



learn,
laugh,
live

hwu3a.org.uk

HWu3a

Magazine of the
Harborough Welland u3a

Issue No. 16

Come outside with the HWu3a

April 2023



Welcome! This edition is a celebration of our first year as the Harbourough Welland u3a, the first year of the HWu3a Magazine and also the various Outdoor Activity groups. Following the AGM and the endorsement of our new trustees, you can read about the thoughts of Ian Webb, our new chair, taking the movement forward into its second year of existence.

On page 12, the editors of the Magazine will be asking for your views and comments about possible directions that the Magazine could be taking. We will also be featuring some of the Outdoor Activity groups and what is happening *al fresco*.

Please note, in April and May, there will be extra copies of the Magazine in MH and Desborough Libraries.

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HWu3a —New Committee and other non-trustees

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SUPPORT ROLES

<u>ROLE</u>	<u>HOLDER</u>
* Officers	
CHAIR & BEACON ADMINISTRATOR	IAN WEBB*
VICE CHAIR AND MINUTES SECRETARY	LOUISE ELSOME*
VICE CHAIR: MARKETING & PUBLICITY OFFICER, JOINT EDITOR—HWu3a MAGAZINE	JACK HORTON*
TREASURER	ANDREW WEST*
BUSINESS SECRETARY	PAMELA JACKSON*
GROUPS FACILITATOR	LIZ BRETT
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	LINDA REED
PREMISES COORDINATOR	ROBERT DAVISON

<u>ROLE</u>	<u>HOLDER</u>
NEW GROUPS FACILITATOR	ADRIANA WHITE
MONTHLY MEETING AND STARS COORDINATOR	SHARON WEBB
WEBMASTER: WEBMAIL COORDINATOR & BEACON ADMINISTRATOR	STEPHEN JOY
SPEAKER SECRETARY & JOINT EDITOR—HWu3a MAGAZINE	DAVID MARTIN
TRIPS COORDINATOR	MARYAN RICHARDSON
MARKETING AND PUBLICITY SUPPORT TEAM	KATE HELM DAVID MARTIN JOHN HILL JIM TYSON BOB MORRIS
MARKETING AND PUBLICITY SUPPORT & BEACON ADMINISTRATOR	HELEN SALISBURY



My get up and go, got up and went without me.

View from the Chair

Q. What is your vision for the HWu3a?

I must be honest and say that I have never seen myself as a 'vision' type of person. However, my aim as Chair is for the HWu3a to continue to be as successful in the coming few years as it has been in its first twelve months. Therefore it is important that the current membership numbers are maintained, or preferably, increased and that the membership are encouraged to become actively involved in all aspects of the u3a.

It is vital that all members contribute to the running of our activities: working with group coordinators as a team to plan, support and run group meetings; organising and helping to run the 2 monthly meetings; taking on the challenge of standing as a trustee when roles become vacant on committee, as they will do so regularly each year; volunteering to support any opportunities HWu3a undertakes to promote itself at local, community events. **It is crucial that there is no gap between the Committee and the Membership.**

The number and variety of Groups needs to constantly grow to offer additional capacity and new interests to the membership. Similarly, all groups need to buy into the concept of actively promoting the use of waiting lists (which Beacon will easily do in date order) and offering short term help when it is feasible to start a second group. **The term 'a Group is full' should never be used.**

One of the major challenges facing us over the coming years are our finances. We cannot afford to continue to subsidise the subscription fee going forward and therefore we need constantly to review our costs and revenue. A high priority will be our banking arrangements with the branch closures and ever-increasing bank charges. **Andrew West, our Treasurer has already taken important steps in this direction and also in sharing more financial information with the membership.**

The ongoing use of technology by trustees, group coordinators and members is vital in all aspects of our HWu3a activities.

We have received much praise for our website and we need to continue to focus on this being the first point of call for members and potential members to seek up to date information. Our superb magazine (paper and electronic) will also continue to be developed at this standard. Inclusion, such as the ongoing provision of hybrid meetings, is another feature to continue to offer. Again, **for all these initiatives, we look to many of our members for their contribution and support.**

Finally, HWu3a will continue to be a keen supporter of the Leicestershire and Rutland Network of u3as, by attending the regular network meetings and volunteers sitting on the committee. There is much to be gained by sharing experience and expertise with other local u3a's

We also have good representation at the East Midlands regional level.

Ian Webb, Chair HWu3a

For the Members, By the Members

You can find out more about Ian and what makes him tick on P. 16.

View from the chair

Below are the Answers to the three Questions raised by Kevin Millard at the AGM and I have replied to Kevin accordingly.

Q1 Why have the minutes of previous HWu3a committee meetings not been shared with members?

- As far as I can ascertain looking back through the 22 years of South Leicestershire existence and talking to previous Committee members, this question has never been raised previously. In fact in 2012 following an initiative from the Trust, South Leicestershire did contact the membership to ascertain whether they would like the Committee minute to be issued. In view of a lack of a response, the matter did not proceed any further.

I understand that it was a similar situation with Market Harborough.

Q2 Can the incoming committee please now make the minutes of future meetings available to members?

- Although I would agree that there should be more openness between the Committee and the Membership, I am not sure that publishing the Minutes is the correct way of achieving this goal. In many months, these can be up to 6 pages long. Therefore, other than if there is a specific request from a member on a particular subject, and then any confidential information would be excluded, we will not be issuing the minutes generally.

However, we are going to introduce in the Magazine a "Committee News" column which will provide a synopsis of the Committee discussions and also highlight any major issues currently affecting the u3a. Also, we will include the dates of the Committee meeting and an "Ask the Chair " section where members are given the opportunity to write to the Chair in respect of particular issues that they wish raised and the Chair will respond to them.

Andrew, HWu3a Treasurer, has prepared a financial forecast for 2023 and once everything has been agreed by the new committee it will be published to all members. It is worth noting that this year the membership fee (£10 or effectively £12.50 where an individual signs up for Gift Aid) is still significantly below our core running costs which average out around £17.50 to £18.50 per person depending upon the overall take up of the Third Age Trust magazine. This obviously cannot continue and the Committee must look for ways to both increase revenue and reduce costs so as to avoid a large increase in the subscription fee for next year.

