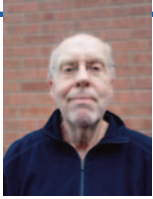




**Horncastle – ‘holme’ to the
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust**



From the editor...

Welcome to the March edition of the newsletter. As you're reading this, it means I've succeeded in getting my first edition together!

Last December saw the very successful trip to the Christmas market at Beverley in Yorkshire – and there is an upcoming trip to Ireland. This is a 5-day coach trip, staying at a hotel in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, in the south-east of the Republic. The price is £550 per person, which includes all ferry crossings and a free bar in the hotel. There might be a few seats left, so contact Marilyn Makins through the website if you're interested.

Your committee is always looking for things that are of interest to our members, so if there are any trips or events you'd like us to arrange, do let us know – through the website or at any of our monthly meetings.

u3a is a national organisation, and there is inevitably a committee structure that goes with this. It's recently been changed to separate the legal and organisational responsibilities. A new Board has

assumed the legal responsibilities, while a new Council is charged with ensuring that u3a as a whole gives its members what they want. No particular expertise is required – you just have to be a u3a member. The time commitment is significant, estimated at 1-2 days a week. If you are interested in putting yourself forward for election to the council, please get in touch with any committee member.

Talking of committees, several positions on our main committee will become vacant in the coming months, as long-serving members stand down. If you're interested in helping run our group, please get in touch.

We have a great programme of speakers lined up for our monthly meetings, covering all tastes and interests. Do come along – it's a great chance to chat to other members, apart from anything else! The January meeting with Sir Jonathan Van-Tam was a particular highlight, and there's a report about it in this newsletter.

Mark Ogilvie (Editor)

Financial & Membership

Financial

The main current account balance at the end of 2025 was £3,915.

The social account closing balance for the year was £789. This includes income and expenses for the Beverley Christmas trip in December 2025.

The funds accrued are yours – the membership of our Horncastle group. The committee do their best to spend this wisely, but please let us know if there is anything in particular you would like us to do with your money.

Membership

Horncastle u3a had 215 members as of December 2025. 36 new members joined the group during the year.



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Design and print:

Woodhall Photo Print & Copy,
Station Road, Woodhall Spa
LN10 6QL Tel: 01526 354949

New members' thoughts

In the 'Straight Story', Alvin explains to the girl hitchhiker how he demonstrated family to his kids by asking them to break a bundle of twigs tied together. They couldn't, too strong to snap. But if that sounds too Hollywood, then here's what some new family members have to say...

My introduction was purely by accident, as the class I hoped to attend was only open to u3a members. I subsequently joined u3a and was warmly welcomed and introduced to a wide range of other activities on offer. I was particularly impressed by the friendliness of the members. It was clear that u3a is not just about learning, but also about community, support, and enjoying new experiences together. — **Lesley**

In 2020, I had two heart attacks and a mini stroke, and now have six stents. It's taken a lot of recovery, and going back to croquet this last couple of years has really helped with my fitness. I'm always looking for ways to pass away the miserable winter months, and u3a seemed the ideal solution. New Age Kurling is proving a very enjoyable couple of hours every other week, and the monthly talk is very interesting and social. I am really enjoying my membership and thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and helping me regain my confidence after a rough few years." — **Enid**

"I was aware of u3a for some years, but having been on my own for four years I decided to take a serious look at what it had to offer. My motivation was to meet new people and learn new skills – but what skills I had no idea! Since joining, I've enjoyed sessions of New Age Kurling and MOTO, enjoying a warm welcome at both groups. I was impressed that u3a could secure Sir Jonathan Van-Tam as the January speaker, a real highlight. I'm looking forward to my first outing with the Strollers, and have volunteered to assess the route for the next walk. Everything so far has been extremely positive. As a new member, I feel reasonably 'engaged', and I'm looking forward to exploring the diverse range of groups available." — **Robin**

Creative Photography

The Creative Photography group continues to meet each month, and we have recently been experimenting with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in photo editing.

This may sound a little daunting, and given some of the recent news stories about it we were somewhat apprehensive. However, it really is quite straightforward to use, and can have dramatic results – see the series of three photos below.

