



<https://collingham.u3asite.uk>

## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2026

**From the Chair:** Welcome to February's newsletter. After the excitement of Christmas, with many different things going on at December meetings, we are settling back into 2026. No one wants to break a winning formula, but equally, it's easy to get set in our ways and go on doing things in the same old way, so do take time in your groups to consider whether there are any tweaks that you could try, just to keep things fresh.

Keeping things fresh and welcoming new members into a group may go hand in hand, but maybe it's worth asking any new members about their impressions and if they have any suggestions. Sadly, it's easy to dismiss such observations, especially if they're couched in terms of: 'we did things this way. . .' taking it as a criticism of how you've been running things. Goodwill on all sides often leads to changes, big or small, that everyone agrees were good.

You won't be surprised to read that this applies to committees as well! It's moving towards that time of the year when we are appealing for new people, with a new perspective, to join our committee. Do give thought to what you can offer for two hours a month with relatively little more time commitment to ensure that the u3a continues to thrive and grow, just as it has been doing for more than ten years now.

One new thing that we're introducing this coming year is Gift Aid. You will shortly be getting an email from Andrew, our treasurer, telling you all about it. Do think about signing up for this: a once only effort on your part will give us a steady additional income stream enabling us to keep subs low and give you even better value at general meetings.

Andrew's email and the covering letter you get with the form will tell you all you need to know about the form and what to do with it. If you're at all concerned about anyone other than the treasurer and membership secretary knowing that you've signed up do hand the form to either Andrew or Charlie at a general meeting.

Let's hope that by the time you read this the weather is perking up so that we can enjoy a bit more sunshine as we move into spring. At least your u3a delivers the participatory equivalent of sunshine!

Chris

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# General Meetings



Over fifty members came to this well-researched presentation. Although we winced from time to time, as some gruesome punishments were described and illustrated on screen, we all had something to learn!

The speaker told us the difference between the stocks and the pillory, that at one time thieves were branded on the forehead, and that suspected witches were not dunked in the cucking stool, they were burned! He also explained the original meaning of 'Hue and Cry' and how wrongdoers were caught and dealt with before we had a police force or prisons.

Sadly, some beheadings, which were reserved for the rich and powerful, were badly botched, especially by inexperienced axe men! There are instances of felons who survived the hangman's noose, and at least one man was strung up more than once during his life of crime!

The audience failed to remember significant 20<sup>th</sup> century punishments: last hanging, last execution for high treason (not petty treason, a different offence!) and we learned that some crimes remained on the statute book a lot longer than any of us had realised.

Let's not bring back the 'Good old days!'

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## Good news:

**"The Hearty Goodfellow"** – Southwell

**10% off food prices** for Collingham u3a members

Show your membership card when you **order** your food.

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# Speakers Corner

## February 25<sup>th</sup> **Going Underground: An Exploration of Nottinghamshire's Subterranean Spaces**

This talk will examine Nottinghamshire's underground spaces – including caves, crypts, cellars, reservoirs, tunnels and mines. Illustrated with a wealth of personal anecdotes and experience, it will shine a light on the history of these fascinating places, the way that they have been used over time and the people who have loved and been inspired by them. Presented by Dave Mooney who has written several books about Nottinghamshire and works as a tour guide at Nottingham's famous City of Caves attraction.

## March 25<sup>th</sup> **Nottinghamshire Puddings: Fact or Fiction**

Nottinghamshire does have a number of traditional puddings, although beware as all is not quite what it seems in some cases. Discover the history of puddings in Robin Hood County and take away some free recipes to make your own. Presented by Mark Dawson

## April 22<sup>nd</sup> **Nottinghamshire Blood Bikes**

Since its formation in 2013 Nottinghamshire Blood Bikes have saved the NHS £190,012, have carried 90,717 items, have 161 volunteers, with 9 blood bikes, 7 blood cars and travelled 82,084 miles.

A Blood Bike will be in attendance.

