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NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2026

From the Chair: Welcome to the March newsletter.

Spring is still being rather fickle, but at least we haven't yet had March roaring like a lion. By the time you receive this you will have received the Gift Aid form, along with a list of committee members so that you will recognise if one of them is in your group. Maybe ask them about what's involved with being a committee member when you give your form back, so that you can see if you can offer something back to the u3a. It will benefit all members if as many of us as possible sign up for Gift Aid.

Filling in and returning the Gift Aid form won't cost you anything but a bit of time, but of course subs are due in April. The usual comparator is the cost of a cup of coffee – on this basis Collingham and District u3a is excellent value for money: 6 cups of coffee compared to 12 general meetings and as many groups as you can fit in, along with a quarterly magazine and a monthly newsletter written by members.

Tell your friends and neighbours, contribute to groups, form a new one, join the committee: so many ways to be involved, make friends and above all learn, laugh and live.

Chris

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year! Renew your annual membership (£20 per person) before the April general meeting on Wednesday 22nd April.

Renew by bank transfer at: Account number: 00423860
Sort code: 77-68-44

Don't forget to include your membership number as a three-digit number (e.g. 001) or for two members, three digits separated by a comma (e.g. 001, 123).

Our bank is TSB. Pay by cheque, payable to Collingham and District u3a, at the March or April general meeting.

Remember to fill in a membership form only if any of your details have changed. Always make sure that you print your email address very clearly.

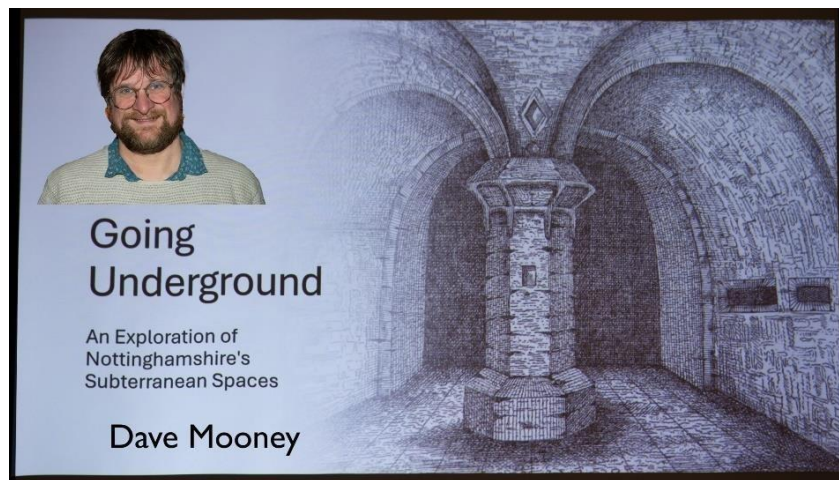
General Meetings

These are held on the **fourth Wednesday** of each month! Apologies if you noticed the error in my final comments at the end of last month's Newsletter!

We usually meet at 20'clock in Collingham Memorial Hall. David arranges speakers who talk to us on a wide range of subjects and there's always a good opportunity for a cup of tea and a natter afterwards! A review of each talk can be found in the Newsletter so you can see what you missed the previous month!

I try to send the newsletter out a few days before each General Meeting, to remind you of the next topic. On Wednesday 25th March Mark Dawson's talk is about Nottinghamshire puddings, so expect to learn a few new recipes!

Pat M



An enthusiastic presentation of the County's underground spaces based on personal exploration and experiences examining caves, crypts, cellars, reservoirs, dungeons, tunnels and mines.

Dave introduced the talk by explaining that Nottinghamshire is made up of Limestone, Sandstone, Mudstone and Coal and covered wide areas of interest including Cresswell Crag, Nottingham Castle and Caves, Chilwell Ordnance Depot, Welbeck tunnel, Mapperley Railway tunnel, gullies and drains and even a second world war bunker to name a few. It's a marvel however that Nottinghamshire doesn't collapse given there's so many spaces underground.

Quite often we are encouraged to look up when we pass by buildings of importance, perhaps we should also look down – we never know what we might be missing.

