

# WEST WOLDS

## u3a

"Learn , Laugh and Live"

### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

I hope you have been enjoying the sunny days and manage to find plenty to do when you have to stay indoors. I was just chatting on the phone to a friend and we were saying how on our walks we manage to chat to various people in passing and we have met some new people to the village. We need to hold on to this as restrictions lift and see if we can maintain this increased sense of community. That led me on to thinking about what group things we could organise for when we can meet more people at a time.

The same will be true for u3a groups which can meet outside to start with. Our Upholstery Group met outdoors in the summer months in 2019 and could again when regulations and weather permit. Drama Group used to meet in the garden in warm weather. What other groups could meet outdoors as a way back to activities when a few people are able to gather outdoors?

I hope you have been taking advantage of the talks Sharon has organised for us online and that your Zoom groups are still going well. Please let us know of groups which are still keeping in contact with each other and doing some of the activities they would normally do.

The Committee has agreed that in the current unprecedented situation that the membership fee will be waived for this year until the new financial year begins in September. Very best wishes to you all and I am so glad we have a treasurer so we can carry on being West Wolds u3a.

*Gail Dennis, Chairman*

### Changes of Circumstance

If you have any changes of circumstance, e.g. change of address, telephone or email, or a death of a member, please let the Groups Co-ordinator and Membership Secretary know by phone or email.

## February 2021 Newsletter

### Issue 90

Thanks for all contributions, these are very well received, I will endeavour to get them in within the limited space available. *Terry Francis (Editor)*

[newsletter@westwoldsu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@westwoldsu3a.org)

### Our next Online Speaker - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am

**Life of a Lighterman** is a presentation by David Lewis. It describes how bulk loads of cargo were transported from cargo ships in the Docks in Hull, along the River Ouse and into the seed-crushing mills in Selby. The presentation is enlivened by audio testimony from 96-year-old Laurie Dews who worked in the trade from the 1930s to the 1980s. David sets the historical context, and Laurie 'tells it like it was' explaining, in his inimitable Selby brogue, the intricacies of the lost arts of singling out barges, unloading onto a board and the use of a warping line.

David Lewis is a local historian living in Selby, North Yorkshire. A chemist by training, and a teacher by profession, a decade ago he left the lab to concentrate on his love of local history. He spent the last decade investigating the Hidden Heritage of Selby, including working for 3 years on a project largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and setting up a 'pop-up' town museum.

If you would like to view this talk, please watch your inbox for the registration link in the coming weeks .

Talk length - 34 minutes.

Any queries please contact Sharon Rupp  
[speakerfinder@westwoldsu3a.org](mailto:speakerfinder@westwoldsu3a.org)

### A TALE OF TWO PLAQUES ....

.... from Brian Ward

As many of you will be aware from taking part in some of the visits arranged by me over the past years, I have a wide interest in all forms of transport. I think this stemmed from the days when as a Grammar School boy in the north London area,

I travelled to and from school each way every day on two trains. In the 1950s this meant that, like so many boys, I developed an interest in train spotting, and even today I have some old Ian Allan ABC's ...

This interest stayed with me throughout my working life, which included jobs on the railways, in road haulage, at both dockside and inland cold storage, with an airline, and back to road haulage in various sales roles. Ever since the 1990s I have been a member of the Transport Trust, the only UK charity devoted to the preservation and restoration of buildings and vehicles in all areas of transport.

One role of the TT is to have commemorative plaques, akin to the renowned Blue plaques for places of literary history, to be placed on buildings and at sites of transport history. The TT ones are known as Red Wheels because that is the form they take!

In 2019 I decided that as there were no Red Wheels anywhere in Lincolnshire, I should do something about rectifying this omission, as the county is indeed rich in transport history, stemming from its agricultural pedigree. After a lot of thought and research and list preparation, I came up with two sites in the city of Lincoln itself, which the Council of the Trust agreed were worthy of being recognised in this way. Both were on buildings which are Grade II listed, so part of the process required obtaining permission for the plaques to be placed, not just from the buildings' owners but also from the LCC Conservation Officer. Lots of paperwork!

Fortunately, after many months of work I managed to get everything agreed by all parties, and so the next stage would be unveiling ceremonies where not just officers and members of the Trust but also guests from all parties involved with the buildings, the Press etc., could attend. I even had the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire lined up to perform the official unveilings, and a vintage bus from the Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum arranged to meet people arriving at Lincoln station to take them to both sites. The great day would be May 21 2020. Guess what, the Great Plague arrived!!!

The plaques have since been made, delivered and positioned, despite everything, but of course no ceremonies have taken place. It has however has been a great project for a local history enthusiast, and I even have a third site in Lincoln in mind!

Hang on you ask, where are these sites to be found?



Lincoln St. Marks, the first station to open in the city, with the original station frontage still in existence as part of the present shopping area.



