

Whittle's involvement through turbo-prop to the present day Trent engine. This included a fascinating insight into how the present day Trent engine titanium hollow fan blades are produced and how the highest temperature alloy turbine blades are made by precision casting to include internal air cooling.

Some of us had been involved with Rolls Royce aero engine development since the 1960s and as one put it, "It's like a trip down memory lane!"

A most interesting and enjoyable day out.

John Lee

Visit to Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln

At the end of October ten members of the Visits Group enjoyed a very interesting and informative two hours being shown round Bishop Grosseteste University College. We were met by Bev Bamber, a member of staff, who made us most welcome and spent over two hours entertaining us. I think he was initially a bit intrigued at our interest, but responded wonderfully to our memories as the tour progressed. At Least two of us had studied there and several more had attended courses at some point.

One of our number actually admitted to being a student teacher at the Diocesan Training Centre from 1946 to 1948, quite an admission for a lady to make when you do the sums! I will not cause her embarrassment by mentioning any names! She could still recognise some of the main buildings, especially the chapel. She said that in her time attendance at morning chapel was compulsory, straight after having breakfast in what is now the reception but was the dining room!

We had an excellent tour round and were all impressed by the friendly yet business-like atmosphere around the campus. There were many new buildings since I studied here from 1972 to 1975,

and we saw the building work in progress on the amazing new building which will be the business start-up area, and the half completed library extension.

Bev entertained us to drinks in the new 'Curiositea' coffee shop, housed in a building which, in my day, was the 'Staff common Room' and where we, as students, were forbidden to set foot. How things have changed. The new coffee shop, with a décor based on 'Alice in Wonderland' was designed to be child friendly and is open to the public at all times.

We were all interested in the many different directions that the college was moving, the newest being the 'Bed & Breakfast' venture, and in how many facilities are now available for outside use. Any of our members considering signing up at a gym for health purposes should enquire at the college. The gym and fitness facilities are open to the general public and at what seemed very reasonable rates.

We were given a booklet listing the many facilities open to the public and I for one have already signed up for one event, which I knew nothing about before our tour.

It was altogether a most satisfactory visit, made more enjoyable by the welcome and attention of our guide.

Alan Campion.

Visit to Kerry Ingredients, Millers, of Gainsborough.

It is pleasantly reassuring to have the opportunity to visit a large scale manufacturing unit which appears to be thriving even in these difficult economic times. In November Barry and Edna Brooke arranged for sixteen members of the visits group to tour the milling plant of Kerry Ingredients in Gainsborough.

We were given a presentation showing the scale of operations of the Gainsborough mill and the enterprises worldwide. An Irish

company, Kerry Ingredients has many plants throughout England and Ireland, throughout Europe, in Canada and the US, Australia and large areas of the Far East, and is still expanding.

At the Gainsborough plant they process 32,000 tons of wheat a year most of which comes from Lincolnshire or the local area. To do this they consume enough electricity to supply half the houses in Gainsborough, and enough gas to heat 120 homes.

Their two main activities are milling wheat to produce flour, and turning this flour into bread crumbs. Apparently there is an inexhaustible demand for breadcrumbs. They are used to coat many different food products. We toured the plant making these which was fascinating but the process was understandable as we went from machine to machine.

First the flour and other ingredients are mixed to form a dough. It is cut and shaped and as it starts its journey along a conveyor belt in warm conditions it starts to rise, it is knocked down again and then starts its journey through an oven.

We saw the resulting rather uninteresting looking loaves emerging, and tasted the bread which was also rather uninteresting in taste. These loaves were then broken up and ground down and the resulting crumbs carefully graded into different sizes for further processing or for sale.

The grain milling plant was vast. Wheat from massive silos was fed into the factory where it first went through several stages of cleaning to remove bits of stone, straw, thistle, and even metal before going through the mill.

The grain was crushed between pairs of grooved rollers, and the resulting crushed product sifted and sieved and reground again and again to produce flour of all sorts and descriptions. These different products went on for further processing, or for sale to

other manufacturers. We were shown bags of 'Homepride' self-raising flour, apparently just one of their products.

Much of the machinery we saw was from overseas, coming from Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands, but some of the original machinery installed when the factory was opened 50 years ago, was English! It was gratifying to see English made products still working well after such a time. Other products made at Gainsborough are batter mixes, for sale to processed food manufacturers or use by Fish & Chip shops.

