



Grantham

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August 2025

Chairman's Message

August has arrived, with its very varied weather and the sound of children happily out-of-school and playing in the parks and gardens. Grandchildren, for most of us, that is, and with that comes grandparenting responsibilities! Responsibilities which encompass days out, buckets-and-spades, ice creams and fighting off the wasps. Roll on September!

Last month I asked members to think about what they would like to do, if anything, to celebrate the 25th birthday of Grantham u3a in August next year. Sadly, I had only two replies, both of which said we should do something, so we shall. A small planning group is at work to develop some ideas and if anyone of our members would like to join it, please let me know – you would be very welcome.

A propos of welcoming people, I asked, in a previous newsletter, for volunteers to join our Committee. Again, we've had two responses and we are happy for that, though still we need a few more people to come forward who would like to help in running our u3a. We have a meeting on the first Tuesday of every month in the SKDC facility in Manners Street at 10.00am – 12.00am, (with delicious home-made biscuits and coffee). If you would like to come and see what we do and how we run the club, then you'd be very welcome. Please let me know in advance if you would like to attend, with a view to your becoming a member and eventually taking on a role within the Committee. Keep writing to me – I answer every letter! chair.granthamu3a@gmail.com)

August is traditionally a quiet month; some interest groups take a break if their attendees are otherwise committed or holidaying. Others

continue regardless as many members are at home during August, enjoying their gardens, and appreciate the fact that their interest groups are still active. In any case, don't forget the summer picnic at the Garden Yard on the afternoon of 19 August. All tickets have now been sold and you should bring your ticket along with you as they will be checked at the door on the day. If you've mislaid it, don't worry as the Membership Secretary has a list of ticket-holders and the number of the ticket you purchased. And of course, our usual coffee morning takes place on the 26 August.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

John Foulkes-Jones, Chair

Beacon Administrator / Membership Secretary

We are pleased that we have gained yet more members recently and they are :-

Angela Fairbrass, Tony Connolly, Chris Walsh, Ed Cook, Hedley Davies, Helen Hudson, Irene Shorrocks, Jayne Davies, Jill McPhail, Julie Fullwood, Karen Britten, Paul Reeves, and Richard Fullwood. Everybody is most welcome and we look forward to meeting you all soon. Current membership now stands at 620.

We hope that everyone joining us at the summer party has completed the form detailing their dietary needs. This helps enormously with efficient, speedy catering.

Andrew Weston 07836 250972 Angela Rose 07966 516529

Pastoral Care

Please let Janet Hine know if you become aware of a member who is ill and would appreciate a message of support, or if a member has died.

Her contact details are: **The Old Parsonage, The Drift, Syston, Grantham, NG32 2BY. 01400 250984**

care.granthamu3a@gmail.com

Tuesday Talks

Future Tuesday Talks

August – no Tuesday Talk

16 September

Nancy Appleyard will give a talk entitled *The Chattering Species: How Humans Learned to Speak*

Why did humans first begin chattering to each other all those hundreds of thousands of years ago and how did they go about it? Was it so that they could work together and pass on skills? On the other hand, did they learn to speak so that they could share their thoughts and feelings or even gossip?

Nancy Appleyard is a social anthropologist with a specialism in language, communication and human interaction. She has lived within communities throughout the world, often living with families and sharing their everyday lives. She has over 15 years' experience lecturing and delivering seminars on communication theory and practice in universities, colleges, industry and the public service.

21 October

Unfortunately, Gareth Howell, who was to speak to us on this date has had to pull out, as he is moving away. Instead we shall have Michele Beadle telling us about Amy Johnson, Hull's Pioneering Aviator. Her life and achievements will be covered from her birth in 1903 to her tragic death in 1941.

Michele lives in Kingston upon Hull, East Yorkshire and has worked for 43 years in the library and archive services for Hull City Council. She has been a speaker for over fifteen years and has a great interest in local and social history. She speaks regularly to a wide range of groups including Probus, W.I.'s, u3a groups.