The first one is the original image. It shows the group's founder and longstanding leader, Andy Mathieson, drinking his tea after a u3a meeting a couple of years ago. Sadly, Andy died last year, so we include these pictures as a tribute to him. (I'm not sure what he would have made of the use of AI in photography, though!)

If you search Google for 'chatgpt', you can easily access the ChatGPT AI system, free of charge. A text box appears on opening, into which we copied and pasted the image – and then simply typed in 'make the person in the picture be playing a ukelele'. Click on the 'go' button, and in about 30 seconds the second image was created!

Those of you who knew Andy will recall that he was very much a part of the Horncastle Ukelele Group (HUGS), so we decided to make his dream come true and asked ChatGPT to make it look like he was playing at Wembley Arena – see the final image.

I am sure that you will agree that this is a powerful tool with many and varied uses, and I would encourage you to have a go.

— **Mike Harrison**





Pilates Please!

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise suitable for men and women of all ages. It is beneficial for everyday living, and will help keep you mobile and functioning. Part of the Pilates philosophy is ‘listening’ to your body – becoming aware of which muscles you are using during the movements. This can take a bit of doing, but is really beneficial.

Tracey modifies exercises for anyone who needs an alternative, and inspires pain-free movement through self-awareness. The aim is to create a sense of freedom and ease in our movement, enriching everyday life.

There is a group exclusively for Horncastle u3a members taught by Tracey Job. It’s at the Methodist Church Hall in Queen Street on Wednesday mornings at 11am. The cost is £5, paid to Tracey on the morning. Availability of places changes, but there are usually a few spare places for any newcomers.

You’ll need to bring an exercise mat, head support block, towel or small cushion and chi ball (a small inflatable

ball used in some balancing exercises) – readily available in places like GO Outdoors or online.

Here are a few comments from group members:

“I enjoy the Pilates because our Tutor, Tracey, is so good! She demonstrates, explains and talks us gently through each move in a calm and cheerful way. No two classes are quite the same. I always feel good after each session and look forward to Wednesday mornings.” – Jean

“I’ve had sciatica for 6 years, during which I’ve been seeing the physio at the Horncastle GP practice. She recently commented that I’m moving much more easily since I started Pilates.” – Julia

And your newsletter editor can vouch for the improvement in a niggly left shoulder since he’s been going to Pilates, too!

If you would like more details or are interested in joining us, please contact the group leader, Yvonne McKay – details are on the u3a website.

Croquet Group

Croquet: six hoops, four balls, a pair or two of mallets, and a patch of grass. Sounds easy enough!

But croquet is a game of skill and strategy, angles, tactics, and guile. A bit like snooker on grass, if you only got one shot at a time, and your opponent could knock your ball to the far end of the table, or jump over it to score before you! It offers sport, friendship, fun and competition.

Croquet is played on equal terms by men and women, young and old. The basic skills are easily learned, but the tactics evolve and change with your physical skills. It keeps you on your mental toes, with some gentle exercise thrown in.

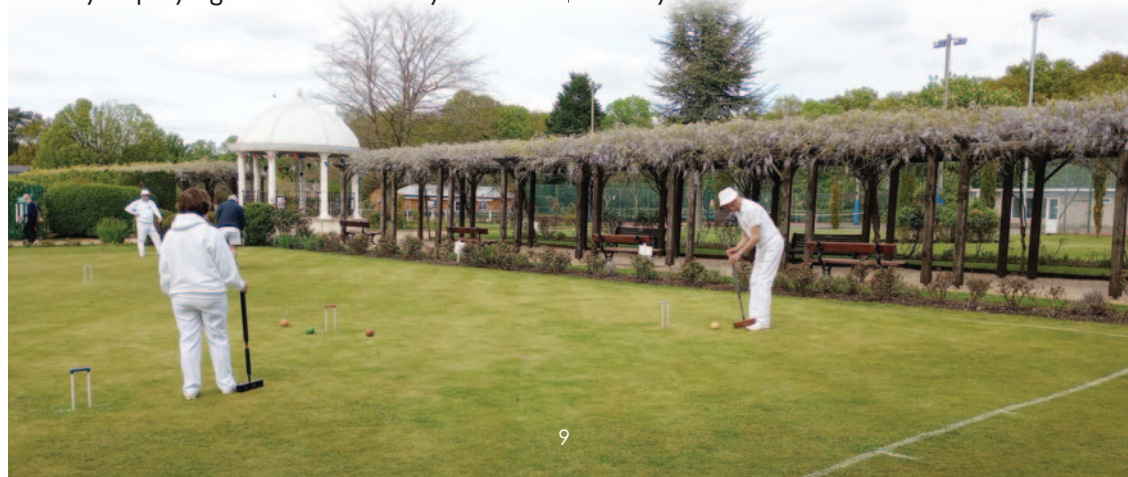
Woodhall Spa (WSCC) is the oldest and largest croquet club in Lincolnshire, and the u3a section has long been an important part of it. The club provides the equipment – all you need are flat shoes. We have four qualified coaches who will quickly get you playing at a level where you can

