



WSPu3a Newsletter

June/July
2026



[Broadway Mural](#)

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

Your new committee has met twice now since the AGM and I thought I would share with you some of the things that we have been discussing. Having several new committee members has brought on board new ideas and I am feeling positive about the year to come.

January 2027 meeting: Yes I know that seems a long way ahead but as we did not hold a meeting in January for 2025 or 2026 due to it falling on or next to New Years Day, we feel we should make next years event a bit of a special one. We have discussed having some of our groups providing 'entertainment', maybe a quiz, a short playreading, have a go sessions etc. We are also thinking about providing food for this meeting rather than our normal but excellent drinks & biscuits. We will let you know what we decide!

Health & Safety: following on from my attendance at the Local Area Network meeting we realised that we needed to address having Risk Assessments in place for the meetings and groups we run.

A risk assessment should be done whether a meeting takes place in a hall, outside or in someone's home. Our Group Coordinator, Joan, has sent an email to all group leaders asking if they currently have a risk assessment in place & if not, asking them to complete one. I have completed two for the groups I lead and it really was a simple process so please do complete these. If you need any support do not hesitate to ask me at chairman@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk

Monthly speakers: our new **Speaker Finder**, Susanne, has been arranging more speakers for later this year but she would welcome any suggestions that you may have. If you have attended a presentation elsewhere that you think could be suitable, please contact her at speakers@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk.

Rosemary Brown – Co-Chairperson

Obituary

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

Robert (Bob) Aspinall

We are saddened to know of the passing of Bob Aspinall, who was a member of Woodhall Spa u3a for some 15 years. During that time he was a keen participating member of both the [5 Mile Walking Group](#) and also the [Woodhall Wanderers](#), always enjoying the annual walking holiday arranged by the '5 Milers'.

Early on Bob ran a short computer course to try to explain the intricacies of these machines to those of us not so knowledgeable.

For eleven years he enjoyed being part of the [Jazz, Blues, and Big Band Sounds Group](#), where he shared his love of Dave Brubeck, Herb Alpert and The Tijuana Brass, and many others. He contributed to all the sessions he attended for everyone's benefit, and showed genuine interest and appreciation for the diverse contributions from other members, always with his characteristic warmth and good humour.

Bob, or Robert as he was known in the [Croquet Club](#), loved the sport and nothing would deter him from passing on advice to novice players. He was a Club Coach and regularly attended the Tuesday morning u3a sessions, taking over when the leader was unavailable and generally helping to run the sessions, always giving advice and encouragement.

Our sympathies and thoughts are with Elaine and her family.

Lewis Coles

A Founder Member of the [Poetry Group](#), Lewis brought a rich lifetime of stories and humour to the group sessions, all delivered with his gloriously mellifluous tones, which were particularly well applied when reciting his own poems.

As a tribute, one of his poems is presented on the Poetry Group Page, [Click here](#)..

Our sympathies go to Lewis's wife and family.

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](#)

Groups News

Looking through some old u3a paperwork recently I found a list of groups in January 2020 and wondered which ones were still running and which ones were no more.

Amongst those that have stood the test of time are **Sewing, Croquet, Science, Home Computing, Playreading, Art** and **Jazz**.

The following no longer exist: **Ballroom Dancing, Gardening, French, Scottish Country Dancing**.

Perhaps, for some members, reading this list will bring back memories full of **challenges** and **laughter**.

Perhaps, for newer members it might encourage new groups to begin again?

Groups fold for a variety of reasons... sometimes dwindling interest but *usually* when a leader steps down.

At the moment we have two groups that could soon close.....**Art** and also **Craft**.

If you are a member of either of these **please** have a think about taking the lead.

This can always be more than one person.

Also, **sharing the planning** with all group members is always successful as can be seen in **S.T.E.M, Visiting Churches**, and both **Walking Groups**.

Apologies for writing again about Leaders but they are the backbone of our u3a.

Thank you to all of them.

Team work makes the dream work

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 2nd

2:30pm to 4pm

Coronation Hall

Evacuees

Presented by Ken Argent

August 6th

2:30pm to 4pm

Coronation Hall

A Journey

Farmer Joe

At the June meeting Nigel & Teri entertained us with an afternoon of acoustic American songs, mostly from the American 1950s-1970s. Most of us knew the words and were encouraged to sing along.

