



# WSPu3a Newsletter

May/June  
2026



Tattershall 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-Chairs' Corner

### From Rosemary

First of all can I say thank you to everyone who came to the AGM this month? To enable the AGM to go ahead we have to have quorum of members there and we achieved this quite easily. It was so nice to have had people come forward well in advance expressing an interest in joining the committee and as a result we have filled all the roles that were becoming vacant. Your committee for the coming year is as follows:

*Chairperson*  
*Vice Chair*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*

**Rosemary Brown**  
**Ruth Smythers**  
**Stefanie Bartlett-Jones**  
**Rachel Poole**

*Membership Secretary*  
*Groups Coordinator*  
*Asset Manager*  
*Communications*  
*Speaker Finder*  
*Webmaster*  
*Committee member*

**Jan Keable**  
**Joan Willard**  
**Peter Browne**  
**Barbara Michaelides**  
**Susanne Nicholson**  
**David Spratt**  
**Wendy Cotton**

I look forward to working with everyone and hearing new ideas that fresh faces will bring, so here's to a very successful year ahead...

Rosemary Brown – Co-Chairperson

## Groups News

This has been a steady month for all groups.

**MOTO 2** was in danger of closing but has been rescued by one of the existing members who is assessing the situation and getting the opinions of other group members. For this we are very grateful.

**Short Walks** has held their first walk and are looking forward to the next one and also to welcoming new members.

### 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](#)

As usual, many groups have waiting lists so, hopefully, they will become new groups. Please sign up if you are looking for a new challenge.

*The strength of a group is each individual member.  
The strength of each member is the group.*

Joan Willard – Group Co-ordinator

## Monthly Meetings

### June 4<sup>th</sup>

2:30pm to 4pm  
Coronation Hall

### **Performance of American Songbook**

Nigel & Teri

### July 2<sup>nd</sup>

2:30pm to 4pm  
Coronation Hall

### **Evacuees**

Ken Argent

### 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](#)

### From Susanne

I'm looking forward to taking on the rôle of Speaker Finder and would first like to say a huge "Thank you" to Elaine for an excellent handover and for leaving everything in such good order.

I hope I can follow in her very successful footsteps; I have some new talks already planned.

If there is any particular subject area of interest any member would like me to include in the coming year, please let me know, either in person or by email ([speakers@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk)).

Susanne Nicholson – Speaker Finder

Obituary

This obituary acknowledges members who have passed away recently.  
We remember them for their contributions and for sharing something of themselves with us.

**Richard Stokes**

*Richard was a founder member of our u3a and an avid walker and started the Five Mile Walking Group, which he led for a number of years. He was a very careful leader of walks and ensured they ran smoothly. I often helped him recce the walks he was leading and there were a couple of occasions that following a night's sleep he was not satisfied, and we would return to recce a slightly changed version of the walk. On most mornings, well before breakfast, he would walk nine miles. Richard stopped walking a few years ago when he became ill. His presence was missed by his friends in the Five Mile Walking Group and we are all very saddened by his death.*

Les Wylde

If you are aware of the recent passing of one of our members, please inform one of the Committee, lest we miss the chance to honour them here.

[Woodhall Spa u3a: Committee and Contacts](#)

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:

<a href="#">Our own WSPu3a website</a>	<a href="#">Woodhall Spa u3a website</a>
<a href="#">u3a – Online Learning Events</a>	<a href="#">u3a Online Learning</a>
<p><b>u3a Radio Podcast</b></p> <p><i>We're off to the banks of the mighty Ganges River with an extraordinary story of courage, curiosity, and compassion. We meet Jenny Ridgewell to talk about her latest book Cream Horns &amp; Vol-au-Vents and we also visit a busy gym in Sudbury where the weights are heavy, but the atmosphere is anything but.</i></p>	<p><a href="#">u3a Radio May</a></p> 

Group Noticeboard

Outings

**Cambridge**

*By popular demand we are returning to Cambridge on 1st July for our next outing. All places are booked but if you want to put your name down on the reserve list please come and see us at the meeting on 4th June or contact the Outings team via the website.*

Outings Group Committee.

