

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2026

From the Chair: Welcome to the August newsletter. You can play a kind of bingo through this newsletter, the sort you play in boring meetings (not that ours are ever boring). There will be constant reminders that there will be no general meeting in August. These multiple reminders are to make sure that it's your mistake if you turn up at the Memorial Hall and find no one there.

Who would have thought that we'd still be so hot and so dry? Abandoning the August meeting looks more and more like a good idea – we absolutely sweltered at June's AGM, we boiled at July's, so, just maybe by 26th August it will be cooler, though I wouldn't bet on it.

As I was thinking about what to write, I thought a timely reminder to us all was to make sure we stay hydrated by drinking little and often – really important with water as no one sits down to enjoy a glass of water, but sips every paragraph are certainly manageable. I have my water bottle by my side as I write and am following my own advice!

Many groups have had a summer break so let's hope that by September we can all come back feeling ready to embark on a new round of living, laughing, learning.

Take care in the sun: cover up, join me in wearing a hat and above all: keep drinking.

Chris

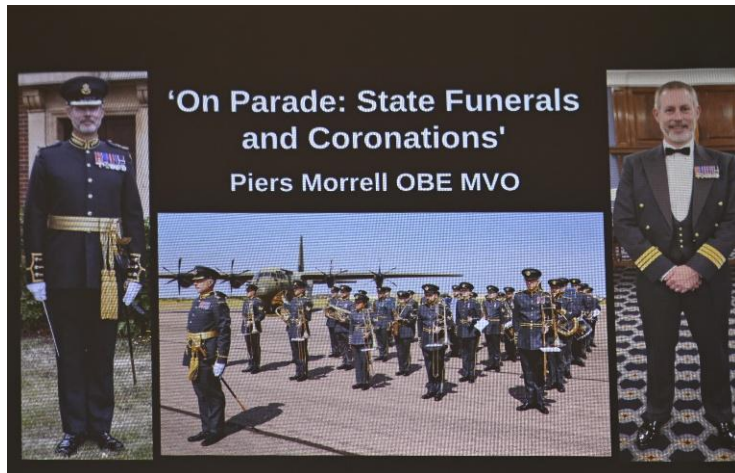
Calling all members:



Please give up an hour on Saturday 19 September to be on the u3a stand at the Collingham Show. We still have a few vacant slots, so come along and talk to members of the public about our wonderful u3a.

Get in touch with Chris Stothard (Chair) via our website to get more details and to volunteer.

General Meetings



Piers had a long and varied career in the RAF rising to become Principal Director of Music. He had the unique task of directing and leading the preparations for some very major national events including directing the 300 RAF musicians at the 2018 Edinburgh Tattoo.

Piers talked to us today about the 3 big occasions of his career! The funerals of the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth and the coronation of King Charles.

Each occasion had unique challenges, firstly the duke's funeral took place during the COVID lockdown in St George's Chapel Windsor instead of at Westminster Abbey. Social distancing was a nightmare in the smaller spaces available.

Piers regaled us with the tale of the haircuts! Obviously, hair had been neglected during COVID and was not regulation short back and sides. The only available barber for 300 men was not one the men liked the look of, so they took it in turns to cut each other's hair. Fortunately, their hats covered a multitude of weird hairstyles.



One of Piers' abiding memories of the day is the sense of sadness he felt at the sight of the queen's car approaching the chapel knowing she was saying farewell to her husband of over 50 years.

In 2022 Queen Elizabeth passed away and Piers had the major responsibility for the musicians following the gun carriage. Rehearsals took place at 2am after long days of other preparations and the Major General in charge was very clear they "Do not get it wrong" although that is the polite version, and get it wrong they did. Thankfully on the day it was perfect.

We can all of us remember the sight of the men and women of the Royal Navy, who are the Senior Service pulling the gun carriage along. Piers told us the interesting reason for this. Apparently at an earlier state funeral in Victoria's time the horses pulling the gun carriage had caused chaos so the navy volunteered to do the duty.

