

Newsline Extra

June 2022 No 30

The monthly news from Southwell U3A



Photograph by John Mason. The photography group go out in all weathers with great success!!

Heading into the Jubilee celebrations, whether you are a monarchist or a republican, I do hope that you will get the opportunity to spend some extra time with family and friends over the coming days. I'm sure it's the thing that we missed most during the pandemic and many of us now seem to be trying to make up for lost time. For example, I was not surprised to see that all 60 tickets for our June cruise on the Trent had completely sold out by the end of our last monthly meeting. We will be trying to extend the Jubilee feel good factor by asking those attending our next monthly meeting on 7th June to wear anything they have left of their Jubilee outfits or at least something red, white or blue. Let's see what you can come up with!

Financial matters are never far from any Chair's mind and I met with our Treasurer, Jan Clarke-Humphries, and Vice Chair, Marjorie Bramhill, a week or two ago to discuss our financial situation. Although I must stress that Southwell u3a is not in any sort of financial crisis, our normal expenditure has exceeded our income for the past few years now. This has been a deliberate policy, in order to run down a surplus that we accumulated some years ago. We do, though, need to consider how we might balance the books in years to come and so Jan, Marjorie and I met to discuss the various options.

Southwell u3a's only income is our membership subscriptions and the associated Gift Aid. Nevertheless, we felt that increasing our subscription fee from the current £20 would be unpopular and unfair, particularly at a time when many other day-to-day costs are increasing. We, therefore, looked at what savings might be made to bring our expenditure back into line with our income. What stood out from our accounts is that the yearly rental of our office in the Minster Chambers is the equivalent of over £4 out of every member's annual subscription. We felt that this could no longer be justified, particularly in view of the very low usage of the office facilities, and so we put forward a proposal to the rest of the management committee that the office should be closed.

This proposal was agreed by the full committee and so it is now our intention to close the office from 1st November 2022. A small subgroup of the committee will oversee the closure, including the identification of alternative storage solutions for the records, equipment and photocopier which are currently housed there. Do please get in touch if you think you may be able to help with this in any way. In the meantime, the office will remain available for use by any groups and individuals and keys to the office are available from the usual committee members.

My apologies that this may have been a slightly more serious "From the Chair" than usual. I know of course that what you are really waiting for is my Joke of the Month but just to continue the theme:

I finally decided to sell our vacuum cleaner. All it was doing was just gathering dust!

All the Best!

Brian

Keep an eye open for notices from Social and Trips Committee Members who have great plans for activities for over the coming year.

Newsline team: Anne Greenaway and Jane Zdanowski—su3anewsline@gmail.com

Lovely Jubilee!!

Chair

Our next monthly meeting on Tuesday 7th June will be a couple of days after the main Jubilee celebrations. I hope though that you won't, by then, be completely Jubilee'd-out and have turned all bah humbug! I guess those of us at the meeting will have lived through all, or very nearly all, of the Queen's 70 years as British Monarch. It really does then seem appropriate that we should in some way celebrate this remarkable period that we have all lived through together.

We would like all those attending to wear any appropriate Jubilee attire - or at least something red, white or blue. If you have any Union Flags – large or small, for waving or draping - please bring them. If you've got a red, white and blue hat, please wear it. If you're a dab hand at making cakes, please bake us a cake and we'll dish out the slices with the tea and coffee (do put a note

Third Age Matters

Third Age Matters magazine is published by the Third Age Trust five times a year and posted direct to members' homes. It includes stories about members and u3a activities, features about technology, recipes, travel, and competitions, and a letters section. It is sent to all members of Southwell u3a as part of their subscription. However, if you prefer to opt out of receiving Third Age Matters, you may do so by emailing the membership secretary and your name will be deleted from the circulation list.

Membership Cards

The Membership Team currently has several hundred membership cards for the 2022/23 membership year ready and waiting to be collected. It would be too costly to post them and too time-consuming to hand deliver them all and so we do rely on members collecting them themselves, if they can possibly do so.

