



WSPu3a Newsletter

June/July
2025



Iddesleigh Road

Photo by the Editor

The Committee's Briefs

Contact the Committee

You can use this link to send a message to any of our Committee:
[Woodhall Spa u3a Committee and Contacts Web Page](#)

Co-Chair's Corner

From Rosemary

It doesn't seem possible that by the time this newsletter reaches you we shall be half way through 2025. It's been a good first 6 months for our u3a with flourishing groups, enthusiastic new committee members, excellent outings and just good old friendship. Glancing through our website today I came across the list of speakers we have lined up for the rest of our monthly meetings in 2025 – an amazing variety of talks & you can see the list here: [Events](#)

Rosemary Brown – Co-Chair

We are hoping to set up a rematch of our Walking Cricket Challenge against Horncastle u3a, contact has been made with them but as yet we have not had any response. Hopefully this is something that will go ahead & if it does we will be sending out details via Beacon – both asking for people to play but also letting everyone know where & when so they can come along to support the team. Watch this space!

Groups News

No news is good news this month!
No groups have folded and no new groups have been created.
Waiting lists are few and far between. The ones that do exist are too short to form into a new group.
Recently formed groups are now running well;
Sunday lunch 2 is already full, as is **Mahjong 2**.
It has been decided not to start a Pilates group.

Members are obviously enjoying their chosen subjects and thanks must go to all groups leaders.....our unsung heroes!!!!
Is it also time to challenge yourself and look at a different subject?

As C.S. Lewis said:
You're never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream..

Joan Willard – Groups Coordinator
Groups List

You can use this link to find a current list of the groups we support, and how to join up:
[Woodhall Spa u3a Groups and Activities Web Page](#)

Coming Soon

Upcoming Events list

You can use this link to find more details on all the events in our diary:
[Woodhall Spa u3a Events Web Page](#)

Monthly Meetings

July 3rd

2:30pm to 4pm
Coronation Hall

Back from the edge (walking around Britain)

August 7th

2:30pm to 4pm
Coronation Hall

Witches and Wise Women!

Group Noticeboard

Outings

Our next outing is on Saturday 2nd August to the theatre at **Tolethorpe Hall** with some free time in Stamford before the matinee performance of Agatha Christie's "The Mirror Crack'd". This outing is fully booked but contact the Outings Group if you would like to be on the reserve list as we often get last-minute cancellations.

Sue Pollitt – Group Co-Leader


Find out more:

You can use this link to find more details on upcoming trips:
[Woodhall Spa u3a Outings Web Page](#)

Online u3a

Find out more:

You can use these links to search for ways of furthering your interest in specific subjects, or even take part in some competitions:

<p>Our own WSPu3a website</p>	<p>Woodhall Spa u3a website</p>
<p>u3a – Online Learning Events</p>	<p>u3a Online Learning</p>
<p>u3a Radio Pocast <i>Hear from a group of members who prove to all of us that age will never be a barrier to making dreams come true. We also have an interview with a man who used to be a fast bowler for England and we bring you a story about a baby given away at birth and the happy ending that resulted</i></p>	<p>u3a Radio June</p> 
<p>An Introduction to the Arts and Crafts Movement <i>The influence of the nineteenth century Arts and Crafts Movement is still with us today, and the main name associated with the movement is William Morris. But who were some of the other important men and women associated with a movement so influential in Britain and across the world?</i></p>	<p>Click here</p>

Around the Groups in 30 days

Outings

Discover Sewerby Hall, a Gem on the Yorkshire Coast



We started the day as usual from the Stickwolds Road layby, where Dickinson’s coach arrived and departed on time at 9 am with a full complement of u3a members.

[Continued](#)

Sewerby Hall - Continued



The leisurely journey lasted two and a quarter hours, taking us through the wonderful Lincolnshire and Yorkshire countryside, passing towns and villages familiar to those who watch Look North.

Upon arrival, many sought out the Clock Tower Café for a cup of tea or coffee to commence the visit, later indulging in a local ice cream or light meal.



Sewerby Hall and Gardens perch dramatically on the clifftops near Bridlington, offering a perfect blend of history, nature, and family-friendly fun. Set within 50 acres of stunning parkland, this Grade I listed Georgian house and its award-winning gardens provide a delightful day out for u3a members.

Highlights Explored:



The House: Upon arrival, the staff were very welcoming and informative. Step back in time to 1910 in this beautifully restored Edwardian country house, furnished with treasures from the Victoria and Albert Museum. On display is the 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' exhibition (until mid-July), showcasing breathtaking images from the Natural History Museum. A couple of rooms were dedicated to Amy Johnson, the pioneering pilot who once visited the house.