Just a reminder, any suggestions for future speakers please email me:
speakers@woodhallspa-u3a.org.uk

Susanne Nicholson – Speaker Finder

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:

Our own WSPu3a website	Woodhall Spa u3a website
u3a – Online Learning Events	u3a Online Learning
The u3a Essay Competition 2026 <i>Take us on a remarkable real-life journey—of discovery, adventure or transformation—and bring its story to life in fewer than 1000 words.</i> Who Can Enter? <i>All u3a members, including those in Interest Groups Online. You must be a member by 1 June 2026 and stay a member until winners are announced in October 2026.</i> Key Details: <i>Free entry (one essay per person)</i> <i>Deadline: Submit by 12 noon, Friday 31 July 2026</i> <i>Prize books for the winner and two runners-up, donated by HX Expeditions</i>	Essay Competition
u3a Radio Podcast <i>We meet Sohail Husain who made some remarkable discoveries about his family from the First World War, the Partition of India and Pakistan and the Holocaust. We also speak to Susy Hodges about what it's like to be reporting from the heart of the Vatican, followed by a look at the determination and kindness of a lady who embarked on a deeply personal mission to support children living in Romanian orphanages..</i>	u3a Radio June 

Group Noticeboard

Outings

Our next three outings are fully booked with healthy reserve lists, and members who are coming with us to Cambridge on 1st July will already have received their reminder e mail.

Our final outing of the year will be in **November** and the team are currently looking at organising a trip to **Hull** so that we can visit the **Maritime Museum**, which reopens in August after five years of extensive transformation costing over 20 million pounds.

Have a look at the [Museum website](#) to see this beautiful historic building and some of the maritime treasures newly acquired by the museum.

There are also a number of interesting places to visit within walking distance from the museum including the **Ferens Art Gallery** and the newly restored **Spurn Lightship**.

The Outings Team

Find out more:

[Outings Webpage](#)

Continued

Group Noticeboard – Continued

Walking Cricket

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Our meeting on June 23rd was CANCELLED due to not enough players being available.

Fortunately, Woodhall Spa CC have not charged us for this booking.

We are now halfway through the season and have yet to play a full 8-a-side game.

At our next meeting at Jubilee Park on July 14th, we will have to discuss the group's future to ensure that we can carry on and play regularly. Those who have been coming have really enjoyed it and our standard of play has clearly improved, but this is a TEAM game and for us to be able play a full match, we need as many group members to attend as often as possible.

If you have a guest(s) or children that you want to bring along, they will be welcome and will not be charged, and may be able to join in as well, but please let me know beforehand.

If you have been thinking about joining the group, or coming to watch or be our scorer, please come on July 14th. We start at 10am.

It's great for your physical and mental health, it's safe and social, and we have a lovely venue.

And there's refreshments! Everybody is very welcome. Please support us.

Contact me or Joan Willard for more information.

John Hart

j.s.hart@sky.com

Around the Groups in 30 days

Sunday Lunch 2

We all had a lovely Sunday lunch at the Golf Hotel.

We meet every 3rd Sunday of the month. There are 12 members in the 2nd Sunday Lunch Group and there were 9 of us at the Golf Hotel.

Sue Blackburn – Group Leader.



Find out more:

[Sunday Lunch 2 Group Webpage](#)

Walking Cricket

"I bowl so slowly that if I don't like a ball I can run after it and bring it back" – (James M. Barrie)

"I can't really say I'm batting badly. I'm not batting long enough to be batting badly" – (Greg Chappell)

June 9th Woodhall Snails Versus Red Devils

On a cool day interrupted briefly by rain before the sun peeked into view, a strong Snails team, captained by Paul, put the Red Devils in to bat in a six-a-side match:

The Reds got off to a good start due to the batting of David and Jill but wickets tumbled too regularly for them to gain a strong foothold in the game and Jackie's spell of two consecutive wicket maiden overs pegged the Devils back to a modest total. Devils 213-7	Interval	The Snails got off to an unsluggish start due to Kevin's hard-hitting, but after he was warned for disputing the umpire's very fair and completely honest decision that he was OUT by hitting his own wicket rather than it having been blown over in the wind (<i>well, I suppose I was down the other end and couldn't see properly...</i>), any prospect of a victory for the Reds faded as Paul and John hit more runs towards the end of the innings. The Red Devils complained that the slight dampness of the surface affected their footing and the bounce of the ball, and that the glare of the harsh sun affected their bowling. Sound familiar? Snails 273-3
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It is good to see that the overall quality of the batting, bowling and fielding is improving as everyone gets more practice and gains a better understanding of the game. A couple of rule tweaks, particularly about running (walking) between the wickets has made the game better and encourages active participation from the fielding side throughout the game.

