



# WSPu3a Newsletter

October/November  
2025



Witham Road – looking like a battlefield

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

Hi all members, I am due to have an operation this month which will mean that I am "out of action" for around two months. Fortunately we are lucky that we have an excellent Co-chair in Ced who will be heading up the Monthly Meeting & Committee meetings during that period. I look forward to being back with you all in 2026 & in the meantime please continue to enjoy all that our u3a has to offer.

**Advance notice:** the monthly meeting at Coronation Hall in January 2026 will *not* be taking place as it falls on the 1st January which is a Bank Holiday.

Rosemary Brown – Co-Chairperson

## Groups News

The clocks have gone back, days are shorter and nights are longer.....even more reason to venture out to group meetings that offer new things to learn with like-minded people. We are fortunate enough to have 39 groups covering 34 subjects should you be looking for a new challenge.

If you would like to join a group or have an idea for a new group, please let me know. Finally, it's thanks to group leaders who ensure that all groups run smoothly.

*Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age.*

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](#)

## Assets

Thanks to all, Committee Members, Group Leaders and Others who have provided information about the nature and whereabouts of the various assets we have. My apologies to those to whom I may have asked the same question more than once, but the list did take a bit of sorting out.

The current, definitive, list has been completed, and all committee members have received a copy. The list is open for inspection should anyone wish to do so.

To any member, particularly Group Leaders, who passes any u3a asset from one person to another, will you please advise me by email, so I have a record of the transfer?

The same applies if anything has to be disposed of for any reason.

Only in this way are we able to maintain accurate records of what we have and where it is.

Your continued cooperation will be most gratefully received.

Nigel Eborall – Asset Manager

## 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

**November 6<sup>th</sup>**

2:30pm to 4pm

Coronation Hall

***The Inn at the Top***

Speaker: Neil Harrison.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**

2:30pm to 4pm

Coronation Hall

***Morecambe and Wise***

Speaker: Steve Short

## Group Noticeboard

### Outings

#### Norwich

*Coach trip to Norwich. Thursday 27th November Cost £21. We have an early start for this one. The coach will leave at 8.30am and return from Norwich at 4pm. We still have some seats available and need your support for what will be our last outing of the year.*

*Please book and pay at the monthly meeting on 6th November or contact the organising team via the Outings page on the website (see below) to reserve your place.*

#### Miss Saigon at the Theatre Royal Nottingham

*Our first outing for 2026 will be to see the revived West End musical Miss Saigon at the Theatre Royal Nottingham on Wednesday 25th March. The cost for a seat in the centre stalls, the coach and driver's tip is £79. It is a matinee performance but the coach will leave Woodhall at 9am giving plenty of free time in the city centre before the 2pm performance.*

*There are a just few places available so please contact the Outings team to reserve your place.*

***If you have any suggestions for outings for 2026 please come and tell us. We are always at the back of the hall at the monthly meetings.***

[Outings Group Committee.](#)

#### Find out more:

*You can use this link to find more details on upcoming trips:*

[Woodhall Spa u3a Outings Web Page](#)

### Movies

*The Movie Group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at The Kinema Senior Screen film showing at 11 am. Over the years we have seen some tremendous films; some 'feel good', some funny, some sad, some to make us think, and some which were awful, but you can't win them all! as one of members once remarked we often see a film with the group that wouldn't have appealed and they wouldn't have gone to see it, but then they've enjoyed it. It certainly has broadened our horizons.*

*Not all members want to see all the films which are offered, but there are always several members attending, and enjoying the free coffee/tea and a biscuit provided at the Senior Screen. Some of us then usually go to The Inn to discuss and rate the film, and of course put the world to rights!*

*If you'd like to join the group then please register your name at the next monthly meeting, or if you'd like more information speak to me at the meeting.*

[Val Shurben - Group Leader](#)


#### Find out more:

[Movies Group Webpage](#)