[Continued](#)

Sewerby Hall – Continued

The Gardens: Stroll through the vibrant blooms of the Walled Garden, relax in the serene Pleasure Garden with its wood carvings, or admire the elegant Rose Garden (highly recommended). The Woodland Walk (uneven terrain and a risk for some) is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts.

The Zoo: Here, we could meet penguins, capuchin monkeys, and raccoon dogs in this charming zoo. Animal encounters (like alpaca walks) are available for a unique experience (more suited for the children among us).

Whether you're a history buff, garden lover, or simply seeking a scenic outing, Sewerby Hall provides a rewarding experience.



Much to our delight, we received a return 'Land-Train ticket' to the nearby Bridlington seafront, which ran every 30 minutes, ensuring a pleasant end to the day with a stroll along the Esplanade.

We all departed on time, arriving back in Woodhall at 6.45 pm.

All thanks to Jan and the Outings team for an excellent day out.

Paul Membrey



Please Note:

Our next outing is on Saturday 2nd August to the theatre at Tolethorpe Hall with some free time in Stamford before the matinee performance of Agatha Christie's "The Mirror Crack'd". This outing is fully booked but contact the Outings Group if you would like to be on the reserve list as we often get last-minute cancellations.

Sue Pollitt – Group Co-leader

Garden Visits

Bardney Manor

For the June outing 15 members of the garden group enjoyed a sunny afternoon at Bardney Manor organised by us, Ann and Graham Gee. Samantha, the owner, gave a brief history of the manor and the garden renovations. We also had a look round the 14th century church.

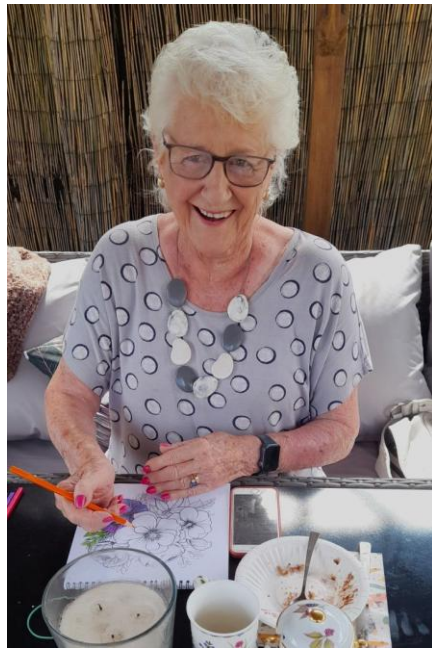
Tea and cake finished off the afternoon and everyone agreed it had been a great success.

Ann and Graham Gee

Art

June Gallery

Plein Air a lovely sunny afternoon.



Irene Derwent – Group Leader

Five Mile Walking

Cadwell Park

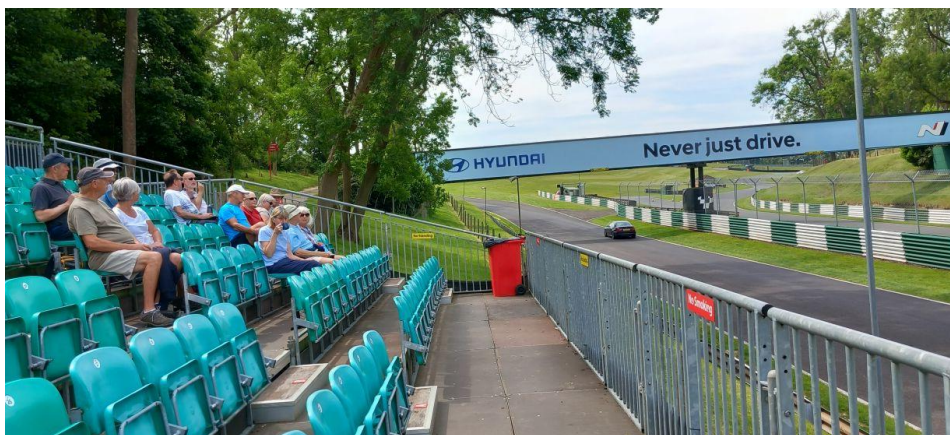
The 5 mile walk in June was held at Cadwell Park. We had the perfect day in the Wolds with that lovely breeze for walking the Vale Trail. The beautiful park setting is well maintained, making excellent walking conditions.



We were guided by heritage points, along the way which contain information and photos to bring the legends of the past to life, for example at Hall Bends, Hair Pin and Barn Corner and Charlies. We passed loads of tyres which are used for tyre walls.



Our break was spent in the spectator bank, entertained by the four wheel motorsport. Jeff left us at the Bridge, while the rest of the walkers continued the walk in reverse.