Ahead of an imminent risk assessment of the dangerous sport of Walking Cricket with its fearsome **plastic bat and ball**, it was a huge relief that nobody picked up so much as a sore finger, let alone a cruciate ligament injury. The First Aid kit thus remains as unused as a forward defensive stroke in the England top order batting line-up. This is just as well because it would take me until the next match in two weeks' time to get all the bits of plaster, gauze, etc. back into the tiny first aid bag.

MATCH RESULT

The Red Devils 213-7; Woodhall Snails 273-3
Woodhall Snails won by 60 runs

Extras

Here is another true cricket story relevant to our efforts to become better with the bat:

'Bomber' Wells, a spin bowler and great character, played for Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire in the 1950s and 1960s and used to bat at No.11 because, well, that's as low as he could go in the batting order. His running between the wickets was so bad that they included him in the paraphrase of Denis Compton's famous words describing an equally inept runner: **"When he shouts 'Yes' for a run, it is merely the basis for further negotiations!"**

Incidentally, Compton was no better. John Warr once said of Compton: **"He was the only person who would call you for a run and wish you luck at the same time"**.

Continued

Walking Cricket – Continued

During a county match when Wells was playing for Gloucestershire, he had an equally horrendous runner as his No.10 batting partner and, horror of horrors, both got injured. Both opted for runners (a runner is a player who comes on just to run between the wickets for the injured batsman) when it was their turn to bat.

Bomber hit the ball and called for a run, forgot he had a runner and ran himself. The same thing happened at the other end. In the melee, someone decided that a second run was on. Now all four were running. Due to the confusion and constant shouts of 'Yes', and 'No', eventually all of them ran to the same end. At this point, the entire ground was in fits of laughter. One of the fielders picked up the ball and threw down the wicket at the other end. Umpire Alec Skelding looked very seriously at the four and calmly informed them: **"One of you b***ers is out. I don't know which. You decide and inform the bl**dy scorers!"**

(Adapted from 'From the Pavilion End', by Harold 'Dickie' Bird, 1988).

John Hart – Group Leader

Find out more:

[Walking Cricket Group Webpage](#)

Croquet

Here are three keen croquet players from our Woodhall Spa Tuesday morning venue in Jubilee Park.

If any would be 'wannabes' would like to join us you would be most welcome, all equipment supplied by the WSCC.

If you have never played golf croquet, come and see how it's done, I think with a little coaching from the group leader you'll be playing and enjoying the experience, then thinking "why haven't I done this before?"

Bob Potter – Group Leader/Coach



Pauline and Debby watching Terry run a hoop

Find out more:

[Croquet Group Webpage](#)

Wild Flowers

Saltfleetby Nature Reserve

We returned to the Saltfleetby Nature Reserve in June. The previous visit had been in August and we had seen lots of sea lavender. This time we were rewarded with a view of hundreds of orchids and a sighting of marsh helleborine and sand leeks.

It is an area of great diversity of habitat with shifting dunes (white dunes) and fixed coastal dunes (grey dunes) which are being colonised into mature scrub. There are also humid slacks which are areas isolated from tidal inundation by sand deposition.

Information boards explained that the width of the foreshore is decreasing. Grazing is helping to combat this process. By 2070 it is suggested that sea levels will have risen and most of the area will be under water.



Dog Rose



Marsh Helleborine



Sand Leek

Marsh helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*) is a perennial herbaceous orchid that grows from a horizontal rhizome,

Marsh and spotted orchids are wide spread and most catholic in their choice of habitat. They are extremely variable with many subspecies and hybrids.

Sand leeks are available commercially. They give off a strong garlic-like smell when its leaves or bulbs are crushed. This pungent, oniony aroma is a key identifying feature. The flower heads are attractive to pollinators such as bees and hoverflies.