Hygiene was paramount throughout. We were required to leave outer clothes, mobile phones, and cameras in an outer room, and to wear protective clothing.

Hair had to be covered as did beards. I got to wear a snood for the first time. Engagement rings had to be covered over and we had to wash our hands thoroughly before entering the plant.

We met five or six employees during our visit, and all appeared comfortable and happy in their work. The average time an employee has worked on the site is 15 years, and the two who showed us round had 45 years' service between them.

The huge milling plant was operated by only two men, who work twelve hour shifts. The milling plant is at work night and day, every day, some machines having to be stopped from time to time for cleaning and maintenance. All in all we were left very impressed by the efficiency of the milling operation we saw.

The massive plant is positioned to the West of Gainsborough, between the Trent and the railway line and we were told that many people in Gainsborough itself did not even know the factory was there!

Mike Kirkby

Day Trip To York, October 18th



York Minster

It was bright; it was sunny; it was breezy; it was an excellent day for our coach trip to York, organised by Elizabeth and Phil Walker.

Most of the group went their various ways. Some went sight-seeing, some went to galleries, many went shopping and returned

with Christmas presents for grand-children and warm winter coats and jumpers for themselves. Many had a good lunch!

The only "organised" part of the day was for members of the Art Appreciation Group who went to the National Railway Museum, not far from where the coach had dropped us. Margaret Campion had arranged for a dozen of us to visit the exhibition of Railway posters currently on show, and also to have a tour of the museum's archives where we could see, amongst the million other things, some of the original artwork for the posters. The poster exhibition showed the interesting transition from the original railway posters (many by Royal Academicians) which portrayed rather idyllic rural scenes, to the later, more stylized graphic design images with which we are more familiar.

The archives themselves were quite an eye-opener. There were drawers full of the plans for every engine made; files housed collections of train tickets lovingly collected by the train-ticket-enthusiast equivalent of the train-spotter; books about railways and endless copies of Bradshaw's timetables filled the shelves, and many glass photographic plates and photographs filled rows of filing cabinets. The original artwork for many of the posters could be viewed, as could the hand-written ledger relating to all the parts made to build Stephenson's famous "Rocket".

It was a fascinating glimpse of some of the information kept which is available for consultation by historians, members of the public, model-train makers and those authors anxious to get right all the facts in their historical novels (as there's always one reader who would know what time the last train to Nether Wapping would have left in April 1947!).

A lovely day out for us all. Thank you.

Margaret Howard



U3A Members visited Staythorpe Power Station on 9th December
(Full report in the next Newsletter)

Visits Group Programme

Friday 6th Jan 12. 10am.

Visit to New Engineering faculty Lincoln University. Meet in foyer of LPAC 9.45 for tour (approx. two hours.) at 10am. No parking available - suggest pay to park in St Marks car park. There is no

charge for this visit. Refreshments will be available after in Union Building. Contact Alan Campion

Monday 11th June

Visit to Beverley and Burton Agnes Hall . Probably a coach trip. Margaret Campion organising. Contact Margaret to express interest. We plan to stop at Beverley in morning, then Burton Agnes Hall, gardens, and art gallery in afternoon. Details later.

March. A coach trip to Bletchley Park to see the place where the Enigma code breaking computer was produced. Marlene Curtis is working on this at present. The plan is for a coach journey then coffee and biscuits on arrival, then a guided tour, then a set meal, then another guided tour, then more tea & biscuits and a drive home. For this the cost will be about £32. It sounds good value for the money!

Other visits are planned for Minting Park Farm, Gaultby, to E H Thorne Ltd, Rand, Beehive Manufacturers, to the Yorkshire Theme Park, and Radio Lincolnshire.

*We need more visits
Please come up with ideas.*

A Reminder for All Group Convenors

It would be appreciated if Group Convenors were to write a brief résumé of group activities and visits from time to time, at least annually, for inclusion in the Newsletter.

These résumés would be of interest to all, and would be of considerable help to new members when making a choice of which Group to join.