**Find out more:**

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

[Outings Web Page](#)

**Continued**

## An Appeal from the Croquet Group

*Although our group is well established and our members are enjoying the chance to play together in light hearted competition, there is still room for a few more players.*

*My Appeal as Croquet group leader is aimed at the Woodhall Spa u3a members who have never thought about attempting to play the Wonderful game of 'Croquet'. I have been playing now for some 24 years and really cannot get enough of playing this relaxing entertaining sport.*

*Our game of Croquet is played in the surroundings of Jubilee Park, where there are three manicured lawns upon which we play. Though the lawns are not of regulation size they nevertheless attract many visitors to our park and take part in the many competitions that go on every season.*

*So why not enjoy the atmosphere and come and try our game of Croquet? The group play every Tuesday morning from 10am until midday.*

*If you're not convinced that Croquet might be something you would enjoy then please just come along and watch - you may even want to try your hand at something new. We have coaches who would look after you and show you how to Swing a Mallet.*

*I look forward to meeting new players at any time.*

*Regards to all u3a members.*

**Bob Potter – Group Leader and Coach**

**Find out more:**

[Croquet Group webpage](#)

## Around the Groups in 30 days

### Visiting Churches

#### St. Mary's, Long Sutton

On arrival we were taken around the outside of the church.

At the west end, the tower was originally constructed circa 1210–20. The tower and spire were separate and free standing, built on a slightly different axis from the rest of the church. Ground level arches were open on all four sides until walled up c. 1780. Built separate possibly to avoid disturbing the fabric of an earlier, towerless Norman church. There are three storeys: the taller third with bell openings to let out the sound of the eight bells within; six in 1716, cast by Henry Penn of Peterborough, and two more added in 1935. The magnificent spire above, with 162 feet leaden covered complex wooden framework. The lead has been renewed several times.



**Continued**

## St. Mary's, Long Sutton – Continued



On the west wall there are two charity boards recording benefactions that still aid St Mary's today One bequest helps pay for church music as well as church repairs. Thomas Allen was organist in Elizabethan times. Between them is a 20th century window depicting Shepherds and Wise men adoring infant Christ.



The south porch is a two storey structure with an upper room known as a 'parvise' room that may have accommodated a mediaeval priest.

During the 18th century it housed Long Sutton's 'Free School'.

Inside the church it clearly shows the different layers of roofs. Originally Norman, founded by Lady Nicolaj de la Haye c. 1175–80. Afterwards encased in later building works.



St. Mary's boasts a typically Victorian pulpit, which was called a *'fine specimen of modern art'* in 1866. Decorated with shafts of green marble, it depicts Christ commanding his disciples to preach the Gospel to all the world.

Gina White

Find out more:

[Visiting Churches Group webpage](#)

## Dog Walking

Our May Walk began in Coningsby. It was a beautiful sunny day. We met at the football ground and made our way to the river. We walked along the river path where the dogs really enjoyed being together.



To our delight we saw a heron standing in the middle of the river. At first, we thought he was a statue until he moved his head to have a scratch!

We witnessed an argument between two mallards over a female duck with ducklings. Her mate obviously won and he swam to join the family!

Halfway through the walk we stopped at Holy Trinity Church in Tattershall where coffee and cake were being served. Apparently, the legendary folklore character, Tom Thumb is said to be buried in the church yard with the inscription:

T. THUMB  
Aged 101  
Died 1620

We continued our walk along a country path beside fields back to Coningsby.

Judy Binks – Group Leader

Find out more:

[Dog Walking Group webpage](#)

## Bird Watching and Wildlife

### Freiston Shore

At last, the first sunny and dry outing this year! A party of seven gathered at the RSPB reserve's huge car park which overlooks one of the large lagoons and is bordered on the other side by trees and scrub from which many species were singing and calling. It gave us a flying start!

Our two hours at the site were spent on the reserve and we had no time to get down to the Witham mouth. Despite this and the low state of the tide attracting birds away from the reserve to the shore we recorded 38 species in total. In addition there was a close encounter with three roe deer coming off the salt marsh to cross the sea bank.

Our visit culminated at the cafe attached to the World War 2 museum, just inland from the reserve.