Too narrow for anything other than club level car events, it is racing which is king at Cadwell and the annual visit of the British Superbikes is one of the most popular events. Hyundai have agreed a 3 year deal and have become the official partner of MSV. The all electric Hyundai will be used as the official car in various key roles.

The Vale Trail is open on track days, and is ideal for a family day out.

Ruth Wilkinson

Birdwatching and Wildlife

Far Ings Nature Reserve

The Bird Watching group outing was to the Far Ings nature reserve on the Humber Bank, an area managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. We were expecting it to be a long journey but it was no further than Gibraltar Point. It was a calm sunny day but with a cool breeze. Initially we saw and heard garden birds but as we moved to the various hides the water birds came into view.

The highlight of the day was when a Bittern flew leisurely over us. Far Ings is famous for them but they are quite elusive. Some time later we heard the distinctive booming of the bittern which is unmistakable.

A very successful morning followed by lunch at a cafe on the river bank.

Species identified are listed below in alphabetical order:

<i>Bittern</i>	<i>Blackbird</i>	<i>Black cap</i>
<i>Black headed gull</i>	<i>Bluetit</i>	<i>Canada goose</i>
<i>Carrion crow</i>	<i>Cetti's warbler</i>	<i>Chaffinch</i>
<i>Chiffchaff</i>	<i>Common Tern</i>	<i>Coot</i>
<i>Gadwall</i>	<i>Garden warbler</i>	<i>Goldfinch</i>
<i>Great crested grebe</i>	<i>Greylag</i>	<i>House sparrow</i>
<i>Mallard</i>	<i>Moorhen</i>	<i>Mute swan</i>
<i>Pheasant</i>	<i>Reed warbler</i>	<i>Robin</i>
<i>Swallow</i>	<i>Swift</i>	<i>Tufted duck</i>
<i>Wagtail</i>	<i>White throat</i>	<i>Willow warbler</i>
<i>Wood pigeon</i>	<i>Wren</i>	

Other sightings

Roe deer

Butterflies – Brimstone, cabbage white, speckled wood, red admiral.

Barbara Seymour

Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM)

The Human Brain and its Evolution

This month 8 members attended a very interesting and in depth presentation by group member Jacqueline Peppiatt .

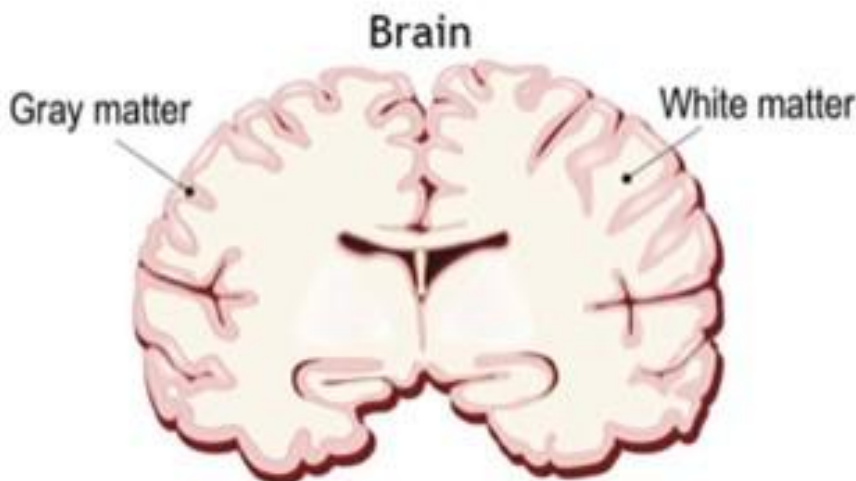
Note. The extracts below are taken from the full presentation as it is a very complex subject.

For the full presentation please contact the email at the end of the review.



The brain is a complex organ controlling thought, memory, emotion, touch, motor skills, vision, breathing, temperature, hunger and every process that regulates our body. Together, the brain and spinal cord that extends from it make up the central nervous system.

The average adult brain weighs around 3 pounds and is 60% fat and 40% water, protein, carbohydrates and salts. It contains blood vessels and nerves, neurones and Glial cells which support them, by maintaining chemical balance, regulating neurotransmitters, with some producing myelin, some remove pathogens and damaged cells.



Grey and white matter are two different regions of the central nervous system.

In the brain, grey matter refers to the darker, outer portion, while white matter describes the lighter, inner section underneath. In the spinal cord, this order is reversed: The white matter is on the outside, and the grey matter sits within.

How does the brain work?

The brain sends and receives chemical and electrical signals throughout the body. Different signals control different processes, and your brain interprets each. Some make you feel tired, for example, while others make you feel pain.