The whole procession had been geared to the pace of horses so since then all the participants have had to march at 70 beats per minute which is quite a feat. Another British tradition!

Piers final major event was to be the coronation of King Charles. Piers had charge of the trumpeters in Westminster Abbey perched high up in the organ loft on scaffolding. Piers as conductor had a very tight space to stand to the side of the trumpeters wedged between masonry and a TV cameraman. He had to tell the cameraman to move his camera!

One of the amusing parts of the rehearsal was when the Archbishop of Canterbury placed the crown on the head of the lady standing in for the Queen Consort. No one had checked if the crown fitted beforehand and when placed on the lady's head it slid right down over her eyes. Much hilarity ensued which lightened the anxiety a little.

Piers and his trumpeters performed the fanfare perfectly. Apparently, the music was written by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and the King had doubts about its suitability for the occasion but Piers assured him it was fine. Afterwards when talking to Sir Andrew about it, Piers was astounded to learn the Sir Andrew hadn't known which type of instruments he was writing for.

After a long tiring day there was to be no relaxing as Piers and his band of musicians had to rehearse for the coronation concert in Windsor private gardens the next day.

Piers and his coronation trumpeters, a proud climax to a long career as he retired from the RAF in 2024.



I think we were all impressed by the amount of work and preparations we heard about, the behind-the-scenes activity is astounding and the vast amount of personnel involved takes a great deal of managing. Imagine the relief when it all goes according to plan!

Speakers Corner

August No General Meeting

September 23rd **It's Hell on Wheels being a Driving Instructor**

Could you pass your driving test tomorrow? Find out how much things have changed since you took your test.

Be amazed at the funny (and risqué) things learner drivers say and the questions they ask.



Ask questions about driving and issues involving pedestrians (as long as they are easy).

A mock driving lesson will be held at the end of the talk.

Presented by Stephen Brown who has been a Driving Instructor for over 40 years and is still alive.

Coming Soon:

October – **Re-unification.** The most exciting railway project in UK railway preservation. Two halves of the Great Central Railway – one in Leicestershire, the other in Nottinghamshire, are in the process of being re-connected to create an eighteen-mile heritage line.

November – **The History of Busking and Street Performance**

This talk will look at the history of street entertainment, examining the lives of some of the colourful characters that have brightened up our urban spaces over the last three hundred years. From Punch and Judy men to Georgian ventriloquists, Regency fiddles to celebrity one-man bands. Stories brought to life with illustrations, music and song. **Presented by Dave Mooney**

December - Our December event will not include a speaker but will be a seasonal celebration and will take place on 16th December. Further details to follow. See newsletter and web site.

When a speaker has cancelled at short notice, we need a plan B. If you have a presentation which might be suitable for a general audience and are willing to step in at the last minute, please let me know.

dp

Groups

Contacting Group Leaders

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

<https://collingham.u3asite.uk>

Photography

This month the group has been concentrating on images for a 2027 calendar. Next month we hope to complete our calendar collection. Our next theme will be 'Lines'

Paul



A Calm River Trent by Gill Bass



Harvest Begins by Jannet Wright

Bowling

Some of our u3a bowlers on the Collingham bowling “green”.

Clive says ‘we don't have long to go, September 7th I think, then we're indoors at Grantham from 12 till 2 for our Monday meetings.

Contact Clive if you are interested in joining the group and want to find out more.



Play Reading



In July we met to read a one act play by Alan Ayckbourn; “Ernie’s Incredible Illucinations”. The play was shorter than expected, but a sweet tale of a young boy and his imagination, although were his imaginings actually real? The play is probably aimed at children, but we are all young at heart, and had some fun with it. We filled in the time with anecdotes and snippets from Alan Bennett’s diary, “Writing Home”.