call yourself a croquet player.

The playing fee is £5 per session for those members of the u3a who aren’t members of WSCC. The u3a members who have also joined WSCC will enjoy complimentary play. The season’s fees are collected and paid into WSCC’s account, which goes towards upkeep of the lawn and loan of the equipment.

The club prides itself on being friendly and welcoming, with laughs as plentiful as the tea and biscuits. The new season will be starting again in April, depending on weather and lawn conditions. But come rain or shine, the Group Leader will be in attendance, every Tuesday morning 10am to 12am, and we will be delighted to see you on our lawns in Jubilee Park, Woodhall Spa. If you can’t join us on a Tuesday morning, do drop by any of our Sunday afternoon meetings for an introductory session.

For further information (including WSCC membership) please contact: Wendy Cotton on 07504 401878.



I taught craft and design for over 30 years, and when I retired I wanted to use the skills and knowledge I had acquired. But how? I had always liked working with small, fiddly projects – I'd previously made model steam engines with my GCSE classes, but the equipment

needed for this was specialised and expensive. So I decided to try using wood, instead. Marquetry seemed sufficiently challenging, and I only needed the hand tools I already had to get started – so my journey began!

Marquetry is the art of precisely cutting very thin leaves of wood, and gluing them onto a base to make either a pattern (parquetry) or a picture (marquetry). It's a bit like an upmarket jigsaw puzzle! It needs patience, accuracy and the right technique to achieve good results. It's a slow process, requiring patience and many hours. The technique was once very popular, being used to decorate all sorts of fine wooden furniture – tables, desks and



Mad About Marquetry

for a first attempt – but I thought I could do better. My brother is a keen chess player, and of course he wanted a similar box. Then followed boxes for friends and family, each decorated with scenes reflecting their particular interests – including fishing, seafaring, yoga and jewellery.

As with all skills, the more I made the better I got at it, and I became happier with what I was achieving. But I was still buying standard base boxes of low-quality softwood. It was time to start making the whole thing myself – base and patternwork together. I bought a router, sander, table-saw and drill press. And all that woodworking needed better dust extraction equipment, too. If a job's worth doing,

sideboards – but has sadly fallen out of fashion in recent times.

My first foray was making a box for my chess pieces, using a cheap ready-made box as the base. I decorated the top with chess piece designs on a background of black and white squares. I was pleased with it

it's worth doing well!

I've since made many tables, boxes, letter-racks, coasters, bookmarks, chess boards and key-racks – and started selling them, too. At first, I used Folksy (a web site similar to Etsy, but UK-based). But this was time-consuming and expensive, as I had to do all the packing and postage, and pay commission. Selling at local craft fairs proved time-consuming and rather unrewarding, too.

But in 2016 we moved to Horncastle and I discovered Damselfly Living – a shop in Louth that sells only handmade items from local artisans and artists. It's much more rewarding financially, as their customers appreciate exceptional design and craftsmanship, and are prepared to pay



a fair price – plus I don't have to worry about packaging. The only drawback is having to keep up with demand, but that's a nice problem to have.

Believe it or not, I find most of the wood for the bases in skips! – but I only pick out hardwoods, such as oak, beech and mahogany. I buy the wood veneers online – walnut, sycamore, maple and many others, including zebrano or zebrawood which has dark, wavy streaks against a golden background. It's important to use contrasting woods, so that the pattern stands out.