Some messages are kept within the brain, others are relayed via the spine and across the body's vast network of nerves to distant extremities. To do this, the central nervous system relies on billions of neuron's (nerve cells).

[Continued](#)

*The Human Brain and its Evolution – Continued***Main Parts of the Brain and Their Functions**

The brain can be divided into the **cerebrum**, **brainstem** and **cerebellum**.

Cerebrum It comprises grey matter (the cerebral cortex) and white matter at its centre. The largest part of the brain, the cerebrum initiates and coordinates movement and regulates temperature. Other areas of the cerebrum enable speech, judgment, thinking and reasoning, problem-solving, emotions and learning. Other functions relate to vision, hearing, touch and other senses.

Cerebral cortex

The outer grey matter covering of the cerebrum. The cortex has a large surface area due to its folds, and is about half of the brain's weight.

The **prefrontal cortex** is a part of the neocortex, which in turn is a part of the cerebral cortex. The prefrontal cortex is often considered the most complex part of the neocortex due to its role in higher-level cognitive functions.

The **cerebral cortex** is divided into two halves, or hemispheres. It is covered with ridges (gyri) and folds (sulci). The two halves join at a large, deep sulcus (the inter-hemispheric fissure, AKA the medial longitudinal fissure) that runs from the front of the head to the back. The right hemisphere mainly controls the left side of the body and the left half controls the right side of the body. The two halves communicate with one another through a large, C-shaped structure of white matter and nerve pathways called the corpus callosum. The corpus callosum is in the centre of the cerebrum.

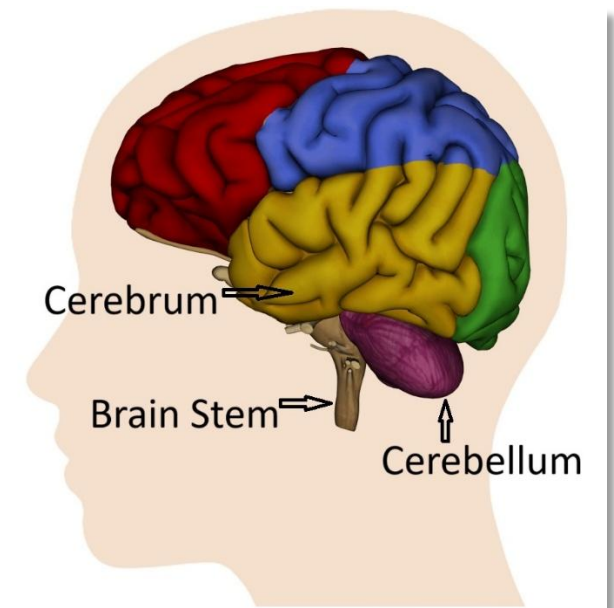
So how does the brain develop?**Brain development.**

The brain's basic structure develops in a foetus around 12 weeks, starting with the neural tube which develops into the brain and spinal cord from day 4. The brain is building itself from inside out, the cerebral cortex appearing last.

There are two phases in the development of the brain – Phase one follows a genetically determined sequence, which can be environmentally affected by the material environment and Phase two (pre and post-natal) is a time when the connectivity of the brain is very sensitive to its environment

Progress is rapid: 250K brain cells per minute during pregnancy. The junctions (Synapses) between nerve cells (Neuron's) are formed at around 14 weeks. Week 16 Sound and light are perceived. Brain activity related to consciousness emerges between week 24 and week 28 and this is when the foetus is deemed to be able to feel pain. Myelination, the process of coating nerve fibres with myelin to improve signal transmission, is well underway by week 28 of gestation. From week 28 to week 40, the foetus put on more weight and the organs get ready to function.

[Continued](#)



Brain Development – Continued

There are about a hundred billion neurons in the foetal brain at birth, many of which will be 'pruned' the process where the brain eliminates unnecessary neural connections mostly during childhood and adolescence. While this major 'pruning' process is complete by the late 20s, some plasticity and refinement of connections can continue throughout life, especially in response to new experiences and learning.

Note –Full information available on request. See end.

Brain development through the ages.

The brain requires glucose (a form of sugar) to develop and function. The brain is energy-intensive because it is so rich in neuron's (nerve cells) and uses half of all the sugar energy in the body.

Even at rest, the human brain consumes a greater proportion of the body's energy (20%) compared to other primates (10% for chimpanzees). The higher density of neuron's and synapses and the complexity of its neural networks require more energy to maintain.

Brain function such as thinking, memory and learning are closely linked to glucose level and if there is not enough, neurotransmitters (brain chemical messengers) are not produced and communication between neuron's break down.