Editor

Group Convenors and Contact Details

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Architecture | Margaret Campion | |
| | margaret.campion@btinternet.com | |
| Art Appreciation | Margaret Campion | |
| | margaret.campion@btinternet.com | |
| Art and Craft | Norman Clarke | |
| | nclarke828@btinternet.com | |
| Aspects of History | Bob Wise | |
| | thewises@hotmail.co.uk | |
| Bird Watching | Robin Gulliver | |
| | robin.g@talktalk.net | |
| Book Group 1 | David Jones | |
| | stanthaket2@yahoo.co.uk | |
| Book Group 2 | Dawn Bowskill | |
| | colinrb_41@yahoo.co.uk | |
| Bridge | Nadine McKee | |
| | lenandnadine@tiscali.co.uk | |
| Circle Dancing | Cynthia Watson | |
| | | |
| Coffee Morning | Pamela Huggett | |
| | pamelahuggett@btinternet.com | |
| Computers for All | Mike Kirkby | |
| | mike-helen@sudbrooke.eclipse.co.uk | |
| Discussion | Michael Whalley | |
| | m.whalley1@ntlworld.com | |
| Enjoying Classical Music | David Jones | |
| | stanthaket2@yahoo.co.uk | |

Group Convenors and Contact Details

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Family History | Elizabeth Walker | |
| | pmw@avoncroft.freemove.co.uk | |
| Gardening | Pauline Haley | |
| | j.p.haley@btinternet.com | |
| Music For Us | Hugh Taylor | |
| | hughandursie@hotmail.co.uk | |
| Photography | Jim Smith | |
| | jimdnsmith@hotmail.co.uk | |
| Play Reading | Margaret Howard | |
| | howardoldhall@tiscali.co.uk | |
| Poetry Group | Marion Plenderleith | |
| | wee.scotty@tiscali.co.uk | |
| Singing For Fun | Mick Davis | |
| | michael.davis@mypostoffice.co.uk | |
| Theatre Group | Jo Smith | |
| | joansmith10@aol.com | |
| | Shirley Droy | |
| | shirleydroy@sky.com | |
| Visits Group | Alan Campion | |
| | campion133@btinternet.com | |
| Walks: 5-6 Miles | Joy Babington | |
| | joy@babington.me.uk | |
| General Meeting PowerPoint | Mike Kirkby | |
| | mike-helen@sudbrooke.eclipse.co.uk | |
| Equipment Loans | Alan Campion | |
| | campion133@btinternet.com | |

A U3A with a Difference



On Friday, 4th November I joined 54 members of the Oliver U3A history group. We travelled by coach from our Spanish villages to Valencia for a morning visit to the “Prehistory Museum of Valencia” and then an afternoon at a photographic exhibition of everyday life in old Valencia from the 1850’s to 1930’s. Both museum and gallery were palatial marble buildings where exhibits were imaginatively displayed. I certainly learnt a lot.

At the museum a good lunch of three courses plus wine, water and coffee was served for 10 euros – very reasonable. During lunch I sat next to the history group coordinator and learnt that they had over 400 members in the Oliver group. Once they reach 500, a new group will be started. The Spanish museums and galleries have free entry as they belong to the tax payers and groups like the U3A get free accommodation for their meetings!! They are independent of the central U3A in the UK and prefer it that way! Like the Lindsey U3A, the Oliver U3A has many groups one can join, although some don’t meet in the very hot summer months. Joe Bellanie, the leader, runs trips for U3A members in the UK to visit Spain – find him on U3A.holidays.com.

I thoroughly enjoyed my day with this group and felt quite at home. They were a friendly mixture coming from all over the UK but now preferring to live in the sun. Well – on our trip it was warm and wet!

Just had a phone call from Spain today, my sister and her husband were off to visit a leather factory where they make shoes - visiting with the U3A group of course!

Celia Pepper

TIMETABLE OF INTEREST GROUPS

| | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 |
|-----|--|--|--|---|
| Mon | 9.45am 5/6 mile walk 2pm Poetry for Pleasure | 10am Computers for All 2pm Art Appreciation | 10am Family History 9.45am 5/6 mile walk | 2pm Play Reading Enjoying Classical Music |
| Tue | 10am Art + Craft | 2pm Book Group 2 Bookworms | 10am Circle Dancing 2pm Book Group 1 | 2pm Gardening |
| Wed | 1.30pm Bridge | 1.30pm Bridge | 1.30pm Bridge 2.30pm Music for Us | 1.30pm Bridge 2pm Discussion Group |
| Thu | 10am General Meeting | 2pm Aspects of History | 10am Architecture 10.15am Coffee Morning 2pm Singing for Fun | 10.00 am Photography |
| Fri | | | | |

Some U3A Activities



Car Restoration Visit



At Rolls Royce