I find the infinite variety of grains and figures of the different woods very inspiring. I really enjoy working with these to create products that are useful, decorative and of a high quality. I like to make unique and individual pieces, and no two will ever be the same.

And if someone likes it enough to buy it, all the better.

– Vaughan McKay



The wildflower meadow behind Banovallum House

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Horncastle

Walk from the Market Place along Manor House Street, passing St Mary's Church and the community centre until the road comes to an end. Ahead is the driveway of a large, attractive 18th century house known as Banovallum House. The house originally formed part of the Revesby estate, owned by the explorer and naturalist, Sir Joseph Banks. Legend has it that he himself planted the walnut tree in the grounds. It has also been a doctor's house and surgery, and a garden centre, but since 1993 has been the headquarters of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

By the start of the 1990s, the Trust had outgrown its accommodation in the Manor House in Alford; its home since 1965. The location of Banovallum House was ideal, reasonably central in the county and



Priority – ducks!

in the middle of Horncastle. The property also included a walled garden, a large paddock and about 200 metres of the River Bain.

As well as providing the offices and meeting rooms for the Trust staff, Banovallum House is also one of the Trust's nature reserves and it symbolises, albeit in a smaller scale than many reserves, some of the Trust's aims and purpose. At the heart of the Trust's work, are the nature reserves: places that protect wildlife and natural features.

No reserve is the same as another: each has different habitats and wildlife, and different levels of access. Some reserves have waymarked trails and birdwatching hides. At others, access is best left being visual: the small meadows where walking through them would mean trampling the important wildflowers including rare orchids or at Willow Tree Fen where you look out over a rich vista filled with life and possibly with a pair of cranes and their chick.

From Gibraltar Point, the first Trust nature reserve in 1949, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has expanded considerably and now has over 27,000 members and 100 nature reserves. These nature reserves amazing places, teeming with wildlife. The most precious habitats and species in the county are found within them and thousands of people visit every year.

In terms of biodiversity, Banovallum House is ranked 16th out of all the Trust reserves (pretty impressive, considering its small size) with a total of 1,439 species recorded. Undoubtedly, having staff based there, recording the species they see on lunch breaks in the grounds has boosted this total. The river provides regular sightings of kingfisher, grey wagtails, banded demoiselles and tantalising indications of otters. In spring and summer, the meadows are dotted with the colours of wildflowers and butterflies. Kestrels hover overhead and buzzards are often seen high above.

As well as the wildlife, Banovallum House shows how the Trust looks for opportunities to make more space for wildlife and work in partnership to achieve more. From the initial purchase in 1993, Banovallum House



Harrison's Holme – the new reserve for Horncastle



Banovallum House

as a nature reserve has expanded twice. First in 1995, with the purchase of the adjoining meadow known as Staunch Field. Then, in 2025, to the south of the A158, on land bordered on two sides by the River Bain and River Waring called Harrison's Holme. Working with East Mercia Rivers Trust, the area will be re-landscaped creating a series of microhabitats that will support a diverse range of plants, insects, reptiles and amphibians, small mammals and birds.

Harrison's Holme is being designed to allow for the more natural movement and storage of water. It's not unique for the nature reserve to store water at times of flood or to slow the flow of water through the landscape. And the undisturbed soils of woodland, grassland, wetland and peatland are locking away carbon. Carefully managed and monitored, nature reserves could also help us face the climate crisis.

Beyond the reserves, the impact is expanded still further by working in partnership with other landowners and organisations. Across Lincolnshire, land is being managed with nature in mind and wildlife surveys are being carried out. All from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's headquarters in Horncastle.

— Rachel Shaw, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Derek has been a member of Horncastle u3a for many years, and is the current Chairman. Now retired, he enjoyed a varied career which started for him in Uxbridge at the age of fifteen, when he walked out of school. He found an apprenticeship with an electrical contractor, and after five years moved on to the RAF where he served for twelve years. Derek, with his wife and children, lived in several places with the RAF, and eventually wanted a more settled life for the family. Stints at Marconi and the Prudential followed, in Chelmsford, before a life and career change led him to become a Prison Officer, where he needed many skills, including communication and people-handling.

