

## Thoughts From Our Chairman...

This last weekend I spent a very enjoyable 90 minutes watching a celebration of someone who started presenting programmes about animals two years before this 70-year-old was actually born. I refer, of course, to Sir David Attenborough at 100 years old. The BBC do these things so awfully well.

From the “puppet” animals to start, the music from the BBC Symphony Orchestra, interviews with various people, including a Python! Plus, words of congratulation from HRH The Prince of Wales.

I literally grew up watching this man on TV, starting with Zoo Quest. When he became controller of BBC2, he commissioned some of my favourite TV programmes – Call My Bluff, The Old Grey Whistle Test, Monty Python’s Flying Circus, Sir Kenneth Clark’s Civilisation and Jacob Bronowski’s The Ascent of Man.

However, he will be remembered for Life on Earth (even my father bought the accompanying book), The Living Planet, and to complete the original trilogy, The Trials of Life.

My father instilled in me a love of nature that surrounds us here in the UK, but Attenborough brought the world to my living room.

Whilst I was brought up to recycle, who can forget using Dad’s old cotton Y-fronts as dusters, dishcloths or floorcloths. Attenborough has included references to the impact of humans on the natural world, most notably the last episode of the Living Planet. He has, for the last 25 years, championed the Environment.

What I took from this programme was how fit he is for a centenarian; I do hope that in 30 years time I will be as fit as he is now.



**Advanced notice is hereby given that the 11th AGM of Daventry & District u3a will be held at Daventry Community Centre on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026, at 2:00 pm.**

- We have the following positions available on the committee: -
  - Board Posts
  - Chairman
  - Business Secretary
  - Committee Members - 4

**Should you wish to stand in one of the above positions, feel free to contact me for more details or a Nomination Form, through our website: <https://daventryanddistrict.u3asite.uk/contact>, or see me at our next general meeting.**

**Nominations to be returned to me by 4 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.**

Janice Hargreaves, Chairman

## Daventry Motorfest.....

Will Philpott



The annual MotorFest, at The Hollow in Daventry, provided another opportunity to promote our u3a. There was lots of genuine interest, which we hope will translate into more new members. A full day's volunteer work deserves a reward.

Thank you to our band of volunteers: Brenda Mills, Barbara Wood, Jan Townend and the dynamic June Forde



## Meetings Coming Up.....

May 21st 2026

### The Sinking And Raising Of The Mary Rose - Bob Foster

Bob volunteers as a speaker for the Mary Rose Trust, sharing the story of Henry VIII's favourite battleship sinking off Southsea. The shipwreck, discovered in the 1970s, was raised and displayed at Portsmouth Docks.

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June 18th 2026

### Annual General Meeting

### Followed By Our Guest Speaker:

### Indian Takeaway - Bharat Patel

Bharat is an award-winning reporter who has worked for BBC Radio Leicester, Radio 4, ITV and BBC television. He has covered major world events, including the death of Princess Diana and the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. But it's not all been about tragedy: he's also interviewed Polly the parrot, who spoke five languages. By the age of eight, he had travelled across three continents, ending up in Leicester.

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## Ad Break.....

Love them or hate them, we have all watched them over the years. TV advertisements get into our heads, but can you name the product, or brand, these famous TV advert slogans promote?

Answers on Page 10

1. Have A Break, Have A .....
2. Because You're Worth It.....
3. You Know When You've Been.....
4. Every Little Helps....
5. Just Do It....
6. For Mash, Get.....
7. Washing Machines Live Longer With....
8. Should Have Gone To.....
9. The Best A Man Can Get.....
10. Not Just Any Food....
11. Melts In Your Mouth, Not In Your Hands...
12. Finger Lickin Good.....
13. It Does Exactly What It Says On The Tin....
14. The Taste Of Paradise.....
15. I'm Loving It.....

## The Water Babies, Charles Kingsley Michael Burton

Michael gave a fascinating and professional presentation around this classic fairy tale, how it influenced the country and the governments thinking.