The cards can be collected at the membership table at each monthly meeting in Southwell Leisure Centre. They will also be available at the market stall which the Town Council have kindly given us for publicity purposes on the Saturday market in Southwell on 11th June between 9am and 3pm.

In future, we will be expecting members to show their membership cards on entry to the monthly meeting and other Southwell u3a events, as we used to do before the pandemic. It is appreciated that not everyone will be able to do so immediately and so please try to bring your old card along until you are able to get a new one.

If you are unable to collect your membership card in person, you may ask a friend to do so on your behalf.

Calendar

Those members who remember Newslines from pre-pandemic may recall a calendar was always featured giving the names and meeting details of all our groups. We would like to reinstate this but need a volunteer to take this task on. If you are interested in this role please contact su3anewslines@gmail.com and someone from the team will call you.

COFFEE MORNINGS

The fortnightly coffee Mornings held in Southwell Garden Centre, Fiskerton Road, are still going ahead. So if you fancy a chat and a coffee or tea come along. 10.30 am Thursday Mornings — 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 9th and 23rd June, there are usually one or two Committee members present.



Southwell u3a like all voluntary organisations relies on volunteers to take on many roles, each role requires a set of different skills but without those volunteers Southwell u3a would not exist. Volunteers for example participate in the welcome team at the monthly meetings, people hand deliver a printed copy of Newslines for those without computers, group leaders offer a diverse range of topics. Each of these volunteers should be valued and respected for their participation in the successful running of the organisation which the committee hopes will attract new members during a summer of events.

Date for Your Diary: **Wednesday 27 July 2.30-4pm**

A guided afternoon visit to Barnes Dairy Farm, Somerby near Melton Mowbray.

To include tractor trailer ride, watch the milking, feed the calves and taste the delicious cheeses made on the farm.

Cost is **£20** to include afternoon tea and cakes. Tickets will be on sale at June/ July meeting. Members are asked to use their own transport and offer any spare seats to other members.

FORTHCOMING VISIT TO FELLEY PRIORY GARDENS AND NURSERY

There will be a visit to Felley Priory gardens and Nursery on the 18th August. The cost will be £5 per person. Own transport and car sharing. There is a café where you can purchase lunch, coffee, tea, cake and sandwiches etc. at own cost or bring a picnic.

These gardens are very lush and the walking is easy with lots of benches to take a rest.

There is also a Nursery where plants can be purchased.



If you would like to go contact: t Monthly Meeting July/ August. Names and contact details will be taken for health and safety reasons.

Social and Trips Committee

Eighteen members went to the Aviation Heritage Museum on Tuesday 10th May to see 'Just Jane' the Avro Lancaster taxi and run her engines up. The sun shone and a good time was had by one and all. A bonus was the recently restored De-Haviland Mosquito which was also out for a maintenance check on the port engine. There are also lots of exhibits on this old second world war airfield and for anyone who missed this trip have a look on their website. It's not far and you can enjoy a welcome break in the NAAFI.



Lancasters



Mosquito

The River Cruise on the 20th June is sold out but if you want to go get your name on the waiting list in case of cancellations.