Asked to describe himself in three words, he chose (after some hesitation) Christian, Caring and Empathetic. He is a born-again Christian and says that

Profile on: Derek Smith



this guided him into work in semi-retirement in Devon, which led to his undertaking courses in counselling and leadership, and supporting people who needed help with drug and alcohol abuse.

A three-year semi-retirement in Spain, also involving voluntary community work, followed by the ill health and the sad loss of his wife, led him to Lincolnshire, where he has family. He moved to Louth, where he volunteered at the Museum, before a mixture of chance and divine intervention led him to Horncastle. He likes our town for its character, interesting small shops and regular bus services and feels the downsides are the increasing heavy traffic and worsening of the road surfaces due to potholes.

A main interest is photography. He is obviously very good at this, judging by some super images in his home, but his Louth Photography

evening unfortunately clashes with the meeting of our own Creative Photography Group. Derek also enjoys leading the Horncastle Cooperative Wellbeing health walks, where he chooses from a variety of shortish (2 -3 miles) routes around the town.

He enjoys the u3a Games Group and MOTO (Members On Their Own) which seems to be developing into a dining club. He would generally sum up his u3a experience as Supportive, Friendly and Encouraging and enjoys the opportunities for socialising.

When asked to list his greatest achievements in life, so far, he cited happiness, an enjoyable life, a varied career and rewarding volunteering roles. Asked for his advice, on Life the Universe and All That, he listed "Don't be stubborn, don't be shy and don't think you are always in the right." Sound advice.

— Yvonne Mathieson

NEW BEGINNINGS

Kris and
Mike Stanley

The time had arrived. One last look back at the house – should have dug up some Japanese anemones to take with us, sadly too late, now we are pulling away from the kerb, saying goodbye to our family home of 43 years.

Goodbye to Staffordshire, after packing all our possessions ourselves, in one nightmare week, all our furniture, piece by piece, lowered down the narrow staircase, children's toys and clothes (should have been disposed of, but never could), down from the attic, loaded onto a large van outside and driven away in batches into storage some eight miles away, lifted out again at the other end up the lift, into storage units, first one, then another – finally a shipping container. It's beyond our understanding, looking back, how we did it. Was that really us? Were we that clever? Were we that stupid?

We can't recall where we parked for our first night of homelessness in our campervan, but it was a wet miserable night, even for August, somewhere on a vergeside, in a post-move daze. That first morning afterwards,

sitting in McDonalds with the laptop – the search for a new home had begun. Where to go? The Lakes, Cotswolds, North Norfolk, Yorkshire, each with its own particular attractions. But Lincolnshire seemed the most affordable.

How come we knew so little of Lincolnshire? Even though well travelled, somehow we had missed the Lincolnshire Wolds. It was a revelation to find such a beautiful area. In all we viewed over 60 properties, from old dilapidated farmhouses to bungalows and cottages. We at last settled on a property in a village close to Horncastle and spent over two months on negotiations, but had to pull out on the last day of October, due to an unsurmountable problem.

Music Appreciation Group

Just over two years ago, Jeff Jones (our Membership Secretary) and I formed a Music Group to give members the opportunity to listen to and appraise music in its myriad forms. Jeff has a formidable music collection and a state-of-the-art music system, and other members supplement the music offerings as required.

The Group explores not only classical music but also ventures into many other genres, including jazz, popular music, opera, film scores and even progressive rock. Each piece of music is introduced and its story told. At the end, it is

Our hope of being in a new property in time for Christmas now looked like an impossibility. Two whole months lost, and storage costs mounting.

Looking back, this was our lowest point – a disappointing blow, and campervan conditions were beginning to take a toll, with winter conditions looming. But that's when something amazing happened! Walking into a Horncastle estate agent one morning, we spotted a lovely farmhouse, which we had previously seen advertised as sold, but had loved at first sight. Now it was back on the market, and we could make a cash offer.