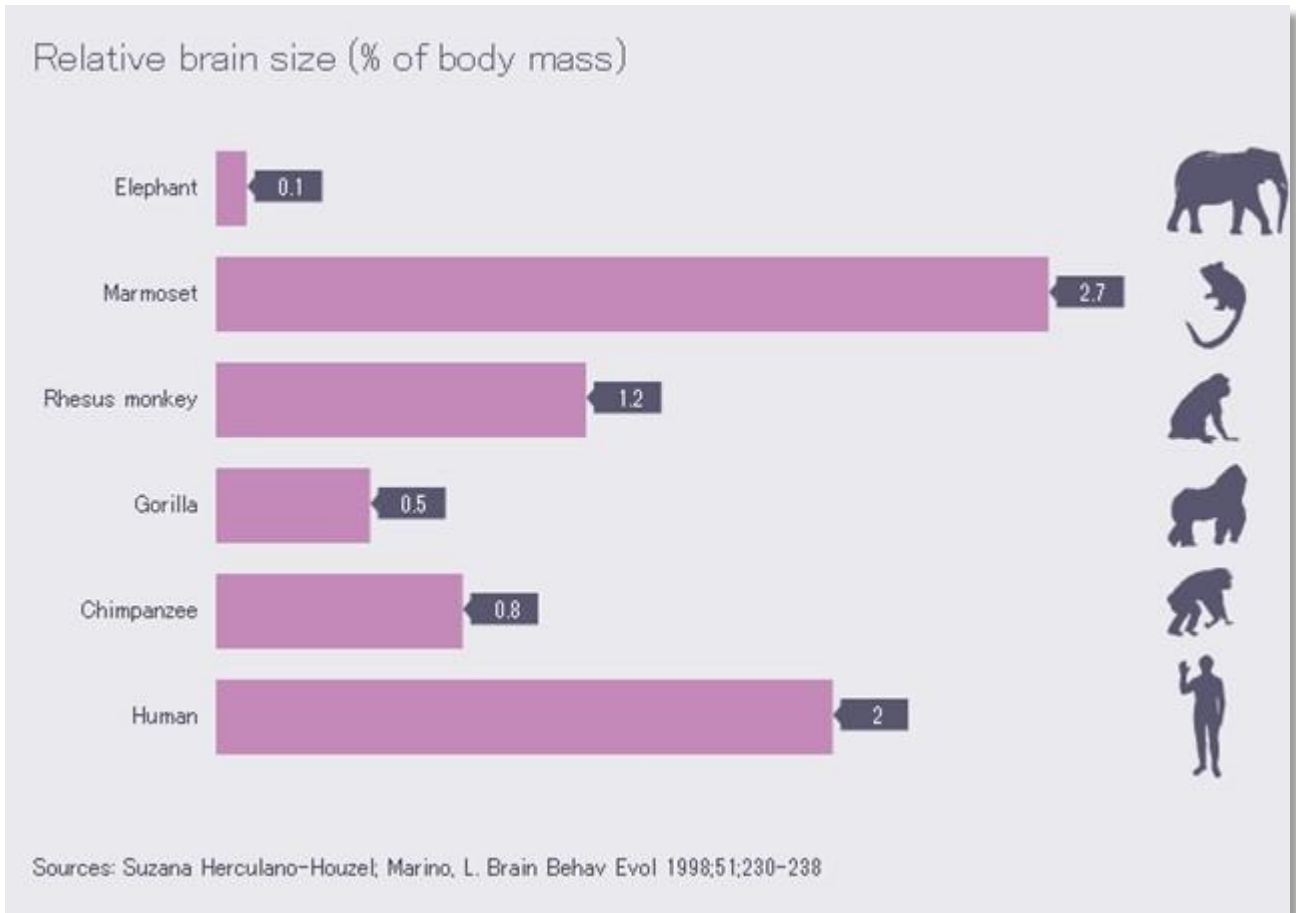
The continuous increase in the size of the brain has necessitated ever growing amounts of energy and has led humans to change their environment to extract that energy. The rise of farming has transformed man's environment and in turn, this has modified his genome (set of genetic instructions encoded in DNA). Hunter/gatherers were not good at digesting sugars and starch, key nutrients in domesticated plants, but these are now essential.

Size is not all that is important, though. What matters is which part of the brain has evolved most. It is thought that the increasing use of tools for hunting has slowed down the evolution of human limbs (man is weaker and slower than similar sized primates) and some parts of the human brain are smaller, for example the olfactory bulbs in the front of the brain involved in the sense of smell.

The slow development of its neocortex (perception, special representation, capacity for abstraction and adaptation) has allowed man to deal with the complexity of the organisation of its society. Its prefrontal cortex is connected to all the parts of the brain at the same time which allows for great control, making humans the dominant species on Earth.