I can recall when South Leicestershire increased the membership subscription to £20.00, this resulted in a loss of nearly 40% of the membership. I would not wish to see a repetition of this occurring in the future. Among the ideas being considered are looking at ways of increasing the number of members who 'gift aid' their payments, contacting the membership to ascertain whether they wish to continue to receive the Third Age Magazine as a reduction in the magazines issued would result in a big saving.

Q3 Other u3as also provide "Ask the Committee" sessions at General Meetings and allow members to observe Committee meetings; which would also be welcomed.

- I'm not aware of any other u3a where the membership are invited to attend the Committee meetings and I would be against this proposal, unless the member has stated that they wish to join and can add something to the Committee. To save money the Committee meets in members' homes and it would be not possible to have many more people attending. Also, I feel this could inhibit Committee members from discussing issues freely.

The "Ask the Committee" sessions certainly has merit and the Committee will investigate this further as to whether it would be possible to hold these sessions 2 or 3 times a year as part of the Monthly Social meeting held on the fourth Monday, subject to there being sufficient interest from the Membership.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.

Our March speaker, Geoff Harris, Toastmaster, promised us a performance rather than a talk, and boy, what a performance! Shunning any visual illustrations, Geoff relied on a brilliant delivery of quirky facts and clever asides that had the capacity audience captivated.

The title, *'The London they never tell you about'* only hints at the diverse



range of facts that I'm sure few attendees were aware of. There were many references to death and how it has been observed over the ages, some of them quite bizarre. Similarly, the rights bestowed on a Freeman of London. Geoff also provided an interesting guide to some little known but intriguing sounding corners of our capital. There is a link to his special guide on our website. At the end of the meeting, I was overwhelmed by the positive comments about Geoff and his performance. At this point I must come clean and inform you that Liz Brett actually made the original booking. It is our intention to rebook him for early 2024. Hopefully we will get to see his red toastmaster's outfit. *D.M Speaker Secretary*

STOP PRESS: We have confirmed a booking in 2024; unfortunately you will have to wait until May 13th. It WILL be worth it! D.M



Come outside!

Drone & Photography Group

Formed at the tail end of 2022 the group has grown steadily to a situation where we have 8 active members, most of whom owning their own drones.

From the very beginning we recognised the need for some "basic" training for those in group who had never flown a drone. This is where the Mini 2 drone purchased by U3A MH really came into its own as we could offer safe flying training to prospective group members.

Despite some cold weather the group has met regularly, at first every month and now, such is the enthusiasm, on a fortnightly basis! The actual flying of the drone is relatively easy so it's accurate flying we are concentrating on so the drone which is basically a camera platform can be positioned for some great still pictures or video footage.

In addition to our own flying sessions, we have been invited to use our unique camera position to cover the activities of other U3A groups, both inside and out!

It's not too late to have your first drone flying experience, by attending one of our meetings.

For details of the next meeting please contact me, *Terry Eato*.



Come outside!

The tennis group has been meeting for over twenty years, playing every Thursday morning (weather permitting) all through the year.

The group consists of varying abilities. We mainly play doubles: mixed, ladies and men, and have the use of three courts.

The Market Harborough Lawn Tennis Club charges non-members of the club £5.00 per session, and we thank the MHLTC for allowing us to use their facilities.

Rita Moth, Group Coordinator.



You may recently have seen in the local news a story about a cow attempting to join the club. I can confirm that this was nothing to do with Harborough Welland u3a members! *D.M* Click on photo for full story ...



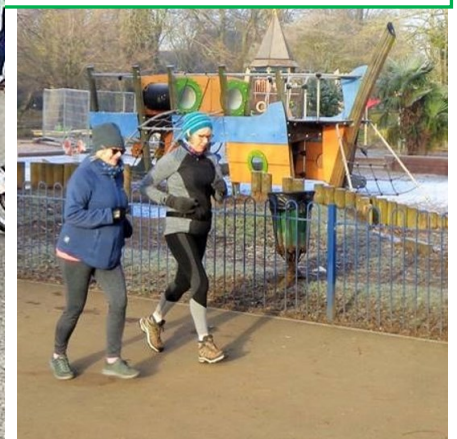
There are **two birding groups**. This group, Birding Thursday, are enjoying a well earned break on Burbage Common. For a full report of their latest outing, go to page 18 of the Magazine. *D.M*

New Experiences Park Walkers

NOT another u3a Walking Group, but a group that have been walking the 5Km Parkrun course in Welland Park on Saturday mornings since January.



Everyone is very welcome to join us, just sign up for free on the parkrun website <https://www.parkrun.org.uk> and come along to Welland Park 8.40am on any Saturday. *K.M*



For more details for all groups, please go to

[Activity Groups – Harborough Welland U3A](https://www.hwu3a.org.uk)

[\(hwu3a.org.uk\)](https://www.hwu3a.org.uk)(click)

Or

Come outside!

Cycling

The cycling group meet on the 1st & 3rd Fridays of every month, we are a very sociable group that average 8-10 mph, so we always have a good chat while we're cycling along.

We usually stick to quiet lanes which may involve tracks such as The Brampton Valley and we always try to find a nice coffee stop along the route.

For the full report with route maps and more pictures, see our web page. *K.M*

<https://hwu3a.org.uk/agroupnews/cycling-march-2023/>



... go to pages 14, 15 of the online newsletter or consult one of the flyers available with all contact details.

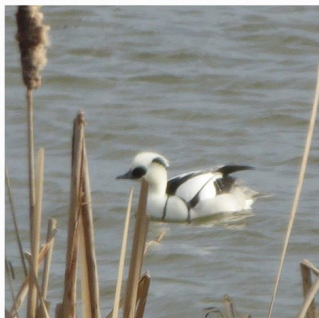
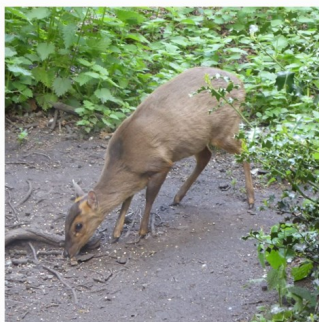
Petanque

When the Petanque group started in September 2020, we were just coming out of lockdown, and outdoor sports was one of the few things we were allowed to do, socially distanced of course! We started with 6 people (remember the rule of 6?).