## May 27<sup>th</sup> **"My Extra Life"**

Mike has been a television extra for 18 years and has encountered some interesting and strange people. He talks about the rules and regulations, the pitfalls, the jargon, pay and his experiences.

Presented by Mike Newbold

## June 24<sup>th</sup> **Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance – Mission Impossible 2**

Every day crews from the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance respond to an average of 4 life-threatening emergencies across a 3,500 square mile area. They are now on a mission to bring a second helicopter to the skies over Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, saving even more lives.

## Coming Soon

- On Parade – State Funerals and Coronations
- It's Hell on Wheels (Confessions of a Driving Instructor)
- Grand Central Railway – Reunification

Seems to be rather top heavy on transport themes this year. We have Bikes, Helicopters, Cars and Trains and just like buses, they all appear at once!

Many thanks for all the suggestions and contributions regarding Speakers. When making suggestions please supply a current email contact. We try to promote a varied programme and we know not all subjects will be appreciated. However, your attendance and feedback on recent events is welcomed.

dp

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# Groups

## Contacting Group Leaders

If you need get in touch with Lesley, our Groups Co-ordinator, or with any group leader, please use the contact page on our website:

<https://collingham.u3asite.uk>

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## Photography

The Photography Group images in this month's newsletter are of images that can be found in January. Our work is part of the Calendar Project. Next month's images will reflect February.

Fourteen of our January photographs are distributed through this newsletter.

Paul



All Saints by Andrew Roberts

Winter Walk by Paul Bass



# Local History

January: The meeting picked up on a topic from the November meeting, which was a look at some local buildings of interest in the Newark area. Ivor led off talking about a small limp back booklet he had been loaned entitled "A Walk on the Westside" which was about the story of the Newark Castle Station Estate by John Elvy, pub. 2002. The objective of the book was to cover the early beginning of a new community designed and built to replace the derelict former ironworks and maltings along the riverbank. A completely new housing development had been produced at a cost of £7.7M. The booklet charts the early history of the riverside of the area and provides a useful source for local historians. Ivor went on to outline some research he was doing on the local sections of the river Trent. His aim is to plot its wharfs on a map along its length from Farndon to Girton for retention in the History Centre archive.

Pat expressed her interest in researching the history of the Governor's house, with emphasis on its potential role in the Civil War. She also brought to the attention of the meeting the work of Robert Kiddey, a local artist and sculptor whose work can be seen around the town. An introductory leaflet has been produced called the 'Kiddey' trail which can be picked up in the Butter Market.

For his part David chose to present his research on the Church of St Mary Magdalene which had just completed a multi-million-pound refurbishment and had been re-opened to the public with a new coffee shop and the prospective of public guided tours in the future. Hopefully these would include a discourse on the unique two internal stone chantry chapels. One, the Markham chapel, sported a 16<sup>th</sup> century panel at one end with two painted figures involved with a 'Dance of Death' as a contemporary reminder that regardless of wealth all would eventually meet the same end!



February: Continuing with January's theme of interesting old buildings and local events the meeting heard two excellent presentations.

Pat gave a talk on the Governor's House in Newark after an introductory talk on the background to the town's origins and Civil War history. The house itself was built in the late medieval period in 1474, a time of prosperity. It is a low roofed timber framed structure with jettied storeys built for a wealthy merchant. A rear wing was added in 1500. Its central location close to the market square made it an ideal command post during the 1642-46 Civil War. The town remained loyal to the King throughout and the house was probably witness to many discussions and intense arguments including the quarrel between the King and his nephew Prince Rupert, a cavalry leader, over the eventual surrender of the town. All-in-all the house would have been involved in all 3 sieges of Newark.

Ivor brought to the meeting an audio recording of a talk by Les Reid skipper of the barge 'The Leicester Trader'. Les recounted his life on the River Trent, starting out when still a very young lad. Les had an easy clear delivery with some fascinating stories to narrate. As reported before, he has an astonishing knowledge and level of detail about life on a tidal river particularly concerning the impact of the changing level of its daily tides on barge navigation. More to come!