The species list follows in alphabetical order:

Avocet	Blackbird	Blackcap	Black-headed gull
Blue tit	Brent Goose	Carrion crow	Chaffinch
Cormorant	Curlew	Duncock	Feral pigeon
Goldfinch	Great tit	Greenfinch	Greylag goose
Herring gull	House sparrow	Linnet	Little egret
Magpie	Mallard	Meadow pipit	Mediterranean gull
Mute swan	Oystercatcher	Red Kite	Redshank
Reed bunting	Robin	Shelduck	Skylark
Starling	Swallow	Tufted duck	Whitethroat
Woodpigeon	Wren		

John Watt

**Find out more:**

[Bird Watching and Wildlife Group webpage](#)

## Walking Cricket

*"Ray Illingworth has just relieved himself at the pavilion end"  
(Brian Johnston, legendary cricket commentator).*

### May 12th Pairs Tournament

Due to low attendance, we decided to hold a two-innings pairs competition at Jubilee Park with each pair batting four overs in rotation either side of the tea interval. This gave everyone the opportunity to play the whole time and gain more bowling and fielding practice against different players.

John was the umpire. All the pairs showed plenty of potential and their ability with the bat, hitting some good fours and sixes but there was also some good fielding on the boundary as the batters looked to walk cheeky singles between the wickets.

The big hitting of Alan and David saw them home with a total of 89.

Den and Graham scored 68 with Jill and Liz only just behind on 64.

**MATCH RESULT:** 1st Alan & David 89; 2nd Den & Graham 68; 3rd Jill & Liz 64.

*Continued*

Walking Cricket – Continued

May 26th Reds Versus Blues

On a hot Tuesday morning the Blue team, captained by Jill, strode purposefully onto the pitch as the Red batters, captained by Graham, managed to find a patch of shade to lounge under a tree on the edge of the pitch. The umpire was me, of course, and thanks go to Liz who ably handled the catering and Barbara who kindly agreed to take the scores. Two young (*Youth3A??*) members, Lexie and Josh, were invited to join in and played well beyond their tender years. In fact, they showed such potential that we forced them to sign an exclusive contract to come back and play for the Woodhall Spa u3a team in about 50 years.

*In a slightly shorter match due to the hot weather, the Blues got off to a poor start losing a wicket with the first ball, but then capitalised on some wayward bowling. Towards the end of the innings, Paul emerged as the star player almost taking a hat-trick of wickets and then taking a fine one-handed catch at midwicket.*

Blues 256-6

Interval

*The Reds got off to a strong start with a good opening stand from Jackie and Paul and despite taking a couple of wickets, the bowlers were never able to exert enough pressure on the batters, who steadily accumulated the runs needed. The Reds blamed the uneven bounce of the pitch, the humid weather which affected the flight of the ball, the noise from a stationary van and the quality of the tea interval biscuits. However, Peter produced the highlight of the innings with a superb, even magnificent, athletic dive on the boundary, which saved a certain four and was probably the best bit of fielding ever seen at Jubilee Park (at least that's what he told me to write). Jeff was convinced that it was indeed Jonty Rhodes, the world-class South African fielder, in person..*

Reds 273-2

**RESULT:** Reds beat the Blues by 17 runs.



Photo taken by Dave and supplied by Teresa

Continued

### *Walking Cricket – Continued*

Despite the hot weather, everyone enjoyed the game and we look forward to our next meeting on June 9th. We will have some catching practice and look at some ways to improve how we play the game. If you want to join the group, or come and watch, everybody is very welcome (except spies from Horncastle – remember what happened to Southampton...). Please contact me (see below) or Joan Willard.

### Extras

Finally, here is a story from the polite, genteel world of cricket.

Cecil Pepper was an Australian cricketer regarded as one of the best all-rounders in the world, but he had a reputation for winding up umpires.

In a match against South Australia in Adelaide in the 1945–46 season, he appealed loudly three times for leg before wicket against the great Australian captain Don Bradman and each one of the shouts fell on the deaf ears of the immovable umpire Jack Scott.

Pepper fired off a series of colourful adjectives to describe the quality of umpiring. Bradman lodged a complaint and the ensuing row is widely believed to be the reason why Pepper never played for Australia, in spite of claiming that he had sent an apology to the Australian Cricket Board.

It is said that Sir Don Bradman once remarked that *“had Cec’s mouth and his attitude been different, he would have been one of the greatest all-rounders the world has ever seen.”*

Pepper then decided to move to England, and played in the Lancashire League.

Once, even he himself realised that he had gone too far, with vociferous appealing mixed with bad language, so much so that he uncharacteristically apologised to umpire Harry Wood, a hardboiled Lancastrian. Wood told him not to worry: *“It were all part o’t game. Up here we like a chap to speak his mind”*, he said.