Now we have 36 members that play twice a month on the 1st & 3rd Monday, which means that we are technically full again, but with people away on holidays, there's often spaces for people to pop along and give it a go. *K.M*



Our enthusiastic **Wildlife group** have over the last two years enjoyed visiting a variety of local habitats. We have watched wildlife throughout the seasons. Wandering through woodland on a fungi foray, admiring the sheer variety of types and colours of mosses. Identifying winter trees by their



buds. Following mammal tracks to look for signs of badger, deer or voles. Hoping for a glimpse of our fastest land mammal the brown hare always such a delight to see. Enjoying the arrival of migrant birds and appearance of pale yellow primroses and Hazel catkins and the much awaited blue carpet of Bluebells. We have searched for some of the UK's 59 butterfly species, the reward and effort so worthwhile. The anticipation of the first emerging dragonflies and damselflies such beautiful, graceful wetland creatures and the amazing colours of wildflower meadows filled with the sound of buzzing bees and grasshoppers and interesting insects are just some of our memories. We are really looking forward to our first trip away in June to explore nature in the Norfolk Broads. *Diana Baxter*

The Old Grammar School.

*I live in Market Harborough
Which has an ancient square.
A church spire towers over it and
The Old Grammar School is there.
The Grammar school is interesting,
For it is raised above the ground,
And, sometimes, little markets
Underneath it can be found.
What caused it to be built that way
Excited my imagination,
And so I have researched it and
Understand now its creation.
The reason it was built on stilts
Was for HIGHER EDUCATION. **TR 146***



Electrifying news!

The electrification of East Midlands railway network has been undertaken in various phases, the first phase incorporated the stations between London and Bedford and has now moved as far as Kettering and beyond with masts and catenary cables having been erected at Glendon Junction where the line branches off to Corby, I would speculate that EMR intend to electrify the line to Manton Junction where it will join the line back to Leicester completing a circular powered route.

Whether the line will be electrified East towards Melton Mowbray and Peterborough and beyond is a long-term possibility. Currently EMR provide a service between Melton Mowbray and Kettering, but these are purely commuter trains with just one morning train to Kettering with an evening return to Melton Mowbray, however these could be hauled by a Hybrid Electro- diesel locomotive.



I have also noted that the secondary line which is doubled and branches away from the Main Line just South after Kettering and re-joins just after Wellingborough, has been electrified. I assume this will mainly carry the suburban trains to be electrified to both Sheffield and Nottingham (and then to Lincoln), I am sure this must be the long term aim.

Continued on page 16

Gavin Ramsay. Railway Exploration Group.

The image above shows the secondary line branch near Wellingborough. Gavin Ramsay. Railway Exploration Group.

Public Service Message

Last month I spent a particularly frustrating morning and I hate that any of our members has a similar experience.

So particularly for those of you new to Market Harborough or if have not had call to visit the sorting office (they are within minutes of each other) I have incorporated the following up to date information..

Needing to collect a parcel from the Post Office and also deposit some garden waste, I decided to incorporate both simple tasks.

Unfortunately...

I chose to go on a Friday morning and Market Harborough Recycling centre is now closed on Fridays (and Thursdays). Similarly, at the sorting office I was disappointed to learn that it is only open from 8:00 – 10:00 on weekdays.

Not to be deterred, I reasoned that if MH recycling centre was closed, the new facility at Kibworth must be open. **Not so**, when we pulled up at the magnificent looking pair of new gates, the sign said CLOSED. OPENING on May 26th. D.M



Market Harborough Recycling and Waste Centre LE16 7PT

Monday— open 9—4pm

Tuesday — open 9—4pm

Weds. — open 9—4pm

Thurs. — **CLOSED**

Friday — **CLOSED**

Sat.— open 9—4pm

Sunday— open 9—4pm

Kibworth Recycling and Waste Centre LE8 0EX

Monday— open 9—4pm

Tuesday — **CLOSED**

Weds. — **CLOSED**

Thurs.— open 9—4pm

Friday— open 9—4pm

Sat. — open 9—4pm

Sunday— open 9—4pm



TRIPS 2023

CHESTER

THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2023

Chester boasts the largest stone-built Amphitheatre in Britain and the City Walls which circle the city remain intact.

The Rows are unique to Chester and date back to medieval times when they were built on top of the Roman ruins.

The coach will leave Market Harborough Bus Station at 8.00am

Cost of the coach & a guided walking tour is £28

NORWICH

THURSDAY 11 MAY 2023

The most complete medieval city in England with stunning architecture. Norwich's oldest street is Elm Hill in the historic Cathedral Quarter with its beautifully preserved cobbled streets.

The coach will leave Market Harborough Bus Station at 9am

Cost of coach and guided walking tour (1 hour) is £24

To book contact Maryan Richardson Tel - 01858 462573
or email trips1@hwu3a.org.uk



Trip to Royal
Courts of Justice
and Old Bailey.
March 2023

Did anyone go to Dingley Races this Easter? We would love some colourful photos of this local event for our magazine. D.M

Groups' Noticeboard

This month's Harborough Welland Get Together will be held on Monday 24th April at 10.30am in the Methodist Church main hall.

Following on from the April theme of Outdoor Activity groups, we look forward to seeing some of their Group Coordinators represented at the meeting.

The Get Togethers are proving to be very popular, with over 100 members attending in March. If you are a new member this is a good way of getting to know fellow members and Trustees.

We now have 80 interest groups. If you are thinking of joining one of them, the Group Coordinators' details are on our website as well as the electronic and paper versions of the Group Activities List. Just as a reminder - please always contact them first - do not just turn up at a meeting.

Wine Tasting Group

We are currently looking for a small number of people to come and join us, so if you interested in tasting wine, please get in touch to arrange a tester session with us.

This month's group report can be found on page 17,

Jonathan Shaw, Group Coordinator

07960 203375

HWu3a Choir

We meet at the Congregational Church on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10.30-12.00. We sing songs by Simon and Garfunkel, Andrew Lloyd Webber, The Beatles and many more and also from a variety of musicals.

So ladies and gentlemen if you love to sing, contact me, lizbrett@outlook.com

You will receive a warm welcome.

NEW! The HWu3a Movie Recovery Group

The first Movie Group meeting will be on Wednesday the 5th April 2023 at 10.30 am at the HCC Church in Bath Street, Market Harborough. The objective of the group are: To help group members transferring old analogue film footage and video to digital format to show on computer, mobile phone and TV screens. More details in the Online version, page 22.