Beloved by all ages, the book also served as a critique of child labour and poverty.

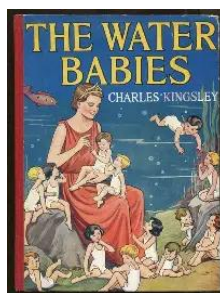


The story is used to convey the fact that England treated its poor badly, amongst other themes.

The protagonist is Tom, a young chimney-sweep who falls into a river after encountering an upper-class girl named Ellie and being chased out of her house. There he appears to drown and is transformed into a "water-baby". Tom embarks on a series of adventures and lessons and enjoys the community of other water-babies. The major spiritual leaders in his new world are the fairies Mrs. Doasyouwouldbedoneby, Mrs. Bedonebyasyoudid, and Mother Carey. Tom is allowed the company of Ellie, who became a water-baby after he did.

Grimes, Tom's old chimney sweeping boss, drowns as well, and in his final adventure, Tom travels to the end of the world in an attempt to help the man, who is being punished for his misdeeds. Tom helps Grimes to find repentance, and Grimes will be given a second chance if he can successfully perform a final penance. By proving his willingness to do things he does not like, if they are the right things to do, Tom earns himself a return to human form, and becomes "a great man of science".

As the tale draws to a close, Tom's adventure culminates in a valuable lesson: the significance of morality and kindness. By the end of the story, Tom is not just a water baby but has grown into a compassionate being with a clearer understanding of right and wrong. "The Water Babies" serves as an essential piece of children's literature, showcasing Charles Kingsley's creativity and social commentary. Its playful yet moralistic tone reflects 19th-century values while telling a captivating story.



Largely through the relationships and support the author enjoyed in high places, including Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and the Prime Minister of the day, the book challenged thinking and changed perceptions around public health, women's rights, the environment and even slavery.

The book ends with the caveat that it is only a fairy tale, and the reader is to believe none of it, "even if it is true".

## Sixties Snippets

### The Last Night of the Proms

Lawrence Morgan

The classical music aficionados  
Like a good sing-along  
Like to feel their hearts swell with pride  
The Royal Albert Hall  
Reverberates to  
Rule Britannica  
Though Britannica no longer ruled the waves  
And Land of Hope and Glory  
Well, hope, yes, the last thing to die  
But even for the most patriotic  
Glory in the 20 Centenary was in shorter supply  
It was there a plenty  
When the Spanish Armada was sent packing  
When Bony was defeated and exiled  
In Victoria's glorious reign  
And although punctuated by brave and heroic deeds  
On land and in the air  
Less so when the world fought out two devastating world wars  
That brought Europe to its knees  
When weapons of unimaginable destructive capability were used  
In the pursuit of victory and a return to peace  
But all this forgotten  
As austerity follows seeing off the enemy  
Became the seeding bed of new hope and glory  
A new Britannica  
With a commonwealth that grew out of the lost empire  
Four young lads from Liverpool who conquered America  
A World Cup won by the home of football  
A Queen that the world held in awe  
A seat at the world's top table  
It was the past and present that now animated the crowd  
Who paid their money  
And stood with fellow Britons  
United as one  
Belting out songs  
That swelled the chest with national fervour and nostalgia  
That in that moment fuelled the notion that British was still the best  
Evoking the past in all its glory  
And celebrating the present  
In the great cultural citadel, the Royal Albert Hall