David

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## Kurling

We meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at the Memorial Hall 2pm - 4pm everyone is welcome.

The first meeting of the month was Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. 14 members came along, we all played four rounds of four games then at break time John Geeson presented the Trophy to the winner, Terry Walters, who was top of the league table 2025.



### The top 5 scores

<b>1</b>	<b>Terry Walters</b>	<b>17.40</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Gareth Milner</b>	<b>16.88</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>John Geeson</b>	<b>15.34</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Steven Aram</b>	<b>10.41</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Neil Hinchley</b>	<b>13.00</b>



# So, you think you can drive!

In David's absence (in London at a committee meeting) I was flying solo on this one.

I set up a full session for us to do which started with us all trying to assemble a Road Safety Triangle (which we should all have in the boot of our car).

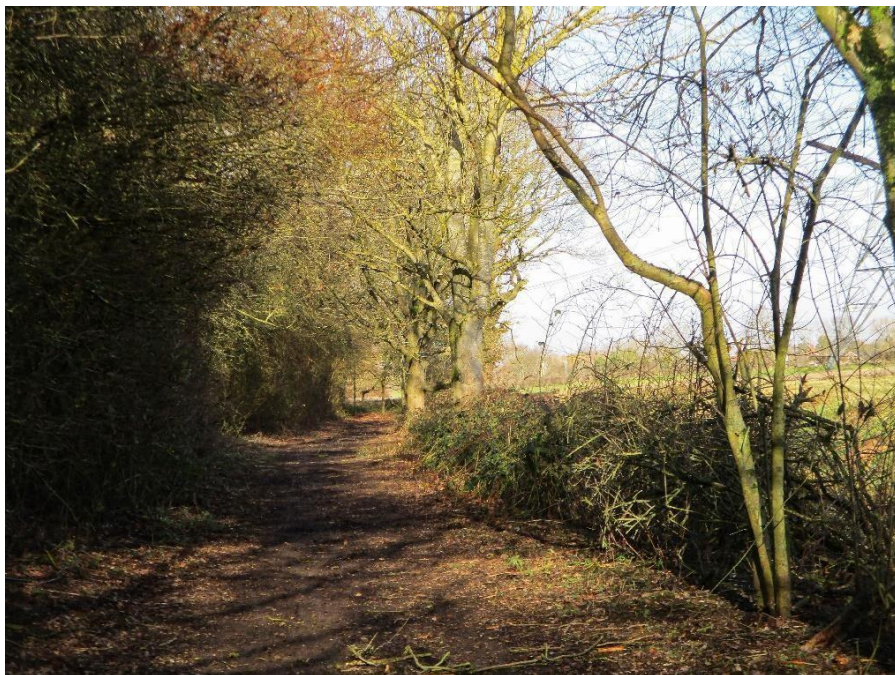
In the comparative peace and calm of my sitting room, as opposed to beside a busy road, we still struggled to fully complete this task - it's a tricky bit of kit to try to slot together! - more practice definitely needed.

For our second challenge we completed a full mock theory DVLA test - 50 questions in all.

You can guess how surprised we were to get the final collective score - and the dreaded word FAIL! Cue much consternation and an insistence that we go over every incorrect answer, only to find that on two occasions the fault was with me as I'd inputted the answer "out of time." Still, we looked at our other incorrect answers and are now much better educated.

Our final challenge was to take 3 short Hazard Awareness tests - sadly we failed on each and every one! - loads more practice needed as these are fiendish things to try to do.

This is a fun group which has a very serious message: "If we all want to keep driving for as long as possible, we need to keep ourselves up to date." Lesley



Bike Ride by John Geeson

# Breakfast Club

15 hungry breakfasters tambo-ed down to Tambo Lounge in Newark Buttermarket and had a superb breakfast. The service was quick and efficient and most of the food excellent - one or two grumbles about a cold poached egg with cold toast, and no butter with the toast on the full breakfasts - but otherwise a good venue.

