

No. 81

April 2016



NEWS

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www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk



Walkie Talkies

**U3A Address: Peterborough U3A, P O Box 1341
Peterborough, PE2 2QD**

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Brian Keegan	01733 265769
Vice Chairman	Jacqueline Casson	01733 332061
Secretary	Brenda Fearon	01733 239848
Treasurer	Derek Lea	01733 572245
Accommodation Manager	Joy Green	01733 233713
Day Visit Organiser	Paul Parker	01780 782976
Groups' Coordinator	Hilary Keegan	01733 265769
Membership Secretary	Mary McCarthy	01733 232518
Speakers Secretary	Jan Bearman-Brown	01733 572201
Other Committee Members	Alan Locke	01733 370279
	Hilary Lewis	01733 265877
	Gill Parsons	01733 263211
	Chris Wareham	01733 263006
	Conny Yarwood	01733 394669

SOME TELEPHONE NUMBERS YOU MIGHT NEED

Day Visits Organisers	Paul Parker	01780 782976
	Gina Bates	01733 579317
	Sandi Osborne	01733 233840
	Doreen Dare	01733 260994
Theatre Group Organiser	Graham Woods	01733 234892
Travel Club Organisers	Arthur Hunt	01733 756883
	Ann Pollack	01733 269108
U3A News Editor	Conny Yarwood	01733 394669
Website Coordinator	Alan Locke	01733 370279

SUBSCRIPTION RATES 2016 – 2017

Current subscriptions (blue card) expire on 31 August 2016. Renewals for **after** that date, and **new** subscriptions from 1 June 2016, are at the rates given below.

Single: £12 Joint (2 people at same address): £21.50

Members of other U3As may be members of Peterborough U3A at reduced rates, as the capitation fee to the national organisation is only paid once per household. Membership number(s) of the other U3A must always be given on the renewal/application form. Those rates are:

Single: £8.50 Joint (2 people at same address): £14.50

Any concerns? Please contact Mary McCarthy (Membership Secretary) at pu3amembership@gmail.com, or via the telephone number at the top of this page.

NEW MEMBERS' MEETING

**Saturday 9 April 2016
at Jack Hunt School**

Coffee Served from 9.30am
Meeting Starts 10.00am

Prospective members and
any members who have missed previous
New Members' Meetings are welcome to
attend

Group Leaders' Annual Meeting

Tuesday 24 May 2016

From 9.30am to 1.00pm

at

The Fleet

All Group Leaders are invited to attend this useful meeting
to consider matters of mutual interest and importance

So see you there

Wallace Giddings - a tribute by Bill Collin

The son of a railway worker, and brought up in March, Wallace had a very interesting life, which has taken him to many places.

It is to a meeting between Wallace and John Knight in the early 1990s that Peterborough U3A owes its beginnings, as they were the initiators of the founding of the branch, initially based at Bretton Woods Community School.

Wallace formed the Peterborough U3A Travel Club and, over a period of twelve years or so until he stepped down in 2009, organised so many holidays taking members and friends to places they might not have visited on their own initiative, such as Toronto, France, Austria, Southern Ireland, etc. as well as to many locations within the UK. In his own tribute to his wife, Joyce (who died aged 91 at the end of October 2015 – they were married for 70 years!) in the January 2016 edition of Peterborough U3A NEWS, he mentioned the visit to Canada, where we were invited to a Civic Reception in Peterborough, Ontario; the holiday to Scotland via the Flying Scotsman service; the fancy dress party in Ostend; the Hat Party in Teesside; there were many other memorable trips, too many to enumerate here.

Wallace served in the Fleet Air Arm during World War II, mainly in the Mediterranean, and his courtship of Joyce took place against a background of rationing and only being able to see Joyce when on leave, but they corresponded regularly, and were married in April 1945. He was demobbed in January 1946, and they lived in two furnished rooms, with a bathroom and toilet, in Hornsey, London. Joyce cooked on a coal range, and clothes were washed in the bath. Water was boiled on a gas ring.

In 1948 they moved into an unfurnished flat, buying furnishings, etc. second-hand. At this time, Wallace worked for an accountant for £4.0.0d per week, and Joyce part-time in a local library at £1.10.0d per week. He bought a bike for himself in 1949, and one for Joyce in 1950, and they went out cycling at weekends.

They bought their first (semi-detached) home in Romford in 1960, moving to a detached house in Blackmore, Essex, in 1965. The company Wallace worked for moved to West London in 1969, and Wallace and Joyce moved to Chalfont St Peter. The company moved again in 1971 and the Giddings moved to a house in Northan near Potters Bar.

Their next home was in Holme Close, Ailsworth in 1972, moving to their last home in Maffit Road, Ailsworth in 1992. Over the time he and Joyce lived in Ailsworth, he organised a number of trips for the villagers. Wallace worked for a number of companies including Hoover and Sodastream, retiring in 1986, at which time he became a volunteer with Nene Valley Railway for thirteen years, giving talks when required. The Peterborough Anglo-French branch was another of their involvements.

Wallace, through Peterborough U3A and its Travel Club, was responsible for a great deal of pleasure, and friendships made, for many people – we owe him a lot.

Wallace died at home on Monday 11 January 2016 aged 92.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Owing to the need for urgent medical treatment Hilary Lewis has stood down as Membership Secretary. Hilary is remaining on the committee and will continue to contribute when she feels able. We are very grateful to Mary McCarthy for agreeing to take over the role of Membership Secretary. This change has resulted in the need to change the post box number because Mary lives in a different part of the City and this may result in some minor delays to post getting to other committee members. To help minimise any delays Hilary Keegan has issued guidance to Group Leaders about how to ensure payments for premises we use for meetings are made on time. Mary's role of looking after the Website has been taken on by Alan Locke, who has been co-opted onto the committee. Alan had extensive website management experience with BT and has already got to grips with his role, ably assisted by Mary.

Joy Green has agreed to take on the role of Publicity as well as Accommodation allowing Hilary Keegan to concentrate on her role of Groups Coordinator. Joy has already revamped the poster we use for advertising and the recruitment leaflet.

Lastly in regard to committee roles Jacqueline Casson has been co-opted onto the committee in the role of Vice Chairman.

The revised list of roles can be found on page 2 of the magazine. I am extremely grateful to all the committee for their flexibility and willingness to work with their successors to ensure a smooth transition. This necessity does remind those of us who are

Group Leaders about the importance of succession planning. That is trying to find someone to learn the ropes and to take over from us when we finally decide to retire!

You will have read elsewhere in the magazine a tribute to Wallace Giddings who died in January. Wallace was a founder member our U3A and ran the Travel Group with his wife for many years. As an organisation we are built on the efforts of the past and of course particularly past members. When one of our founders passes away it is timely to pause and reflect on just how successful we are and remember that this is because of the efforts of our previous members to whom we must be forever grateful.