Dave's usual talk was shortened a little by a request from ourselves although I don't think too many would have minded sitting through the talk in its entirety. dp

Speakers Corner

March 25th **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 22nd **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 27th **“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 24th **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.

Ten years on from their previous visit to Collingham u3a we find out what's changed

July 22nd **On Parade – State Funerals and Coronations**

A unique insight into how large-scale ceremonial events of recent years were put together by the Principal Director of Music for the Royal Air Force

Presented by Piers Morrell OBE MVO

Coming Soon

- It's Hell on Wheels (Confessions of a Driving Instructor)
- Grand Central Railway – Reunification

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

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:

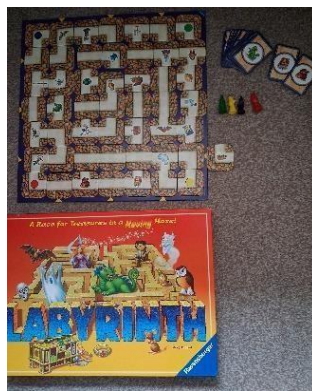
<https://collingham.u3asite.uk>

Boardgames

Boardgames is a pleasant, friendly group of about 8 people, sometimes more, who meet at Beyond Coffee on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2-4pm.



Rummikub and Sequence are the most popular games but we have quite a selection for something that requires a little more concentration if this is decided on the day.



Lila introduced us to Labyrinth last month. It was easy to pick up and involved moving your piece through ever changing paths to collect treasure.



We welcome new members, even if you only want to join us occasionally.

If you have a different game at home that you enjoy playing, bring it along and we'll give it a go.

For over 65's playing Boardgames can reduce getting dementia by 15% according to the article I found in The Daily Mail!

We hope to see you on 18th of March 2pm at Beyond Coffee.

Linda



Bowls

Our winter season at Grantham Indoor Bowls is coming to an end on Monday 16th . Another happy time with the lovely people at Grantham, they are all so nice and helpful and accommodating.

We will then be playing outdoor at Collingham on the first and third Mondays 2pm till 4pm starting on Monday the 4th. May

Every one of all abilities are of course welcome just please let me know if you wish to come so I can arrange for the correct number of lanes, we are up to 18 players now.

Clive Bainbridge

Drawing group

A slightly smaller group of us gathered at Penny's house for our drawing session. Sadly, one member of the group hadn't been able to get through the many closed roads leading to Collingham-so gave up trying and emailed her apologies.

Apart from sadly missing this particular member - our session was superb. The items put out on display were a truly eclectic mix-challenging and great fun to try to draw. The second part of our session was a figure drawing practice, with Penny's husband, Paul, fresh from a very long cycle ride, coming in to pose for us. He stayed perfectly still and was the perfect model, and Penny was, of course, the perfect host.

Our next session will be at Jackie's house-and as her husband has posed for us before I live in hopes that he will do so again?

Lesley

Photography

This month we have been busy with images that reflect February. You will find a samples of our work in this month's Newsletter.
Paul



North Collingham Church by Paul Bass

Family History

At our March meeting we saw a presentation that was a joint effort between Barry, whose family we looked at, and Gill, Charlie and Pat who had assisted him with his research.

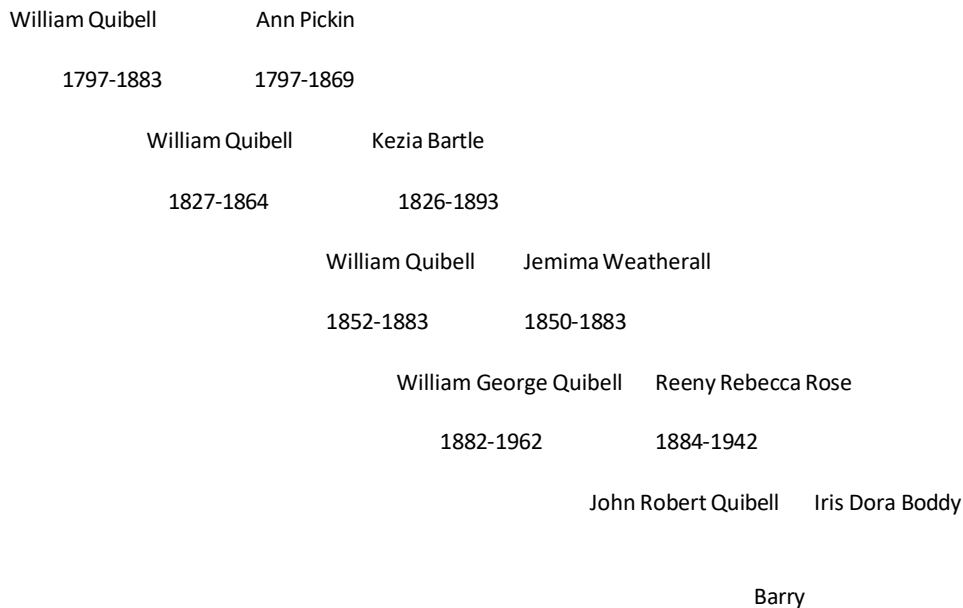
This was a good example of how group members can assist each other's research by bringing fresh eyes to it.