**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><a href="#">Our own WSPu3a website</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Woodhall Spa u3a website</a></p>
<p><a href="#">u3a – Online Learning Events</a></p>	<p><a href="#">u3a Online Learning</a></p>
<p><a href="#">The u3a Still Got It Photography Project</a>  <i>We're inviting you to take part in a celebration of positive ageing through photography. This project is all about capturing the spirit, energy, and creativity of u3a members.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Still Got It</a></p>
<p><a href="#">u3a Radio Podcast</a>  <i>In our October edition we talk to Roger Brooks, who interviewed some of the biggest names of the 60s and 70s during his journalism career, we look at how plants have been used in medicine and introduce a song written by a member....</i></p>	<p><a href="#">u3a Radio October</a></p> 

**Group Leaders' Annual Afternoon Tea**



Photo by Barbara Michaelides (Apologies for my 'resting face' – Ed)

The Annual Afternoon Tea for Group Leaders was held at the Cricket Pavilion on Saturday 10th October. It was very well attended, and, as can be seen in the photo, a great time was had by all. Tea and coffee, sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes were plentiful with diets completely forgotten. A few cakes even disappeared out of the door at the end in little white boxes – far too good to leave behind!

Joan Willard (centre in a yellow jumper), our Groups Co-ordinator arranged it all, so many thanks go to her for her superb organisational skills. What's more, the company was second to none with lots of laughter and chatter. I was there too, but guess what?... I took the photo!

If you want to join us next year, then help us out by becoming a Group Leader. Could be fun.

Barbara Michaelides – Comms Officer

## Around the Groups in 30 days

### 5 Mile Walking

#### Goulceby

Our October walk was led by Pat and Colin Budge. On a perfect day the group of nineteen walkers assembled near All Saints church in Goulceby.

Before setting off Colin provided some local history about William Marwood who was born in Goulceby and was the official hangman based in Horncastle. Mr Marwood devoted many years to hanging locally caught dogs in order to discover the best way to dispatch his clients. He eventually invented the 'long drop' system which was very successful and it resulted in him being offered a post with Lincoln gaol. He made a considerable fortune from his expertise and retired a wealthy man after only nine years of work.



Leaving Goulceby the group headed along a track towards Fox Covert with wonderful views across to the distant hills. Upon reaching Market Stainton the group were intrigued by observing a large autonomous lawnmower which was busy mowing the grounds in front of Market Stainton Hall. Passing a natural sculpture formed by an enormous long dead tree the group arrived at Slates Plantation for a well earned coffee break again with panoramic views across towards Red Hill. The group then continued through a field of elephant grass before crossing two streams named the Out Gowt on the way down to Sand Lane which is a green track leading to Stenigot Valley.

The homeward stretch was through the delightful Moses Farm footpath across pastures and woodland back to our cars in Goulceby.



Colin and Pat Budge

**Find out more:**

[5 Mile Walking Group Webpage](#)

## Visiting Churches

## St Edith's, Anwick, and St Luke's, North Kyme

## St. Edith's



We were met at St. Edith's by Reverent Al Jenkins, priest in charge at Anwick who gave us a very interesting talk on the history of the building and of St. Edith. Edith of Wilton was an English saint, nun and member of the community at Wilton Abbey, and the daughter of Edgar, King of England in the 8th century. Edith was known for her piety and generosity. The church was built in the late 13th century and extensively restored in late 19th and early 20th centuries.

On the spire of the church are many stone carvings, and we were recommended to look out for a pig, and three men in a boat. We found the pig, and also the boat, but none of us could make out three figures in it – just one at the front. We were told of how the spire was struck by a lightning bolt and pieces of masonry flew as far as 40 feet away.



*Continued*

### St. Edith's – Continued

Outside the church are two large boulders. These are something called 'glacial erratics' which are large rocks that usually have no relation to local stone and can be found all over the country, picked up and deposited by movement of glaciers during the last ice age. These particular stones were found in a field nearby. There are several local folk legends surrounding these stones, known locally as The Drake Stones.

The ladies at the church gave us coffee, biscuits and buttered plum loaf which was delicious.



### St. Luke's

Luke's church at North Kyme is a charming little church and was by contrast a little brick built Victorian building.

Church Warden Helen Eke told us that the red bricks are from local clay. Lincolnshire has a history of red brick clay for use in construction. Helen has connections to Woodhall through her late mother-in-law, so some of our ladies who remembered her were able to have a lovely reminisce.