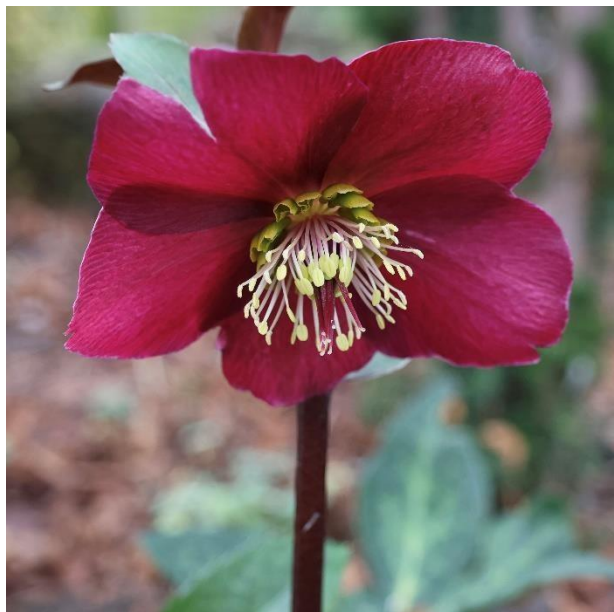
However, I have a big grumble! I was told that I needed to book exact numbers and if anyone didn't turn up, I would be charged £5 for the absent colleague (because of this stricture I under booked by 3 members-just in case). Sadly this "Tambo-rule" has put me off booking Tambo Lounge again.

Next time we will be going to Bomber Command in Lincoln-already booked by me-with no need for exact numbers and no threat of being charged for absentees!

Lesley



Lamb's Tails by Pat Morgan



Hellebore by Jannet Wright

## Sunday Lunchers

For our u3a Sunday Lunch, on 11th January, we returned to one of our favourite restaurants, The Generous Briton at Brant Broughton, and had our usual superb food.



On February 8th, our u3a Sunday Lunch was much closer to home, at The Royal Oak, in Collingham, where 20 members unanimously agreed of the high quality of food served, and requested an immediate return.

Margaret

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## Table Tennis

Our friendly table tennis group **usually** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at the Winthorpe Community Centre for 1 hour from 10 – 11 am. We do provide bats and balls and new members are always welcome.

Do come and give it a try!

Peter

### For your diary the dates going forward are as follows:

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2026                      from 10:00 to 11:00 am

March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026                              “

March 26<sup>th</sup> 2026                              “

April 9<sup>th</sup> 2026                                 “

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026                                “

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2026                                “

May 28<sup>th</sup> 2026                                “

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2026                                “

June 18<sup>th</sup> 2026                                “ **NOTE: THIS DATE IS OUT OF SEQUENCE!!!!**

# Strollers

In January twelve Strollers enjoyed a winter walk around Winthorpe.

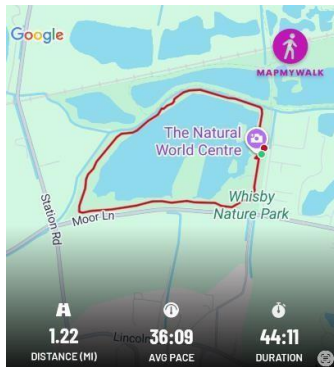
We parked at the Community Centre car park and walked from there to the Cricket ground. We circumnavigated the grounds, exited onto Holme Lane and turned right to walk as far as the track by the River Trent. We walked a short way along the river bank before we retraced our footsteps and walked back along Holme Lane to Gainsborough Road. We



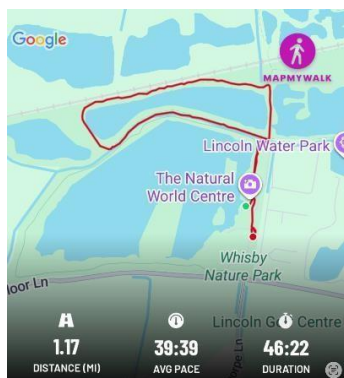
then turned right and walked as far as the church before returning to the car park. It was a chilly morning but dry.