Brian Keegan

THE MONTHLY MEETINGS

**Please note the change of venue for the April Meeting only
This will now be held at the CLARE THEATRE on Broadway**

28 April

Stephen Perry: The Story of Broadway in Peterborough

Stephen will take us on a stroll along Broadway looking at its history, development and places of interest with pictures/photographs of then and now.

AT THE TOWN HALL

The meeting at the Town Hall is held on the last Thursday of each month at 10.25am. Coffee and tea are available from 10.00am. Please remember that the monthly meetings are an important opportunity for you to meet and talk to other U3A members, and members of the committee, and to see PU3A as part of a 'Bigger Picture' plus an opportunity to be informed and updated. It is also a time to learn of any new courses and trips between issues of the newsletter.

Speaker topics are varied and aim not only to entertain, but also to broaden our knowledge. The speaker will start at 10.25am.

Please try to ensure at least one member **from each group** attends the monthly meetings so that any changes in venue/speaker and/or other updates can be passed on.

26 May

Speaker: Peter Larke - Stories from East Anglia

Peter last entertained us in 2011 with his nostalgic and humorous stories. His original story telling method was well received. He travels the district relating his stories, poems and anecdotes while raising money for the charity 'Peterborough and Fenland MIND.'

30 June

Speaker: Gillian Beasley OBE - The City Centre Development

Gillian currently holds the position of Shared Chief Executive between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The first shared Chief Executive role between Unitary Authorities nationally. During her time in Peterborough she has led major projects for the development and regeneration of the City and secured resources to support those projects.

28 July

Speaker: Stuart Osborne - The Air That We Breathe

"Where it came from as it wasn't all there to begin with". Stuart is a well-known U3A member and Group Leader. His talks are always well received and informative.

Jan Bearman-Brown

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of Sunday 10 January 2016 the role of Membership Secretary was changed and I have taken over from Hilary Lewis. Many thanks to Hilary for the excellent service she has given over the past few years and, personally, I wish to thank her for providing invaluable help and support to me in the role so far, I could not have managed without her assistance. Please forgive any mistakes made in these first few months, if anyone notices anything obvious please let me know.

Some contact information has, necessarily, changed; the email address to contact me is pu3amembership@gmail.com and the postal address, **for all correspondence**, is Peterborough U3A, PO box 1341, Peterborough, PE2 2QD. Would Group Leaders in paid accommodation let their landlords know that invoices should now be

sent to this address. Any old documents/literature with the previous addresses should now be amended or destroyed.

At the time of writing this report the total membership of Peterborough U3A stands at 2,735. New members are joining every week and, since I have taken over, 37 new members have joined and six previous members have renewed their subscriptions, all in all a very healthy position.

The facility for paying subscriptions by **direct debit** is now in its second year. We hope to encourage as many members as possible to use this system, as it is a much easier method for all concerned. It is available to any member who has an email address. Subscription levels are determined by Peterborough U3A and will be adjusted automatically when there is a change – you need do nothing after the initial authorisation. It does, however, require the member to have an email account, as this is how information is communicated. It is now the recommended method for payment if you have an active email address and you do not wish to pay by cheque or cash. A new invitation to join the scheme, with guidance, will be sent out in June 2016 for those who wish to do so. Please contact me if you need any further information.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the Annual General Meeting last October a resolution to increase subscription rates was passed. The new rates are £12.00 for a single person and £21.50 for two people living at the same address; associate member subscriptions will be £8.50 and £14.50.

People paying with the direct debit system will be notified of the increase prior to the subscription being paid. Those members paying by cheque or cash, please note the new rates so you have the correct amount when paying. **However, for members paying by standing order – you must let your bank know that the amount has changed.** This is not something that can be done by anyone else. If you currently pay by standing order and wish to change to direct debit **please cancel the standing order instruction with your bank, this can only be done by you.** Incorrect and duplicated payments are problematic and time consuming to resolve.

Mary McCarthy

GROUPS COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Since taking over the role of Groups Coordinator at the end of last year it has taken me some time to devise a system which works for me in terms of remembering all the bits and pieces and the people and places that I have to ensure changes are notified to. I am still learning!

Please remember that any member wishing to join a group must contact the Group Leader beforehand to gain details of the activity and whether it is OK to attend. Please please do not just turn up. Also remember to take your current membership card with you (blue this year) when attending a first meeting.

New Groups Started

Discussion Time - This group started in January, run by Debby Benatan, on second Thursday of the month between 2.00 - 4.00pm.

Radio and Raynet group - Meeting times variable.

German for Beginners on Friday afternoons - This group is in addition to the conversation and intermediate classes already running

Rowing for Beginners - Thursday 1.30pm and 2.00pm in summer

All details documented in the Meetings of Groups list with this News.

Groups Finishing

Driving Instruction Assistance - Hazel Brewin has closed her group as she has retired from her work as a driving instructor. Many people have benefited from Hazel's advice and assistance over the years and her expertise has been a great benefit for Peterborough U3A. Thank you so much Hazel for all your input and enjoy your retirement.

Philosophy - Larry Curley has decided the time has come to stop philosophising after running his group for two and a half years. Unfortunately, no one has come forward as a new leader and so the group has had to close although Larry says he may one day reconsider after taking a good break! Thank you Larry.

Armchair Yoga - Kath Chiswell has stopped the armchair yoga group through lack of support at the present time. Kath continues to run the other three Yoga groups, which are hugely popular. We are very fortunate to have Kath's expertise.

The Annual Group Leaders Meeting will take place on Tuesday morning 24 May at The Fleet. This meeting provides an opportunity for group leaders to meet with each other and share ideas. It is also an opportunity to meet with the treasurer and iron out any financial issues. Details of the agenda will be sent to group leaders soon. If this day coincides with a meeting of your group then please consider volunteering to attend on behalf of your group leader so relevant information can be fed back.

We now have 146 different groups running in Peterborough U3A, a remarkable feat. There is no limit to the number of groups that Peterborough U3A can offer and, unlike other U3As, our membership is always open, our policy being that anyone who wishes can join and we will never run a waiting list for membership. However, a large membership requires a large number of groups so if anyone reading this feels their interest is not being catered for, then please consider finding out about starting a group. Having the idea doesn't mean that you will end up being the leader! Often what happens is that a few people meet to mull an idea over and then a leader emerges.

One group that I am surprised we don't have is a **Whist** group, so if anyone thinks they may be interested in having one please get in touch and we will start an interest sheet.

Hilary Keegan

FROM THE GROUPS

Basic Science

Yes we do Science. Not the smelly noisy bits as we don't have a laboratory but we do have lots of simple diagrams and handouts that make everything easy to understand. We do Physical stuff, Chemical stuff, Biological stuff and Earth Science stuff. We do what it says in the title. Science, basically. You'll learn things you last heard about at school. This time you'll understand it though! We meet on Tuesdays from 10.00am to 12noon at Copeland Community Centre. Call me on 01733 23384.