At last! We got the keys to the house, arriving very late with two huge removal vans in tow. After four months on the road, surviving some pretty challenging conditions and setbacks, we had finally found our house – and right in the heart of Tennyson country, too. An extract from his 'Ulysses' is pinned above the door – "Come..., 'tis not too late to seek a newer world, for my purpose holds... to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield." Turning the key in the lock we couldn't believe all our efforts had paid off so spectacularly... new county... new house... new neighbours... new beginnings... ■

discussed and assessed, and judged on its merits. We have had some interesting comments! Of course, not everything is universally popular – we try to cover all tastes, and sometimes get 'nul points' from some members!

We are fortunate in that we live in a country where music is a prominent part of artistic and general life, from the international success of popular bands to the works of our great composers. Each has their place in

our repertoire. Music stirs and delights us, whether it is Classic FM, BBC Radios 2, 3 and 6, or even Kerrang! Radio. What would life be without music to cheer us?

So the Group flourishes. Unfortunately, we don't have room for additional members at present, but when a vacancy arises we shall be happy to welcome you. Do email us if you are interested in joining us in the future! — Neil Carter

We flew just before Easter, wondering what adventures awaited. We arrived at our friends' house to find fruit-laden orange and lemon trees, a garden bursting with salad crops, and strawberries in abundance – in March!

Preparations for Easter were in full swing. Butchers in the local market were doing a roaring trade, with customers carrying off whole sides of lamb. Easter in

Cyprus is a real family celebration as well as a religious festival. We joined the fray at a stall selling wonderfully marinated lamb, cooked kebab style and

served in pitta bread, and fresh salad with Greek dressing. Delicious! This was our introduction to souvlaki and ladolemono, a classic oil and lemon dressing. Greek cuisine is not boring nor complicated – just mouthwatering.

It was too early for the sea to be warm, but the right time to see a carpet of wild flowers bloom before succumbing to a scorching sun. We travelled to relatives in Lefkara, a small village west of Larnaca renowned for intricate lacemaking, a true home industry handed down through genera-

tions. They lived in a traditional house built around a shady courtyard with a lovely cool fountain. Once inside, we were served Turkish coffee and soft drinks, preserved grapefruit, and invited by the menfolk to sample their zivania, a mightily strong grape spirit – “Stin iyia mas!” (to our health).

As Easter approached, our hosts' reverence for the Greek Orthodox Church became more evident, and we

were happy to join the local community in celebrations. It began in the town with the local priest, in surplice and carrying a large golden cross, leading the congregation. Everyone cir-

cuitied the church to the sound of firecrackers! These were apparently to signify breaking open the tomb where Jesus' body had lain.

There followed a solemn service in the church, and on leaving everyone exchanged the greeting “Christos anesti” (Christ is risen), to which the response is “Alithos anesti” (I believe he is risen). The sincerity, love and acceptance of those people was moving.

Three months later the Turkish invasion began...

— **Graham Hutton**

A trip to Cyprus!



Image: Richard Crossley, Wikipedia



The pheasants have been disposed of. The brutal sounds that have punctuated the air for the past four months have finally ceased, and the guns have fallen silent. As if to celebrate the fact, the sun is shining, and the sky, a pale winter blue, is stretching as far as the eye can see, disturbed only by the occasional brush stroke of a cloud.

Amazingly, the birds are already returning to the lake. Striding along the top of the banks are the imperious, pink footed geese. In tight formation they swing first this way and then that, checking that nothing has changed since the last time they were here. The mallard ducks are back on the water, steering clear of the still-frozen sheets of ice, that lay like cracked and broken panes of glass, fracturing into intricate patterns. Even a passing seagull has parked himself on one of these

counterpanes, happily surveying the scene. A few scoters glide silently past, no doubt also driven in from the coast by the cold weather, and here dippers are busy disappearing and reappearing from beneath the water, searching for food.

The air is still, and unbroken, my presence being the only other being here. A rare and precious time to experience the last of nature's long sleep before gearing herself up for the tasks of Spring, when once again the lake will burst with the noise and activity of a new year.

— **Brenda Mumford**

Editor's Note: The velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) is a large sea duck, which breeds over the far north of Europe and the Palearctic west of the Yenisey basin. The genus name is derived from Ancient Greek *melas* "black" and *netta* "duck". (Wikipedia).

Supper Club

Our Gastronomic Year 2025

The u3a Supper Club is a really simple idea – once a month, we meet up to enjoy good food and a chat! We are a mix of couples and singles. The thing we all have in common is we like eating out at different restaurants and pubs around the county.