Some of us then had lunch at the Royal Oak in Collingham and were joined by a former member of the group.



For our February Walk 12 of our Strollers went to Whisby Nature reserve. The weather had been rainy nearly every day for over a month and that day was also forecast to be no exception. The rain had been heavy that morning, but miraculously it stopped just in time for our meet up, then rained again when we had finished, so we all stayed warm and dry.



We walked 1.2 miles around Thorpe Lake, some of us then dropped off for a coffee, and the rest of us continued to walk another 1.2 miles around Coot Lake. The pathways were mostly clear with a few puddles to navigate.



We then met together at the nature reserve cafe where we all enjoyed a chat and lunch from the varied menu.

Margaret and Rosie

# Fantasy Football

So, as I write we are one game short of the completion of Game Week 26 in our Fantasy Football league, this game kicking off at 8 pm on the evening of Wednesday 18th February between the legendary and much storied Wolverhampton Wanderers and those young pretenders Arsenal. For those of you unaware of football history (I know, hard to believe) while Wolves were one of the original twelve members of the Football Association, Arsenal have never actually been promoted to the top tier, having got there by way of a hugely controversial vote in 1919. To be fair, unlike Wolves who have been up and down the divisions like a lift in a department store, Arsenal have never since been relegated.

As at the end of Game Week 25, despite many changes lower down the table, millers11, managed by Charlie, was still out in front. It's close and still all to play for. Rumour has it Charlie is favourite to be appointed Forest's fifth manager of the season sometime between half past four on Sunday afternoon - should they lose to Liverpool - and the Easter Bank Holiday.

We had our regular monthly meeting at The Allotment on Monday 26th January when as usual we discussed football and various other stuff of much less importance. Maybe next newsletter, in the spirit of Match of the Day, I'll include some edited highlights of our meeting by which I mean a short video of someone taking a sip from their cappuccino.

And that's all from me for now except to leave you with the wise words of the former manager of Scotland, Alex McLeish:

'I look forward to hearing from the silent majority'

Maybe don't hold your breath Alex?

John

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Orange Crocus by Colin Smith



Purple Crocus by Colin Smith



Snowy Landscape by Gill Bass

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## Drawing

### January report:

A goodly group of artists met at my house at the beginning of January to shake off the Christmas and New Year slumbers and get down to some serious, practical, art work. We drew pot plants, ornaments and other assembled Still Life objects.

For the second hour our wonderful model (Elaine) came to sit for us. As before she remained incredibly still and we were able to attempt to get some kind of likeness.

### February report:

Even more artists (10) met at Sue's lovely house and drew the lovely display of items on her expansive table.



We drew in complete silence before breaking for coffee, biscuits and a well-earned chat. This is such a lovely friendly group who enjoy each other's company and work really hard.

Next month we are back at Penny's house - can't wait!

Lesley

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# Creative Writing

Our task this month was to take a well-known song and write a back story which would explain the words. I chose Tom Jones' wonderful song - Delilah.

We had already sent our stories to each other and been our usual very complimentary selves, so when our meeting was necessarily cancelled, we didn't try too hard to fix another date in January - Feb will be just fine.

As we are both also in the Breakfast Group, I suggested that we write something to do with Bomber Command, from both the pacifist angle and the "need to fight" angle. Hopefully this should make for interesting reading.

Lesley

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# Literature

We have been reading 'What you are looking for is in the library' by Michiko Aoyama. This short, beautiful Japanese novel is an ode to the role of libraries, and shows how the perfect book recommendation can change a reader's life.

We all agreed this was an enjoyable read, and had an interesting discussion on the cultural differences between England and Japan, led by Valerie Gilder who has toured round the region a few years ago.