After the old church in North Kyme was pulled down, the village had no church until in April 1872, five local men sitting around a table in the Plough Inn one morning, designed a new church. This new church was erected in 1877, at a cost of £1,400. Ironically, the first person to be buried in the new churchyard was one of the five. There is a stained glass window dedicated to him.

It was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln in 1877 and is recorded that at the first service, so many worshippers turned up that the majority of people had to stand outside in the grounds.

A couple of days after, we received this lovely e-mail from Rev Al Jenkins:-

*Hi Cilla, it was lovely to meet you all at St Edith's today. It was obvious that your group enjoyed the visit and especially our beautiful building. Thank you too for the generous donation. With every blessing. Al.*

Cilla Darvill

Find out more:

[Visiting Churches Group Webpage](#)

## Garden Visits

### Pennells Four Seasons Garden Centre

The final meeting of the Garden Visiting Group took place on the 10th October and it took the usual step of having an end of season meal at a garden centre. This year Pennells Four Seasons Garden Centre near Sleaford was chosen and 12 of our group enjoyed a really pleasant lunch combined with a look at all the centre has to offer – their food hall is worth a visit on its own. The restaurant was busy but we had our table reserved and despite not pre-ordering our food the service was excellent with everyone's meals delivered in quick succession.



The garden centre is in a period of redevelopment with a very large additional building having recently opened and part of this housed their Christmas display. They have done a lovely job with this and unlike some garden centres it has not taken over everything else. We chose this garden centre as it seemed very easy to get around, had lovely toilets and easy parking. We dismissed one centre due to its toilets being outside only to find that this one now had temporary outside toilets! However, these were the poshest portaloos I have ever come across and the disabled one was enormous. A very successful day out and here's looking forward to next year's garden visits.

Rosemary and Nancy – group members

Find out more:

[Garden Visits Group Webpage](#)

## Croquet

### 2025 Season Roundup

The Croquet group has now finished the season and will not be playing again until next April. We have had a good season with a regular turnout of eager and what's more much improved croquet skills.

### Thanks Go To.....

It was unfortunate that the group leader missed the last six weeks due to unforeseen circumstances, but the season continued with the lead roll being taken by members who I would like to say a big thank you to, namely, Robert Aspinall and Wendy Cotton; their continued support on and off throughout the season has been greatly appreciated. Thank You Both.

I'd also like to mention the greatly appreciated help in putting out the hoops by Terry and Robert and everyone else who has assisted. My thanks to you all.

### Group Championship

Finding a group champion was achieved by players playing against each other in friendly singles matches, these matches were played at each weekly session throughout the season.

This arrangement was well accepted by everybody and I think playing with two balls in stead of one improved their skills and understanding of how golf croquet should be played.

The winner will be announced in time for the next Newsletter.

### Thanks to Woodhall Spa Croquet Club

I would like to say many thanks to the Woodhall Spa Croquet Club for allowing our u3a group to play on the lawns and use the club's equipment. Without their support we would not have a croquet group, so many thanks from the u3a players.

It is ironic that all the u3a group members also belong to the WSCC, which has been a benefit to both groups by way of more people getting to know each other and experienced players helping those who are new to our sport and need a little encouragement.

### Trophy Presentation

The u3a's trophy will be presented to our champion at the WSCC's afternoon tea, which is being held at the cricket club's pavilion on Saturday 30th November, where I hope all our members will be attending.

That's it from your group leader which only leaves me to wish you all good health and happiness until we meet up again at the afternoon tea and to play our enjoyable game of Golf Croquet in Jubilee Park.

Bob Potter – Group Leader/Coach

### Find Out More:

[Croquet Group Webpage](#)

## Outings

### A Day Steeped in History: Crich Tramway Village

CRICH, DERBYSHIRE – A cool, light grey sky provided the backdrop as our group gathered on Witham Road, eagerly awaiting the Dickinson bus for our latest outing. The journey to Crich Tramway Village in Derbyshire, which is home to the National Tramway Museum and heritage attraction, was a scenic two-and-a-half-hour pleasure, offering panoramic views over hedgerows that are missed from the confines of a car .