We meet once a month, 11 times a year, in the evenings. To make sure things go smoothly, we pre-order our food choices a week in advance. This helps the eateries to be ready for us, and means we're not waiting ages for the food to come – just long enough to have a chat and catch up on news!

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at the venue at 6 pm for 6.30 pm. Our group is currently full, but I would help set up another Supper Club for someone else to run.

Here are some of the places we went to in 2025:

- *Montebello Ristorante* (Horncastle) – lovely Italian food in January with a return visit in September
- *The Abbey Lodge Inn* (Woodhall Spa) – a roaring log fire in February, ice cream sundaes in August
- *Agra Tandoori* (Coningsby) – a good warming curry in March
- *The George & Dragon* (Hagworthingham) – steak night for meat-lovers



- *The King's Treasure* (Horncastle) – a great traditional Chinese restaurant. I even managed a banana fritter!
- *The Blue Bell Inn* (Tattershall Thorpe) – a traditional inn with a great war time history (see the coins pressed into the rafters)
- *The Nelson Butt* (Spilsby) – a hidden gem offering great food and value for money
- *Flair Bistro* (Coningsby) – an exciting restaurant to end our year. The owners worked under Gordon Ramsay & Angela Hartnett. Amazing food and a special evening.

I took over the group in 2023 from Lynn Urbanowicz, who was an amazing group leader. If you'd like to come along, do get in touch.

— Carolyn Lyle

Games Group

The Board Games group has been running successfully now for a few years, but due to the interest in card games, we've renamed it 'The Games Group'.

Many of the traditional games – Chess, Backgammon, Scrabble and Upwords – are still very popular. Most people are familiar with them and know how to play, and they are as much fun to play as ever.

However, there are lots of other games – such as Rummicub, Bananagrams and Quirkle – that don't require a board at all. These are card-based games that require little or no setting up, and it's quick and easy to learn the basics of how each game is played. Of course, mastering the more subtle points can take a lot longer! – but then this is the real fun of playing these games. The important thing is

that you can join in straight away.

The group meets in the Lounge area of Ancaster Court, which is the retirement complex just off the Wong – turn off South Street by the Big Chair Company. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons of each month, from 2pm until 4pm. There is a minimal charge of 50p to cover refreshments.

Many people used to enjoy playing card games and board games with their family – but often these games have been left forgotten

in cupboards under the stairs or in the loft, as families grow up and move away. But they're still great fun – so why not rekindle your interest? Come along and have a go!

If you have a favourite game that you would like to play, feel free to bring it along and introduce it to the group. It's always good to give the old grey matter something new to learn. If you'd like to give it a go, contact me at vaughanmckay@madasa-fish.com.

— Vaughan McKay



Readers Group

What could be more enjoyable on a cold and grey winter's day than snuggling up on a sofa and losing yourself in a good book? But we also put on our coats and gloves, and venture out to gather with our fellow readers for a discussion about the books we read.

We read one book a month. They vary in length and content, all chosen by us from a good list of options. Here are a few:

"The Long Call" by Ann Cleeves. Written by the 'Vera' creator and set in Devon, a body bearing a tattoo of an albatross is found on a quiet beach. Detective Matthew Venn's investigation will gradually unveil the deadly secrets that lurk just out of sight. Well received, and the majority enjoyed it.

"The Way of All Flesh" by Ambrose Parry. Surprisingly well received, bearing in mind its gruesome content. In 19th century Edinburgh, Will Raven is medical apprentice to the brilliant

Dr Simpson, a pioneer of anaesthesia. Sarah Fisher, housemaid to the Simpson household, has all of Raven's intelligence but none of his privileges. In a twisting plot involving gangs and murders, Will and Sarah combine to investigate! The book highlighted the limited opportunities for women at that time, while detailing a fascinating period of medical history. All enjoyed.

"The Coffin Path" by Katherine Clements. In a time when witchcraft and the Devil featured in everyday life, Scarcross Hall stands on an old coffin path high on the moors. Home to Mercy Booth, it has a reputation for evil – shadowy figures, mysterious watchers, ancient coins going missing – an unsettling book, but one enjoyed by the group.