[Continued](#)

Brain Development – Continued



[Credit](#)

The graph above shows the striking example of the marmoset who has a relatively larger brain than man due in part to the large area of its brain concerned with sight, hearing and complex family structure.

Presented by Jacqueline Peppiatt

Written by Helen Sawyer – Group Leader

Find out more:

For full presentation details please contact S.T.E.M Leader at ceszca1952@icloud.com

Wild Flowers

Chambers Farm Wood

On a blistering hot Thursday, three of us met at Jubilee Park, David, Sue and myself. David kindly offered to drive us, and joy of joys – his car was fully air-conditioned. We were soon on the other side of Bardney and looking out for the expected brown signs to Chambers Farm Wood. However, for some reason, they are no longer there, so we turned onto what we thought would be the right road, expecting to see some signage further along. No such luck! After a couple of about-turns, we eventually found a sign part way along a chalk track which lead us to the main carpark. The visitor centre and toilets were closed and locked up, as was the over-flow carpark, but as there were only a couple of other cars there anyway it didn't matter.

We headed into the butterfly garden to start off, but there was not a one to be seen, not even basking on walls or paths. There were some lovely plants there, however, these had been carefully planted and did not fall within the spirit of 'wildflower spotting'

Next we set off into the cool shady woods. They are very dry at the moment, and there did not appear to be much to see to begin with, but as we progressed further into the woodland we started to spot one or two. We three are somewhat novices at plant spotting, so only managed to identify a few and unfortunately did not have a suitable camera between us – David had left his phone in the car, Sue did have a camera phone, but not the technical know-how to forward pictures, I had managed to leave my camera at home and my phone is very simple (like me) and is just a phone.

Still, nil desperandum, we examined the few plants we did manage to spot, very carefully, looked them up in our books, and wrote down the names, and I have found some pictures and a bit more information about them on the internet:



Wild Geranium with deep red foliage, possibly Herb Robert a native wildflower known for its reddish stems and divided leaves that can turn red, especially in sunny conditions or during dry spells.



Hedge Woundwort. It's believed to be helpful for dressing cuts and other wounds, and is also used to treat aching joints when made into an ointment. It has horrible smelling leaves. (They are the paler green pointed ones.)



Enchanters Nightshade is a plant in the evening primrose family, the plant is not related to other nightshades and is not known for any significant medicinal use. The leaves have a distinctive pattern on them and are much grander than the rather disappointingly tiny flowers.

Continued

Chambers Farm Wood – Continued



A rather pretty grass, which may or may not be called Toad Rush. It looks right, but the description says it grows in wetlands. It may just be that this is a particularly dry year, and the woodland is usually a little marshier.

Toad Rush has a slender stem repeatedly branched at the base, and normally repeatedly forked above, with a floret in each fork, and other florets along and at the tips of the branches.



Black Bryony, part of the yam family, is the only member found in the UK. It's a climbing plant, recognised by its shiny green heart/ace of spades shaped leaves with obvious veins and small green flowers, which turn into berries. The berries were still green on the ones we saw today. Apparently it is a very poisonous plant.



Common Chiff Chaff

We also heard a very loud chiff-chaff, and saw and heard a lovely chaffinch who perched quite close.



Chaffinch

Cilla Darvill

Home Computing for Fun

Landlines Vs VoIP Telephones

With the offer of Full Fibre Broadband in the area and new providers popping up, the question of losing your 'Landline phone' might be something you are made to consider.

What actually is the difference?



What is a Landline?

Landlines work via circuit switching. Whenever a call is made, your telephone carrier routes it through a switch to the number you're calling. A connection is made between both parties through several switches along the way. When the phone is answered at the other end of the call, the connection opens the circuit.

Up until the sixties, every phone call had to have a dedicated wire stretching from one end of the call to the other, like two tin cans and a bit of string!. Long-distance telephony meant that there were switches from point A to point B, connecting pieces of copper wire all across the distance between them.

Today, landline telephony is much more efficient and cost-effective. The voice soundwaves of the person making the call are digitized, and sent through fibre-optic cables for the majority of their distance, although there's still copper wire going into direct phone lines.

What is VoIP?

Voice over Internet Protocol telephony (VoIP) encodes the analog signals of a caller's voice into digital form, then transmits them over the internet. On the receiving end, the encoded signal is decoded for the recipient to hear the caller's voice.

Instead of traditional circuit switching, VoIP uses the internet's packet-switching capacity to provide phone service more effectively. It assumes that during any given phone call, when one person is talking, the other one is listening, which means that the data file carrying the digitized sound waves can be cut in half. If the "quiet time" of conversations are also cut out, this reduces the file size even more. Data networks operate by only transmitting the packets of noisy bytes, opening brief connections instead of maintaining the steady open connection of circuit switching, used by landlines. This offers the additional advantage of allowing a network to route data packets along the least congested and cheapest lines.