WATCH THIS SPACE! Discussion Group—more details to follow.

SADLY—The Evening Quiz Group has had its last meeting. Congratulations to Team Harvey for their fine victory in March. *They get to keep the Trophy! D.M*

Liz Brett, HWu3a Groups' Facilitator



By the members, for the members

'It's your magazine' We have celebrated our first year of this new look magazine and have exhausted our original list of themes, focussing on different types of groups. Moving forward we are looking for different themes and your contributions to make this work. What do you think of the following ideas? Maybe you could contribute items or other ideas?

Great Railway Journeys—based on Michael Portillo's prog but without the garish clothing.

Weird and wonderful accommodation—Have you stayed somewhere which was quirky but would still go back there?

Grandchildren, aren't they marvellous? - Maybe not to everyone's taste but most grandparents have interesting quotes or anecdotes.

Regular Features—maybe you could be the features editor? -

Gigs, in town. Could be suggested music concerts, art exhibitions. - *Seasonal Recipes*—a monthly suggestion. - *Great reads* - booklist for HWu3a members. *D.M*

UPCOMING EVENTS

NO MEETINGS ON APRIL 10th or MAY 8th AS THEY ARE BANK HOLIDAYS.

April 24th Harborough Welland Get Together. Coffee from 10am.

June 12th DOUBLE BILL

June 26th Harborough Welland Get Together. Coffee from 10am.

July 12th—The Art of Punch and Judy

July 26th Harborough Welland Get Together. Coffee from 10am.

Could you be one of our speakers in 2024?

Contact Dave Martin.

speakers@hwu3a.org.uk

June 12th DOUBLE BILL—a bit of an experiment!

First half—Terry Eato will be talking about and demonstrating what the Drone and Photography Group get up to. After half an hour it is planned that Terry and any devotees will go outside and put the drone through its paces. Meanwhile, I and other volunteers (PLEASE), will be sharing and enjoying the 'Spoken Word'. I am thinking poems, no particular theme, and only shortish ones, less than 3 minutes total. I've got mine ready, that leaves 27 mins. Please contact me if you wish to contribute. *D.M*

Updated details of all the groups, venues and times, can be found on the online version, pages 14,15. Or on a flyer available at meetings.

HWu3a Executive Committee— New committee, contact details

Ian Webb, Chair

chair@hwu3a.org.uk 01858 440851

Jack Horton, Marketing, Vice Chair

marketing@hwu3a.org.uk 07511 749462

Louise Elsome, Minute Secretary, Vice Chair

minutes@hwu3a.org.uk 07740 572956

Pamela Jackson, Business Secretary

secretary@hwu3a.org.uk 01858 440530

Andrew West, Treasurer.

treasurer@hwu3a.org.uk 07732 511572

Linda Reed, Membership Secretary

membership@hwu3a.org.uk 07986 460319

Liz Brett, Group Facilitator

groups@hwu3a.org.uk 07907 631529

Premises Coordinator, Robert Davison

premises@hwu3a.org.uk Tel: 07983 948392

You can read many more articles and see more photos on the online Edition. Go to our website and read pages 13 and beyond. [Newsletters – Harborough Welland U3A \(hwu3a.org.uk\)](https://www.hwu3a.org.uk) We would welcome your comments and your contributions for this online version. Jack Horton & David Martin. newsletter@hwu3a.org.uk

Copy Deadline for May edition—Weds. April 27th

Welcome to page 13 ... *Bringing you the news and reports from our many and varied groups*

The editing team invite you to share your photos and article about your group activities. On page 12 D.M. provided some ideas for features and contributions to the Magazine we would welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions of the magazine.

For example where were Bobbie and I visiting in these photos—Answer page 27, J.H.



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Harborough Welland u3a—Group Activities

Updated April 23 see our website for more details: hwu3a.org.uk

Reminder: Always contact the Group Coordinator before attending a group – do not just turn up.

MONDAY

Art History	Angela Deane	01858 431111	Congregational Ch.	1st Monday	10.00 am
Crafting for Charities	Helen Salisbury	07837 410575	Louisa's Place	3rd Monday	2.30pm
Crafting for Charities 2	Judith Sampson	07724 807482	Louisa's Place	4th Monday	2–4pm
French Refreshers	Rosemary Holden	01858 682623	Please call	Weekly	11.00am
French Improvers	Julie Jarosz	01536 712119	Please call	Weekly	pm
French Rendez-vous	Marlis Naef	01858 466931	Please call	Weekly	2.30–4pm
Handbells	Andrew Miksza	07802 728030	Bowling Club	Weekly	2–3pm
Petanque	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Fairfield Rd C.C	1st & 3rd Mon	10–12:00
Poetry	Ann Hawkins	01858 467164	Methodist Church	1st & 3rd Mon	10am
Quilty Pleasures	Diane Miles	01858 468357	Gt Bowden Village Hall	1st/3rd Mon	2–4pm
Songs of Leonard	Jonathan	0116 279 2915	Com'ity Church	4th Monday	2pm
	Cohen	Chappell			
Table Tennis 1	Keith Keeble	07795 434076	Please call	Weekly	Morning
Wine Explorers	Melanie Nash	07939 872204	Please call	2nd Monday	7.30pm

TUESDAY

Architecture	Colin Cohen	07973 348817	Methodist Ch.	4th Tuesday	p.m
Bookworms	Louise Elsome	07740 572956	Baptist Church	2nd Tuesday	2.30pm
Bridge—Social	Don Collins	01858 462409	Bowls Club Lt.Bwdn	Weekly	2 pm
The Coffee Hub	Denise Smith	07527 801778	Zoom	4th Tuesday	10.30am
Coffee Morning	Sylvia Saunders	07814 813234	Three Swans	1st Tuesday	morning
Country Dancing	Sharon Webb	01858 440851	Cong Church	4th Tuesday	2–4pm
French – Les Bavards	Sheridan New	07795 872496	Enigma Cafe	weekly	10.30
Listening to Jazz	Mike Goldsmith	01536 770122	Please call	last Tuesday	2.15 – 4.15
Local history	Avril Pell	01858 414871	Methodist Ch.	3rd Tuesday	2–4pm
Music, Exploring	Kate Helm	07817 735784	Com'ty Church	1st Tuesday	10.00 am
New to Zoom	Denise Smith	07527 801778	Zoom	4th Tuesday	9.30am
Photography—Tues	John Hammond	01858 434272	Cong Church	3rd Tuesday	2.30pm
Singers—HWu3a Choir	Liz Brett	07907 631529	Cong Church	2nd/4th Tues	10.30am
Ukuleles	David Evans	01858 463045	Methodist Church	Alternate Tues	2–4pm
Walking Half Day 2	Diana Baxter	0116 279 2947	Outside	1st Tuesday	Various
Wine Appreciation	Bob Crocker	01858 468531	Please call	1st Tuesday	7pm