Reminder for Members going on Trent River Cruise Monday 20th June

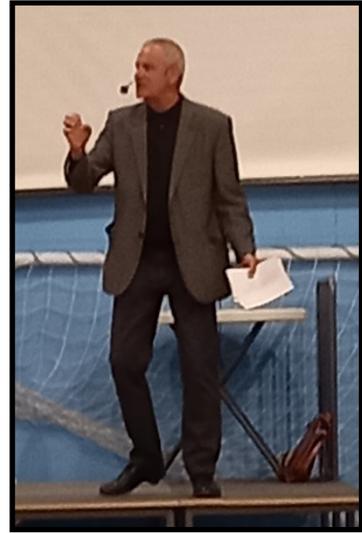
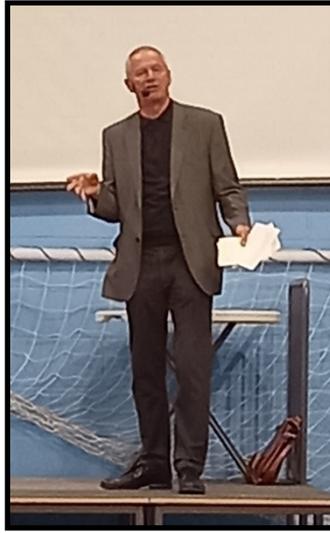
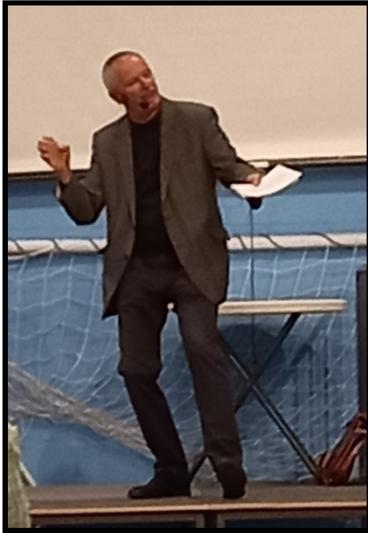
Don't forget Boarding for the trip is at 11.30am

If you can, offer a lift to friends to save the number of cars traveling to Colwick



We are trying to put together an interesting program of trips and social events for you but we desperately need more help. Unless a few more members come forward to help I am afraid the hoped for program will be curtailed. Please contact me at the Social and Trips Committee if you are able to help.

May Monthly Meeting



Numbers are creeping up and at our last monthly meeting around 140 members enjoyed a barnstorming performance by our speaker, Geoff Harris, former professional clown and currently a member of the Toastmasters Guild. His topic was *The London Nobody Tells You About*, the quirks and ancient rules and customs hiding in the back streets and in dusty archives of our capital city. Did you know, for example that there are no roads in the City of London, only streets, lanes and alleys? Or that the area known as Scotland Yard was the site of the former Scottish Embassy when Scotland was an independent Nation and technically, therefore, it could be considered part of Scotland! So if IndyRef2 (Independence Referendum mark 2) goes for independence expect legal wrangles to drag on for decades! What else? What about the crying statue in St Bartholomew the Great church? And what about Postman's Park, the Necropolis Railway, human toilets, gas lights, bridges, cemeteries and who can forget the Bishop of Winchester's Geese? Geoff covered all these and many more obscure oddities relating to the capital city, all delivered in a theatrical and most entertaining way. As Geoff said, nodding off wasn't allowed! And the general opinion after the talk seems to be that we should book him again for another of his talks.

Message received.

Next Meeting: On 7 June we will revert to using the main entrance at the Leisure Centre and as mentioned above the meeting is close to the National Platinum Jubilee celebration so the Committee hopes that everyone will come to the meeting wearing red, white and blue, and flags and silly hats are encouraged as well!

Our speaker will be talking about *Russia, Its People and History*. Cathy is an academic based at the University of Exeter specialising in Russian culture, also as a translator of the Russian classics. The talk was originally entitled *From Russia With Love* but in view of recent events the content has been rejigged and will be put into context what is currently going on in Ukraine.

In July we will have a medal winning Paralympian equestrian and World Dressage Champion, with her talk, *There's No Such Word as Can't*.

Volunteers urgently needed for Southwell u3a

Our new Editor has an excellent knowledge of Microsoft Publisher and is now editing Southwell u3a Newslines. However as the only editor she would very much welcome an offer from another member to provide some respite, support and guidance notes are available.

Newsline needs a person to collate all the information that comes in from members onto a Word document each month, a member is currently training for that role but we do need more than one person to undertake the job. The collator's job is to remind committee and members to send in material, to review and put all the material into a word document, to send the finished document to proof readers, incorporate changes and then finally to send to the editor. If you have a working knowledge of Word that would make it much easier to take this role over.