Our meeting was at The Royal Oak with a changed starting time of 11.00am to try and fit in with their opening time. They said they would like us to return next month, so fingers crossed.

Sheelah



Northcroft Lane Walk by Gill Bass

# Nature Walks

2<sup>nd</sup> January: Only 3 of us braved the cold this morning, but we saw a good selection of birds. There were 3 Cattle Egrets with/on the sheep as we drove in and we also saw Little and Great Egrets later. There were also 6 Goosander, with a very smart male in the group and a Red Kite drifted over, viewed from the same hide as last time! There were very few passerines in evidence, the cold wind presumably causing them to stay hidden by foliage.



The island is back!

And there was a solitary bramble flower, everything from last year has withered and died!

20<sup>th</sup> January: A select group of four walked round Collingham Pits this afternoon. At times it felt almost Spring-like but as the wind got up, it was obviously still winter.



Paul looking at a male Goldeneye.

We did very well for ducks, with ten different species. The highlight was a group of four Smew, including a lovely drake. Also noteworthy was a female Goosander, another "sawbill". I was the only one to see the Green Sandpiper before it flew. My son Alastair joined us and found a nice soaring Buzzard as we were heading back.

On 17<sup>th</sup> February we were defeated by the flooded roads on the approaches to Mons Pool, so we went for a walk along Westfield Lane, South Collingham.



We saw several of the crow family including flocks of jackdaw circling above the trees. We spotted a kestrel and some buzzards hunting over the fields. Most of the smaller birds: blue tit, dunnock, house sparrow and robins, stayed in the relative shelter of the hedges! Despite the chill in the air, we were surprised to notice a small green caterpillar on some Hazel catkins! There are still plenty of snowdrops but daffodils and lesser celandines are now beginning to flower along the verges. Spring may be on the way!



Robert

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Cycle Track Bridge by John Geeson

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## Threads

Happy New Year! Members of Threads Interest Group met on February 5<sup>th</sup> for the first time in 2026, avoiding the first Thursday in January as it was New Year's Day.

Most of us are continuing with long-term projects which happily DO get finished eventually as shown by the Aran jumper photo here.



Individual small projects often contribute to a bigger one as shown by an Advent calendar which was made after Christmas 2025 ready for Christmas THIS year. This advent calendar, comprising mini stockings and socks, and was made from wool received as a birthday gift in a wool advent calendar. We all have different deadlines!

Our next meeting is at Beyond Coffee, next to the Co-op, at 2 pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. If your hobby uses threads for a clean, hand-held craft, come and join us. If you get stuck someone will be able to get you going again.

Happy crafting!

Barbara

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# Family History

The February meeting followed our recent format of a presentation followed by some research.

Gill started us off by telling us about the research she had undertaken to put together the story of her mother's childhood and family.



Margaret Lumsden was born in 1920 and had 5 siblings and 1 half sibling.

However, because her parents died when she was young and she herself spent many of her early years in hospital, Margaret had little contact with her family. It seems that her eldest sister, 12 years her senior acted as her 'next of kin' but Margaret after leaving hospital was fostered out alone.

Gill showed photos of the foster family and their home followed by a photo of Margaret in service at Haddo House.

Gill had found many birth, marriage and death certificates which helped to piece together the family story. Most of these were Scottish and some were found on a website that we discovered at a previous meeting.



ROBERT ALEXANDE (Statutory registers Births 424/ 457)  
ht, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 06 January 2026 16:00

Page 53.

1902. BIRTHS in the District of Dunfermline in the County of Fife

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if one of the Houses in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
167	Robert Alexander Christie	1902, February Ninewarth St. John's Em. Hospital Fife Dunfermline	M.	William Keir Christie Pastry Baker	William K. Christie Father	1902, March 5 <sup>th</sup> At Dunfermline David Watson Civil Registrar Fife
				Julia Ferguson		
				Christie Mrs. Brotherton		
				1901 September 24 <sup>th</sup> Edinburgh.		