Here are some of the flowers we saw:

Bugloss

Field Poppy

Marsh Orchid

Sand Leek

Wild Asparagus

Common Spotted Orchid

Lady's Bedstraw

Pyramid Orchid

Sorrel

Southern Marsh Orchid

Dog Rose

Marsh Helleborine

Rest Harrow

Speedwell

Yellow Rattle

Malcolm Capps – Group Leader

Find out more:

[Wild Flowers Group Webpage](#)

Visiting Churches

St. John the Baptist, Temple Bruer

Our June visit was to the charming little church of St. John the Baptist at Temple Bruer. There were just nine of us on this particular visit and I only just made it (see end).

The church is Victorian, built in 1874 by James Fowler of Louth. Attached to the church is the old schoolroom, now used as the Parish Hall, in 1905 it was titled a 'Public Elementary School (mixed)' for 45 children.



When you stand outside the church there doesn't appear to be any houses in sight, but there was a time when the area was populated by numerous farm labourers and their families.

We were given an interesting talk by the Churchwarden about the various landowners of the area, including the Chaplin family who were an important and wealthy landed dynasty and owned the Blankney Estate in Lincolnshire for over two centuries. The most notable member of the family, Henry Chaplin, was a prominent Cabinet minister, racehorse owner, and a personal friend of King Edward VII. Known as the 'Squire of Blankney,' his highly extravagant lifestyle caused him to accumulate massive debts and the estate passed into the hands of the Earl of Londesborough.

The Crucifixion is depicted in the central lancet of the east window. This stained glass window is a memorial to Lady Florence Chaplin who died in childbirth, coincidentally on the day the church was consecrated.



The reason the curtains are gathered up, is because apparently the mice nibble them away if they are left at floor level.

Continued

St. John the Baptist – Continued

We were treated to tea and choccy biccies in the hall after our visit to the church.

The church and churchyard are kept in immaculate order; it is obviously a well-loved little church.

Services take place twice a month and on each Sunday during August from 2.00 till 4.00 they serve afternoon teas to raise funds for the upkeep of the church and hall. It's well worth a visit as the cakes are wonderful. (cash only)

From there we went on to the Knights Templar Tower, all of us going in different directions, and two of our number getting lost on the way.



The tower at Temple Bruer is the only remaining structure of a once grand and imposing building, designed as replica of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. A vast complex once stood here.



©[Heritage Lincolnshire](#)



The Knights Templars have a fascinating history, too extensive to relate here, just to say that Lincolnshire was one of their wealthiest assets, and along with large amounts of monies made from wool, it was also ideal for military training. There is a very interesting little virtual tour on YouTube entitled [Temple Bruer fly-through by Heritage Lincolnshire](#), showing how it is believed it once looked.

Cilla Darvill

Incidentally – I had set out in plenty of time, only to find the road to Temple Bruer closed. Nil desperandum, I carried on to the next turning, and passing the Knights Templar Tower (which we had planned to visit after the church), went through the village of Welbourn and up to the opposite end of the road to the church – which was also closed! I decided to continue on, making my way round to the A15 again and back to the top end of the road to the church to await the others there. However, by this time it had gone 2.00pm, the time we were supposed to be at the church, and my mobile began to ring. It was Kathie, to tell me everyone was already there and waiting for me to arrive, apparently you could still use the road for access. I eventually made it to the church.

Find out more:

[Visiting Churches Group Webpage](#)

Woodhall Wanderers

Welton le Wold

Six intrepid members of the Wanderers group braved the heat wave on June 24th for a pleasant stroll round the village of Welton le Wold, near Louth.

The name of the village comes from Old English, 'Wella Tun' meaning a settlement with a stream. The 'le Wold' was added to distinguish it from other villages named Welton.

Part of our walk took us beside the clear chalk stream, which still runs through the pretty village. Luckily after walking through the village and along a bridleway with flower meadows each side we came to the Silver Lincs Way which is a 25 mile walk to celebrate the Grimsby Ramblers.



This section of the walk was in woodland and so cool, following a footpath and stream and along well-marked bridleways. Eventually we turned and came back to the church alongside a field of, I think, oats and then back to the church. The churchwardens had kindly opened the church for us and left us refreshments of tea, coffee and squash to help us recover from our exertions.



Thank you to those who came along in the heat. We can hopefully do it again in cooler weather.