18 November

We welcome Dr Ian Bedford back to talk about "Companion Planting for a Balanced Garden"

December – no Tuesday Talk

**Maggie Ambrose , Speaker Finder
Jenny Lewis, Assistant Speaker Finder**

Coffee Mornings

Coffee Mornings are held in St Wulfram's Church, Grantham, 10.00am - 11.30am on fourth Tuesday of the month and are open to all members. The next meetings are:

Tuesday 26 August

Tuesday 23 September

Tuesday 28 October

Group News

Wildlife Group

Kerry Brazil

Our July meeting was a visit to Lyndon visitor Centre and nature reserve at Rutland water, mainly to see the ospreys.

On 13/3/25 the male osprey, 33(11), arrived on the nest. 4 days later his partner, Maya, returned. She laid her first egg on 2nd April, followed by 3 more, a few days apart. The first chick hatched on 9th May, the last chick hatched on 17th May. The chicks were ringed on 18th June and were found to be 2 males and 2 females.

They started to fledge on 2nd July. Unfortunately 3R6, a male chick, died on 6th July after falling into the water.

Maya has nested at Rutland water for 10 years, and with her partner 33(11), has raised 20 chicks. The male parent does the majority of the fishing. In August/September the birds migrate to West Africa for the winter. The female leaves first, then the juveniles, and finally the male.

We also saw Egyptian geese, moorhens, swans, gulls and a heron. The 3 juvenile ospreys were perched in a row on a tree on the far side of Manton Bay. On the walk to the hide we saw lots of butterflies and damselflies, guelder rose fruit ripening and bramble with both flowers and berries in various stages of ripeness.





Fun Jive

Rob Watkins

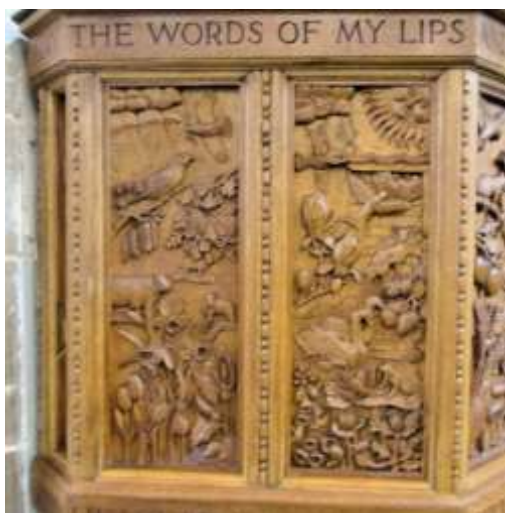
Following our summer recess The Fun Jive group will resume its weekly sessions on 8 September. We meet on Mondays 2.30- 3.45 for tuition and some practice free dance at Grantham Squash Club on Harlaxton Road. We have two pairs of excellent teachers who have taken us as a group of beginners to where we can confidently enjoy ourselves on the dance floor. Each week we recap moves from previous sessions which helps new and existing members. Beginners are most welcome and will have the added benefit of receiving help from regular members as well as the teachers. If you have ever watched jivers at a dance enjoying themselves and thought "I want to do that.", now is your chance. See you in September.

Local History

Anne Rudderham

For various reasons, our June visit to the 'We'll Meet Again' museum near Boston had to be cancelled but hopefully this can be added to next year's programme. In July, we went to All Saints church in Hough on the Hill and what a lovely building this is. The pretty village is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 and there was once a motte and bailey castle on what is known as Castle Hill adjacent to the church. Built of ironstone and limestone and dating back to the 11th century the church was restored in 1845 and is notable for its Saxon tower with its unusual circular stairway. Many of the items in the church were made by John Lord (who was church warden from 1966 until his retirement and is a talented joiner and woodcarver, only taking up the latter when he retired) including the beautifully carved pulpit, altar rails, the lectern and the priest's chair, along with the nativity scene. He also built and carved the Lych Gate, the sign on the notice board, tables and bookcases, and there is an oak frieze in the church showing the four seasons of agriculture from November through to October. Our guide Henry (John's brother) passed on his wealth of knowledge and interesting facts and Jill and her ladies' delicious refreshments all made for a very enjoyable afternoon. Many thanks to Margaret Faulkner for helping to organise this visit and to Carole Troops for taking the photos, some of which are included here. If you get the opportunity, Hough on the Hill really is worth a visit.