Stuart Osborne

Bridge

Bridge remains as popular as ever. It's mostly social and there is a lot of socializing going on, so it can become quite noisy. Most players have a regular partner, some playing with their spouses, while others preserve their marriage harmony by playing with someone else's. Often at the end of the afternoon plans are made to determine which pairs meet over the bridge table the following week. I think that, unlike most U3A groups, we have more men than women, as many of them played a bit while doing their national service. It's still almost always rubber bridge, although once a month we try to arrange duplicate bridge for those who prefer a bit of competition. We can usually rely on six tables, that is, twenty-four people, so it is held in the smaller room, which then becomes the quieter room, but just for that afternoon.

I never turn anyone away who may wish to join us, any time throughout the year, and we still attract absolute beginners if they have any card sense, especially whist players. Fred Davis, Len and I teach from scratch and are on hand to help beginners and improvers, and some of our improvers are brave enough to play on line with a variety of partners from all over the country.

Mary Claxton

Bowls at Barnack

This group was formed last season and meets at the Barnack Bowls Club on Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9.45am to 12 noon. Members can belong to either the Thursday or the Saturday Group or both groups.

The groups are for U3A members who enjoy playing the game of outdoor bowls and for those who would like to learn to play. Sets of bowls are provided by the club and free coaching is available for beginners. The fee is £2.50 per session inclusive of tea and biscuits.

Last season we had a total of 39 members; we enjoyed using the barbeque facilities and had an end of season dinner. The bowling green is in a lovely country setting with free parking on site. The objective of the groups is to have fun and enjoy playing the game of bowls.

Should any U3A members wish to attend for just a one off session to give it a try, they are very welcome to join us any Thursday or Saturday. The season starts mid April and finishes mid September. For further information please contact me on 01733 571246.

Malcolm Bayes

Bowls at Bushfield

After a wonderful first year (2015), with over 20 new players joining in, we are extending the scope for U3A members to play at Bushfield Bowls Club. The green is shaping up well for the new season and we are planning exciting events and activities for everyone, regardless of experience and ability level. Please do visit the club website at: <https://rekrab3.wordpress.com/u3a-bowls-group> for full details including location map, dates and arrangements.

This year the U3A Bowls Group will gather EVERY MONDAY from 2 May until 19 September. We meet at 1.45pm and play through until 4.00pm, with a break for tea at 3.00pm. A selection of different woods is available at the club for U3A use until new members/players decide to purchase their own.

Please contact Bernard Barker, Publicity and Public Relations Officer, at rekrab3@gmail.com to buy U3A tickets (£20.00 for every Monday through the season or pay the £3.00 green fee for each

session attended) or come and meet club and U3A members at the Open Pre-Season Meeting on Saturday 23 April 2016, from 2.00 to 4.00pm at Orton Waterville Village Hall, 9 Glebe Avenue, Orton Waterville PE2 5EN, when season tickets will be on sale.

Bernard Baker

Cinema club

We started the new year with the 1963 film **Billy Liar** with Tom Courtenay in the day-dreaming title role. Julie Christie played Liz, his girlfriend, while he had two other girlfriends, each thinking that they were engaged to him! Many famous faces were in the cast such as Wilfred Pickles, Rodney Bewes, Leonard Rossiter and Finlay Currie. Most of the filming was done in Bradford, showing life in England in the sixties.

The February film was **Cabaret** the famous musical film produced in 1972 and set in 1931 Berlin. With Liza Minnelli, Michael York and Joel Grey in the leading roles, the film won eight Oscars and was a worldwide success.

In March we were in Europe with the 1973 film **The Day of the Jackal** based on the book by Frederick Forsyth. The film was about a professional assassin, known only as the Jackal (played by Edward Fox), who is hired to assassinate French president Charles de Gaulle in the summer of 1963.

The remaining films for this season are **MASH** on 14 April and **The Eagle has Landed** on 12 May.

The group meets at 2.00pm on the second Thursday of each month from October to May at Copeland Community Centre, Bretton. As last year, members will get the opportunity at Activities Day to vote on the films for the coming season starting on 13 October.

John Douglas

Computer Help

If anyone in Peterborough U3A has a particular computer problem, please contact me to see if I can help. I am not a professional and am mainly self-taught so cannot guarantee a resolution to your issue, but will do my best to help. A visit to your home can be arranged if necessary.

Mary McCarthy

Concert Party

The Concert Party is having fun and enjoying life. We had a concert in early January, straight after the Christmas break. Now we are preparing a St George's Day programme, complete with flag waving, Rule Britannia and White Cliffs of Dover. We meet at Copeland on Friday afternoons. You do not need any previous experience of music/drama to join in, a good sense of humour plus the ability to work with others is sufficient. If you think this is for you, contact me on brianhaswell@ymail.com or 01733 700896.

Brian Haswell

Creative Writing Groups

The Creative Writing Group have recently said goodbye to two of its very long-standing members, Jean Marsh and Joan Hepper, both of whom have hung up their pens (metaphorically speaking, that is – in reality their computer keyboards). They are already sadly missed but they felt that their muse had retired and therefore so must they. The rest of the group are still going strong, basing their writings on pre-agreed phrases.

Similarly, the Writing Creatively and Writers Forum groups are still scribbling frantically, following their own programmes.

The three groups met up early in February at the annual Literary Lunch – a grandiose title for a get-together over a meal and glass of something or other.

Peter Best & Pam Kounougakis

Earth Science

More than you really need to know about life, the universe and everything. Yes, seriously we've got it all. Up to the minute genuine global warming stuff. Where Scotland came from 450 million years ago and what really happened to the Dinosaurs 65 million years ago. What, where and why is the ozone layer and why is Venus boiling hot but Mars freezing cold. Oh yes, we also look at rocks to help us understand why our countryside is the way it is and look at fossils to see what used to be swimming about in our neck of the woods. Why is the sky blue and the sea salty? Why is it merely hilly here but mountainous in Wales? Ice ages and Fossil fuels?

Tsunamis and Earthquakes? Ocean floors and Plate Tectonics? You

name it we've got it. No need for O levels, just a mind that occasionally gives you a little prod and says "I wonder why....."
We meet on Mondays from 10.00am to 12noon at Orton Waterville Village Hall. Call me on 01733 23384

Stuart Osborne

Family History

We had a busy stand at the Activities Day at The Fleet in August with lots of enquiries. Some people who came to speak to us thought that we actually researched family history for others, but as we explained it takes us all our time to do our own research. There are experienced members in the group who can help point you in the right direction and that is why we try to have meetings when we can sit informally to discuss problems that everyone will encounter at some stage in their research.

Another U3A year is with us once again and we have started our Family History programme with a talk from John Dewis entitled 'Local Hero'. An illustrated talk of a remarkable man called Jack Binns, who was born in a workhouse. He went to work for the railway company in Peterborough and progressed to become a national acclaimed maritime hero and ultimately President of an American Corporation – what an inspirational story for us family historians - who knows what we might find in our family tree.