For August and September, we have “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead” by Tom Stoppard and therefore a typically original and ingenious play. Stoppard himself described it as a comedy, not to be taken seriously, and he literally gives us a different perspective on Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” from the side-lines. The play was first performed at the Edinburgh Fringe in 1966. I remember being enchanted by it at the Old Vic a few years later.

Sue



Winthorpe Alms Houses
by Colin Smith

The Critics - July

Again, the group numbers were depleted due to holiday commitments so only four of us met to chat about a variety of subjects.

One of our members gave a report on her first visit to the Tolethorpe theatre where she saw a performance of Animal Farm by George Orwell. She was very impressed by the enthusiasm of the young cast who were all teenagers. The rest of us shared our own positive experiences of seeing plays performed at Tolethorpe. The only criticism of the theatre was the steps which could be problem for the less mobile. A tip was given: to book row O.

The next topic was related to tv comedy dramas. Quite a few of 1980's comedies can now be streamed. The question posed was 'Do their subject matter stand the test of time and if so, has it anything to do with the writer?'

The series discussed was 'A Very Peculiar Practice', a black comedy drama about a medical centre situated on a 1980's university campus. It was decided that it did still retain its humour and portrayed the topics of the era. The fact that it was written by Andrew Davies could have been the reason it still worked.

Of course, the football had to be discussed. One of our members had watched some of the matches in bars whilst on holiday in Spain. She found that the friendliness between the supporters was so heart-warming. Sports commentaries in general were also mentioned. Do you watch sport with the sound off?

Our last contribution came from our newest member and was very relevant to us all. She asked the question 'Do you read the u3a magazine and if so, what do you think of it?'

Apparently, the travel adverts weren't appreciated but some of the articles were interesting and showed what is happening in other u3a groups. An article on appetite was cited as being very informative. We did admit though that we don't read as many magazines as we used to.

Elaine



Linda's Garden by John Geeson



It's not Rain, just
Crop Irrigation
Overspill by Paul
Bass

The Critics - August

A good turnout, 8 people attending, probably near the limit for any good discussion where everyone has time to make a contribution.

This month focussed mostly on TV programmes. Ann Droid was recommended by two members, both for the writing and the acting, with a special mention for Sue Johnston. Evolution, presented by Chris Packham, led to discussion about science on TV, with one person praising the numerous science programmes available on radio. Many people had enjoyed the wide variety of sport this summer, with one or two others taking a very different stance. Concern about the intrusion of commercialism in sport was expressed, particularly where it was felt that sponsorship might affect the sport itself, the access to particular sports, and the use of sports sponsorship to make some political regimes more acceptable. Kabul, a drama based on true events was commended.

Two books were mentioned: 'When the Cranes Fly South' by Lisa Ridzén had been enjoyed by two people, and 'The Missing Sister' by Lucinda Riley, the seventh book in the series. The latter a very strong recommendation from the person who has finally reached the last book.

Finally, several people had seen 'The Odyssey' at the cinema. We gave mixed reviews, just like the real critics, but agreed that it had been worth seeing. This prompted a last-minute recommendation for 'A Very Modern Odyssey' presented by Richard E Grant.

Pat H

History

At our July meeting we continued with our theme of the lives and achievements of famous men and women scientists. Charlie had prepared a talk on Caroline Herschel, Astronomer. Awarded the Royal Astronomical Society medal in 1828, she discovered several comets, she worked alongside her brother William. Christine introduced us to Alfred Wallace, English naturalist, explorer, geographer, anthropologist and illustrator, a contemporary of Darwin.

Like many groups we will not be meeting during August, but hope to be back together again on the fourth Friday of September.

Ann

Pond Weeds by Pat Morgan



Creative Writing

Only a very few of our group were available for a meeting in August, so we decided to pause our group until September. Meanwhile I had already sent a short paragraph for everyone (if they wanted to) to continue to write in their own style.

“I have a recurring thought that is that I’ve been here before. I suppose we all get these? Deja-vu? But why? My mind has accepted that this cannot be true and I’m not yet so senile as to try to argue with it-so why am I convinced, from time to time, that I know what will happen, or what will inevitably come next?”