In August, we'll be having a guided tour of Melton Mowbray and the remainder of the year looks like this:

September - Grantham Museum, Talk on Southwell Workhouse

October - Visit to the Holocaust Museum, Newark

November - Planning meeting for 2026

No meeting in December

The Bookworms

Mary Bomfrey

The Bookworms decided on an outing for our August meeting and we chose The Silver Apple at Buckminster.

We did discuss our latest book, *The Heron's Cry* by Ann Cleeves, and others, over elevenses.

After not too many purchases from amongst the vast quantity of antiques and bric a brac, the like of which I, at least, am trying to pass on, we settled on toasted sandwiches and delicious cakes. I can recommend the coffee.

Our books now come from Grantham library which one of our members kindly collects each month. The system is excellent, and although we sometimes don't get the books we ticked from a list, the object of our book group is fulfilled - we read books we wouldn't necessarily have picked for ourselves and we chat in very agreeable company.



Bus Pass Group

Janet Neal

The Bus Pass Group is now full! We have a membership of 28 but some of the buses we travel on are of the mini variety and have only 16 seats! This has not proved a problem so far, as there has never been more than a third of us on any one outing. But I don't think it would be wise to take on any more members. Sorry to disappoint anyone who was thinking of joining.

Our July outing was, once again, to Nottingham. This time we all went along to the National Justice Museum. It is well worth a visit and there is much more to it than any of us had anticipated. There was a school visit in at the same time as us and I overheard the following amusing conversation:- Guide - "Why do you think convicts had arrows on their uniforms?" Child - "To stop them hallucinating?" What?!

We all ended up in court, some as defendants, some as witnesses and some in the gallery. The photo shows us all smiling whilst at the judges bench, but poor Pam (who was only there as a witness) wasn't smiling after being sentenced to transportation to Australia by the corrupt

judge! And neither was Nelson who received 5 years for some petty crime! It was great fun. Fortunately we managed to rustle up a 'Get out of Jail Free Card' and we all made it safely back to Grantham.



New Age Curling

Sue Marvin

Our New Age Curling group continues to be enjoyed by 20 members, all very enthusiastic. We are at full capacity and running a waiting list.

When taking over this group 18 months ago I did not know what interest to expect. The old group had run down in numbers, we could not get the same venue etc. etc. We have since enjoyed a Christmas meal, birthday cake, Easter Eggs and have already planned our 2025 Christmas meal.





Inspecting the kit we have inherited, there is nearly enough equipment to start another group if anyone is interested. It is good fun and an enjoyable way of meeting people. Thank you for your support.



Personality Psychology and Exploring AI

Steve Potts

These two new groups will commence on the 4th (first Thursday) and 25th (fourth Thursday) of September respectively at 2pm in the Community Hall of St John's Church, Manthorpe. There is still space to join these groups if you are interested. Full details of both are on the Grantham u3a website. Contact the Groups Co-ordinator in the first place.

Recipe of the Month

Courtesy of Carole Troops

Alfajores

125g unsalted butter
100g castor sugar
2 large egg yolks
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
1 tsp vanilla paste
150g plain flour
100g cornflour
1tsp baking powder
200g dulce de leche
25g desiccated coconut



Makes 18 cookies

Beat butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks, one at a time, followed by lemon zest and vanilla. Sift over the flours and baking powder, then combine. Bring the dough together, wrap in cling film and chill for at least 1 hr or overnight.

Line 2 large baking trays with baking parchment. Lightly dust work surface with flour and roll out paste until 3mm thick. Using a 5cm round cutter cut out circles, rerolling trimmings as necessary. Place on baking trays and chill for 10 minutes. Bake at 160°C for 8 minutes, or until just set. Leave to cool on trays for 10 minutes then finish cooling on wire racks.

Sandwich together with dulce de leche, then roll the sides in desiccated coconut.

Thank you to all contributors this edition. Please send your contributions for the September newsletter to ed.granthamu3a@gmail.com by Friday 5 September.