WEDNESDAY

Badminton	Carole Winfield	01858 432540	Meadowdale	Weekly	5.45–7pm
Belleplates	Pam Duffin	01858 414975	Com'ty Church	Weekly *	2–4pm
Birding Wednesday	Linda Lawton		Outside, various	2nd Wed	Morning
					birding.wednesday@hwu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners	Adriana White	01858 445074	Cong Church	2nd & 4th Wed	10–11.30am
Italian All Comers	Franc Colombo	01858 431473	Zoom	Weekly	Morning
New Age Kurling	Jane Wilkins	01858 461801	Cong Church	1st Wed	2.00pm
New Age Kurling 2	Pat Middleton	07703399432	Cong Church	3rd Wed	2–3pm
	Julia Granger	07909 330715			
Quilting	Vivian Hammond	01858 434272	Com'ty Church	3rd Weds	10.00am
Railway Exploration	Dudley Brown	01858 419134	Bowling Club	3rd Wed	10.00am

Scrabble for Fun	Toni Parsons	01858 431944	Community Ch	2nd/4th Weds 10 am –12
Table Tennis 3	Jenny Acaster	01858 446862	Leisure Centre	Weds Weekly 9.00am
Transport Group	Michael Milsom	01858 419874	Bowling Club	1st Wed 10.00am
Walking Half Day 1	Bruce White	01858 467976	Outside	2nd Wed Morning
Walking, Wed. Strollers	Linda Reed	07986 460319	Various	2nd Weds 10.15 am
	Les Dodd	01858 462244		
THURSDAY				
Birding Thursday	Bruce White	01858 467976	Outside	3rd Thursday morning
Crotchety Knitters	Stella Freeman	01536 760124	Community Ch	4th Thursday 2.30pm
Drawing & Painting	Elaine Scarlett	01858 432029	Oxendon Village Hall	1st/3rd Thurs pm
Family History	Maryan Richardson	01858 462573	Community Ch	3rd Thursday 10am–12
French Conversation	Melanie Nash	07939 872204	Please call	Weekly 2.30pm
Garden Group	Stella Freeman	01536 760124	Meth Church (Winter)	3rd Thurs 2pm
History, Aspects of	Ernie Parsons	01536 760141	Desborough FC	4th Thursday pm
Mah Jong	Pamela Jackson	07803 204464	Baptist Church	2nd/4th Thurs 9.45am
Spanish Beginners	Don Collins	01858 462409	Methodist Church	Weekly 2.00pm
Spanish Improvers	Don Collins	01858 462409	Methodist Church	Weekly 10.00am
Table Tennis 2	Jenny Acaster	01858 446862	M H Leisure Cntr	Weekly Midday
Tennis	Rita Moth	01858 432275	Gt Bowden Tennis Courts	Weekly 10.00am
Theatre of the Absurd	Jonathan Chappell	0116 2792915	Community Ch	2nd Thursday 2.00pm
Walking All Day	Eddie/Edith Dixon	01858 468758	Outside, various	Last Thursday
Walking Half Day 3	Peter Devine	01858 432886	Outside	3rd Thursday
Walking Half Day 4	Mike & Brenda	01536 770431	Outside, Various	4th Thursday
	Saywood			
Wildlife	Diana Baxter	0116 279 2947	Outside, Various	2nd Thursday
Wine Tasting	Jonathan/Naomi	01858 682133	Please call	3rd Thursday Various
	Shaw			
FRIDAY				
Creative Writing	Dave Martin	01793 223347	MH Library	2nd Friday 2:30pm
Cycling	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Outside	1st & 3rd Fri 10.30am
Health & Wellbeing	Rob & Kathy	07983 948392	Methodist Church	2nd Friday 10.30am
	Davison	07881 816909		-12.30pm
Photography Friday	Phil Aldridge	07734 903737	Lounge, Cong Church	3rd Friday pm
Jordan Jammers	Alan Clementson	07972 212537	Please call	Weekly pm
Papercraft & More	Jan Collins	01858 462409	Foxton VH	1st/3rd Fri Morning
Papercraft—Beginners	Jan Collins	01858 462409	Methodist Ch, Coffee Lounge	2nd/4th Fridays
Discovering Poetry	Jill Hart	01858 469663	Methodist Ch, Upper Rm	1st Friday 10.00am
Singing for Fun	George Cashell	01858 467616	Methodist Church	2nd/4th Fri pm
Walking, Fri. Strollers	Carol Harvey	07855 738706	Outside	2nd Friday 10.15am
	Michael Parsons	07940 185429		
SUNDAY				
Singles Sunday Lunch	Jan Tilley	01858 461186	Various	1/3/4 Sundays Various
Music – 60s	Alec Hodgson	01858 288923	Oathill Pub, M H	3rd Sunday 7pm
OTHER				
Drones & Photography	Terry Eato	07943 732841	Outside	Various Various
Walking—Evening	David Martin	01858 440530	Outside Summer,	Various Evenings
New Experiences	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Various	Various Various

Contact : Liz BRETT, Groups' Facilitator. groups@hwu3a.org.uk 07907 631529

View from the Chair



Ian on one of his favourite train journeys, but where is it? Find out on page 28.

An Interview with our new Chair – Ian Webb.

Q. How did you come to join the u3a?

My wife, Sharon, and I originally moved to Harborough in 2006 following my redundancy and early retirement, but our first 6 years here were spent supporting our parents. It was only in 2012, when this had eased, was there time to consider how I was going to pass my retirement. I obtained a copy of the u3a magazine from the library and there was a number of groups in subjects in which I was interested I decided to join.

Q. How did you get to join the committee?

Sharon was already a committee member as the Groups Facilitator and when the decision was made in about 2017 to split the role of Treasurer and Membership Secretary, it was mentioned whether I would be interested in the position of Membership Secretary. The rest is history.