In October we had Eric Dickens a founder of Free Reg Parish records website, who gave us a very interesting talk about using the site and how the site was created. Eric was able to demonstrate the site live using the IT facilities that are provided by John Mansfield Centre where we meet.

We had a talk by Anna Sexton from The Peterborough Archives Service – a wonderful facility we have in Peterborough provided by Vivacity. Anna talked about the work of an archivist and the service they can provide for people not only interested in family history but local historians as well. Anna did tell us that Richard Hunt does run Family History course for beginners, which is advertised on the Vivacity website.

At our Christmas meeting we all shared our Christmas memories and some members brought items in to shows us all. It was a very lively and fun meeting as everyone had such different

memories. We then all shared and enjoyed a plate of food we had all brought along with a Christmas theme.

The New Year started with a talk from one of our members, Lynda Porter, who had researched her grandfather's life and occupation as a registered blind person. This was very sad at times, as she described his life and upbringing when there was no social system as we know it today. She went on to describe the beginnings of trade unions and where she thinks the word 'tramps' comes from. We then went to Parcs Restaurant and enjoyed a very good New Years meal together.

We enjoy discussion and for our next meeting, inspired by Lynda's research, we are all going to find out about the occupation of one of our relatives and the conditions that they had to work under.

In the coming months we have The History of Thomas Cook, The History of The London Brick Company and a visit to the John Clare cottage at Helpston. Our final meeting of the present programme is entitled Breakthroughs and Brickwalls, when members will have a chance to talk through with each other how they have solved problems, or not as the case may be, and hopefully another member will have found a way around and will share their knowledge.

We have again had several new members join our friendly, informal group of family historians. We are always ready to extend a warm welcome to U3A members who would like to come along on the morning of the third Tuesday of the month. We meet at around 10.00am starting with a coffee and a chat. The speaker/activity starts at 10.15am, which gives the members a chance to have their drink and a catch up.

The Group Leaders are Maureen Hudson telephone 01778 349413 and me, Jo Smith, telephone 01832 280740. Do give us a call if you need any information about the group.

Jo Smith

Friday Strollers Walking Group

The main objective of the group is gentle exercise together with companionship and conviviality; walks are usually in a village or countryside environment. They take place on the second and fourth Friday of each month, generally within a radius of 20 miles from

Peterborough and are planned and organised by members on an informal rota basis. Our current programme includes walks in Whittlesey, Nene Park, Gunthorpe and Werrington, Southwick, Apethorpe, Edith Weston, Upwood, Peakirk, Orton Waterville and Castor. We meet, usually at a pub or other restaurant facility, for a walk start at 10.45am. We plan routes more from the point of time rather than distance, finishing about 12.15pm usually followed by a light lunch if members wish.

Over the past two years interest at Activities Day has enabled us to maintain the group number at around 30 members, a good third of whom have joined in that period, and we maintain an average of 16 to 18 for each walk.

It is with regret that for a range of reasons group numbers have to be restricted, and we currently have a list of people who have expressed interest in joining the group that we are unable to accommodate at this time.

Colin Baker

Friday Watercolours

The Friday Watercolours Group is continuing to flourish and we enjoy painting together every Friday afternoon. However, on the last Friday before Christmas we got together just to have fun! The Tuesday Watercolour Group joined us for our Christmas party when everyone brought a contribution to the buffet and drinks table so we could get in the Christmas mood. We enjoyed a Christmas quiz, which was won by Jill and her Gang for which they were awarded a bag of money each. Unfortunately they were chocolate coins so they couldn't spend them in the stores! Thinking ahead, we had a fantastic very successful raffle to raise money for the 2016 party. A gift of appreciation was presented to our two Davids, who are not actually in the group but they work very hard for us. David Woodman runs our fabulous website and David McNeill makes it possible for the group to have a leader as without him I would be unable to run it!

Thanks Guys!

Valerie McNeill

Harmony for Pleasure

In December the group went to Newborough Church to lead the singing in their 'Nine Lessons and Carols' service. Our involvement was greatly appreciated – the congregation was bigger than it had been for some time – and the vicar of a nearby church was so impressed that he resolved to have a similar service next year. Please note that this group is still open to new members.

Margaret Smith

Holistic Health

We all meet for a couple of hours on a Wednesday afternoon and discuss a variety of topics. This term the group has been looking into Chinese Astrology with the help of books loaned by our tutor. We have also been looking at how certain words and metaphors in the English language can have a deeper meaning and relate to our holistic health in our everyday lives. Each member of the group contributes their own views and it is surprising how many different connotations there are on each topic. We are also putting together a scrapbook of articles we find in the news which relate to holistic health. Our tutor has so much knowledge on the subject of holistic health and can give us further information on all aspects of each topic.

A final word from our tutor: "I am just so grateful to the group for their responsiveness. It is very encouraging to have such participation".

Barbara Perry, Class Secretary

Indoor Bowls Coaching

Our first two courses of Indoor Bowls Coaching have now been completed and we will be starting the third course on 6 April with subsequent courses starting every 6 weeks. So far 16 U3A members have completed the course and have made some new friends and learned a new sport. The coaching sessions take place on Wednesday afternoons from 4.00 until 6.00pm and cost £3.00 for each of the 6 sessions. If you are interested in trying Indoor Bowls call me, Martin Bunning, on 01733 238677 or 07879853349 or email me at martin.bunning@virginmedia.com.

Martin Bunning

Jazz4U

I took over the running of the Jazz4U Group in September and I would like to pay tribute to Colin Baxter who was a founder and ran the group for many years. From very small beginnings Colin saw the group grow to a now healthy 20 members.

We meet on the second Friday of the month between September and June in Orton Waterville Village Hall. The meetings last a couple of hours starting at 10.00am. So please come along if you like jazz in all its forms. We show DVDs and play CDs and even vinyl from members' own collections.

We also have occasional away days and attend local concerts. It is all good fun and enjoyed by everyone.

Mary Boyall

Mah Jong

A very sociable and pleasant game played by lovely friendly people with beautiful Chinese tiles.

If you can play Rummy, you can play Mah Jong. It's more fun than most card games and quite addictive. A bit like chocolate. The basics you will learn in a morning and all the rest of the wonderful game you'll learn as you play at your own pace.

We meet on Thursdays from 10.00am to 12 noon at Copeland Community Centre.

Stuart Osborne

Moto Bikers

Our planned riding program finished at the end of October but as things turned out, weather-wise we could have continued through the winter.

In January we acquired three new members and nine of us got together in The Cock in Werrington to exchange information and ideas on the use of our various SatNavs, digital mapping and using computers to create routes. This proved to be a very useful afternoon.