Barry's family, the Quibells, lived in Laxton for several generations. Laxton is well known as the last place in England where strip farming is still practiced.

Like many families a Christian name was repeated over generations, in this case William. This sometimes makes sorting out the family tree difficult.

We particularly focused on the years 1881 to 1883 which was an eventful time for the Quibells. In 1881 Barry's grandfather William married Jemima Weatherall and a son William George was born in 1882. Sadly in 1883 Jemima died and William, probably grief stricken, shot himself. G, g grandfather William who was 86 and survived his son and grandson, died less than a month later.

Quibell family tree (Main line)



Having established the family story Barry wanted to know when the family's connection with Manor farm ended. They lived there in 1871 according to the census but were they tenants or owners? We suspect that William's unmarried brothers continued to live there until the 1890s but have as yet found no evidence to confirm this. Further research required.

Charlie

Sunday Lunchers

For our March's u3a Sunday Lunch, 15 members returned to The White Hart at Carlton le Moorland, where we had previously visited in July 2025. Unfortunately, the Chef seemed to be having an off day, on 8th March, but the company was good and uplifting. I forgot to photograph the main course, but this is when we had almost finished the dessert!



Margaret



The Manor after Snow by Paul Bass

Low Street Flooded by Gill Bass



Trees in Bloom by John Geeson

Breakfast Club

Bomber Command, Lincoln, did not disappoint. 12 of us swooped in for a superb breakfast: hot, quickly served and inexpensive, with lovely surroundings and even better companionship. Once we'd finished our food the Tannoy announced that a free guided tour/talk would be starting imminently. Several of our group took advantage of this whilst the rest of us stayed on to continue chatting. As at least one couple had bought a season ticket to the whole site and exhibition, I have a feeling we'll be back here again fairly soon - can't wait!

The next Breakfast Club gathering will be at Windmill Farm, Whisby - Buffet (all you can eat) breakfast which promises to be excellent.

Lesley



Low Street across the Field by Pat Morgan

Literature Group

We have been rereading and immensely enjoying Charlotte Brontë's novel 'Jane Eyre', which provided us with a very lively and interesting get together this month.

The group member who was very keen we reread the novel comments as follows;

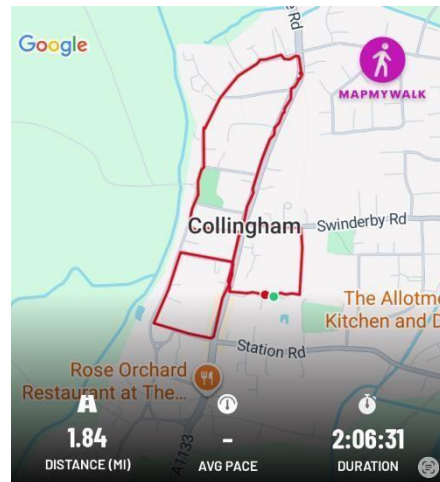
"The passing of time and growing maturity over the past 50 years has given me a different view of the characters of Jane and Mr. Rochester, and I have lost my innocent, blind acceptance that if your wife is 'mad' it is OK to lock her in a dark attic and pretend she isn't there. However, I still love the book and enjoyed the 19th century language."