We also need somebody to create a calendar every month showing date and times when groups meet monthly and to update when required.

If you are interested in assisting in any way with Newsline please contact either the Chair, Brian Platts or Newsline editor on www.su3anewsline@gmail.com, where you will be warmly welcomed.



Add a Letter Word Puzzle

All you have to do is add a letter to match the clues given as in the following example:

Clues: Chemical Symbol – Pronoun – Fowl – Not Now

Answers: H – He – Hen – Then

Now You Do It. Answers on the Page 14

Clues

1. Exclamation – Genitive – Preposition – Lord
2. Article – Preposition – Head Warmer – Detest
3. Pronoun – Employ – Ponder – Entertain
4. Pronoun – Small – Dainty – Social Media Message
5. Elemental Symbol – Biblical City – Funeral Jar – Change Direction
6. Pronoun – Preposition – Rubbish Receptacle – Tie Up
7. Pronoun – Sheep – Jug – Smelly Place
8. Pronoun – Not Him – This Place – Somewhere else
9. Article – Conjunction – Body Part - Useful
10. Pronoun - Males – Religious Ending - Change

The Church Visiting Group (CVG)

On 29 April we were blessed again with sunny weather when we ventured out into the Lincolnshire countryside to visit the lovely little church at Coates by Stow with its complete rood screen, a very rare survival from pre-Reformation times. Then to Stow Minster dating from Saxon and Norman times, grand and austere, and possibly the coldest church in the country! A very nice lunch followed at the Cross Keys at Stow and the day finished with a visit to Torksey church.

CVG members at Coates by Stow church

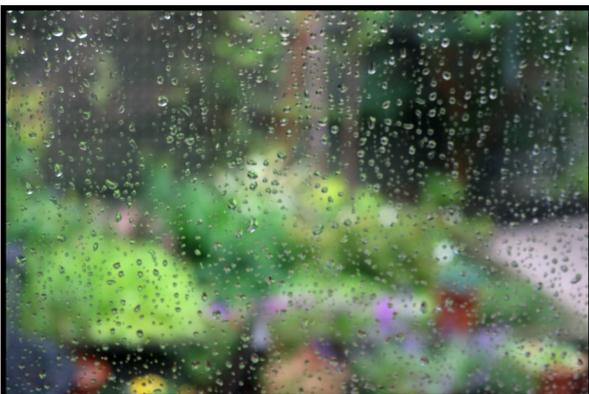


Our visit on 31st May was a bit different as we went to Launde Abbey to see its chapel, a remnant of the former Augustinian Priory. Several of the Group also went to a short service in the chapel. Also on the itinerary was a visit to Owston church, another surviving remnant from a former priory, the lovely little chapel at Withcote, now sadly redundant, and Somerby church. Lunch at Launde.

If anyone would like to join the Group or just wants more information, please contact our Leader

Photography Section

We meet, normally at Southwell Library, on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.00 until 4.00, looking at and commenting on our photos on a big screen, although we try to get out 'on location' as much as possible. Our last outing was to photograph bluebells at what may sound an uninspiring location near to Bilsthorpe tip, but there is a lovely old wood with an amazing display of native bluebells. More trips are being arranged for this year.



Our project for our June meeting is 'Rain'

Everyone is a photographer these days, everybody has a phone. You all take photos to record where you've been and who you were with – we in the Photo Section try to take it a stage further and look at a photograph as more than a record, but as an interesting or artful image in its own right. And phones these days are so clever that you do not need a camera to be a classy photographer.

Between us we cover a wide range of technical abilities, from novice to very accomplished. We do look at the technicalities, we try to explore the possibilities of manual settings in our cameras and phones, and what we can do with the picture on a computer, but the main thing is the image. Is it interesting?

We are always looking for more members, if you are interested contact our leader,

Family History Group

The Family History Group meets monthly on Zoom on the 3rd Monday in the month. A DNA sub group meets on the 2nd Monday in the month for those who have taken a test.