Diane Taylor

Maureen Moscrop – Group Co-leader

Find out more:

[Woodhall Wanderers Group Webpage](#)

Poetry

The group's meeting was unusual this month, as it was specifically organised for each member to have two or three poems recorded, to be used as part of [Woodhall Spa Festival of Storytelling](#) at Jubilee Park 10th – 12th July.

We met at my house and each read out our chosen poems to record. It all went very smoothly and the recordings have been sent on to Annette Sharp, the key organiser of the event.

Each member of the group also chose a few poems to be printed out, laminated and displayed on wooden posts along the wisteria walkway. There will be an amazing array of poems from a few local groups and it is wonderful that ours will be part of it.

Red Hill Cowslips

*Replanted on The Wolds hillside
to bloom in abundance – to splash-paint
the sloping backdrop Spring yellow,
to drift you back in time – to lie
in a fenland field, clutched and cuddled
by clusters of bell-shaped blooms,
umbels of frill petals, nodding in rhythm –
primula veris – an undulating mattress.
Lie here again, they whisper to you now,
hold St Peter's keys back in your hands.
Breathe in and soak up citrus scent –
pollen for the bees, rural rapport for you.*

© Marion Ashton



Wisteria Walkway

By way of tribute to Lewis Coles, the founder member of this group, who passed away recently, we present the first poem that Lewis recited to us at the inaugural group session:

A Prayer for Lorna

*I pray that you will inherit the earth
In all its mystery;
That your fluttering hands will always know
How to touch a flower.
Go eagerly into your inheritance.*

*I see in your untroubled eyes
The future of a world
Where all men know that only the meek
Can inherit the Earth.
Go Meekly into your inheritance.*

*I pray that you will always know
How to watch a sparrow;
That you will always say "I am but one
Of Nature's creatures."
Go gently into your inheritance.*

*And when you touch a flower or
Watch a sparrow
Remember those who went before:
Who said "It's time;" "Enough;" "No more;"
Let our children go
Safely into their inheritance.*

© Lewis Coles

[Click here to return to Page 2](#)

Marion Ashton – Group Co-leader

Find out more:

[Poetry Group Webpage](#)

Bridge

Hottest June day on record

Temperatures soared but red alerts and health warnings didn't deter the u3a Bridge Group from playing today. One member came equipped with a giant fan!

The Bridge Group meets at 2 pm on Wednesdays throughout the year at the Cricket Club pavilion in Jubilee Park.

Our members are very friendly and sociable with the more experienced players supporting those of us who are developing or refreshing our skills. If you are a bridge player who wants to have a fun afternoon honing your card skills come along and see how we operate.



Hilary Betty – Group Leader

Find out more:

[Bridge Group Webpage](#)

Home Computing for Fun**Breaking Free from Big Tech: Discover Qwant**

For those who have concerns that Big US Tech has been abusing your information, either to target you with adverts or sell on your details and habits, there is good news:

[BRUSSELS, June 3 \(Reuters\)](#) – The European Parliament will switch to French search engine Qwant from Google, it said on Wednesday, underscoring Europe's push to reduce its reliance on U.S. technology in favour of local alternatives.

"From 4 June 2026, Qwant will become the default search engine on the European Parliament's Microsoft Edge and Mozilla Firefox browsers," a Parliament spokesperson said in an email.

Search with Privacy: Qwant

The browser-based search engine is called Qwant (<https://www.qwant.com/?l=en>). Unlike its American counterparts, Qwant offers:

- No selling of your personal data
- No retention of your search data
- A French origin, hosted entirely in Europe

Paul Membrey (AI Assisted) – Group Leader

Find out more:

[Home Computing for Fun 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, or use the link above.

We are a community that exists to share something of ourselves with each other, so consequently, when people we admire and respect pass on, it's only right that we feel a collective sense of loss and sadness.

Every time we enter into conversation there is a change that goes on in our minds – impressions and ideas are added to the internal repository that we collect and subsequently draw on as we move through our lives. Sometimes, we change our viewpoint as a result of these conversations, and ultimately, they may even change who we are.

There is a little something of each of us that will outlive us in the thoughts of our friends, and I will always be thankful for having known some special people, and sharing with them those conversations and exchanges that have influenced me and helped me towards becoming a better person.

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