The second is the Lincoln White Hart Hotel, where in WWI the fighting tank was conceived and designed, with many later being manufactured in the city ... as were hundreds of aeroplanes.







And the possible third site? Browse around Brayford Pool one day when you can again do so, and look for a building of unusual architectural interest! Answers on a postcard, please.

*Brian Ward*

### Volunteer Car Service



For your information, there is a volunteer run driver service available to assist people needing transport, predominantly for medical appointments, in and around the Lincolnshire and Hull areas.

The driver will pick you up from home, drive you to your appointment and wait for up to two hours for you, and then take you back home.

The driver is a volunteer, so doesn't get paid for his/her time, but you will be asked for a fee of 45p per mile to cover fuel and vehicle running expenses.

The office is based in Louth but drivers are based around the county, including three in Market Rasen. Clients can sometimes be collected at short notice but it is generally better to phone and book your journey as soon as you receive details of your appointment.

Journeys can be arranged for any day and time but the office is only open from 9.00 am until 4.00 pm Monday to Friday. Telephone 01507 609535

### Stay At Home

They said the world was closed today  
 So I went to have a look,  
 I found it with the shutters down  
 And the phone was off the hook.  
 So I stood there for a little while  
 But no one was around,  
 Then Silence came and startled me  
 With the most alarming sound.  
 I asked him where the others were,  
 And why the streets were bare,  
 He whispered 'Life had run away  
 While Death was playing there'  
 'Oh no' I said 'It can't be true  
 For Life is not afraid'  
 'But no one ever goes' he said  
 'Where Death has ever played.'  
 I understood and walked away  
 As Hope was standing there  
 With Courage in her afterglow  
 And the sunlight in her hair.  
 She said 'Go home to those you love  
 This is no place to be,  
 For if we walk these streets today  
 Then no one shall be free'.  
 She threw her light to lead the way  
 And showed me where to go,  
 The very road that Life had gone  
 Where the future flowers grow.  
 Then Death showed me another way  
 But I didn't want to look,  
 So I stumbled home in time for tea  
 And I read another book.  
 It was called The World is Closed Today  
 And the streets we shouldn't roam,  
 The first line said 'Just please be safe'  
 And the ending - 'Stay at Home'

*Poem by Peter D Hehir  
 Submitted by Sheila Robinson*

### A Message from Joe Willisich Greetings to all my dear friends

During my lonely days I was having some thoughts about Covid, Lockdown and now New Hopes. I felt I should share them.

Face up to Covid and heal our sick Society.

The purpose of human life is to serve; to show compassion and the will to help others.

Success is not the key to happiness. Only happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

In everyone's life at some time, our inner fire goes out. It then bursts into flame again by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.

Wherever you turn you will find someone who needs you. Remember you don't live in a world of your own.

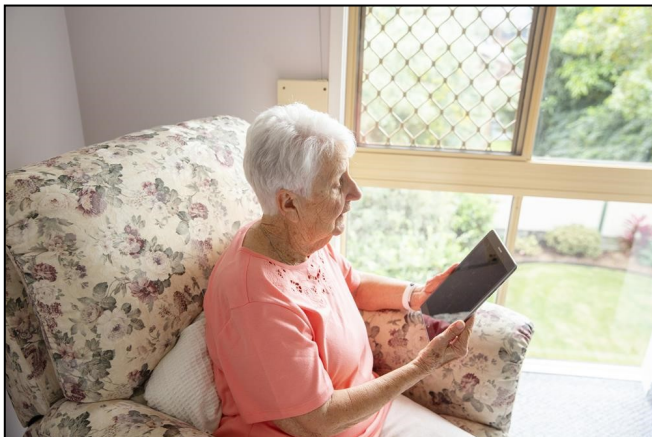
Happiness is the only thing that multiplies when you show it.

You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's only a little thing; do something for others. Something for which you get no pay but just the privilege of doing it.

We all know how important love is; yet how often is it enacted or exhibited? What so many sick people in this world suffer from – loneliness, boredom and fear – none of that can be cured with a pill.

*Joe Willisch.*

### Education During Lockdown



Hello, all,

Sharon Rupp has asked me to share some information about educational links. We are all aware of the importance of trying to keep our brains active at this difficult time. I have collated a few details about all sorts of different topics.

I am sorry but they all require access to the Internet and I do realize we do not all have that.

The Open University offers free online courses, easily available. You sign up and click on the link to

the course you have chosen. You study at your pace in your own time; literally, there is no rush at all. There are 100's of courses covering just about any topic. They are described in hours of work necessary to fulfil the course and the general level of the course. The one I've just finished was on, 'The Olympics – bridging the gap between past and present'. I really enjoyed it and learned a great deal. I have to say I was surprised at how good I felt after having achieved something! You need only read the text if that is all you wish to do. It is as advanced as you wish to make it. There are numerous links following each section if you want to research further, if not, you just continue on to the next section. It keeps a log of where you have got up to and so the next time you log in you go straight to where you finished.