Q. What has been your greatest achievement?

Within the u3a, it has been the successful combination of the two u3a's Beacon membership databases in preparation of the formation of HWu3a. It had never been attempted previously, so we were working in uncharted areas and involved hours spent poring over excel spreadsheets.

Q. What gives you the most satisfaction in your life?

I think spending time with my family and close friends. I have a two-year-old granddaughter, with another on the way. I think it is important to spend as much quality time with them at the moment as it may not be possible in few years' time as I get even more old and crotchety. I also love to travel, particularly visiting historical buildings and sites.

East Midlands Railway Electrification continued

The original budget for the works was 1.6 billion pounds (*if Rishi was involved in this it could well have been exceeded by now*) and involves not only the electrification programme but refurbishment of some stations. The engineering works associated with electrifying the line are significant. I have noted that a number of road bridges have been lifted by a few courses to accommodate cabling. In total I understand 120 bridges on the route have had to be elevated, hundreds of trees have been felled and significant groundwork has been necessary to enable sinking of the catenary masts. This can certainly be witnessed locally at both Market Harborough and Great Bowden. In fact, as I write this (12/3/23) engineers have taken occupation of the track to carry out groundworks for masts in the Great Bowden area.

The following image shows Engineers in the process of vegetation clearance, with Market Harborough station in the distance.

East Midlands Railway Electrification continued



Locally I am aware that the bridges at Braybrooke, Great Glen and Newton Harcourt have been or are to be lifted. In addition the “old step footbridge” at Great Bowden park is going to be replaced (see my article in January HWu3A edition).

At Kettering Station we have the wonderful “Ridge & Furrow” platform canopies and because of their listed status EMR have taken the cable supports above the canopies and installed drop rods to pick up the cabling in order that nothing is disturbed.

And although we have talked about the supports and cabling, we must not forget important issues like the installation of electrical sub stations required to power up the project. These if you are interested (and I do not blame you if you are not) are dotted along the line at various locations waiting to be powered up. Our next picture shows Engineering works in progress.



East Midlands Railway Electrification continued

It is the ultimate tribute to the “Navvies” that some 150 years ago they were able to build the permanent way and its associated infrastructure without any of the mechanised plant and power tools available to today’s engineering workers, however having witnessed some of the work they are carrying out we cannot underestimate how hard and difficult it is.

Summarising an up to date picture of where we are, the masts coming from the South have reached Station Road/ Great Bowden Road bridge and coming from the North they have been erected up to the A6 overpass just outside Great Bowden, so it is approximately a two mile stretch to be completed before cabling can then be installed.

Of course a job of this nature is hampered by track possession, and in that respect Market Harborough has probably presented difficulties as you have four track working up to Leicester from the North and similarly going South from Kettering, Market Harborough lies in a section of only two track occupation. Of course, services can be maintained by running to Kettering where a bus service is provided to Market Harborough, with the train then running via Glendon & Manton Junction’s in to Leicester, and of course Southbound trains doing the reverse journey.

I would imagine that the two mile stretch of masts to be erected will get a major “push” during the Easter weekend period to complete this particular phase.

I think until then we will have to wait for cabling works to be completed and the day the “Big Switch On” occurs, as it is being fed from the National Grid be sure to have some candles ready!

Gavin Ramsay. Railway Exploration Group. (Group Coordinator Dudley Brown 01858 419134)

Birding Thursday



We had a grey, overcast morning but thankfully dry, for our visit to Barnwell Country Park in Oundle. The gloomy conditions made for difficult identification at times when all you had to go on was a grey silhouette! At the car park there was a cacophony of sound to greet us on stepping out of our cars, mainly from Gold & Greenfinch, Blue & Great Tits. Wandering around the reserve there was nothing much to be seen on the lakes but flocks of Starling, Redwing and Meadow Pipit were eventually identified in the trees and on the overhead wires. The latter eventually made for the ground where about eight Pied Wagtails were also seen. Red Kites were in evidence all the time with a maximum of five seen at any one time. Probably the highlights were a Great Spotted Woodpecker followed a short while later by a Green (pictured) one which, although frequently heard, had been unseen until our approach to the café. Whilst enjoying a hot drink and snack overlooking the lake we amused ourselves by leaving some crisps and panini pieces on the balustrade hoping for some avian action! We were not disappointed as finally a Bluetit and a Great Tit came and availed themselves of the easy pickings. Whilst this was going on a few strains of a Chiffchaff song confirmed that Spring really was just around the corner.

Bruce White 01858 467976

HWu3a Choir



In March, **the HWu3a Choir** held a 'leaving do' for our musical director, Alan Barraclough who had expertly led the choir for over 20 years. We presented him with a voucher for Farndon Fields Farm Shop and a rose bush named 'Super Trooper', which Alan most certainly is! Thanks to Joy for arranging a fabulous cake for him.

Under Alan's guidance we have sung a wide variety of songs and he leaves a choir that is still thriving after all these years.

Joy Swallow, also stepped down as Group Coordinator. Joy has been energetically organising the choir for many years and I'm pleased to say that she will continue to sing with us.

We are delighted that Christine Pierce has agreed to be our musical director, having previously accompanied us on the piano and stepped in for Alan on various occasions.

We meet at the Congregational Church on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays [at 10.30-12.00](#). We sing songs from various musicals, Simon and Garfunkel, Andrew Lloyd Webber and many more.

So ladies and gentlemen if you love to sing, contact me lizbrett@outlook.com

You will receive a warm welcome. *Liz Brett*



Drawing and Painting

Cornelia was very pleased with the display of our completed paintings of nests, when we endeavoured to make the most of the techniques, she outlined to add texture.

Our class with Marlis, printing with Gelli plates was great fun and produced some varied and colourful results.

We look forward to our next two classes, the first to produce a likeness of a cat, the second to look at the design of a bridge and respond accordingly.

At the moment this group is full to capacity, so for the time being we will add details of members wishing to join to a waiting list.

[Elaine Scarlett 01858 432029](mailto:Elaine.Scarlett@bt.com)
and [Sue Garman](mailto:Sue.Garman@bt.com)



Art History

Pierre- Auguste Renoir painted 'Dance at the Moulin de la Galette' (shown here) in 1876. He also painted a smaller version in the same year but there is divided opinion as to which was painted first. The smaller version has been rarely seen and is now thought to be in a private collection in Switzerland. Prior to this it was owned by a Japanese paper manufacturer who caused outrage in 1991 when he suggested he should be cremated with the painting! Luckily the bank seized his assets and this did not happen.