We recommend this site **Scotland's People** to anyone with Scottish ancestry. It seems to have a more extensive collection of Scottish records than either Ancestry.com or Findmypast.

This talk illustrated how a combination of family memories, photographs and online records can combine to tell a compelling story.

For our research topic David asked to look for records of his great grandfather John McLoughlin born in Liverpool in 1864 and probably of Irish descent. David wished to go back a generation and find John's father. We found John's marriage certificate from 1888 which gave his father's name as James so that is a lead into further research which we may pursue next time.

Charlie

# Italian

The group meets in the home of the group leaders on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

In January we held two meetings as usual. The first focussed on Speaking and Listening and the second one on Grammar.

When we finished reading the story in December, we began to think about creating a story of our own. So, in order to start planning for this and improving our skills, we used the photo cards that we usually have for practising verb tenses. In pairs, we had 3 photos of people doing things. These actions might be anything from 'carrying books' to 'digging in the garden' or 'eating pizza'. The people in the pictures were unrelated. For the purpose of this exercise each pair had to make up a story linking the photos and using the past tense (passato prossimo). We then read our stories to the group. When we were creating the stories, we tried not to look up too many words. It was not easy and there was often considerable discussion regarding points of grammar. However, we are getting better at producing longer sentences and making links between phrases and sentences. We think this type of activity will continue for some time!

At the end of the session, we refreshed our minds by doing an 'easy' Italian crossword (cruciverba Italiano).

Jannet and Mary

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Flooding Fleet by Pat Morgan

# Art Appreciation

We held our first meeting of the year in January. Members of the group had been asked to identify a piece of art work that they 'struggled with' or found difficult to appreciate. As each image was shown the person who had chosen it explained what they found difficult. There was then a general discussion. The plan worked very well with interesting conversations about aspects of work that people found hard to appreciate or made them feel uncomfortable.

One of those selected are shown below. How do you feel about it.

Beata Beatrix (1864-70) Dante Gabriel Rossetti

At our meeting in February, we will be focussing on '-isms' in Art.

Jannet



# Play Reading

## At the sign of the crippled Harlequin

We have spent the last two sessions investigating this thriller; getting to grips with who did what and why.

The story plays out over one day before Christmas. The location is, in the classic thriller plot, an isolated country inn in Derbyshire, cut off in a snow storm. The inn itself has a tragic, ghostly history and all the stranded characters have their own personal reasons for being there. Misunderstandings, red herrings and deceptions abound. Has there actually been a murder?

There were good parts to go round and we were kept guessing until the last minute, when all was revealed.

Next time, March 17<sup>th</sup>, something completely different; Alan Ayckbourn's "Comic Potential".

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10-12 in the YCC.

Sue

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## History

Our January meeting was a joint presentation by Ivor and Lesley, on the subject of Emily Hobhouse. Her name was raised last year during Ivor's talk on the Boer War. Her name and significance were not known to some of us, hence this following presentation.

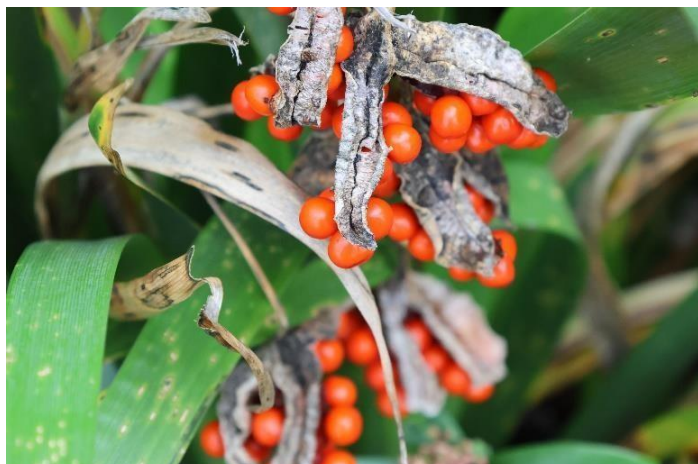
Emily went to S Africa initially to provide nursing aid. She soon discovered the horror of the British concentration camps and the plight of starving Boer and native African women and children. She was vilified by the British Government, but later became a heroine for her bravery in speaking out. She is very famous in SA, with lots of institutions and landmarks bearing her name. Ivor and Lesley have promised more, so watch this space.