Landlines Pros and Cons

PROS

- Can be more dependable for emergency calls. If you don't have a mobile or your battery is flat.
- Backup during natural disasters - Landlines are better emergency backup communication systems, as they generally still work during power outages.
- Reliability and Sound Quality - Since VoIP works over your internet connection, the sound quality and reliability depends on your connection.
- Security - It's much easier for hackers to gain access through VoIP or mobile phones than through landlines.

[Continued](#)

Landlines Pros and Cons – Continued

CONS

- Cost – VoIP telephony can offer much more competitive pricing than traditional landlines.
- Sales calls – Landlines are particularly susceptible to spam and telesales calls.
- Telephony, internet and cable packages – Often, these services are bundled together by companies, which may make dropping your landline a more attractive option.

VoIP Pros and Cons

PROS

- Inexpensive and user-friendly – VoIP services are generally less expensive than traditional landlines, depending on your service provider and on your existing contract.
- Increased portability – VoIP phone calls can be made from any place with good internet access.
- Extra features – VoIP can provide call routing, automated attendants, call recording, and filtering, as well as other benefits. It can also integrate with other, cloud-based software to increase collaboration and efficiency.
- Versatility – It's quite usual for VoIP services to provide high levels of integration across different platforms, permitting video transmission as well as voice communication.

CONS

- Sound quality and reliability – With sufficient bandwidth and good equipment, poor sound quality and reliability aren't an issue, but the fact of the matter is that VoIP relies on your internet. Any dropping out or poor connection can cause transmission errors.
- Susceptibility – Though quite rare, VoIP can be more prone to hacking or viruses
- Reliance on computers – Depending on the processing power of your computer, VoIP calls can be affected by what else is running on your computer whilst making a call.

What is due to happen in the future?

Landlines were due to be phased out by December 2025. This has now been extended to January 2027. Providers are committed to provide an alternative to customers who depend on a landline and either don't have a computer, mobile or a mobile signal at their home.

Links to further information

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/consumer-issues/changes-to-landline-telephones>

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-and-broadband/landline-phones/future-of-landline-calls>

Heather Maslen – Group Leader

Find out more

If you have any questions about these articles, or have topics you would like me to cover, please contact me by clicking on my name on the Home Computing for Fun page on the Woodhall Spa u3a website:

[Home Computing for Fun Page](#)

Poetry

Animals

Whether in nature, husbandry, or with our pets, we all have a relationship with animals, so this month's theme spoke easily to our group. As is often the case, the exercise invoked a journey into our past; memories stirred, and magic rekindled, as represented here: Dennis recalls a walk with his gran that revealed the reality of change; my own recounts the pleasure and pain of loving and losing a pet.

Philosophical Tadpology

*Have you noticed how prolific buttercups are,
Scattered along the hedgerows, near and far?
Their glazed colour shining so brightly,
As though painted with varnish oh so lightly.
Fieldside. That's the lane that leads to the
wood.
Bordered by cottages, looking just as they
should.
A riot of colours of every shape and hue,
Facing Nature's magic, changing through the
year.
After that pleasant walk, there is a pool,
Protected by the trees, it's clear and cool.
Yet beneath the surface, a squiggly, wiggly
mass
A crowd of energetic exclamation marks,
With flimsy tails, propels them round and round,
Like children in spring's school playground.
I remember when first I saw such a sight,
In a pond in a park returning from first school.
I asked my granny "what could they be?"
I always remember what she said to me.
"A little piece of Nature's magic."
But as I looked each and every day
I saw their tails slowly shrink each away.
Little legs would appear, front and back,
And tiny eyes where once was black.
Finally, this so-called Nature's magic,
Became something much more tragic.
What was once carefree tadpoles with no fear,
Became something else, to me made clear.
Nothing ever stays the same.
Perhaps that could even be a tad-polosophical.*

© Dennis Walby 2025

Cassandra, who was Cassie to us

On the moments we shared with our feline love-child

*For a time we were three, a Pythagorean triangle with all
the right angles
And any room that held us resembled a trinitarian heaven
When you shared our bed and even rested your head on
my pillow, eyes closed
Pressed against my back, your paws, claws primed to tell
me you were there
And you'd crawl out when it was all too hot, and your
small body, heavy, lay berthed between our legs*

*The home breathed when you moved through its smaller
spaces
We moved with unconscious care _knowing how you
were always there
Walking downstairs in step with your hurry to see me fill
your breakfast dish
And when your disappointment left some food untouched
-- not so the tin of tuna fish
The excitement in those eyes when you sensed that
signature prise...
If i could make that happen for you every day i would, now*

