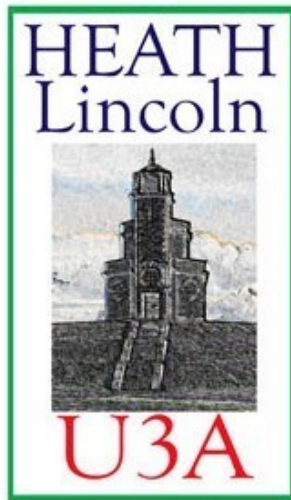




NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010



**KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT
FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS
EVENTS AND OUTINGS ETC.
GROUPS AND CONVENORS
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Alan Mayo. As Membership Secretary, I respond to all enquiries from prospective members, I sign up new members and keep their details. As committee members, we meet monthly to discuss the way forward in developing the branch in the best way.



Liz Laidler. As Group Co-ordinator I assist and support members willing to take on the role of Group Leaders. I publicise the groups, their activities and vacancies. We aim to have a wide variety of subjects with vacancies for new members who join the branch.



Sandra Gregory: As Secretary I receive and deal with correspondence, keep the Committee informed and attend meetings with neighbouring U3As.



Fourth Edition

After the big freeze in January, the snowdrops, daffodils and all the other spring flowers should be in bloom by the time you receive this edition.

2010 and beginning the second decade of the 21st century – how time flies.

Once again I ask for anything of interest for the Newsletter. What is your group doing, a report of any outings etc. The next issue will be June so I would appreciate anything you may like to share before the end of April please. We need input for the newsletter to be able to keep it going.

Stella Postlethwaite

The speakers for the next three months are:

12th April – Horace Liberty – John Betjeman

10th May – Mark Wackett – Magnotherapy - Healing by
Magnets

14th June – Vic Hughes – Medieval Scribe

Don't forget the website: www.heathu3a.org.uk
Web master John Gillespie.

From your Chairperson.

By the time you read this the snow and ice should have given way to the sights and sounds of Spring. I must say it was good to see so many of you at the January meeting despite the weather, well done all of you. Remember that without you all we would not be able to support a U3A in the village.

I notice that the "Cadbury Cream Eggs" were soon on the shelves in January which must mean that Easter is fast approaching.

I would like to thank all the Committee for their continued enthusiasm and support to Heath U3A and the Group Leaders who plan their programmes so well.

The singing group led by Beth and Rob is a joy. It was started on a very cold and foggy morning in January, long may it continue. We have enjoyed our varied speakers and Beth and Joan have planned more to entertain us in the coming months.

Josie Moreton.

A RECIPE FOR THOSE WHO ENJOY CHICKEN

Chicken Rosemary.

8 Chicken thighs
2 tablespoons of flour
2 teaspoons of paprika
1 tablespoon of olive oil
4 cloves of garlic, peeled
2 stalks of rosemary
1 teaspoon of black pepper
357 mls. of chicken stock
125 mls. of white wine

Toss the chicken in paprika, flour and pepper
Heat the oil and cook chicken in batches.

Return chicken to same pan with garlic, rosemary, stock and wine and cook for 40 minutes until chicken is tender. Remove chicken to a warm dish, reduce pan juices and pour over chicken.

Josie Moreton.

Eerie Coincidences of The Slaying of two Presidents

Both Lincoln and Kennedy were shot on a Friday in the presence of their wives. They were both shot in the head from behind. Lincoln became President in 1860 and Kennedy in 1960. Their wives both had lost children through death whilst living in the White House.

Their successors, both named Johnson, were Southern Democrats and both in the Senate. Andrew Johnson was born in 1808 and Lyndon Johnson in 1908.

Both assassins were southerners and both were killed before they came to trial. Lincoln's killer, John Wilkes Booth was born in 1839 and Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's killer in 1939. Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, advised him against going to the theatre in which he was killed. Kennedy's secretary, whose name was Lincoln, advised him against going to Dallas where he was killed.

Booth shot Lincoln in a theatre and ran away into a warehouse. Oswald shot Kennedy from a warehouse and ran away into a theatre.

South African Farmer speaking of his troubles

It all began back in the sixties when they changed from pounds to rand and suddenly my overdraft doubled. I was just getting this sorted out when they brought in the kilogrammes instead of pounds so my wool clip halved.

Then they changed the rainfall into millimetres and we have not had an inch of rain since.

So what do they do? They bring in something called Celsius and since it never gets hotter than 40° no wonder my wheat doesn't grow. As if this wasn't enough they change from acres to hectares and so I end up with half the land!

So I sat down and had a think and decided to sell up. I just got the place in the agent's hands when they changed from miles to kilometres and now my land is too far out of town for people to travel.

TRANSPORT HISTORY

Our group started last summer with the idea of visiting places (sites, museums, buildings, bridges, etc.) connected with the history of transport. We car pool to a place, visit and have lunch (usually).

Last year we started off with a visit to the National Tramway Museum and Tramway Village in Crich, Derbyshire. A terrific site with a mile of working tram tracks over which they run a selection of the 50+ trams in their collection. We rode on the trams, poked and peered into the trams in the sheds and viewed the museums, undeterred by the slightly wet weather. One bonus was that we visited on the anniversary of WWII (3 Sep.). The tram conductors were in period costume and gave us a lecture on what to do when the air-raid sirens sounded!!



Crich Riding the trams. It's a hard life but someone had to do it!

Foxton Watching the boats pass through the locks – boy, this is hard work!



Next, we went to Foxton Locks and Inclined Plane, in Leicestershire. Foxton Locks are at the centre of Britain's inland waterways network. The lock flight was built in 1810. There are ten locks in two staircases of five with a passing pond between them. The locks are unusual in that each lock in a staircase leads directly into the next.

It takes an average of 45 minutes for each boat to negotiate the 75 foot flight using 25 thousand gallons of water and there is often a queue which can last for up to five hours. So in 1900, the Foxton Inclined Plane Boat Lift was opened to widen the canal, speed up traffic and save water. The lift is a unique piece in the jigsaw of canal history.

This time the weather was very co-operative and we thoroughly enjoyed exploring the site, lunch outdoors by the canal and even helping work the locks.

Hull

Outside the transport museum. Still working hard!



For our last trip in 2009 we went to Hull Transport Museum where they have a very nice collection of bicycles, carriages, early cars and motorbikes. There is also a fascinating street scene with old shops, delivery vehicles and an old bus and a railway goods yard (all indoors).

We had intended visiting the trawler and lightship they have there in Hull but we timed it wrong. Instead we went to the Maritime Museum which has a fascinating display of whaling history, as well as ship models and other neat maritime stuff.

We are only a small group so more members would be very welcome.

Check out our own web page on the Heath U3a's website :

www.heathu3a.org.uk/group_th.htm

John Gillespie