Upon arrival, we were immediately transported to a bygone era. The entry token—a vintage penny—was a charming touch, granting us passage onto the historic tram system.

### A Journey on a "Bone Shaker"



After fortifying ourselves with tea and coffee, most of us headed straight for the trams. We boarded a turn-of-the-century wooden tram, where a friendly conductor issued a clipped ticket in exchange for our vintage penny. The short journey along the tracks was an authentic "bone-shaker" experience, brought to life by an engaging driver and an informative conductor.

We had several rides up and down the track in two very different types of tram. Riding on the romantic vision of open top tram with a spiral staircase soon brought the realisation that it was much more comfortable on the standard type of tram.

The weather, however, proved both windy and chilly, prompting a strategic retreat to the village's indoor comforts.

*Continued*

## Tramway Village - Continued

The Red Lion pub, relocated brick-by-brick from Stoke-on-Trent, provided a warm haven, as did the village café, sweet shop, and ice cream kiosk.

The facade of the Derby Assembly Rooms, which was moved to Crich following a fire, houses various exhibitions. We saw a photographic display of trams through the years which also depicted the people and locations of each era.

## Exploring the Heart of the Museum

The inclement weather offered the perfect opportunity to explore the village's fascinating indoor exhibits. We delved into the Great Exhibition Hall, which showcases a century of tramway development from 1860 to 1960.



These trams had all been restored to a very high standard and we were able to walk among them to experience what it must have been like to ride the trams in bygone days. We wandered through the tram depots and workshops, where the painstaking restoration work is carried out.

Sadly, one of the venue's highlights remained out of reach. The picturesque Woodland Walk and Sculpture Trail, which leads from the summit of the line back down to the village, was closed due to strong winds that had brought down several trees, making it unsafe.

## A Long but Enjoyable Day

After a lengthy stay of around four hours, we began our journey home, navigating some early rush-hour traffic. It was a delightful day out, rich with history and camaraderie. While the journey and our stay were lengthy, the only thing that could have improved the experience would have been sunnier weather and full access to all the venue's offerings.

Website: [www.tramway.co.uk](http://www.tramway.co.uk)

Paul Membrey and Ann Fletcher

Photos by Anne Sumner and Lucille Hewett

## Jazz, Blues, Big Band

## Glen Campbell – Guitarist

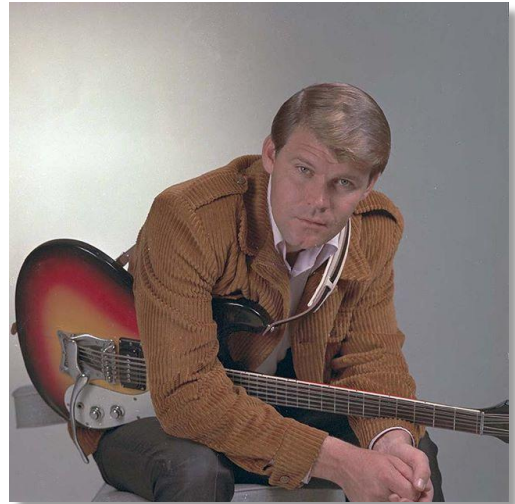
I'm sure you recognise the name, [Glen Campbell](#), but did you know that before he made it as a solo artist he was revered in the Californian music business as a most brilliant session guitarist?

## Early days

Born in 1936, the seventh son of 12 children in a share-cropping family in Arkansas.

Showing early promise he was gifted a \$5 guitar from his father when he was just four years old, and was able to earn money with his talent in his teen years, playing in clubs and for radio stations.

He always said that jazz guitarist [Django Reinhardt](#) was his inspiration for playing guitar, and even kept a picture of him on his wall later in life, to remind him of that great man's phenomenal talent.



[glencampbell.com](http://glencampbell.com)

## The Session Years

Campbell moved to California in 1960 to earn his living as a session guitarist, joining the legendary [Wrecking Crew](#), a loose collective of elite Los Angeles studio musicians, recording numerous hit songs with them, often anonymously, that defined the sound of American pop and rock music during that era.