When Pepper hit the batsman’s pad again and let out another ear-piercing roar of *“OWZAT!?”*

Wood replied: *“Not out, YOU FAT AUSTRALIAN B\*\*\*ARD!!”*

Unbelievably, after he retired Cecil Pepper became a well-respected umpire in English county cricket from 1964 until 1980...

John Hart – Group Leader

[j.s.hart@sky.com](mailto:j.s.hart@sky.com)

### Find out more:

[Walking Cricket Group webpage](#)

5 Mile Walking

Pilgrim's Walk – Beverley to York

From St John to St William, from Beverley to York, across the rich farming land around Beverley, with well bred cattle and chest high oil seed rape, then up into the high Yorkshire Wolds with its vast fields, woods and skies that Hockney was inspired to paint, and then down into the Vale of York along the banks of the Derwent and the Ouse, until we reached York.



On the Minster Way



Strolling along to Scarborough



The Start of the Minster Way  
Beverley only 50 miles to go

The 50 mile Minster Way proved a classic route mostly between a mixture of churches, though there is the odd high security prison. At Scarborough, the high Victorian gem was built for one man at a cost of £5000. Bishop Wilton, was a mixture of Early Norman door with mermaids, snakes and Goliath and a copy of a Vatican floor made by Italian craftsmen. In contrast, the peace of the little church of Great Givendale nestling alone in an isolated wooded valley. At either end, the glory of two towering minsters.



Descent into Great Givendale

Continued

## Beverley to York – Continued



Tea and scones at Bainton

At the end of the day we shared meals, memories and jokes. We enjoyed the flowers, the birds and the fox who watched us passing through his wood. We deepened friendships and took breakfast with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Really? Yes really!

Malcolm Capps

It is more than clocking up the miles. It is a time to have longer conversations and learn more about farming. We drank beer and tea at pubs and cafes and ate meals sometimes solely consisting of puddings of cherry crumble or bread and butter with rhubarb. Who would have guessed that a simple Yorkshire cheese scone came with poached egg, pickled walnuts and watercress?



Up to our shoulders in oil seed rape



St Edith's, Bishop Wilton triptych

Continued

## 5 Mile Walking – Continued

### Belchford to Scamblesby



May saw the group take the popular and very scenic route from Belchford to Scamblesby on the circular path. This walk is called [In the Shadow of Juicetrump](#), which refers to a rocky outcrop of sandstone in this limestone area, giving quite straight sides to the mound, which at one time was considered to be a neolithic [`long barrow`](#).



The weather was cold and showery which is probably why only eleven members of this very large group took part.

Starting from Belchford village hall we followed the Viking Way to Scamblesby over the rising point of the river Waring, which flows to Horncastle.



From the village the path leaves the Viking Way and heads uphill for amazing views back towards Belchford, then back down to the start, and lastly taking a short stretch along the road.

Cold and occasionally wet it may have been, with hail at one point, but the scenery was stunning.

[David and Elizabeth Leech](#)

**Find out more:**

[5 Mile Walking Group webpage](#)

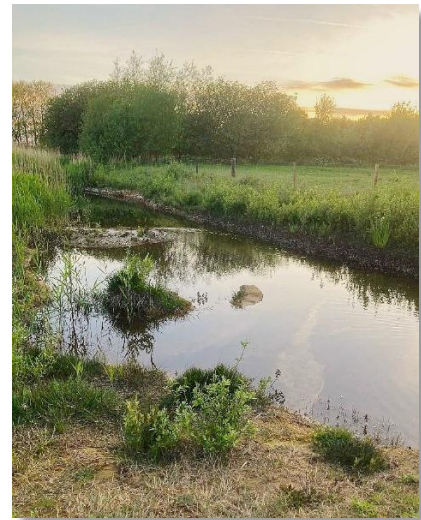


Wild Flowers

Dyson Farms at Nocton

The Wild flower group in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust visited Dyson Farms at Nocton to view the work on the [restoration of the Dunston and Nocton becks](#). The aim is to increase the length of the beck and restore its natural function whilst increasing pool areas and oxygenating riffles (areas of shallow, free-flowing water created by coarse sediment) to improve aquatic life. It is part of the overall scheme on the farm to heighten the water levels.

Already fields around the beck have had the topsoil removed and sown with a wild flower mixture from very local reserves. The land will be seasonally wetted to provide high quality wetland habitat.