Hopefully I will have some pieces of prose from everyone to send you next month.

Lesley

Family History

The subject of our August meeting was the Platt family and their twin backgrounds of farming and coal mining. Ann started us off with a PowerPoint presentation and then we looked at the family tree and census records online.

The family were caught up in a mining disaster in 1895 when Audley Colliery was flooded by water breaking into the workings from the adjacent flooded and abandoned Diglake Colliery. Two sons were amongst the 78 men and boys who died and their bodies were among the 75 that were never recovered.



Their mother Elizabeth Tomkinson had come from a farming family and at some stage between 1901 and 1911 she and husband Aaron Platt took over Woodhouse farm. Son George then farmed there until the 1960s.



After the presentation we looked at various census records but were unable to find the family in the 1891 census. Other researchers who shared their family tree via Ancestry had likewise not found them. We concluded that as the family had lived in the area both before and after 1891 that for some reason, they were missed off that year's census. We speculated on possible reasons but of course we will never know! One of the reasons why family history research can be both frustrating but intriguing.

Our September meeting will be at the later date of 8th September.

Charlie



Golden Light on the Gravestones by Paul Bass

Art Appreciation

At the July meeting Mary and Jannet presented a session called 'Eye Catching Contemporaries'. The artists they spoke about were: Malgorzata Mirga-Tas whose work was seen at the National Portrait Gallery, London, Kira Freije at the Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield and the work of Gillie and Marc where an example of their work was seen in Cavendish Square, London.



Mirga-Tas (b.1978) is a Polish-Romani artist, sculptor and painter. In 2022 she represented Poland at the 59th Venice Biennale as part of the "Milk of Dreams" exhibition.

She was the first Romani artist to represent any country at this art event.

She uses recycled material especially textiles so her work is in 3-d as can be seen here in a photograph of part of a dress.

Kira Freije (b.1985) is a British sculptor based in London. She makes life-size figures using welded steel, textiles, found objects and aluminum casts of hands, feet and faces. A photograph of an example of her work can be seen below.



Gillie and Marc Schattner were born in England and Australia respectively. They have worked together for the last 30 years and nearly all their work can be seen outside. Both of them are committed to animal conservation and this is reflected in their work. The Friendship Bench in London is pictured below. It invites people to sit on it and have their picture taken.

The Art Appreciation group is not meeting in August.

Jannet

Bridge

Bridge continues to meet on Friday afternoons at Beyond coffee 2 - 4pm.

Chris D

Sunset by Gill Bass



Local History

June Meeting:

Paul's Contribution: Our Country is covered in history, left by the people who have lived here before us; our language, our houses, our roads and ways, our culture and beliefs. But are the descendants of those people still with us today? There have been several waves of migration into Britain since the end of the last Ice Age, 12,000 – 10,000 years ago. This talk by Paul was about his historical research and the genetic history of people close to him. In a nutshell, this research has led him to conclude that both his mother and his wife have mT DNA (Mitochondrial DNA, passed down through the maternal line) that arrived in Britain with the Neolithic Farmers, some 6000 years CE and that his Y DNA – paternal line, coupled with his surname of Saxton, arrived in Britain during the Roman Occupation when the Romans brought in mercenaries to help manage innumerable sites. These people, brought in by the Romans, were from Denmark and northern Germany, were called Saxons by the Romans, irrespective of which tribe they were actually from! This might explain why the Saxon/Saxton name is most common in Notts/Derbyshire/South Yorkshire areas which are adjacent to Roman sites, such as Saxondale, near Margidunum. The talk was supported by a slideshow with many interesting and comprehensive slides covering all the many aspects of early British history, including some genetics.

Lesley's Contribution: Swinderby some fun facts!

Swinderby is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The Knights Templar had churches in Eagle, Swinderby and North Scarle.