I also found a link on the OU website to talks, also free. I have signed up to listen to a group discussing, 'Do Prisons Work?'

I am sure there are numerous other free courses available through the OU. Personally, I find it easier to get on with if I set myself a specific time of the day to study so that I am less likely to find excuses!

Mirthy, as Sharon has said, is also worth looking further into. I have found them very responsive to queries and they are looking to expand and extend their programme. I don't feel we can ever learn too much! Very soon, replays will be available so, if you miss the broadcast, you will be able to access the course whenever you like, as long as you have signed up for it. There will be a very small charge for this replay. Just log onto their website and have a look through all the topics on offer. There are talks every Thursday which are free to all and also the monthly ones through our West Wolds group. You will receive an email link to access the talk.

The Astronomical Institute of Edinburgh also broadcasts free lectures as I'm sure many other organizations and institutes do. Again, just go on the website and sign up and you will receive an email a couple of hours before kick-off which will include a link.

I watched a lecture from them on Friday evening and I would say it came into the category of, 'fairly advanced'! However, it was a really interesting talk about the alignment of the stars and so now I am searching the Institute website for the earlier ones in this series and then I plan to watch the lecture again, hoping I understand a bit more!

I would also like to mention the television. Just by searching Freeview I have found a huge number of educational programmes on all sorts of topics. They give you something, other than the current situation, to think about. I love, 'Abandoned Engineering', 'Mega Structures', and programmes on railways, animals and classic cars. Also programmes where a reporter investigates the cultures of foreign lands. We can be transported there without moving!

I know this sounds a bit odd, but I have even tried the Schools programmes especially shown during lockdown. Very short, snappy pieces on maths, physics, history, etc. It's surprising how much we forget!

Discovery Award – for those of you who are doing, or want to start, this award, it is possible to do it all at the moment without breaking guidelines regarding social distancing. I have now finished my Gold through isolation time. I found the organization very open to different ideas that incorporated the lockdown. I have found the volunteering section most rewarding. It is solely because of the Discovery Award that I now teach Advanced Driving, have volunteered at an Animal Rescue, (and brought home two more dogs), have joined a Befriending Group in Caistor and am now the gardener for the Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway. I am also due to start volunteering under a scheme called, School Readers, to go into a local Primary School and listen to the children read. Clearly, I cannot undertake these at the moment but they have changed my life. I can help other people, in my own time, in my own way by pacing myself. It is so great that I have found I can still contribute. It's made the world of difference. Have a think about undertaking Discovery.

Please try to keep up with your U3A groups. We need to keep afloat! I am sure all groups are struggling but many are continuing. The Digital Photography group is managing as best it can and even just sending in appropriate monthly photos makes you feel as though you are, in some way, still connected!

I would encourage you to keep battling on until we are through this. It seems as though the end is coming but it will still take a long time.

Look after yourself. Ring people to chat, especially those who live alone. Stay safe and please don't be tempted to come out of isolation once you have had the vaccine.

*Chrissie Larkin.*

## LIFE AND DEATH.



It was a warm, moon-lit summers night. All was quiet; no shooting, no explosions. Only a few parachute light flares were hanging in the sky. I was hurrying along the trench to a meeting of tank commanders at the squadron's headquarters. Suddenly a heavy artillery barrage shattered the stillness of the night. I dived for the nearest bunker for shelter. But before I reached safety: – BOOM – BANG – Darkness!

I remember seeing a very bright, white light; just like the rising sun at the far end of a nebulous corridor. I felt strongly drawn to it; it seemed to be calling me forward towards it. Everything seemed to be floating; weightless, ethereal radiating out. I was now fully bathed in this penetrating light, uplifted and carried along without effort. I was feeling so good and was overawed by the feeling, how nice it was to be dead.

Suddenly the light went out. It was cold and something heavy was pressing on my chest. I could hardly breathe. As I moved about, a severe pain in my left foot and my shin engulfed me and made me call out. Wriggling and pushing, I realised that I was buried, that I was wounded and I felt wet. Earth, bits of wood, stones and something soft were holding me down. Total darkness engulfed me and I was losing all sense of feeling.

When they found me, I was disorientated, shell-shocked, wounded and totally deaf. They told me that a human body had lain on top of me and bled to death. This had saved my life by creating an air pocket.

The experience which happened to me that night, was so vivid and clear; it became embedded in my mind and I do believe that it really happened. It made me lose all fear of dying, but reminded me strongly to value and enjoy life while I can.

*Joe Willsich*



‘My wife is very upset with me. She found some letters I’d been hiding. She says she feels betrayed and has lost all trust in me.  
I can’t say I blame her, I feel so ashamed.’



‘I wouldn’t be surprised if she never plays Scrabble with me again.’

Created by  
Gillian Anderton

## COMMITTEE & MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES 2021

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