Dunston Beck



Ox Eye Daisy

There was an abundance of *ox eye daisies* and *salad burnet*. Salad burnet is a short herb of chalk and limestone grassland and can be used in drinks and salads and has a slightly bitter taste. Walking through it produces the smell of cucumber. It is known for its ability to withstand drought and poor soil.



Salad Burnet

On the banksides willow has begun to grow and there are individual flag irises also known as segg

A quick pond dip produced a stone loach and freshwater shrimps. There were reports of kingfishers being seen in the area. What a pleasant way to spend a May evening.



Stone Loach

Among the plants we saw were:

- Buttercups*    *Cow parsley*    *Flag Irises*    *Jack by the Hedge*    *Lesser Bulrushes*    *Salad Burnet*

Malcolm Capps – Group Leader

Find out more:

[Wild Flowers Group webpage](#)

Art

May Gallery

Artists continued with the topic of 'What Makes You Happy?'  
Thank you Geoff Cook for demonstration in oils of Sunset.



Irene Derwent – Group Leader

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

## Playreading

## Bus Stop



Our group thoroughly enjoyed performing the staged playreading of 'Bus Stop' at the AGM this month. It was so nice to hear the audience reaction and I am so proud of everyone who took part, especially those who had never performed before. We will be returning to our normal playreading sessions now but we do hope to be able to put on



another show for you at some point – possibly a pantomime late next year. Thank you to Peter Ellis who took these photographs of the performance.

Rosemary Brown – Group Leader

Find out more:

[Play Reading Group webpage](#)

### Crowns, Quilts, and Bags

Whilst perusing the internet, Stef was inspired to make a celebration crown for a young family member's birthday. As a talented artist, she was able to create a personalised design and then used her sewing skills to applique felt balloons, bunting, and to adorn the crown with small buttons. In addition to this crown being more adjustable as a result of the attached ribbons, it is also longer-lasting than the paper variety with which we are all familiar, especially with the clever idea of replaceable age numbers which can be attached with hook and loop tape. I am sure that the recipient will appreciate the thought, time, as well as the talent which went into making this.

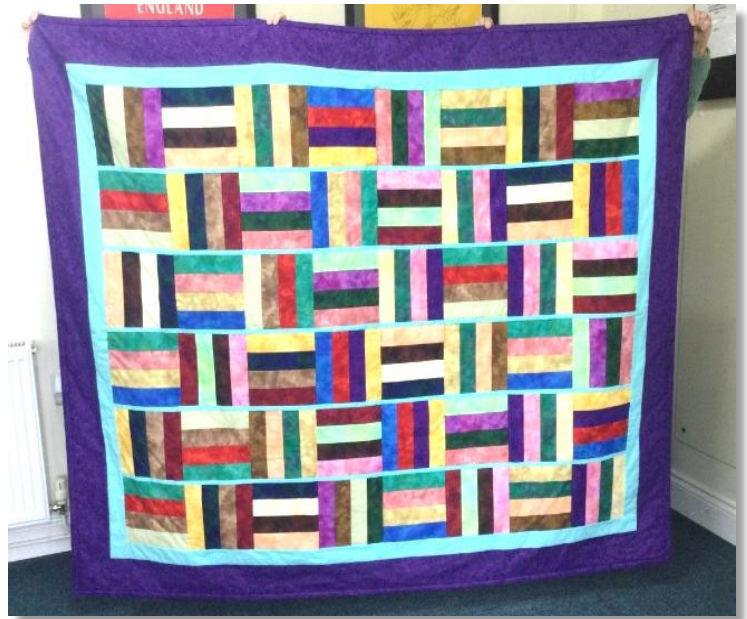


Barbara has once again been raiding her stash of fabric (which must surely be getting low by now) to create yet another quilt for the Linus charity. Linus seeks to provide love, security, and warmth to children who are sick, disabled, disadvantaged, or distressed by donating gifts of new, homemade, and washable quilts made by volunteers. Barbara has ensured this quilt meets the brief by using a soft fleece for the backing, and testing the colour fastness of the fabric – reds are notoriously prone to losing their colour when washed.

*Continued*

## Crowns, Quilts, and Bags – Continued

For Judy, it all started with a design or Jelly Roll. For those non-quilters amongst you, Jelly Roll is a registered trademark of American company Moda Fabrics and consists of 42 pre-cut strips each 2.5" wide across the WOF or Width Of Fabric (approx. 42" wide). The selection of fabrics is often a design collection or is specially curated to complement and co-ordinate, thereby removing some of the difficult choices that the less confident of us have when selecting fabric for our quilts. It also saves some of the time spent cutting! The decision-making didn't stop there though, as Judy had to decide how to group the strips into bundles of 4. Those strips were then sewn together, cut into equal blocks and then arranged in a pleasing formation – which is not as easy as it sounds.