## Momentous May.....

- 1954 Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes, in Oxford, England.
- 1945 Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies at Rheims and the war in Europe ended.
- 1943 RAF Lancaster bombers caused chaos to Nazi German industry by destroying two huge dams. Dr Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs skimmed the surface of the water to reach their targets.
- 1940 Promising his people nothing but "blood, toil, tears and sweat", Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as British Prime Minister. Churchill formed an all-party war government as Germany stormed Europe.
- 1926 Britain's Trades Union Congress called off the General Strike that had brought the nation to a standstill for nine days. Workers across the country had downed tools in support of miners, protesting a wage cut.
- 1821 Napoleon Bonaparte, "the Little Corporal", died in exile on the remote British island of St. Helena
- 1660 Charles Stuart entered London to become King Charles II, restoring England's monarchy following Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth.
- 1607 Riots took place in Northamptonshire and other Midland counties of England in protest at the widespread enclosure of common land.
- 1536 Anne Boleyn, King Henry VIII's second wife, was beheaded in London. She was 29. The charges brought against her included incest with her brother and no less than four counts of adultery.
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## Shakespeare Reading Group....

Sherida Mallinson

The two Shakespeare Reading Groups joined together for a trip to Stratford to see the RSC production of Henry V on Saturday, 25 April. The production was a new interpretation of the play, which worked well with excellent choreography and music.

Afterwards, we adjourned to the Admiral Nelson pub in Braunston for an early evening meal joined by our partners. A great way to round off a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



# Climate Change Group....

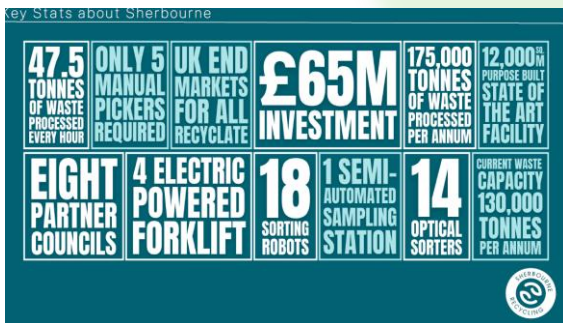
Lynda Moran

Fifteen u3a members gathered at the Sherbourne recycling centre for a really amazing and informative tour of the Hi-tech site. We were well briefed in Health and Safety by our guide, who made sure we had on our hard hats with ear defenders and a microphone to hear his commentary as well as our work shoes, gloves, protective glasses and Hi Viz jackets.

## Some interesting points:

- The robot arms on the conveyor belts could select up to 90 items per minute, using AI technology with cameras.
- The highest value material sold comes from waste aluminium cans
- Rejected items put in the recycling bin include bikes, empty calor gas bottles and microwaves
- The most hazardous items rejected from general recycling are old batteries or electrical items containing batteries.

Many thanks to Ruth for organising such an interesting and informative trip.



### SHERBOURNE RECYCLING



- Sherbourne Recycling was established in 2021.
- To develop, operate, and maintain a new state of the art materials recycling facility in Coventry.
- Partnership of eight local authorities make up the company structure - and board.
- Regain control over the processing of residential recycling - and associated costs
- Since partnered with other councils as customers



SHERBOURNE RECYCLING

### Key Facts

- All our energy is provided by the neighboring ETW plant and PV cells
- All forklift vehicles are electric powered
- NO residue goes to landfill – instead it is used by a cement kiln to produce energy
- All our authorities are fully commingled collections - one bin for all recycling
- Sherbourne is the only facility of its size in the UK that extracts plastic film from fully commingled recycling collections
- The facility runs 6am-10pm, with an overnight shift made up of technicians and engineers to service the technology
- Our haulage partner is required to use Euro6 vehicles as standard, which are ULEV compliant
  - Employees afforded training and apprenticeship opportunities
  - Educational visits provided to community groups and schools
  - Real living wage employer and generous benefits package



## Second Nature.....

For those of you who don't know, John Baxter is the u3a national subject adviser for Climate Change and related groups. He produces one or two newsletters called Second Nature every month, full of information and humour. Well worth a read. Lots of members from across the country send in items or comments.

Go to the Climate Change u3a website using the link below, and you will find his current and past newsletters there, as well as a lot of other things.

Have a look at the map of the UK with all the climate /environment groups on it – we are number 21.

<https://climatechangesubjectnetwork.u3asite.uk>

Our next group meeting will be at Daventry Museum, 2 pm on Tuesday, May 19th. New members welcome.