At our May meeting we looked at researching the family history of Victorian ancestors with many interesting examples. At the meeting, some of our members introduced their own ancestors and we heard some very surprising and poignant stories.

In our June meeting, we continue with a Victorian theme and on the 20th June at 2pm on Zoom we explore the Hidden Killers in Victorian Times. This was a time when cities were expanding and mass consumerism took hold. There were dangers all around from where they lived, the food they ate and even the clothes they wore. The Victorians were surrounding themselves with hidden killers.

New members are always welcome at our meetings. Just email me and I will send you a Zoom link (see below for email). If you are still new to Zoom we are always happy to help you online with Zoom.



Family History Beginners / Refreshers Course

If you wish to research your own family history and you are a complete beginner or maybe you just require a refresher, now is the time to put your name down for our course which starts in September. Places will be limited. This will normally be on the 1st Monday in the month 2pm – 4pm on Zoom, September to April.

The aim is for group members to be able to carry out their own research effectively by the end of the eight session course. Subjects covered include planning research, civil registration, censuses and parish registers. Sources and techniques will be demonstrated. There will also be the opportunity to progress your own family history helped by others from our u3a Family History Group during the sessions. The cost is just £12 and includes membership to the Family History Group for the year to March 2023. So as well as the beginners group meetings you will also be able to attend our regular Family History Group meetings.

If you would like further information please contact the Group Leader



Peak Walking Group 3

Lakeland Visit

Twelve members of Southwell u3a Peak Walking Group 3 spent a week based in Keswick walking the Northern Fells. The weather was particularly kind, and we had a week of blue skies and clear mountain tops and no rain!

Day 1: Seatoller to Keswick



Day 2: Derwent Water on the descent of High Peak



Day 4: Langstrath Valley

Social Bowls Group

Have you ever played bowls or are you interested in giving it a try?

We plan to set up a Southwell u3a social bowls group. This group is designed for those with little or no experience of playing lawn bowls. We will meet at a time to be agreed with the group, but possibly Wednesday morning or Friday afternoon at Farnsfield Bowling Club. The aim is to introduce members to the game of bowls by holding a relaxed, informal, social, bowling session. There will be some experienced members available to help those new to the game.

We will charge £3 per session which will go to Farnsfield Bowls Club for the use of their green and equipment.

To be viable we will need about 10 players at each session.

If you would be interested in joining the group please email.

We will then arrange an initial meeting to make further plans for the group.

Deadline for articles for the July issue of Newslines Extra will be 20th June. Please send items to **Newslines**

Revival of the Theatre Group

During the recent pandemic, Theatres, and Arts in general, suffered a devastating blow, so it is hardly surprising that both of our theatre groups were forced to suspend their activities.

However, with the lifting of restrictions a few of our most enthusiastic members met together to discuss the possibility of resurrecting these previously very popular groups. This meeting, and further follow up indicated that there are approximately 20 people who wish to renew their membership.

We have now agreed that we would like to offer to the wider membership the opportunity to join a theatre group. Currently we have capacity to accept about 10 new members but if the response is much greater it is possible to explore forming another group.

There will be a meeting to discuss this topic on 24th of June at 11.30am at Baptist Church Hall on Nottingham Road. If you are a potential new member and interested in finding out more, contact the leader of the Group

I look forward to hearing from you.



Visit to the Veolia Materials Recovery Unit

Members and their spouses are invited to a two hour seminar and tour of the Veolia Materials Recovery Unit at Warren Way, Crown Farm Industrial Estate, Mansfield, NG19 0RF on June 9th from 2pm-4pm.

The optional tour involves a two level climb up an exterior steel staircase.

The purpose of the visit is to acquaint you with the reasoning and correct use of your domestic recycling bins with the hope that more items can be recycled rather than going into the electricity generating furnace ("energy recovery facility") and never to landfill!

Coffee/tea and biscuits will be available. Car parking on site.