Strangely, taking a photo of a possible layout can often more easily identify clashes or anomalies. Judy chose further fabric for the thin sashing, borders, backing and binding, and finally machine-quilted it herself. I'm sure her grandson will treasure this as a family heirloom.



I tried my hand at using metal hardware D-Rings and a swivel lobster clasp to make a pouch for a friend's birthday. The hardware allows a wristlet strap to be attached to, or removed from the bag. The zip extends beyond the right-hand edge of the bag to allow more access to the contents.

I also made a quilted pan holder containing insulated wadding so my husband doesn't burn his hands on our new metal-handled pans. In truth, the handles haven't been as hot as expected, so it now hangs from the extractor fan cover like a piece of art. The striped binding does set it off nicely though!

Carmel Sefton

Find out more:

[Sew and Sew Group webpage](#)

## Poetry

## Abandoned

'Abandoned' proved to be an exceptional chosen theme for our May meeting. A wide range of poems was produced by members themselves, along with captivating chosen ones from poets such as Philip Larkin, John Clare and Sylvia Plath.

Irene's 'Ode to Samsung A21s' was both clever and humorous, conveying just how much the iPhone has become a key part of modern life. Tom's use and interpretation of Stevie Smith's 'Not Waving but Drowning' was movingly conveyed in his own poem - 'a flotsam of jingle jangle thoughts' indeed.

Another poem, 'Abandoned', stood out particularly as it conveyed an unforgettable, challenging moment from childhood, when feeling abandoned, in a succinct and moving manner.

The two hour meeting flashed by. We were all sorry to be saying goodbye to Joanna, who will be moving to a new location. She has been a key member of the group.

## Abandoned

*The black car stopped  
by their black gate.  
Friends' eyes glued.  
Cars were rare in the terrace.*

*He watched, puzzled.  
Tim carried black bags into the black car.  
Mummy walked fast down the grey path,  
Head down,  
Determined.*

*The gate clanged,  
Startling the silence like a prison door.  
Mummy disappeared  
into the black car,  
Smart hat, watery smile.  
The car cried too.*

*Car door slammed  
like a full stop.  
Mummy imprisoned.  
It sped away.  
It didn't stop.  
It disappeared fast.*

*He collapsed, confused.  
His little body  
wrenched with sobs.  
Desperate.  
Unbelieving.  
His heart broken.  
Scarred forever.  
Abandoned.*

© 2026

## Ode To Samsung A21 S

*So there you are, so tired and obsolete I'm told,  
But I have fought you for years,  
And there will be tears.*

*Today, you are to be released,  
I will replace you,  
Such a step –  
3 outlets investigated,  
The nearest to your replacement is  
Samsung Galaxy A17 5 g no less,  
So what does it mean?  
Grief and hassle in my opinion.*

*Cost is a criteria 2 Outlets same fee, but only one  
Will transfer my Data.  
The third is £39 cheaper, and full transfer. Oh Joy  
Decision made, This is the one.*

*An hour of transference ahead,  
Then A21 will be dead,  
One false start, and so, all my Apps are there  
Pictures too and Dear Grandchildren pic  
Is still my Wallpaper, As If!*

*But, as is the wont, Add Ons of course,  
To charge phone it needs data transfer plug*

© Irene Derwent 2026

Marion Ashton – Group Co-Leader

Read More:

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

[May Abandoned](#)

## Outings

**A great day out – Holkham Hall, Norfolk**

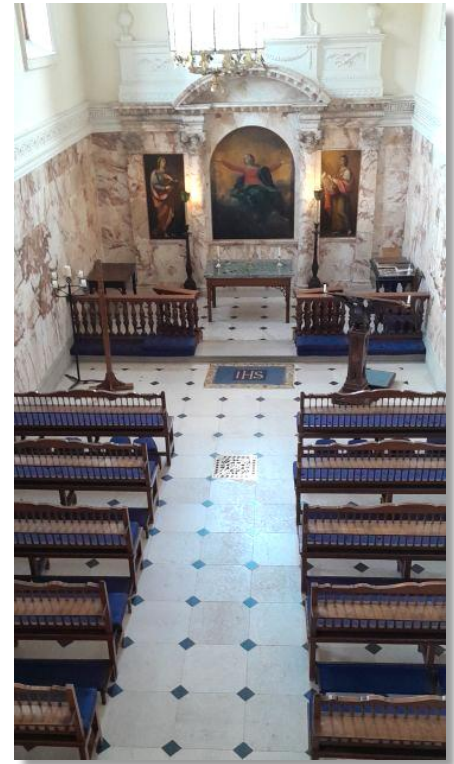
We woke to a promising day of sunshine and light cloud.