*There were times when we would look into each other's
eyes
Our hearts would chime together, harmonised spectral
lines of a wordless aria
Did you foresee our shared destiny?
And as you passed, when those orbs of life were clouded
The light, thus diffused into elemental hues, the bridge
between us turned skyward
And with their closing, the sting of finality..., something
awful slipped out of me
Something that had the imprint of life, of hope, and the
DNA of Cosmic love
To leave this fissure, this gaping wound that never heals.*

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Tom Sefton – Group Co-leader

Read more:

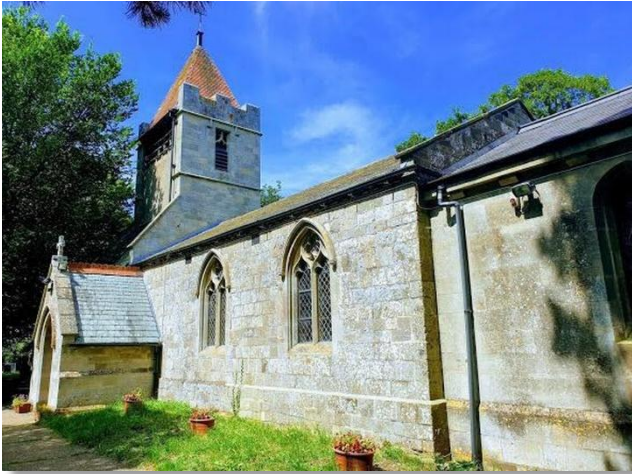
Use this link to see what else the group has written this month:

[Poetry Group June Poems](#)

Visiting Churches

St Leonard's, Chapel St Leonards, and St Mary's, Hogsthorpe

June's visit was to two Churches – St Leonard's in Chapel St Leonards and St Mary's at nearby Hogsthorpe. After a lunch with a beautiful sea view at Chapel Sr Leonard's Observatory, group members moved on for our first visit.



St Leonard's Church started life as a chapel in the parish of Mumby, with the main church in Mumby village. As the seaside community grew it became a separate parish and was called Chapel St Leonards. It is described as a neat little building hidden from view by trees and on the outskirts of the village of Chapel St Leonard's.

[Link for more information](#)



It has a red-capped tower and an open timbered roof crowning the nave. It was built in 1794 out of the ruins of the old Church, but in the 19th century the chancel was rebuilt along with the addition of a vestry and porch. The tower followed in 1901 and in 1924 the chancel was enlarged.

The dozen of us who visited were made most welcome by the Church Warden and Lay Reader. The tea and home-made cakes were really delicious too. We could quite understand what a pleasure it must be to attend the weekly service in this much-loved quiet corner of a busy seaside village.

Jean Hill

Continued

St Mary's, Hogsthorpe - Continued



St Mary's at Hogsthorpe is one of the finest medieval marshland churches and is found only 2 miles from the sea. There has been a Church here since the 13th century (the first recorded incumbent being in 1232) and once served a very affluent and important community, larger and more important than Skegness, being the local market for the area.

The present building is mainly 14th and 15th century and is built in the Norman decorated and perpendicular styles. It is constructed from local green sandstone found at the edge of the Wolds. St Mary's has a rare example of a 13th century boss on one of the arcades on the south side of the nave. The 'Banded Lady' is thought to be based on a 13th century Spanish headdress, possibly brought over by masons or pilgrims returning from Campostella.

There was a major restoration in the 1800s with the chancel being added in 1870. The North porch is now the main entrance to the Church. However, it is believed that the medieval village of Hogsthorpe was on the south side making the south porch the original main entrance. The south porch was built by the Guild of St Mary in 1558 and bears the inscription in Latin: Pray for the souls of the sisters and brothers of the guild of St Mary of this Church, by whom the outlay and expense of this porch has been built. This door is used mainly for weddings and funerals, opening out on to the well-kept churchyard. Most of the headstones have been moved to the sides but can still be read, many surnames appearing more than once. St Mary's is open every day and offers a warm welcome.

Cilla Darvill



We were lucky enough to have the company of Michael, a local historian, who was able to tell us a great deal about his life in the local area. For anyone who has read *On Chapel Sands* by *Laura Cumming*, Michael is the nephew of the mother in the book.

Barbara Michaelides - Group Leader

The Final Word

Feedback

You can use this link to view past issues of the Newsletter, or to send a note to the Editor:

[Newsletter Web Page](#)

If you have any suggestions or comments about the Newsletter I'd be happy to read them. You can email them to me via newsletter@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk, or use the link above.

The Newsletter wouldn't exist without the contributors, so I'm grateful to all those that made time to write an article for us all to read.

Many thanks.

Tom Sefton – Editor