## The Motoring Group ...

Barbara Wood

The slightly delayed visit to the Catesby Tunnel in Charwelton took place in April. Well attended by 18 members, all of whom made a donation to MIND at the hosts' request. For some, this was a return visit, as we first looked around in January 2023—along with the village book club.

Most people come up with grand schemes occasionally, whilst enjoying a quiet cup of coffee, or perhaps bouncing ideas off colleagues. For most, these remain nothing more than a pipedream. But for Rob Lewis, the idea of taking a Victorian railway tunnel and turning it into a large indoor aerodynamic test facility seemed totally achievable.



We all enjoyed an illustrated talk about the ups and downs of the work required to realise this dream, and the plans in hand to complete the technology park, all in keeping with the site's heritage, rescuing and reusing much of the original station platform and buildings.



Of course, what most of us were waiting for was the chance to see inside the tunnel and be taken on a ride down and back again. It was apparent that a lot of work had been done to preserve the bat population, and many desirable residences were attached to the walls. We did not know if any were occupied!

A turntable at each end ensured that no 3-point turn was required—or at least that was the plan! However, initially a duff battery in the remote caused a hiccup in achieving this, but we, the lucky ones who took the ride afterwards, were spun around with little effort and returned to base smoothly. If only Austin Powers had been so lucky!!



The picture, kindly supplied by Ian, shows Control Room monitors at the head of the tunnel.

Subaru uses the site on a permanent basis, with employees from Japan visiting regularly. This part is not open to visitors.

**We have lots more interesting visits and meet-ups planned. Why not join the group?**





## New Experiences & Adventures Group..... Sandra Fawcett u3a At Bletchley Park

On Tuesday, 21st April 2026, a coach took 16 members to the once top-secret home of the World War 11 Codebreakers.

Upon arrival at this Heritage Attraction, we had time for refreshments before our guide, Elaine, joined us for our Private Tour. Elaine took us on a walking tour of the site, telling us about the history and lives of the various people who worked there. 90% of which were women!

She had many light-hearted and interesting anecdotes to share with us, including Ian Fleming's fling with a member of staff.

After the tour, we had free time to visit the various huts, exhibitions and watch some of the fascinating films. Of course, no visit is complete without seeing the ENIGMA MACHINES.

Then it was time to head back to our coach for the journey home. Many thanks to our delightful DACT driver, Simon, for getting us to and from the venue safely.



# Bird Watching & Nature Group.....

Richard Piner



Twelve of us met in the car park at Summer Leys near Earls Barton for a walk around the nature reserve. The weather was good, and we saw and heard lots of birds. In particular, we heard many warblers (mainly summer visitors), including willow warbler, whitethroat and sedge warbler, the latter two being easier to see due to their aerial display flights.



Other highlights included a pair of avocets. Avocets are tall, black and white waders with upturned bills, and the avocet is the logo of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). There were also young birds on view, including Canada goose goslings, lapwing chicks, and redshank chicks.



Altogether, over forty species were seen or heard. Ones we heard included a cuckoo, but unfortunately (or desafortunadamente as we say in the u3a Spanish group!) we didn't see one.

After a couple of hours walking, most of us drove to Earls Barton for a delicious, well-deserved lunch at an excellent cafe there.

Pictures of Summer Leys, storksbill and a lackey moth courtesy of Heather Lyle, Caroline Grey and me.



## History Group.... William Philpott



Pat Butler gave an illustrated talk on the history of Lincoln. The first record of a place named Lindum Colonia during the Roman occupation.

Subsequently, it became a significant Viking trading hub and later a centre of the church.

Lincoln flourished during the medieval period as a result of the woollen trade in the wake of The Norman invasion, which saw both the castle and the cathedral constructed.



## Bridge Group..... Brian Donkersley

Special treat at the April meeting  
- new packs of playing cards.  
Thanks to Mez and Mike for  
bringing them along.