Our regular Dickinson coach and driver arrived on time at 9 am in the usual Stixwold Road layby.

The two-and-a-quarter-hour journey was uneventful, apart from the joy of seeing the wonderful countryside of both South Lincolnshire and Norfolk.

On arrival at the gates of the Holkham estate, two cyclists insisted on staying on the road, slowing our progress towards the grand hall. Again, we were delayed by an orderly procession of proud parents of a dozen goslings crossing our path, much to the delight of those in the front of the coach.

On arrival, we were greeted by two charming Holkham staff members, who briefed us on the estate and the day's events.



Our first inclination was to go to the cafeteria and toilets, which I found more than adequate, with catering for many more than were there. The shop had a range of products to cater for most tastes. We then set off on our tour, as our tickets were valid for all areas. A deeper exploration of Holkham Hall itself is not to be missed. This magnificent 18th-century Palladian house, built by Thomas Coke, 1st Earl of Leicester, also includes entry to the Walled Garden (which we visited en masse) and the Holkham Stories exhibition, making for a wonderful full day out.

*Continued*



## Holkham Hall – Continued

Inside, you'll be greeted by the breathtaking 50ft dome of the Marble Hall, then wander through state rooms like the rich red Saloon, the Statue Gallery with its remarkable Roman collection, the lavish Green State Bedroom where royalty once slept, and even the Old Kitchen with its polished copper pots.



Knowledgeable room stewards are on hand to answer questions. For members who love history, art, or simply a touch of grandeur, a return trip to the Hall itself would be a truly memorable adventure. I particularly enjoyed the lavish bathroom, where the bath could accommodate a small family.

The return journey was just as enjoyable as the first, with sunshine and light cloud. We arrived back at a respectable 6.15 pm outside Sainsbury's.

A special thanks to Diane Taylor and the Outings team for a well-planned and coordinated day out. I look forward to the next adventure.

Paul Membrey – assisted by AI

### Note

See the Groups Noticeboard for a message about the Cambridge visit in July



### Find out more:

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

[Outings Web Page](#)

## Members 'Recommends'

### Thorpe Camp Virtual Reality Aviation Centre

[Thorpe Camp Virtual Reality Aviation Centre](#) is based at Thorpe Camp in Tattershall Thorpe near RAF Coningsby. The Centre has six simulators equipped with virtual reality headsets to allow visitors to fly in the virtual world with realistic terrain backdrops.



- The **Lancaster** is a simple console-based simulator.
- The **Tiger Moth** simulator, sitting alongside a real Tiger Moth fuselage, is set on a plinth with full, representative controls.
- The **Jetstream** is fitted with a control yoke typical of large aircraft, and is normally used to experience the Lancaster or Dakota, but can also be flown as a Jetstream.
- The **Spitfire** is the same as the BBMF cockpit used to train the pilots of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and is fitted with authentic controls similar to the real aeroplane.
- The **Tornado F3** and the **F4 Phantoms** are real simulators that were in service and used to train RAF aircrews at RAF Leeming and Leuchars respectively. Both are fitted with fast-jet style hands-on-throttle and stick, known as HOTAS controls.

Sessions are arranged outside of museum opening hours, normally Tuesday through Friday, for up to four flyers, flying any of the simulators. They last typically, two hours. Additionally, there are virtual reality experiences for visitors when they are not flying.

Experiences can be tailored to suit flying skills ranging from beginners to qualified pilots. The Lancaster is wheelchair friendly and the Jetstream and Tiger Moth can be used by flyers with some physical difficulties.

Sessions can be booked through the Centre E Mail: [TCVRAC@outlook.com](mailto:TCVRAC@outlook.com). There is no charge but, as the Museum is a registered charity, donations are welcomed and help the Centre to deliver this community experience.

Janice Davies

## The Final Word

### Feedback

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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.

Tom Sefton – Editor