Plans are already coming together for the 2016 schedule with several rides already in the diary. These include rides to two aeronautical museums, a motorcycle museum, a pumping station and two coastal rides to Blakeney and to Skegness for Fish and Chips.



Engineering Group



Village Walkers on their 2nd Anniversary



A Literary Lunch



Moto Bikers

A new feature this year will be a four day ride along Offa's Dyke from the Severn Estuary to Prestatyn including a tour of Snowdonia (and possibly Anglesey) finishing with a route through the Peak District

Roy Turner

Plane Daft (Aviation) Group

To November's meeting we welcomed Art Stacey. His two part presentation, first explained the Caterpillars, Guinea Pigs and Goldfish aspects of his title. All are clubs dedicated to aircrew who have bailed out of their aircraft and parachuted to safety (Caterpillars); experienced major burns, especially to the face, who were treated by Sir Archibald McIndoe at East Grinstead hospital (Guinea Pigs); landed in water and owed their lives to rubber dinghies. Art qualified for the Goldfish Club (of which he is now Secretary) when he had to ditch his Nimrod R2 in the Moray Firth following a catastrophic engine explosion. Happily he and all his crew survived, although one crewmember was badly injured. For his skill in ditching the Nimrod he was awarded the Air Force Cross by the Queen (despite losing one of her more expensive aircraft, he said!). His survival ensured he had the pleasure of escorting his daughter up the aisle soon afterwards. Basically, a fascinating, heart stopping yet amusing presentation.

In my absence the members ran the Christmas Social and very well they did too! A DVD showing RAF aerobatics teams was shown, including shots of 111 Squadron in the late 1950s. Peter Taylor, recently joined member, chipped in with some reminiscences of his days on National Service with 111 Squadron. There followed a delightful afternoon buffet prepared by John and Cherry Truluck with Carol Fell's help, and Peter Gilbert doing the tea and coffee.

Satiated, the members disappeared thereafter for Christmas! Geoff Catlin, group member, next gave a detailed resume of the flying career and achievements of Elly Beinhorn, one of several notable female German pilots. Little known in the U.K. she was a contemporary of our Amy Johnson, and, like Amy, she undertook a number of solo, pioneering flights from Germany to West Africa, the Middle East and Australia. She met her husband Bernd Rosemeyer, a successful driver for then all-conquering Auto-Union motor racing team in 1935. He died in November 1937 ten weeks after the birth

of their son. During the war she strove to avoid Hitler and the Nazis. Post 1945 she moved to Switzerland to continue her flying career and as time progressed, she became more of a celebrity than pilot. She was fêted in Australia, the USA, and West Germany, where her achievements were acknowledged, notably when Lufthansa named their preserved Messerschmitt 108 after her. Retiring from the limelight, she lived to see her 100th birthday celebrations in 2007, but died in November of that year.

Kevin Dalley visited in February to tell us about the Pathfinder Force, established in 1942 to improve the RAF's lamentable, though brave, bombing performance - research showed that on average targets were missed by approximately 5 miles. By 1942 the bomber force had benefitted from new aircraft, notably the Lancaster, and the leadership of Air Vice Marshall Harris, who reluctantly recruited Don Bennett to establish the Pathfinder Force at Wyton, to improve bombing performance. This he proceeded to do and RAF bombing accuracy and efficiency improved considerably and raids began to reflect the input of human and physical resources and weaken the German war effort. The Pathfinder Association, now dominated by the families of those who were Pathfinders, still meets at Wyton, an event for which Kevin, Association Secretary, plays an important role.

So four very enjoyable, thought provoking and very interesting afternoons, all refreshed by tea, coffee and biscuits prepared by John and Peter. Three equally promising presentations remain in this year's programme, plus, we hope, a well-supported visit to RAF Museum, Cosford in June – see Day Visits.

Terry McCarthy

Radio and RAYNET Group

This group is slowly starting to gain traction with interest being expressed by a couple of new people. It is hoped that we now have sufficient numbers to form a quorum and can start having face-to-face meetings. Several members are interested in construction projects and members will be able to bounce ideas off each other. Fortunately Cambridgeshire RAYNET were not called out during the recent storms, unlike several groups further North.

The new season will soon be underway when Cambridgeshire RAYNET provides radio cover to local charities who organize Bike Rides, Fun Runs, Half Marathons, Duathlons and Triathlons, Endurance Horse Rides and the Yaxley Festival. Several of these are held in, or close to, Peterborough and are always enjoyable to be involved with as we pass messages between the organisers and marshals around the course. Both organisers and competitors are always grateful for our assistance and occasionally we have to send messages back to control when competitors require technical or medical assistance.

Roy Turner

Railways Studies

With audiences averaging over 40 members, the Group continues to flourish. Since the previous report Geoff Catlin has shared his interest in railways with a track gauge of 15 Inches. He entertained us with his traditional highly detailed exposition of the history of such railways, including reference to the first working steam locomotive of the type, built by Brotherhood's in 1861 when still based in Chippenham. He gave a detailed, illustrated account of the origins and history of such railways, besides some of the main characters, including relatively local personalities e.g. Jack Howey of St. Neots and W.J. Bassett-Lowke of Northampton. Although early developments were conducted on private railways built for the wealthy, small railways became *de rigueur* in the 20th century for exhibitions, zoos and coastal pleasure gardens in the UK, USA and Europe. During the inter war period three public 15" lines were established and flourished, all surviving up to the present day: Ravensglass & Eskdale, Fairbourne and Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railways, as significant tourist railways. Post 1945, exhibition railways declined, with a limited revival in the garden festivals, but there emerged politically inspired Young Pioneer Railways in the Eastern Block, some surviving the collapse of the USSR. All in all, an interesting study of frequently ignored railways. For the Christmas meeting Graham Stevenson entertained us with a 'Musical Miscellany' based on railway themes, plus a rather searching quiz! Many different genres of music were exemplified, from the beginning of the railway era almost to the present day. At the intermission the group enjoyed a buffet prepared by the Bowling

Centre. Overall, a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon, which put us in the mood for Christmas, despite the sad news of the deaths of two members: Eric Dent and Roy Stafford (also Plane Daft members).

The New Year saw a welcome return of Bill Davies, who gave us a further insight into 'Aspects of a Footplate Career'. Although there were many photographic illustrations, it was his many anecdotes, which truly enlightened and entertained us, most being focused on his days driving trains from Bedford depot to St Pancras etc. Once again, time passed by very quickly!

To date our final presentation was given by John Douglas on the Railways of Leicester. There were eight railway routes into and out of the city. John considered the histories of each with a copious selection of photographs and personal anecdotes. He concluded with a few images of the various locomotive depots located around the city. For many it brought back memories of youthful activities and for Terry confirmation that the GWR worked there too!

There are still four more presentations to look forward to, plus a proposed trip to the Bluebell Railway by train. Thanks are due to all who turn-up so loyally and particular Peter Gilbert and Alan Compton who serve the teas and coffee.