Our book for April/May is 'Clock Dance' by the American author Anne Tyler.

Sheelah

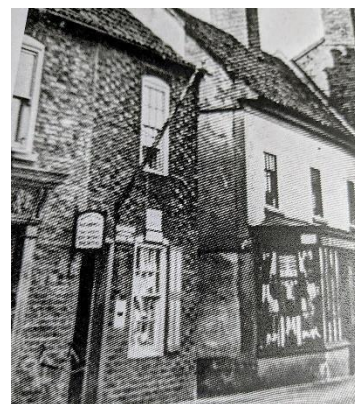
Strollers

This month Pat M very kindly agreed to lead a group of our Strollers around North Collingham paths and lanes sharing information about what some of our buildings were used for in the past and early photographs from Collingham archives.



We saw evidence of previous garages, bike shops, maltings, steam mill, ironmongers, pubs, slaughterhouse, and many others.

Pat pointed out mock windows, houses that previously were 'mud and stud,' indications of high pitches being previously thatched roofs, where our Collingham Cross used to be sited, how High Street had been slightly rerouted to make it straighter and loads more very interesting information.



We all really enjoyed this gentle walk, stopping many times to look and learn about places we walk past every day without most of us realising the past treasures we live amongst.



We finished our walk with a bite to eat at Beyond Coffee. Many thanks to Pat for her wealth of knowledge about our lovey village, and Collingham Local History Society for the old photographs.

Margaret

Creative writing

I'm pleased to be able to announce that this tiny group now has another member. We welcomed her with very open arms. We're still a very small group which would love to have more members. I live in hopes!

In our session, at Alexis' house, we read some of our own creative writings to each other, with the usual praise and warmth being received. We are very, very non-critical, and very supportive of each other.

I have set the task, for next time, that we write about anything in our lives that has really gone **right** - good memories and positive vibes from our past - let's see what that brings to the table.

Lesley

Italian

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

At our last meeting we focussed on building our story telling skills. Working in pairs, we randomly chose four unseen images of famous portraits and created imaginary relationships between the various characters. For example, one pair had four images of men. They decided that one of the men was a magistrate (un magistrato) and the other three were on trial (sotto processo) for various crimes (crimini). We had a lot of fun making up the tales and then telling them to each other in Italian.

Next session we will be back to grammar!

Jannet and Mary



Single Daffodil by Colin Smith



The Blues Have It by Jannet Wright

Art Appreciation

At our meeting in February Mary Hughes explored some '-isms' in the history of Art. She chose ten '-isms,' out of many, which she illustrated with images. These ranged from International Gothicism in the 14th Century to Post Modernism at the end of the 20th Century.

Here are four images from the talk. Some or all of these pictures may be familiar to you but you may not be aware of the '-isms' with which they are associated.



International Gothicism

The Wilton Diptych 1395-99



Gesturalism

The Cheat with the Ace of Diamonds 1620-40

So, you think you can drive!

We're rapidly becoming a somewhat smaller group but we manage to work incredibly hard. We completed another full DVLA theory test - and this time we collectively passed! Phew! We must be getting better. Each member of the group had also brought along several questions from their own copy of The Highway Code book, tricky and challenging. I confess that after 2 hours of questions/answers and chat I was feeling quite exhausted.

Question: Do you know what double **red** lines mean?

Lesley

Local History

Continuing with the theme of old buildings in our locality Louis had researched a set of images and text about Newark Castle which David used to make a slideshow for him to present. The Castle is situated on a previous Saxon fortified manor and in the early medieval period 1130-1135 was of a timber and earth construction (motte-and-bailey) It was soon rebuilt in stone. Famously King John died here in 1216. In the 14th century it was used as a jail for the imprisonment of Knights Templar personnel. It became a principal base for Charles 1st during the English Civil war and was involved in the three sieges leading up to its final siege and ruin in 1646. It was restored in the Victorian era and was purchased by the Corporation of Newark in 1889. It is currently undergoing significant enhancement and restoration. Louis had also provided a couple of artists impressions of how it will look on completion.