The group meet again on Friday 26th February, at 10.00am in the YCC room. This month's will be presented by Sheelah; her topic will be the 'Great Stink' in 19thC London.

All welcome.

Ann

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Stinking Iris by Jannet Wright

## Sing along

The group certainly continues to progress. Now a couple of more new people have enquired, about the group it is still slowly building up.

We continue singing songs which bring much inspiration and joy to the hearts of all those who attend. We do warm up songs like: Three Blind Mice; Hickory Dickory Dock the Mouse Ran up the Clock; When the Saints go Marching in and Do-re-mi, amongst others.

We continue with some golden oldies: When I'm sixty-four; King of the road; Island in the sun; My old man's a dustman, and several others.

With regards to the musicals, which I referred to before: the reason for such a delay, is being able to play the requested songs. I am still waiting for the Royal National Institute for the Blind to make these in a much larger format - font print size - as they have done with all the others. By the time I send in my March 2026 contribution, having the sheet music for the musicals should be resolved.

The social aspects of the group, continues to develop, extremely well indeed, as we share hot drinks and have a good old chatter.

As mentioned before, we are all extremely confident that the group, offers much significant hope, in the days to come.

Louis



Setting Moon by Paul Bass

## Quiz Group

January started this year off with a quiz that had us all digging deep into our brain cells to find the right answers. David asked us questions about the good old UK & we found out a great deal of new information. There was the chance of getting 106 correct answers & the winning team managed 56. I think many of us were still in the holiday spirit or the weather was so miserable it affected our ability to think. Besides not being the brainiest bunch, we still had an enjoyable morning doing our best.

Here are some of the questions:

- Crococalana was the Roman name for which Nottinghamshire village?
- Who is the MP for Saffron Walden?
- Which rock icon was the founder of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Long haired men?

February was another interesting round of question from Sue. She certainly knew how to get the old grey cells working. However, we had fewer members than usual. Some of them might have been worried about the flood, just one of many reasons given, but next month I expect a HUGH turnout.

Sue also presented us with some pictures to identify & some of the problems from the 1% Club TV show. Here are 2 of the questions which I could answer!

- Grover Cleveland is the only US president born on what significant date?
- Name a US state that has only 1 vowel repeated at least 4 times.

John

Quiz Answers:           Brough  
                              Kemi Badenoch  
                              David Bowie  
                              July 4<sup>th</sup>  
                              There are 3: Alabama, Mississippi & Tennessee

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### **An important reminder: Possible Farm Trip to Farmer Barnes' Dairy**

I have provisionally booked **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August**, the date of our usual monthly General Meeting. The location is near Melton Mowbray. The cost per person would be **£25 plus travel**.

The farm visit includes a tour, tea & coffee, cakes, cheese tasting and cheese sales.

Minimum 20 Maximum 40 persons.

**I need to know names of those joining the trip by 1<sup>st</sup> March at the latest**, and the organiser of the trip will collect your deposit shortly after that.

dp

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**From the Editor:** This is the first newsletter of 2026 and I hope it is not too late to wish everyone Happy New Year, even though nearly two months have gone already!

David has been busy arranging some interesting speakers for the General Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Don't forget to make a note of them so you don't double book the dates! I'm hoping to see you in the memorial Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February to find out what's been going on underneath Nottingham!

This newsletter has been a bumper two-month edition but next time it will be back to normal. **The March deadline is just four weeks away: 6pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**, but please don't wait until then to send your contribution; you can send it straight after your monthly meeting!

Pat M

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