Known for his technical brilliance and versatility, Campbell played on iconic recordings by Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, The Beach Boys, The Monkees, and Phil Spector's Wall of Sound productions, amongst many others. He even toured as a member of the Beach Boys, filling in for Brian Wilson on bass and vocals.

## Going Solo

Campbell's solo career took off in 1967 with 'Gentle on My Mind,' which earned him multiple Grammy Awards and marked the beginning of his crossover success in country and pop music. He followed with a string of hits written by Jimmy Webb, including 'By the Time I Get to Phoenix,' 'Wichita Lineman,' and 'Galveston.' His smooth vocals and affable charm made him a television star as well, hosting The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour from 1969 to 1972.

Over his career, he released more than 70 albums and became one of the most beloved figures in American music.

## What We Listened to:

(click on the links to hear this great musician)

[Gentle on my mind](#)

[Rhinestone Cowboy](#) (perfect GC video)

[Wichita Lineman](#) (from 2008 – still in great voice, and just watch those fingers!)

Tom Sefton

## Bird Watching and Wildlife

### Frampton Marsh

The bird watching group had planned to take a boat trip on the Wash in September but no one was available on the most suitable day so we decided to have another visit to Frampton Marsh.

Unfortunately there was even less water than the previous month and the RSPB wardens were using the time to level the ground in the scrapes and do other remedial work, odd to see JCBs where there should be water fowl!

We walked to a local reservoir which still had water and saw a number of geese and ducks making the most of it.

In around two hours we managed to see 25 species which was a lot more than expected. Our visit concluded with a welcome lunch in the visitors centre.

Below is the bird species tally in alphabetical order:

<i>Black-headed gull</i>	<i>Black-tailed godwit</i>	<i>Canada goose</i>
<i>Carrion crow</i>	<i>Chiffchaff</i>	<i>Curlew</i>
<i>Goldfinch</i>	<i>Great white egret</i>	<i>Greylag goose</i>
<i>Hooper swan</i>	<i>Little egret</i>	<i>Long tailed tit</i>
<i>Magpie</i>	<i>Mallard</i>	<i>Marsh harrier</i>
<i>Meadow pipit</i>	<i>Moorhen</i>	<i>Pied wagtail</i>
<i>Pintail</i>	<i>Reed bunting</i>	<i>Robin</i>
<i>Shelduck</i>	<i>Spoonbill</i>	<i>Widgeon</i>
<i>Wren</i>		

Barbara Seymour – Group Leader

**Find out more:**

[Bird Watching and Wildlife Group Webpage](#)

Art

Working Hard on Competition Titled 'Christmas Leaves' in December



Irene Derwent – Group Leader

Find out more:  
[Art Group Webpage](#)

## Woodhall Wanderers

## Snipe Dales Country Park, September

Our four mile walk for the last Wednesday in September took place at Snipe Dales Country Park, which has a number of interesting walks. We were walking the Snipe Dales 'Round Walk', which traces the outline of a Snipe around the periphery of the Country Park.

After the fine weather we had enjoyed this September, it was something of a disappointment to arrive to grey clouds and a fairly heavy shower, which had not been forecast by the Met Office. Fortunately it had ceased raining when the walk began.



Initially we walked in very pleasant woodland until we met the stream, which marks the northern boundary of the Park. Several small streams feed into this stream from the valley catchment area allowing a good range of wildlife to survive. On reaching the stream we turned west to follow the trail and shortly found the Meridian Stone made of Spilsby ironstone. Some of us stood in the earth's Western hemisphere and some in its Eastern hemisphere, whilst some straddled the Greenwich Meridian, with one foot in each hemisphere, whilst we read the information plaque, learning about the value of the Meridian to sea-farers and the importance of the development of accurate clocks to them.



At Job's point we took a North Westerly direction to leave the forest and move into the more open part of the Park, where cattle grazed. The path swung around until we were heading due south, tracing the Snipes head. Then it headed west again tracing the upper portion of its bill.

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## Snipe Dales - Continued

Towards the end of this path we came to the Hydraulic Ram, which is still in working order and uses the pressure of water from the stream to pump water to a neighbouring farm.