Ivor, supported by Barry, presented a slide talk on the history of Laxton village open fields and their strips which still largely exist today. Management of the strips follows the old ways and is still a joint affair under the control of a nominated field jury. Interestingly Barry's father had once been its chairman. One of his duties comprised the annual inspection on the owner's boundary of each of the many strips. This was achieved by marking the boundary of each set of strips with wooden pegs in the ground. Encroachment (mistakes?) could result in a fine of 3s 6d!

David had been working on a document attached to a conveyance deed of 1696. The document was called a 'terrier' and was a written list of all the strips of land held by an individual owner. The owner in this case was one William Sudbury of North Collingham who was selling his one oxgang of land (15 acres) divided into 46 small strips of average size about 1/3 acre. His 46 strips were organised in bundles of 12 named furlongs. Some of these can still be identified on the later 1790 pre-enclosure map of North Collingham. In the terrier the location of each strip is identified by the names of neighbouring strips lying to its east and west. This provided a potential body of information which could be used to shed some light on the many names of village people who were farming their Collingham land in the late 17th century.

David



Church Street by John Geeson



Magnolia by Andrew Roberts

Thursday Talking Shop

Our subject for February's meeting was: 'Sovereignty'. We explored the different types of sovereignty, for example: Real, which involves the

actual exercise of power; Titular, serving a symbolic and ceremonial role; Legal, the constitutional framework for governance and Political, which ensures that the government remains accountable to the people. This was one of those subjects which open up more and more avenues as the discussion goes on and there was no shortage of views and opinions.

The topic for the next meeting on March 26 will be: 'Protests - A choice or a duty? How far should it go?'

Anita

Play Reading

The Play Readers met on the 17th to have fun with Act 1 of Alan Ayckbourn's "Comic Potential". The comedy was first performed in 1998, in Scarborough of course, but soon transferred to the West End and then to New York. It is a play within a play, set in the future where androids, who are programmed to act, are in a day-time soap opera begrudgingly directed by the once famous Hollywood director, Chandler Tate – played in the Guildford production by David Soul. One of the androids, or "actoids," shows signs of having a mind of her own, which begs the question: What makes us human? With CGI and AI, a surprisingly relevant concept in modern-day cinema.

We will find out how it all works out for JCF 31333 and star-struck Adam next month, April 21st, 10-12 in the YCC.

Sue

Nature Walks

Our morning walk on Friday 6th March at Mons Pool was definitely a return to winter after the previous day's blue skies and warmth. We had leaden skies and a biting northerly! But there was Chiffchaff singing at one point and Oystercatchers had returned, so some signs of Spring. The water birds seemed particularly active and we saw a variety of birds flying overhead, egrets, geese, herons, cormorant gathering nesting material, and even a couple of kestrels.



Tufted Duck



Canada Goose



The author of *How to be a bad birdwatcher* (highly recommended book) is Simon Barnes. The sub-title is *Embrace the joy in everyday birdwatching* - not for elitist birders or listers!



The flowering Primroses (not the planted ones, very odd in a nature reserve) and Sweet Violets were also signs of longer and warmer days. It was remarked that there are even more wild flowers in bloom around the village, where more shelter is available.



By popular vote, the group went to Meering on 17th March: a walk in glorious sunshine. Meering itself was quiet, bird-wise, with invisible Little Grebes calling and briefly, Bullfinch and Goldcrest, which were new birds but didn't allow all of us to see them.

There was a lot of activity in a flooded rape field on the approach, with over 20 Shelduck and 3 Curlew as we left - only 1 when we came in. The only summer visitors were singing Chiffchaffs.



Shelduck (Male on the right)



Curlew

We also saw our first adult butterflies after the caterpillar last time: 2 Peacocks flying close together in what was presumably some type of courtship flight.



Meering is so remote that I lost mobile signal and Flora Incognita app, but tracked down the willow with catkins as Common Osier/Sallow. (pictured left) The naturally occurring hybrid False Oxlip (shown above) was also a surprise.

Robert

Weekenders

For the past 2 months weekenders have met at The Inn on The Green at Coddington, and we were very grateful to find the venue, however for our next meeting on the 4th Saturday of the month March 28th we are hoping that The Lord Nelson at Winthorpe will have re-opened and will be able to welcome us.