Research & Shared Learning National Conference 3rd August 2022

'She smuggled home her father's severed head, wrapped in her apron....'

This family story, handed down over generations, was a starting point members of for Glasgow West End Local History group. Working with local archives and museums, they uncovered the tragic story behind the death of James Wilson. You can share in these findings and more at our conference on 3rd August in Preston, Lancashire

From archaeology to urban sketching, there will be displays of members' work to to inspire, handouts to take away, presentations by project leaders and opportunities to ask questions.

The conference is open to those already involved in u3a research / shared learning projects, and also to any u3a member who wants to know more.

Here is the link to more details and the booking form <https://forms.gle/gUxvQcEecF7KJTW46>

Lunch will be provided. The venue is directly opposite Preston mainline station. If driving to the venue, Fishergate Shopping Centre Car park offers 24-hour parking for £8.50 and is a short walk from the venue.

u3a Science Network Anniversary meeting - 26 July 2022 (online event)

The July meeting on 26 July has been designated as the Anniversary meeting and is now available for booking on the national website.

This is a science-based learning event with 3 presentations of 45 minutes followed by questions after each, with a break for refreshments and for lunch. The meeting will start at 10:30 (doors open at 10:15) and will end with a short Summary and Thanks session at 3 o'clock.

Booking

To book a place on this Free event, please go to Events on the u3a national website and click the registration option for the u3a Science Network anniversary meeting on 26 July or directly here

[Eventbrite](#)

Come Dine With Us Recipe (CDWU)

GOBI PAKORAS – serves 2-4

Here is one of the 2 recipes that we cooked in our recent CDWU meeting, under expert instruction from guest chef Rama, licensee and chef of the Reindeer in Southwell. You may well have already sampled his pakoras, as an accompaniment to his regular Saturday night takeaway curries. I know that chefs usually guard their recipes but Rama is happy to share his secrets with us all!



INGREDIENTS

125g Gram (chickpea) flour – couldn't find any in Southwell but available from Morrisons and Tesco in their international food sections and from Asian grocery shops. Could also use cornflour but wouldn't have quite the authentic taste.

½ tsp turmeric powder, ½ tsp coriander powder, ½ tsp cumin powder
½ tsp chilli powder (optional) ½ tsp salt (or to taste) 150ml water

½ cauliflower, broken into florets and any thick stems removed (can use other vegetables such as broccoli florets or carrot sticks if preferred – see photo)

Vegetable oil for deep frying Plain yoghurt + chopped mint or coriander for dip

METHOD

Whisk up a smooth batter with the flour, spices, salt and water, adding the water a bit at a time. The batter should be not too thick but enough to thinly coat the vegetables. Dip the cauliflower florets (or other vegetables) into the batter, shaking off any excess. Meanwhile, unless you have a deep fat fryer, heat a pan approx. 1/3 full with vegetable oil to 160°C. Ideally check the temperature with a thermometer but otherwise when a small cube of bread sizzles and turns golden brown when dropped into the oil.

Slowly release the pakoras into the hot oil and fry in batches until golden, keeping an eye on the hot oil at all times. It should take about 5 mins for the pakoras to be fully cooked. If the batter browns and hardens before this, your oil may be too hot and your vegetables may not be fully cooked inside the batter (you may need to experiment with one or two batches to get the pakoras cooked to perfection).

Carefully remove the pakoras from the hot oil and allow to drain on some kitchen paper. Serve hot with a bowl of dip made from yoghurt and chopped mint or coriander. Any leftovers can be frozen and, after defrosting, crisped up again on a tray in the oven.

Enjoy!

Add a Letter Word Puzzle Answers

1. O – Of – Off – Toff
2. A - At – Hat – Hate
3. Us– Use – Muse – Amuse
4. We – Wee – Twee – Tweet
5. U – Ur – Urn – Turn
6. I — In – Bin - Bind
7. We – Ewe – Ewer – Sewer
8. He – Her – Here – There
9. An – And – Hand – Handy
10. Me – Men – Amen - Amend