Terry McCarthy

Roses and Castles (Canal art)

We meet weekly at Bishopsfield, Walton at 2.30pm. Roses and Castles is the traditional title of the very colourful art of the English canals. It is suitable for decorating all kinds of household and garden items for personal use or for gifts. We are a friendly group with a long record of helping new members to gain the skills they need. To do this we have a small collection of basic materials ready for you to use. So, why not bring along something from home on any Friday afternoon and have a go. There is no charge for this class. Refreshments are available. We still have vacancies for new members as there is plenty of room at Bishopsfield.

Any U3A members who have relatives at Bishopsfield might wish to remind them that they are welcome to join our group on Fridays as visitors or participants and to have tea or coffee with us, as several already do. Parking is free at the rear of Bishopsfield.

Please ring me on 01733 568896 or Sidney Harbour on 01733 343761 if you have any questions. Visitors always welcome.

Donne Buck

Rowing Group

'There is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats' says the water rat in 'The Wind in the Willows', a sentiment with which members of U3A Rowing would probably agree. It is the opportunity to master a new skill, to revive or continue a previously learned skill and to take exercise in the fresh air whilst rubbing shoulders with the natural world of the lake and river, which is persuading an increasing number of people to join this group.

We meet twice a week at the Peterborough City Rowing Club on Monday mornings at 10.00am and Thursday afternoons at 1.30pm in the winter and 2.00pm British Summer Time. Beginners learn initially in training boats before progressing to stable and eventually fine boats as confidence increases. More proficient, experienced members of the group enjoy sculling or rowing in a variety of boats, either individually or as part of a crew. Some recreational rowing activities with other clubs in the Eastern region are also being planned for the summer months.

A 'Learn to Row' course is offered to new members. This is scheduled to take place on Thursday afternoons. Participants are entitled to one free taster session prior to joining and receive a three month temporary 'Silver' membership of the British Rowing Association, which is included in the fee of £60.00 for ten sessions. Please contact Kath Escott at krescott@talktalk.net or 01778 344505 if you are interested in joining the group or for information about the starting date for the next course.

Elizabeth Jackson

Singing for Pleasure

In December a number of the group gave a performance of Christmas carols and songs to the residents and staff of The Gables at Eastrea, a residential home for sufferers of dementia. Although, sadly, not all the patients were able to appreciate the programme

but those who did enjoyed it, as did the carers and other members of staff. We also went to Crowland Garden Centre, again to sing carols and festive songs to the customers and staff.

The group now has about seventy members and I have, unfortunately, had to refuse to accept any more new people. There is, however, a waiting list and would-be singers are welcome to put their names down.

Margaret Smith

Spanish Groups

The three Spanish groups continue at the Copeland Centre with about 70 members at the three different levels. With numbers being restricted by the size of the premises, we are approaching our maximum.

The groups are Basic Spanish on Tuesday morning led by John Douglas, Intermediate Spanish on Monday morning led by Caroline Davis and Improving Spanish on Thursday afternoon led by Claire Bysshe.

Hasta luego!

John Douglas

Theatre Group

The Theatre Group continues to thrive, due to the support of its members.

The new web site at www.pu3atheatre.org.uk now provides continuous updated information regarding current and new shows and trips to the West End, Milton Keynes, Nottingham, Leicester and Kilworth House have already been arranged.

We can only take 55 members at a time, so early booking is always essential. Having said that, new members are always welcome.

Dorothy & Graham Woods

The Rhythmaires

The Rhythmaires music group has given several concerts during the past year plus, and have raised £1,232 for the CLIC Sargent (children with cancer) and have received grateful acknowledgement from the managers.

Any U3A member who plays a musical instrument is very welcome to join and should contact me on 01733 571955.

Audrey Creed

Tuesday Watercolours

It is coming up to a year since the Tuesday Watercolour Group was formed and it has been very successful. We are 13 artists getting together to paint but also to chat and interact and we have a very happy afternoon. We mainly do our own thing painting wise, although I have organised several projects to assist the members who haven't painted in watercolour a great deal. We also have had mini demonstrations when a member of the class has shared a successful painting technique they use.

Valerie McNeill

Walkie Talkies Walking Group

Following our traditional Christmas Walk around Ferry Meadows we had a Christmas Lunch at The Woodman. Over Christmas and New Year we took a two week break before restarting our weekly program with a walk from Somersham.

Our season continued with walks based on Ufford, Morcott, Witham on the Hill and Nassington.

In May the group is going International with a week of walking in Crete including the fearsome Samariá Gorge for the fitter and braver members.

In September we will be in Keswick and we have already confirmed that the two B&Bs we have booked have survived the floods although some of our planned walks may still not be passable by the time we get there.

Roy Turner

Wednesday Cycling Group

As you probably know we meet every Wednesday morning at the Lido at 10.00am to cycle to a refreshment stop usually about 10 miles from the Lido.

We have regular members and some cyclists who can only join us when they don't have other commitments. We now number on average 20 cyclists per outing, which is rather marvelous, but we are getting near to our limit in numbers.

Our leaders and refreshment stops are booked in advance, so if you would like to come and join us, please ring beforehand for details of our next excursion.

Jean Stamford

Wood Turning

Following the purchase of new lathes by The Village Turners we have vacancies on a Wednesday and Friday, both classes are from 9.00am to 12.00 noon and 1.00 to 4.00pm. Tuition will be given by members of The Village Turners.

If you are interested in having a go at this wonderful hobby, please contact me on 01733 231745.

David Longworth

TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

Arthur's Holidays

ROME and AMALFI:

5-12 May 2016 - 8 days £879 / £1,012.

ISTRIA and OPATIJA, CROATIA:

21-29 September 2016 - 8 days, £869 / £939.

Ann and Malcolm's Holidays:

EASTBOURNE, Cumberland Hotel

30 May - 3 June 2016 - £299 pp. Lovely sea front hotel with regular dancing.

OUTER HEBRIDES

21-27 July 2016 - Waiting list only.

TORQUAY, Toorak Hotel

12 September 2016 - 5 days, £275 / £295

WARNERS FESTIVE BREAK, ALVESTON HALL

21 November 2016 - 5 days/4 nights, £295 - £335

Travel Club meetings in 2016:

Saturday	30 April	- 10.00
Saturday	11 June	- 10.00
Saturday	16 July	- 10:00
Thursday	25 August	- Activities Day – 11.00

VISIT TRAVEL CLUB ON THE WEB

We meet 7 times a year to describe our trips, show you our itineraries, take payments, and hand out tickets and labels. Some of our meetings can get a bit crowded

Do you want to avoid the queues and complete the paperwork at home? You can do this and more as our meeting dates, travel dates, itineraries and booking forms are available on the internet and easily accessible from your computer or tablet.

