

GENERAL MEETINGS 2012-2013

JUNE 2012 GENERAL MEETING: OFF TO A FLYING START

Carlton, Gedling and district U3A got off to a flying start in June. In a busy meeting over 70 members joined and several interest groups were discussed and launched.

JULY 2012 GENERAL MEETING: A TRIP TO THE SEASIDE

We were highly entertained by Pete Davis who spun a story from his imagination and experience of a trip to the sea side when "he were a little 'un". He related a single 50 minute story called "*To See the Sea*". The story is filled with memories for those of us who are of a certain age and had their photo taken by the man in a blazer at Skeggy. We all found something to smile at and remember fondly – and sometimes poignantly – in his storytelling.

AUGUST 2012 GENERAL MEETING: PERSONAL SAFETY

Our speaker was Jayne Walton from Nottingham Constabulary. Jayne was both highly informative and genuinely entertaining. We all had something to take away from her talk on personal safety.

SEPTEMBER 2012 GENERAL MEETING: ST PANCRAS STATION

Our speaker was Nigel Lowey on the subject of the restoration of St Pancras. Anyone who knows or uses St Pancras Station will appreciate this tour through the history of Barlow's Shed from the 1860s when the station was first developed, to the renovations of the last few years which have turned it into the Eurostar Terminus as 'St Pancras International'. It was amazing to hear what goes on below ground level – the Underground and rivers hidden from view. A train trip to London will never be the same again!

OCTOBER 2012 GENERAL MEETING: THE BLITZ

An interesting and touching talk from David Needham. David told us the little remembered story of the bombing of Nottingham during the Second World War. His talk was lavishly illustrated with pictures of bomb damage and how the sites look now, and pictures of some of the unsung heroes and victims of that time.

NOVEMBER 2012 GENERAL MEETING: RADIO COMEDY

Tony Horton gave a brilliant talk on radio comedy from the 1930s and 1940s illustrated with recordings from the archive he has collected over the last 40 years.

DECEMBER 2012: CHRISTMAS PARTY

December's Main Meeting broke new ground for our fledgling U3A. As a Christmas Special, instead of a Guest Speaker, we had a band, The Vibrants, who are of an appropriate age and knocked out some appropriate rock 'n' roll classics

The Vibrants, despite grumbling about being up at 10.30 to play a gig, were as good as all their years of experience would suggest and of course the music was driven by the drumming of our own Allan "Krupa" Woolley on drums - and he even came up-front with his 'frottoir' (or was it his mum's old washboard?).



JANUARY 2013 GENERAL MEETING: BRIAN TANSLEY

We knew right from the start that Brian Tansley was a broadcaster. He had that radio presenter's ability to instantly talk to an audience as if he knew us. Brian gave us a mix of observations on life, people he knew and met in his broadcasting life. The stories sometimes ended as a shaggy dog tale with an old joke at the end but we got drawn in nonetheless.

Quick one-liners seemed to go over some heads, but he bounced right back. His 40 years working in Nottingham brought out reminiscences of old Nottingham names like Brian Clough, Dennis McCarthy and Dale Winton. We learnt nothing about broadcasting but were well entertained.

FEBRUARY 2013 GENERAL MEETING: THE RISE AND FALL OF COLWICK LOCO

we enjoyed another very high quality speaker. This was Stephen Wright. He shared with us his extensive knowledge and a photograph collection that had been started by his father. It was really striking to see how much the local area has changed over the last 80 years and to hear the story behind the relatively late development of Netherfield. Stephen was able to provide answers to many of the niggling questions which we have about different buildings and features in Carlton and Gedling, but for which we never quite get round to researching the answers.

MARCH 2013 GENERAL MEETING: 40 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM

Barry Davies entertained us with colourful stories of teaching extraordinary children in the 1990s. There was 'Kate' who insisted on being taught surrounded by her 32 rats. Even more strange was another child who went on to become Mr Universe before being sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of his beauty queen girl friend and her mother.

APRIL 2013 GENERAL MEETING: TANZANIA

The speakers at our April meeting were our very own Phil and Elaine Barlow. Phil and Elaine have been visiting the small town of Tabora in Tanzania a number of times in the past 12 years. They have to travel with armed guards on busses now as the train is too dangerous. They showed some very vivid slides to illustrate the work they have accomplished and introduced us to the Swahili greeting 'Jambo'. This can roughly be translated as 'You have survived the night' and provides an indication of how precarious life can be.

In nine visits they have worked in and around the Clinic run by the Anglican Church of Tabora. Elaine works in the clinic on admin and computer tasks while Phil is outside supervising and working on various building projects. Each day the clinic is visited by between two and three hundred people, who have travelled up to 20 miles. Phil and Elaine were also instrumental in providing a 4 wheel drive vehicle which has enabled the clinic to run outreach clinics in surrounding villages. After their talk, which was very warmly received, members made donations which raised £180.

MAY 2013 GENERAL MEETING: WORKHOUSE STORY TELLERS

The Workhouse Storytellers took us back to the days of the workhouse with some affecting performed stories based on researches in the archives. We heard about Matron, Fanny, Tabitha the cat, Joseph Bean and Sarah.

The characters and stories vividly evoked the severe life of the workhouse poor. The story of 'bad woman' Sarah, rescued from the pages of the workhouse punishment book was particularly gripping and well acted. She got her revenge at last on the matron who had tormented her and provided a high point for the end of the performance.



JUNE 2013 GENERAL MEETING: DAIRY FARMER

Guest speaker: Jane Barnes, dairy farmer

JULY 2013 GENERAL MEETING: GRANTHAM CANAL

Rosemary Gibson gave an interesting illustrated talk on *The Grantham Canal and another world*.

AUGUST 2013 GENERAL MEETING: OLD NOTTINGHAM

John (Bill) Clark gave a great illustrated talk to an attentive meeting of over 100 members. His subject was Nottingham: now and then. Bill challenged even the oldest members to remember some wonderful buildings from Nottingham's past. Bill kindly took up Rose and Gillian's invitation at the last minute, after our booked speaker had had to withdraw. We had to cope with a problem with the 'blue screen' but we rose to the occasion, projected his slides on to a wall and all enjoyed his 'before and after' stories and pictures.

SEPTEMBER 2013 GENERAL MEETING: VERNON COAKER MP

We enjoyed a hugely interesting and entertaining talk from our local MP Vernon Coaker. Vernon talked about life as a constituency MP, the difficulties of balancing politics and family life, his work in Parliament and role as a government Minister. He is a passionate and persuasive advocate of democracy and engagement in public life. Vernon closed by reminding us of Churchill's words to the effect that 'Democracy is the worst system of government ever devised, *except for all the other ones*'.

OCTOBER 2013 GENERAL MEETING: STANTON IRON WORKS

We had a very interesting presentation from Stephen Flinders who introduced some extremely rare film footage of Stanton Iron Works. Stephen provided a humorous commentary on what was a major feat of industrial innovation and hard work by thousands of employees.

NOVEMBER 2013 GENERAL MEETING: ALAN MORRIS

Our November speaker was Alan Morris from the U3A. Alan reminded us of five key things, in an amusing and interesting presentation:

- All the available research shows that old age is not about inevitable decline.
- There are things we can all do to improve our powers of thinking and memory.
- Our U3A provides us with opportunities to do all the things which promote brain power and memory.
- It is up to all of us to make things happen in our U3A – we are a self-help group.
-I've forgotten the fifth: I must sign up for Maggie's next memory course!

DECEMBER 2013 GENERAL MEETING:

The Christmas entertainment was provided by **The Vibrants**, featuring Alan Woolley on drums.