So why a reading group? Well, we enjoy discussing and comparing our feelings about the books – and discovering different views which hadn't occurred at all. It also broadens your reading horizons. Both the reading groups are full at the moment, but if there is enough interest we could form a third group.

— Janet Disney

Date	Speaker	Topic
April 7th	Rosanna McGlone	The Feisty Females of Medieval Lincolnshire
May 5th	Evie Kimsen	Communities and Voluntary Service
June 2nd	TBA	Speaking in Public
July 7th	Jan Wright	Mary's Meals (school meals charity)
August 4th	TBA	
September 1st	Chris Jones	Long distance walking for Charity
October 6th	Joanne Lyon	Hearing impairment
November 3rd	TBA	Visual Impairment
December 1st	Xmas Party	No speaker

Group	When	Time	Group leader and contact details
The Art Enthusiasts	3rd Wednesday	2-4 pm	Anne Calvert-Tinsley (07598) 372825 annectinsley1922@gmail.com
Farming and Biodiversity	4th Thursday	10 am	Peter Irons (07939) 575611 peterirons48@yahoo.co.uk
Board Game Group	2nd-4th Monday	2-4pm	Vaughan Mackay (01507) 527318 vaughan@madasafish.com (07724) 078967
Book Worms	2nd Monday	2-4pm	Brenda Mumford (01507) 522447
Creative Photography	1st Thursday	7-9pm	Mike Harrison (01507) 522674 michael.harrison9@sky.com
Creative Writing	3rd Tuesday	2-4.30pm	Helen Peters helendpeters@yahoo.com
Croquet (summer only)	Every Tuesday	10am-12pm	Wendy Cotton (01526) 352885
Dog Walking	1st Saturday	10am	Mike Harrison (01507) 522674 michael.harrison9@sky.com
Edible Gardening	1st Monday	2-4 pm	Robin Wilmshurst (07729) 875937
Exploring Churches	3rd Tuesday	10am	Jeff Jones (01507) 588421 etijeffrey99@gmail.com
Financial Forum	2nd Thursday	10am-12pm	Neil Carter neil637carter@btinternet.com
Five Milers	4th Thursday	Morning	New leader required immediately Contact Marion Prickett if interested marion.egp@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	1st & 3rd Friday	10-11am	Anne Willows (01507) 343964
Knitting for Charity	2nd-4th Thursday	2pm	Marilyn Makins marilynmakins@hotmail.co.uk
Literary Group	3rd Monday	2pm	Jean Preston (01507) 239761 prestonsjyg21@gmail.com (07930) 039712
MOTO (Members on Their Own)	3rd Wednesday	2-4pm	Derek Smith (07526) 718253
New Age Kurling	2nd-4th Friday	2-4 pm	Mike Harrison (01507) 522674 michael.harrison9@sky.com
Outings	Occasional		Marilyn Makins marilynmakins@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates	Every Wednesday	11-11.50	Yvonne Mackay (01507) 527318 yvonnemckay315@gmail.com
Prose & Poetry	1st Thursday	2-4 pm	Phyll Durow (01507) 522356
Strollers	2nd Thursday	10.15 am	Marilyn Makins marilynmakins@hotmail.co.uk
Sunday Lunch Club	4th Sunday	12.30pm	Margaret Harrison (01507) 588298 lincspastures@gmail.com
Supper Club	2nd Wednesday	6 for 6.30pm	Carolyn Lyle (01507) 523738 carolyn.lyle@tiscali.co.uk
Table Tennis	Every Tuesday	2-4 pm	David Smith (01526) 353955 Malcolm Baxter (01507) 522220
Thai Chi for Wellbeing	Monday & Tuesday 6 week course	2-3pm	Alison Carter (01507) 525471 alisoncarter65@yahoo.com
Topical Discussion	2nd Wednesday	2-4 pm	Stephen Holdaway (01507) 526565 stephen.holdaway@btinternet.com
Visiting Gardens	3rd Wednesday	Afternoon	Ann Willows ann.dawsonwillows@gmail.com

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Opening Hours
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
9am-5pm
Wed **9am-4pm**
Sat **9am-12.30pm**