The picture shows a dance hall at the top of Montmartre Hill, the highest point in Paris. Families are enjoying a Sunday afternoon at leisure, dancing and chatting in the sunshine. Renoir lived in the the area and used local girls as models (often seamstresses supplementing their income) and the men were part of his bohemian circle of friends such as writers and artists.

Art History Continued

The sunlight is captured as it filters through the trees and casts a dappled pattern on the figures. The work was considered sketchy and unfinished and was criticised for this at the time. It can be found in the Musée d'Orsay, Paris and is one of the most recognised pieces of the Impressionism art movement. In popular culture, Rod Stewart used the scene for his 'A Night on the Town' album cover and included himself in the centre of the painting.

u3a online event, free on Zoom.

You may be interested in '**Toulouse-Lautrec and the Cabarets of Paris**' - The world of Toulouse-Lautrec and eighteen-nineties Montmartre in Paris - a talk by Peter Webb. **Thursday, April 20 · 2 - 3pm**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/toulouse-lautrec-and-the-cabarets-of-paris-tickets-55241487677>

Angela Deane 01858 431111

Local History Group

The purchase of a second-hand book entitled "Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire" for £1.50, led David Burditt on a quest to discover more. At our meeting last month, he outlined some of the lost villages of both Leicestershire and Northamptonshire – there are 74 recorded in the former and 80 in the latter counties. He illustrated his talk with maps and diagrams of the old villages.

Examples of these villages included Bittesby (near Bitteswell), Poulteney (near Walcote), Othorpe (near Slawston), where farms now bear the name of the lost villages.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 18 April, we look forward to welcoming Mary Matts with her talk on Foxton Locks and Inclined Plane. The meeting will be in the Methodist Church – doors will open at 1.45pm with the talk commencing at 2.15pm. The cost of entry will be £1.00.

Avril Pell 01858 414871 & Ian Webb

Creative Writing Group

It was an excellent effort from the six members who made it to the library on Friday afternoon 10th March. Which idiot suggested 'COLD' as an appropriate title, I wonder? However, by 2:30 the snow had all gone and the blinds had to be drawn to keep out the bright sunshine.

Apart from listening to each other's stories, we had animated discussions about such diverse subjects as Saving Energy, Scamming Awareness and School Dinners.

Very enjoyable time had by all in our little part of the library. Good response to the 'hot penning' – 'LIBRRARY' seemed a very worthwhile title.

April's title is WHY, WHY, WHY? Mmm.

We asked for three word titles – I didn't expect the same word three times! But we enjoy a challenge.

You will be able to read three of these stories on the HWu3a website / creative writing.

Dave Martin creative.writing@hwu3a.org.uk

The HWu3a Movie Group

The first Movie Group meeting will be on Wednesday the 5th April 2023 at 10.30 am at the HCC Church in Bath Street, Market Harborough. The objective of the group are: To help group members transferring old analogue film footage and video to digital format to show on computer, mobile phone and TV screens.

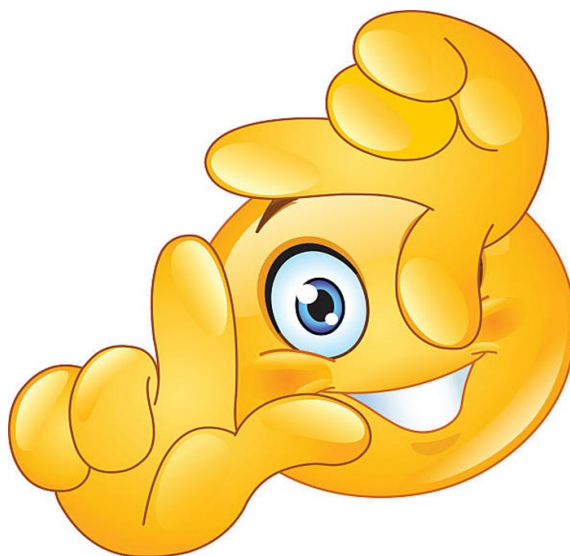
To teach group members the basics of movie making and video editing.

The first special project: The Market Harborough Millennium Tapestry took 3 years to make from 1997 to 2000. The project involved 45 Harborough district ladies putting a total of 1 million 474 000 stitches in this huge and magnificent tapestry. A further 40 people were involved in the planning and production of this great work.

A movie has recently been discovered about the unveiling of the Millennium Tapestry in the Market Harborough Library on the 15th of November 2000. As it will be the 25th anniversary of the event soon, plans are to add additional, up to date footage to the movie. This will include interviewing some of the people who worked on the tapestry as well as the organisers of project. The newly found historical footage will be shown during the meeting at the HCC Church on the 5th of April We welcome HWu3a members to attend the first meeting and join the group if they are interested in helping with research and the production of the movie.

No previous experience is required. We have the names of all u3a members who were involved in the project between 1997 and 2000 as well as 450 photographs and other interesting material. Please send an email to newgroups@hwu3a.org.uk if you would like to join us in this very exciting project. We look forward meeting you.

Dick Van Aken dvanaken@hotmail.com



Walking Group Reports

Walking Half Day 1

February's walk may have taken place in brilliant sunshine but not our March walk from Harrington! A biting cold windy day was accompanied all our way round by a light fall of snow! Undeterred we set off down past the church and over the fields to Thorpe Underwood. From here a short road stretch brought us to Newbottle Bridge. More fields followed on various sorts of path until we reached a spot just short of Arthingworth (pictured) which provided us with a modicum of shelter for our coffee stop. A complete change of direction meant the walk back to Harrington had the snow, thankfully still fairly light, blowing in our faces so we were mighty glad to pass by 'The Falls' and know our cars were just the other side of the wall! Thanks to Liz for leading what really was a nice walk in an area not walked for quite a while in somewhat trying conditions but these are the sort of walks we all remember!