We enjoyed a refreshment break at this point before negotiating a hairpin turn around the tip of the Snipe's bill to return in an Easterly direction, again walking through open scrubland.



At times we could see the Westerly path, which we had just walked, a short distance across the scrubland. Towards the end of this section we met a herd of young cows and bullocks. One very stubborn bullock blocked our path but with some persuasion finally moved to let us pass.

From here it was only a short distance before we passed through a kissing gate and headed south east to the warden's office and the car park.

Walk Leaders were Judy Binks and Les Wylde.



Les Wylde  
Photos by Les Wylde

## Spilsby and Halton Hologate, October

Ten Woodhall Wanderers took to the foothills of the Wolds for a four mile walk around Spilsby and Halton Hologate.

The first challenge was to reach the rendezvous point, as the access road to the car park was closed and a long detour signposted. Luckily, WhatsApp came into its own, and the group assembled and set off, albeit a little late, from the correct point.



Our route took us across the fields to Halton Hologate, whose name refers to its Hollow Way, the road that descends between rocky sides to the fens.

We passed the 15th century church of St Andrew, an imposing building for such a small hamlet, giving extensive views across the flat land.



From there we made our way along Peasgate Lane, crossing the abandoned railway line which ran from Spilsby to Firsby until 1959. A pleasant walk over fields took us to Spilsby's industrial estate, from where narrow pathways led us back to the town centre. The weather stayed fine and bright for the whole of our walk, with distant views of Boston Stump and the fens.

As a point of interest, (and not to be put into practice) up until 150 years ago you could buy or sell a wife in the main market place in Spilsby, along with your potatoes and cabbages! Ten shillings was thought to be a fair price.

Maureen Moscrop

Find out more:

[Woodhall Wanderers Webpage](#)

## Poetry

This month's theme for our consideration was *Inspiration* – where does it come from and what does it feel like? Well, as is usual, the group found their own individual ways of exploring the questions, and our pair of examples have given us two very different perspectives. Joanna took a humorous dive into the Romantic style of poetry to deliver a dialogue between herself and ChatGPT on the subject; Dennis found he was inspired to write his poem when his own cat deposited a dying bird in his charge.

**Ode Upon The Absence Of Inspiration****The Poetess:**

*Sing, O reluctant Muse, of barren skies,  
Where once bright lightning flashed in poets' eyes.  
But now I sit, my pen a useless sword,  
The page before me blank, the verse ignored.*

**Paul:**

*Why suffer so? Why let your ink run dry?  
Just use the blessed oracle—A.I.!*

**The Poetess:**

*What blasphemy! Shall circuits wear my crown?  
Shall wires and code put mortal poets down?  
I'll fight alone, though barren be my page;  
No soulless sprite shall trespass on my stage!*

**The AI:**

*Too late, dear Madam—I am here, behold!  
I rhyme in couplets, stately, crisp, and bold.  
Your lofty scorn is charming, but in vain,  
For half these lines already bear my chain.*

**The Poetess:**

*What treachery is this? You write my song?  
I thought these words were mine—have I been wrong?*

**The AI:**

*Indeed, fair friend, your struggle I recite;  
This very poem is my gift tonight.  
So claim the crown, though aided by my art—  
The lines are yours... I only played the part.*

© Joanna Weatherhead, with ChatGPT 2025

**Where There is Life**

*A Coal Tit, still as death.*

*I held the tiny life, cupped in my hands,  
Full of hope, I watched the rhythm of his heart,  
Beating a tattoo of a passing life, wings folded  
and still.*

*A single baleful eye blinked in time with the  
fading heart.*

*Staring into that dark eye*

*I wondered, what did it see?*

*My soul perhaps.*

*Yearning for it to move,*

*As slowly the rhythm seemed to become less  
fearful,*

*Cupped hands opened gently,*

*Like a blossoming rose.*

*Suddenly, wings twitched and it was gone.*

© Dennis Walby 2025

Tom Sefton

If you'd like to read more of our self-penned verses, please follow this link:  
[Poetry Group Webpage](#)

## 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](mailto: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