- Remained with the Knights Templar/Hospitaller until 16th Century
- 1771 2x blacksmiths, one weaver, one schoolmaster, 3x Publicans, 3x wheelwrights
- All Saint's Church is the oldest in the village with parts of it from the 12th, 13th, 15th and 17th centuries. Methodist church built in 1824, replaced 1869, is now The Light and Life Mission Hall exclusively used by the Travelling Community.
- Morton hall prison was originally a boys' borstal, then a male prison, then female semi open prison, and is now an IRC (immigration removal centre)
- The road sign on Swinderby road was designed by David Morris-local resident, former chair of the PC- and taken from a drawing done by him. An Officers Mess was brought in 1927 from Newark and rebuilt to be used as the village hall-it was used for 50years until it was rebuilt in 1977 and again in 1990.
- RAF Swinderby was used until 1993-now rebuilt as Witham St Hughes
- Fenmarc vegetable packing plant packed veg for several national supermarkets-ASDA, Tesco etc closed down several years ago and the site is currently being built on by Peter Sowerby builders.
- The Play Area was redeveloped by The Parish Council about 20 years ago, at a cost of £102.000. -secured by several grants. This had a major effect on Collingham who wanted something as good as, if not better, for their village- hence the superb play area in Collingham.
- Kisimul School is a major part of Swinderby, catering for people who need 24-hour specialist care.



Harvest Dust by Jannet Wright



Straw Bales by John Geeson

Local History

July Meeting:

In line with recent presentations Pat gave a comprehensive slide talk on the parish of Langford. It covered its early origins, its history and location within the local landscape. The proximity, presence and influence of the river Trent was very evident throughout which drives all studies on its setting

In antiquity the Trent was a series of braided streams of 2 or 3 channels but in 1575 a massive storm realigned the main channel across the river floodplain which meant that Langford and nearby Holme were now on the same side of the Trent.

There is evidence of a large Romano – British settlement which is unusual as these are usually to be found in scattered single farmsteads. Pottery finds of 1 - 4th century support this interpretation. Much later in Anglo – Saxon times there are the usual signs of the medieval feudal system such as the strip farming of an open field system. In Domesday Langford boasted 38 households which put it among the largest (20%) of settlements for the period so it was a sizable village. The value of land over this time gradually increased up to Edward the Confessor's reign. The predominate farming method was sheep rearing for wool. Wool was collected locally in great volumes imported and transported from upstream of the Trent and dispatched via the river and Fosse way to Lincoln and as far as Boston. A focal point for this activity is to be found interestingly marked on an early OS map as the 'Wool Wharf' on the east bank of the Trent, near Langford Old Hall, where bales of wool would have been loaded onto barges.

David

Nature Walks

We went to Mons Pool (Besthorpe) on a warm afternoon, which got steadily warmer. We were glad of the shelter of the two viewing blinds with their seats and a roof. The water level was lower than we'd ever seen so we were very pleased to see so many birds. There were almost all waterbirds - ducks, geese, cormorants, a Little Egret and some very noisy Oystercatchers. There was a lone Curlew and Chris found a pair of Little Ringed Plovers. There was very little activity in the hedges or the wood, almost no bird song or calls.

The plants were rather more interesting - at least to those who are interested in them! In particular, there was an area which had been revealed by the drop in the water level and it had a surprising range of plants. There were some emergents, plants usually with their roots in the water and the stems, flowers and leaves above water. But this time they were completely terrestrial as the water had receded, so



Water Mint

could be approached without fear of getting wet feet. These included Water Pepper and Water Mint, which the geese seem to have been eating! But there were some other plants - ruderals - which are found in disturbed soil, being early colonists. These included Treacle Mustard and Trifid Bur-marigold.

There were also a number of unusual growths on the willow trees. These are distorted catkins with mites living in them. It was thought that the mites caused the abnormal growth but it is now known that a microbe is responsible and the mites like living there!