Once again, it was a most enjoyable afternoon with some interesting hands, helpful analysis, friendly chat on all sorts of topics, tea, coffee and the odd glass of beer.

The group is happy to accommodate beginners, learners (I think that is all of us) and experienced players and pairs.

A really good afternoon at 2.00 pm on the second Tuesday of every month, for just a £2 per person contribution towards the Daventry and District Golf Club, which kindly facilitates our group.

If anyone wants more information, please contact the group leader via "[brinflow@btinternet.com](mailto:brinflow@btinternet.com)".

### Ad Break.... The Answers

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. Have A Break, Have A .....                   | Kit Kat    |
| 2. Because You're Worth It.....                 | L'Oreal    |
| 3. You Know When You've Been.....               | Tango      |
| 4. Every Little Helps....                       | Tesco      |
| 5. Just Do It....                               | Nike       |
| 6. For Mash, Get.....                           | Smash      |
| 7. Washing Machines Live Longer With....        | Calgon     |
| 8. Should Have Gone To.....                     | Specsavers |
| 9. The Best A Man Can Get.....                  | Gillette   |
| 10. Not Just Any Food....                       | M&S        |
| 11. Melts In Your Mouth, Not In Your Hands...   | M&M's      |
| 12. Finger Licking Good.....                    | Kentucky   |
| 13. It Does Exactly What It Says On The Tin.... | Ronseal    |
| 14. The Taste Of Paradise.....                  | Bounty     |
| 15. I'm Loving It.....                          | MacDonalds |



## Daventry & District u3a Activity & Interest Groups

**Free for members to join**  
(Although some activities may have associated costs).

Our groups are the lifeblood of the u3a so, why not consider joining or forming a group to further your interest and meet like-minded members.

Frequency Key: M = Monthly F = Fortnightly W = Weekly	Frequency	Day	Time	Frequency Key: M = Monthly F = Fortnightly W = Weekly	Frequency	Day	Time
Acoustics	W	Mon	PM	New Experiences	Activity Dependent		
Alternative Book Group	M	Thurs	AM	Philosophy	M	Tue	AM
Any Crafts Will Do	F	Mon	PM	Photography For Pleasure	M	Tue	PM
Art Appreciation	M	Tue	PM	Rambles (4-6 Miles)	M	Mon	AM
BakeXChange	M	Fri	PM	Reading Shakespeare 1	M	Fri	AM
Bird Watching / Nature	M	Thurs	AM/PM	Reading Shakespeare 2	M	Mon	PM
Book Group	M	Tue	PM	Rummikub 1	M	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	PM
Bridge	M	Thurs	PM	Rummikub 2	M	Wed	Eve
Climate Change	M	Thurs	PM	Rummikub 3	M	Tue	PM
Creative Writing	M	Wed	AM	Rummikub 4	M	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	PM
Cribbage	F	Fri	PM	Scrabble	M	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	PM
Current Affairs	Third Wed Of The Month		PM	Spanish Conversation	F	Mon	AM
Folk Dancing	W	Thurs	AM	Spanish Conversation (Basic)	F	Wed	PM
French Conversation 1	F	Wed	PM	Supper Club	M	Wed	Eve
Garden Vistas & Views	M	Fri	Day	The Art Of Painting	F	Wed	PM
Golf	M	Fri	AM	The Stories In My Life	M	Thurs	PM
History I	M	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	PM	Virtual Book Group	M	Tue	Day
Moto	Meet On Various Days			Weekenders	M	Sat/Sun	AM/PM
Motoring	M	Tue	AM	Wine Appreciation	Bi-Monthly	Various Days	PM

**No group is ever 'FULL', there may be a waiting list until there is room, or another group is started.**

To find out more information about a particular group go to <http://www.daventryanddistrict.u3asite.uk/groups>

To contact the editor of the monthly newsletter with all your comments, news and photos:

[daventryu3a.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:daventryu3a.newsletter@gmail.com)

**Make a Note - put it in your Contacts List**