Bruce White 01858 467976

Walking Half Day 3

The 20th April walk will be a 'Village and Surrounding Countryside' one, based on Husbands Bosworth. The walk of about 4 miles will draw upon the [historic village trail](#) prepared by Husbands Bosworth Historical Society. I will email further details such as where to park and a lunch option, in the next two weeks. (If interested and not currently a member of this group, please contact me (Peter Devine) below)

Walk Coordinator and leader

Peter Devine

01858 432886 peterdevineuk@btinternet.com

WALKING Half Day 4

Our March walk was a matter of dodging the rain. Fifteen walkers left Hallaton, and had a dry walk down towards Medbourne, then across the fields to Blaston and Horninghold, turning left at Home Farm and taking the field path back to the pub, where we enjoyed our lunch time refreshments. A glance out of the window showed us that it was then pouring with rain! However, by the time we came out it was fine again, so we were very fortunate that day. Our thanks to Brenda and Judith for leading this walk, which had some very pleasant views on the way round.

WALKING Half Day 4 continued

The April walk is on Thursday 27th April, starting from The Pug and Greyhound, London Road, Great Glen, LE8 9GF. This will be organised and led by Alan and Linda and is a walk that we have not done before, so should be interesting. This will be a circular walk of just over 4 miles, and includes a number of stiles, none of which are too onerous. A shortcut can be provided that avoids most of these if required. Please meet at 10.00 – 10.15am, to allow time to order lunch and start by 10.30am.

If you would like to join us on the walk, please contact Alan and Linda at reedhouse87@outlook.com by Monday 24th April if possible.

Mike & Brenda Saywood

Tel. 01536 770431

e-mail : mikesaywood@outlook.com

FRIDAY STROLLERS

On Friday 12th May we meet in Geddington Village by the Eleanor Cross/ Star Inn at 10.30. Postcode NN14 1AD. Limited parking in the pub car park but parking also available in Bridge St. We will already have booked our meal as the pub require our menu choices by 4th May please, plus £5 deposit payable at our April Stroll if possible.

The stroll will take place around the village, mostly footpaths and flat. The village church also opens during the day if anyone would like to look around after our meal. Looking forward to seeing everyone who is able to join us. To book please contact

Val Short – 07528853975

Carol Harvey – 07855738706

Park Run

Kevin Clocks up a Hundred:

There are a number of regular U3a Saturday park walkers in Market Harborough thanks to Kevin Millard's New Experiences group. Kevin is a park runner and today (Saturday 25th March) completed his 100th parkrun so will be eligible to wear the much sought-after Parkrun 100 shirt.

<https://shop.parkrun.com/pages/milestone-t-shirts>

With Thanks to Eileen Robinson for the report.

Wine Tasting

This year's theme is to try contrasting wines from the same grape or grape blend. This week Pat brought us three wines with the Bordeaux mix – mostly Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. They all came from Majestic and were priced at the “mix 6” price.



We started with Château Arnauton 2014, Fronsac, 14%, £9.99. Fronsac is situated on the Right Bank of the Gironde. Like most Right Bank wines, this is predominantly made from Merlot but also includes Cabernet Franc and Malbec, bringing greater structure and vibrant, fruity aromas.

Wine Tasting Continued

This was well received by the group who rated it the second-best wine of the evening, enjoying the fruity aromas, the spicy and powerful flavours and the lingering finish, but perhaps lacking the accompanying food that would have dealt with tannins – even though these were described by Majestic as being “elegant”.

For our second wine we moved to the other side of the Gironde for Château Caronne Ste-Gemme 2018, Haut-Médoc 13.5%, £12.99. Like most Left Bank wines this is predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon which should mean it has a firm structure. When compared to the preceding wine, this was much smoother, with fewer obvious tannins. It also had many fruity aromas, and the extra smoothness pushed it to be the winner of the evening. The smoothness comparison with the first was surprising as this one is both younger and made mostly of a more tannic grape. It only goes to show that you actually have to taste the wines and cannot rely on theoretical expectations.

We moved on to the final wine of the evening Château Citran 'Moulins de Citran' 2012, Haut-Médoc, 13%, £16.99. Moulins de Citran is the estate's second wine. This means that it's made from slightly younger vines than the Grand Vin. Although it was OK, the wine tasted as though it was well past its best and had not kept as well as perhaps it should have done. As so often for the group, the most expensive wine is the one that is enjoyed the least.

We are currently looking for a small number of people to come and join us, so if you interested in tasting wine, please get in touch to arrange a tester session with us.

[Jonathan Shaw](#) 07960 203375

Royal Courts of Justice Trip

HWu3a outside the Royal Courts of Justice on our recent trip. Most of us also went into one of the courts at the Old Bailey to see a very small part of a trial.

[Maryan Richardson](#)



The picture to the left is of Britain's smallest, listed building and is Lincolns Inn - it was a stable! [Helen Salisbury](#)



The Rotary Club of Market Harborough SwiMarathon

APPLY FOR YOUR GRANT NOW!

Does your group, team or club have a special project, event or outing planned in the next twelve months? If so, it may be eligible for one of the Market Harborough Rotary Club's SwiMarathon grants.

You can apply for funds to support a worthy cause or project by completing an application form, which can be obtained by email from Rotarian Carole Baldam at carolebaldam50@gmail.com or phone 07745031945.

SHARE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

April 12 - 16





YARROW GALLERY

2 Glapthorn Road, Oundle, PE8 4JF

April 12 - 16

11 am - 4 pm daily

 Sharephotography.northants@gmail.com
 [sharephotographynorthants](https://www.instagram.com/sharephotographynorthants)

Hear The Old Grey Dogs
Saturday 15 April 2pm

Angela Lloyd of our Tuesday Photographic group is taking part in this event.

Answer to Page 13: We were visiting Jeyes Fluid Museum and Coffee shop at Earls Barton.

STOP PRESS



This is Ian, in the dining car of the Great Central Railway, Leicester to Loughborough, (Return).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-65115018#chameleon-global-navigation-more-menu>

Have you any of your favourite / exotic train journeys to share with the May Magazine?



Tuesday Walking Group

Starting from the Ashby Arms pub in the small village of Hungarton on a glorious sunny day, the group made their way through the village to the church of St John the Baptist. Then we took a footpath over grass fields to the Hungarton road where we stopped to look at a pair of peacocks.

We then walked along a short stretch of road before we turned onto a bridleway and enjoyed the good views as we followed the way markers to Quenby Hall, an impressive Hall built in the early 17th century.

At the end of the driveway, we crossed two grass fields and made our way back to the pub where we all enjoyed lunch.



Diana Baxter 0116 279 2947