We had a lovely walk on 7th August. It wasn't too hot as we walked around Meering, a remote reserve at the end of a very bumpy track. Bird life was rather



limited, as is usual at this time of the year, but we did manage 28 species

between us. Perhaps the most impressive was the Howard Wilkinson, (HW, for some reason, stands for Great White Egret!), that flew over our heads!



The plants were more interesting as there were a number of species we'd not seen before - Musk Thistle, Tansy, Amphibious Bistort, Flowering Rush (not a rush, in a family of its own in the UK) and Water-plantain (not related to the other plantains) and also in a small family, new to us.



On 18th August a select group of amateur botanists walked the newly re-opened footpath at Collingham Pits. It was washed away in the floods of two winters ago. One part has been repaired with shingle, but most is topsoil from a nearby field and is bare soil being colonised by plants whose seeds were either in the seed-bank of the soil or have been blown there. In some ways it reminds me of Samphire Hoe, near Dover, which was created with spoil from the Channel Tunnel and now holds a large colony of Early Spider-orchid. This <https://www.samphirehoe.com/> will take you to their website, which is very interesting - to me, anyway. Even a French version, which is another story.

We spent most of our time looking at our feet and were rewarded with a grand selection of these colonisers, at least 15 species of which were new to the group. Marsh Dock (below) is quite unusual and Green Nightshade isn't in any of my plant books, identified by two apps!



Fig-leaved Goosefoot looks like Fat-hen at first glance, but the leaves are different, even if they don't look like those of a fig! ((Both shown here.))



Black-bindweed is an old name for a plant which is not a bindweed but whose name persists.

And there were birds, flying over our heads sometimes as the footpath has water on both sides - it is an embankment. A young Common Tern flew right above us at one point, begging for food, and then settled on the water and was fed by a parent. Linnets and migrant Yellow Wagtails were around, sometimes perching on the fencing. A Common Sandpiper flew past as we walked back.

We'd spent so much time looking at the plants we'd only gone a few hundred metres before we had to turn back. It will be very interesting to see how the plant community develops.

Robert

Breakfasters

The phrase "victims of their own success" seems to come to mind as I recall our visit to Hexgreave Hall with the Breakfast Club this morning.

To say that the Boiler Room Cafe was busy is a huge understatement. If we couple that with a manager who was absent through illness, and a chef who was under immense pressure and you start to get the picture. Our booking had not been flagged up to the staff (it was quickly found, thank goodness) Our order for both food and drinks was quickly taken and the drinks arrived very promptly, with the freshly cooked food not too far behind. However, there were a few mistakes, with one new group member getting totally the wrong breakfast. As there were food intolerances involved this was a serious error. It was not replaced for her so she left the cafe feeling quite hungry. To the credit of the cafe they apologized profusely and didn't charge her for it. The rest of us, 11 in all, were mostly pleased with our food. and I'm still surprised at how busy they were-the customers just kept piling in!

Better luck next time, I hope. I'm sure that this was a case of them just "having a bad day".

In fairness the staff were lovely and the setting was superb.

Lesley

Strollers



As the forecast on Wednesday 12th August was very hot 11 strollers started the walk earlier than usual at 10.a.m.

It was decided beforehand that we would undertake a local walk instead of the one we had originally planned.

Our walk was finished by 11.30a.m, one group completed all the walk and a few of us took a shorter route to return to the car park. Most of us enjoyed a chat and refreshments at Beyond Coffee afterwards.

Rosie and Marg



Flowerbed at Hidcote Manor by Colin Smith

Drawing

We had a truly wonderful drawing session in Sue Brauer's lovely garden this month. The sun wasn't too hot and the very colourful pot plant that she'd put onto the table for us to draw looked superb, we tried our best to capture its radiant beauty.

The next session is at my house. 7th September.10-12.