You can view or print all of our documents or download them to your computer at any time. You do not have to log in to do this; anybody can read, print or download any of the documents.

You can access the Travel Club web pages from the main web site. Go to www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk and find the Travel Club web page on the **Activities** tab under **General Interest** or via the **A-Z** list. There you will see the general information that I provide about the Travel Club. For detailed information scroll down a little and click on ***Click here***.

The word documents at the bottom of the screen list meeting dates and important dates for your diary, for paying deposits and balances, collecting luggage labels and travel details, etc.

Once you have chosen a trip, print out and complete the booking form. Bring the form and your completed cheque to the next Travel Club meeting and avoid queuing to complete a booking form on the day.

We also have interest lists online. You can click on one of these to open a form to express your interest. These are not a commitment nor do they confer any priority. Booking forms are always taken on a first come, first served basis at one of our meetings.

If you experience any problem then email me at pu3a.travel@libourne.co.uk.

Malcolm Pollack

DAY VISITS

Welcome to Day Visits 2016

***Please read this carefully if you intend to book for any day visit.
You do not need to belong to the Travel Club to book.***

Non-U3A members are welcome as guests when they are prospective members, but have to pay a slightly higher charge. Please use the Booking Forms whenever possible. (Additional booking forms are usually available on visits, at monthly meetings and on the website.) Photocopies are acceptable.

Please pay by cheque whenever possible. Cheques should be made payable to Peterborough U3A. Enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your form if you wish to have a receipt. Refunds cannot normally be made after the booking deadline. If you cancel we will try to re-sell your place, although you will have to pay the costs of this, which will be about £2.00 per person.

Sometimes a visit is arranged at the request of a particular group and they have an opportunity to book first. Otherwise we operate on a strictly first come first served basis, so it is wise to book as early as possible. It is best to book provisionally by phone, but confirmation with the full cost, must be received within seven days. A reserve list will be compiled once a visit becomes fully booked. While we hope to keep to the schedules detailed here, it is possible that changes may have to be made. When this happens we will try to let you know as early as possible. If we have to cancel any proposed visit you will of course be given a full refund. When a visit quickly becomes fully booked we may be able to put on a second coach but not necessarily for the same date.

Our pick-up points vary slightly from trip to trip. Our usual ones are: **Bretton Centre bus stop** (do not use Sainsbury's Car Park, you will probably end up with a £60 fine); **Thorpe Meadows** (please use the public car park not that of the Quality Inn Hotel or the public house); **Werrington (Crab & Winkle)** and **Bright Street Coach Station** (not the Bus Station).

Some people who live in the side road near the Crab & Winkle have complained about constant parking in their road. They know that the parking is not illegal but I can understand their problem, particularly when sometimes it is difficult to access or leave

their drives. Can I suggest if you are going to use your car it is easier to park at Thorpe Meadows where it does not upset anyone. You would also get home earlier as Thorpe Meadows is usually the first drop off point

We ask the driver to reserve seats at the front of the coach for the organisers. This enables good and quick communication with the driver. Note the time of arrival back in Peterborough is the time we expect to be at Thorpe Meadows and can only be given approximately as it depends on, among other things, road conditions. Please note that wherever you are picked up, it is your responsibility to be there even if the coach is late. (In the last twenty years the coach has only been late twice.) We cannot give refunds if you are not at the appropriate point when the coach leaves. We do not normally wait for latecomers.

Do not assume that every visit is fully booked immediately after the publication of this News. We do not hold Day Visit meetings so although some fill fairly quickly others take a longer time to fill.

Booking enquiries should be made to Mrs Gina Bates [01733 579317]. If you are booking for just one visit just cut off the bottom slip. It should be sent to **Peterborough U3A, c/o Mrs G Bates, 82 Temple Grange, Werrington, PETERBOROUGH, PE4 5DW.**

I am happy to deal with any queries, except those to do with booking, by phone on 01780 782976. If you cannot get hold of me, Sandi Osborne or Doreen Dare may be able to help (see inside front cover of this News). All the places we are visiting have their own websites. The easiest way to find out more about them is just Google the site name; there you will usually find much more information than I can put in the brief outlines that follow.

As with nearly all U3A activities none of the above people receive any remuneration, they are volunteers. We do occasionally make mistakes so we apologise in advance for those. Sometimes things happen beyond our control, which we try to make sure do not affect any particular visit, but of course that is not always possible.

I sometimes phone participants to give them information, please note my name so you do not just put the phone down on me because you think I am a stranger.

We only publish the above information once a year so it is a good idea to keep these pages for future reference. We look forward to seeing you on our visits.

There will be more visits for the end of the year in our August.

Paul Parker [01780 782976]

PS We normally use Gretttons Coaches

LEICESTER FOR RICHARD III CENTRE AND TRAIL

Friday 1 April 2016

This visit is full

Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 8.15am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 8.25am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.35am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.45am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 5.45pm.

This is a Richard III trip. Our coach will drop us at about three minutes walk from the Richard III visitor centre, which is next door to Leicester Cathedral. We will spend the morning at the centre. (The centre has a café, which serves drinks and snacks.) There then will be time for lunch

At 1.00pm we will be taken on a guided walk, which will last about 90 minutes.

After the walk there will be free time to visit shops, museums, galleries or the market.

The coach will leave for Peterborough at 4.30pm.

Cost: £19.75 for the coach, Richard III Visitor Centre, and the guided walk.

Non U3A members pay £22.25

NEW WALK MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY, LEICESTER

Thursday 14 April 2016

Leaving Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 8.40am, and Thorpe Meadows at 9.00am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 6.15pm.

Leicester's original museum has a wide range of collections.

Particularly important are displays spanning the natural and cultural world. It originated in 1849 and has developed into one of the premiere museums in the region.

It is expected participants will be split into two groups for guided tours of the relevant art galleries.

The first floor (there is a lift) includes Art and Craft Gallery, Picasso Ceramics, Victorian Art, German Expressionism Gallery, Modern and Contemporary Art Gallery.

There is a coffee shop and a gift shop

Cost for Travel and Guided Tour £10.75

Non-U3A members £13.75

Deadline for booking 7 April 2016

TILBURY FORT AND SOUTHEND PIER

Wednesday 11 May 2016

This visit is full

Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.30am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.40am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.50am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.00am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.

This visit takes us to two places on the River Thames. Tilbury Fort is at the beginning of the Thames estuary as you go down the Thames. Southend Pier is much nearer to where the Thames flows into the North Sea.

Tilbury Fort has defended London's seaward approach since Tudor times to the second-world war. Henry VIII built the first permanent fort here and Queen Elizabeth I delivered her Armada speech at nearby Tilbury in 1588. Charles II ordered his chief engineer, Sir Bernard de Gomme, to build the great artillery fort we see today, with work beginning in 1670. It is the best example of a 17th century bastioned fortress in England with its complete circuit of moats and outworks still substantially surviving. Highland prisoners were held here after the Jacobite rising of 1745. Much later the fort's guns helped shoot down a raiding Zeppelin in 1916.