In February a small group went for an Indian Meal at the Castle Cuisine, it was very much enjoyed, and another small group are going in March. Some of us went to the Coddington Live and Local performance by The Pocket Choral Society, an excellent evening with lots of laughs.

We are planning to visit South Clifton Fashion Show, and a lunchtime meal out at Ole Ole in Lincoln.

Our next Meeting March 31st at The Lord Nelson Winthorpe.

Chris D

Table Tennis

Our friendly table tennis group **usually** meets on the 2nd and 4th 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:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| March 26 th , 2026 | From 10-11am |
| April 9 th , 2026 | - “ - |
| April 23 rd , 2026 | - “ - |
| May 14 th , 2026 | - “ - |
| May 28 th , 2026 | - “ - |
| June 11 th , 2026 | - “ - |
| June 18th, 2026 | - “- NOTE: THIS DATE IS OUT OF SEQUENCE!!!! |

Threads

Many of the items produced by our crafters are intended for gifts to family and friends. See here a cross-stitch embroidered birthday card, knitted Christmas tree decorations and a crocheted bow tie round the parcel (the brown paper has the added bonus of being recyclable).



All of these have been made with small amounts of various materials from our stashes. We all have a stash or two to hand, although it is common to have not quite enough to finish a larger project, thus necessitating acquiring further enlargement of the said stash!

Our next meeting is Thursday, 2nd April at 2 pm at Beyond Coffee next to the Co-op.

Barbara



Green Lane by Andrew Roberts



Bubbling Brook by Colin Smith

Bridge

We continue to meet at Beyond Coffee at 2pm on Fridays for our Bridge Improvers group, we are sometimes quite noisy as we discuss the various options in our hands.

Some members of the group have met for lunch before the Bridge meeting on the 3rd Friday of the month and we hope to repeat this.

Chris D

All Alone by Jannet Wright



Quiz Group

Clive came with seven rounds of questions, which he promised were easy! The questions were straightforward and may have been easy to **ask** but we found several of the answers were out of our reach! To be fair, Clive did offer a few clues when he realised some of us were struggling!

Our Quiz Group leader, John excelled himself and was delighted to contribute several answers to his team! He had also prepared a couple of pages of Dingbat style puzzles for us to peruse whilst we drank our coffee... and he provided good biscuits too!

In the end there was a draw when the answers were given out...and a confident answer to the tie break question, so it was all resolved to everyone's satisfaction!

Here are some of the questions with answers that surprised us:

1. Which country consumes the most Coca Cola per capita?
2. When was Lego first invented?
3. Where in the world are there no agreed time zones?

Gill, who answered the tie break question, has agreed to be Quiz master for our April meeting, and, as she's a relatively new member of the group we are looking forward to finding out what she brings to challenge us!



Quiet Contemplation by Pat Morgan

Quiz Answers: 1. Iceland 2. 1932 3. Antarctica (Thanks for those, Clive!)

A message from Rosie:

Refreshments anyone?

Denise, Rosie and Sheelah are very happy to serve you at our General Meetings.

However, there are times when one of us, or even two of us, are just unable to attend. We really need the support of some people who could lend a hand at very short notice. Many of you, like us, have busy diaries, but if you could volunteer to assist us that would be great.

If we knew 5 or 6 people who could be available to help to serve and clear away it would be so helpful as, at present we are a little limited and it would mean that we wouldn't get too stressed when life intervenes! It would be reassuring to know there are people we can call upon but if we contact you and you are unable to help that particular day, that's fine.

If you are willing to join our 'standby list,' please let us know at a General Meeting, by email, or tell a committee member.

Thank you!

From the Editor:

It has been lovely to get out and about, now the weather has improved, but it meant I left myself short of time to compile this newsletter.

On one of my walks, I spotted this spade in a tree and wondered how, and why, it got up there! Very odd!

The deadline for the next newsletter is **6pm on Friday 17th April** but it helps if group leaders send their contributions as soon as possible. Several groups meet in the same week as my deadline so unavoidably their news creates a last-minute rush for me to jigsaw articles and pictures together!



Thank you for the recent comments about the content of the newsletter. It seems to grow longer each month as it represents how much our local u3a members are doing!

Pat M