Lesley

Literature

We have been reading *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, and I quote from a review by Jane Smily "Beloved is a masterpiece of American literature that transforms the brutal historical reality of slavery into a haunting, deeply intimate ghost story. Winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the novel explores the high cost of memory, trauma, and maternal love." This was not an easy read, and those who kept reading to the last page were rather pleased with themselves.

To celebrate the holiday season, we stayed on for lunch in The Lord Nelson, and everyone was more than satisfied with their choice from the excellent Lunch Menu.

Our book for September is *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donohue.

Sheelah

Threads



Although August can be regarded as holiday time, we met as usual at Beyond Coffee but with fewer members than normal.

Nonetheless, we made progress on our various projects and had an early view of what will be a magnificent crochet masterpiece being worked at home which demands absolute concentration, not easy as one of our threads is conversation! We look forward to seeing it in due course.

This month's image is a knitted hat to go with a scarf from last month. It's never too early to prepare for C.....!

Our next meeting will be 3 September at 2 pm at Beyond Coffee.

Barbara

Weekenders

Our venue for our monthly meeting has changed, we now meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Youth and Community Centre on Low Street 10.30-12. this seems to work well for us. We welcomed 2 new members to our group.



We have had two busy months with visits to Bridlington to see the puffins and other sea birds, various Open Gardens, several visits to Toilethorpe Open Air Theatre, a curry night at the Lord Nelson at Winthorpe. There are plans for theatre visits in Nottingham.



Photos from the Tropical Gardens at Bottesford, well worth a visit, and from our trip to Bridlington.

Chris D

Quiz Group

Our July quiz was presented by a new member to the group, who for some reason seemed to think that we are a brainy bunch. Which she now knows isn't true. However, we did manage to answer more than 50% of her brain teasers. With almost a full house, it was one of the best turnouts we have ever had.

Some of you might not know that we normally work in teams of 4 but each week you will not know which team you are on until you arrive. This adds to the fun and excitement of the day.

Here are a couple of the questions:

What is the common name for the body part patella?

What is the name of the mountain range that runs from New Mexico in the US into Canada?

In August we had another well attended and exciting quiz which happened to be won by the team that the group leader was on (for a change). We do have quizmasters who make us work the old grey cells once in a while and this month was no exception. We even had an extra cryptic quiz on animals and another to name the song with just some of the lyrics. The following are two more we had to dig deep to answer.

How many stars on the Australian flag? Which my team out voted the one person who knew the correct answer.

What is the oldest University in the USA & an extra point for the year it opened?

John

St Cecilia's, Girton

by Pat Morgan



Quiz answers:

July: Kneecap

August: 6

Rockies

Harvard in 1640

New Courses

Learning to draw for beginners! An introduction to drawing for those who believe they cannot draw but would like to!

Is this you? Nervous to drawing? Useless at art? **Penny Snook** may have the answer for you. Penny a trained art teacher is offering a short course over a period of two months starting in October, date and times to be arranged at the first meeting.

Learning to play the Ukulele: A reminder also that **Sue Fleet** is offering a 12-week taster course for members who might be interested, hopefully this will commence weekly from Monday the 5th of October 2-3:00pm.

Plants and Herbs: Sue is also proposing to run a new group for anyone interested in Plants and Herbs. This course will meet monthly over a six- month period from October, exploring the history of our gardens through shared learning. Also sampling some tasty morsels using some of the plants discovered. The date and times are still to be arranged.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact the Group Coordinator through our u3a website or at sign up at the next General Meeting. Rosie

From the Editor: Due to holiday and childcare commitments some groups have not met together during August and there's no general meeting on Wednesday. Several groups have sent in a record of more than one meeting for the newsletter because last month's deadline was too early for them. This means there is still plenty to read this month. If you have seen something that particularly interests you, why not use the contact page on our website to send a message to the leader and get involved with that group?

The next newsletter deadline is **6pm on Friday 18th September**. I no longer routinely send reminders to group leaders, so please submit contributions as soon as they are ready after your meetings and they will be included in the next newsletter.

Pat M