To enter the fort you will pass through the magnificent Watergate and you can also see the historic Landport Gate. Visit the East Gunpowder Magazine to take in an exhibition tracing the fort's role in the defence of London and providing information on advances in military engineering. The atmospheric Victorian Magazine Tunnels in the Northeast Bastion give an insight into a life of a 9th century gunner. For impressive views of the Thames and

the historic town of Gravesend be sure to step onto the fort ramparts.

We travel in our coach to **Southend**. The pier is the longest pleasure pier in the world; its length being just over 1 1/3 miles long. At the end of the pier you get wonderful views of the Thames and Southend. It is quite different from the view of the Thames at Tilbury. On clear days you can also see Kent. The end of the pier houses one of England's busiest RNLI lifeboat stations. There is also a pavilion, which houses a Café. You can use the train to take you to the pier head. In fact you have three choices:

1. Walk both ways.
2. Catch a train both ways: Adults £4.30, Concessions £2.20
3. Walk one way and catch a train one way:
Adult £2.00 Concessions £1.00

The price for the train is not included in the costs below.

There is a fourth alternative, which is stay in Southend where you can walk along the front, explore Westcliffe Gardens, or find the shops. So there are plenty of choices, which is why you pay for the pier on the day and the above prices are not included below.

**Costs: Coach + Tilbury Fort; £18.80 for U3A members,
U3A members under 60 pay £19.30**

**Costs: Coach + Tilbury Fort; £14.30
for U3A members who are also members of English Heritage
Non U3A members pay £2.50 in addition to the above prices
Deadline for booking 21 April 2016**

RAF MUSEUM, COSFORD

Tuesday 14 June 2016

Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.30am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.45am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.50am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.00am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.

The Plane Daft (Aviation) Group offer the opportunity to visit the other RAF Museum. We visited Hendon in 2015.

The exhibits include a range of World War I aircraft, the oldest existing Spitfire, all three of Britain's V bombers, a Cold War

exhibition, many 1950-70 RAF and other jet aircraft There is also a Soviet MIG 21 and much else besides.

There is as restaurant with views over the airfield and in the National Cold War exhibition a range of light refreshments and of course a gift shop.

Cost for the Coach £16.00 FOR U3A Members

Non-members £18.50.

Entry is FREE!

Deadline for booking 25 May 2016

BIRMINGHAM & SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT [2]

Thursday 16 June 2016

Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.40am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.50am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.00am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.10am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.

The concert consists of Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Elgar's Cello Concerto and Sibelius's Symphony No. 2.

A cello cries out in sorrow, the woodwinds sigh, and, like mist on an autumn river, a quiet melody drifts into the evening sky. Elgar's Cello Concerto is one of those pieces that touches everyone's soul, and the wonderful Peter Wispelwey (the cellist) will wring out every drop of poetry, in a concert that begins with Beethoven's heroic *Egmont* overture and ends with Sibelius's sweeping symphonic portrait of a nation awakening to freedom.

There will be time to look round some of Birmingham before the concert; we usually arrive before 11.00am. It is the UK's second city, with all the shops you would expect. There are also some superb museums and art galleries and the canals. You will be dropped off and picked up fairly near to the city centre just outside Symphony Hall. There are usually spaces for those who do not want to go to the concert (see below)

Further details from Paul Parker [01780 782976]

Cost: Travel & Concert: £35.80 (Non-U3A members £38.30)

Cost: Travel only £11.50 (Non-U3A members £14.00)

Deadline for booking for the concert 1 April 2016

You can book for travel only after 1 April 2016

Deadline for booking for travel only 2 June 2016

WIGHTWICK MANOR AND GARDENS

Wednesday 4 July 2016

This visit is full

Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.30am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.40am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.50am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.00am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.

Wightwick Manor and Gardens is not far from Wolverhampton. The haven of a romantic industrialist, Wightwick's timber beams and barley-twist chimneys, rich William Morris furnishings and Pre-Raphaelite paintings, gardens of wide lawns, yew hedges and roses, make it an idyllic time capsule of Victorian nostalgia for medieval England. If you delve deeper, you will find stories of the remarkable politician, Geoffrey Mander, who fought social injustice and European fascism and felt the need to share this unique property with the nation. More than 75 years since that gift, the magic and warmth of the home is as enthralling and enchanting as ever. It also has a specialist shop selling William Morris and Arts and Crafts-inspired range and a plant centre. There is also a tearoom serving a range of light lunches, sandwiches, etc.

**Cost: including travel and entries: U3A members £24.80;
U3A members who are also National Trust members £15.50
Non-U3A members pay £2.50 in addition to the above prices
Deadline for booking 11 May 2016**

HUGHENDEN MANOR

Wednesday 20 July 2016

Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 8.05am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 8.15am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.25am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.35am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 6.30pm

It's hardly surprising that the unconventional Victorian Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli fell in love with Hughenden. His handsome home, set in an unspoilt Chiltern valley with its views of ancient woods and rolling hills, is full of the fascination personal memorabilia of this charismatic and colourful statesman. Disraeli's

hillside retreat became headquarters for a top-secret, Second World War operation that put Hughenden high on Hitler's hit list.

The re-created air-raid shelter, 1940s living room and ice-house bunker bring wartime Britain to life. The manor is surrounded by woodlands with winding footpaths and red kites soaring overhead. There is a café selling hot meals, hot and cold drinks, etc., also a second-hand bookshop, and a shop stocking local produce, etc.

Cost, including entry to the House and gardens £22.50

U3A members who are also National Trust members £13.50

Those who are not U3A members pay £2.50 in addition to the above prices

Deadline for booking 6 July 2016

HARLOW CARR GARDEN, HARROGATE

A ROYAL HORTICULTURAL GARDEN

Tuesday 6 September 2016

Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.20am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.30am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.40am and Thorpe Meadows at 7.50am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.

This is the most northerly of the RHS gardens. It is just outside Harrogate. This beautiful 58 acre garden combines innovative design with creative planting and is bursting with practical ideas. RHS Garden Harlow Carr highlights include the colourful main borders, streamside and scented gardens, an alpine zone, woodland walks and wildflower meadows.

There are places to eat and drink – a great place to spend a day.

Cost, including entry to the gardens, £24.00

U3A members who are also RHS members £17.00

Those who are not U3A members pay £2.50 in addition to the above prices

Deadline for booking 21 August 2016

**Reports and articles for next U3A News should
reach the editor not later than**

Monday 13 June 2016

Items can be given to Conny Yarwood
or sent by email to conny.yarwood@gmail.com
or by post clearly writing NEWS in the top left hand corner
of the envelope to the address below:

***PLEASE NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER
AND POSTCODE***

**Peterborough U3A News
PO Box 1341
Peterborough PE2 2QD**



Bushfield Bowlers

