



Photo Mike Davey

This month Ruddington will be visited by one of the most iconic railway engines ever built, the Flying Scotsman. It will make several journeys between Ruddington and Loughborough. It would be good to hear from any members who take a trip on board or from those of you who go to the various viewing points to experience this piece of history.

Our most important administrative event of this year is the AGM on the 18th May. As I have previously said we need to have a good turnout to ratify the last year's report and the accounts. You will all have received copies of these in advance of the meeting.

I must also stress the need for us to enroll two new committee members, a membership secretary and a vice chair. As of the end of July we will not have anyone in place as membership secretary. Please contact any of the committee to find out about this role.

The committee and I look forward to your continued support throughout the coming year.

Best Wishes

Liz McAdam (Chair)

Interest group news

Gardening Group



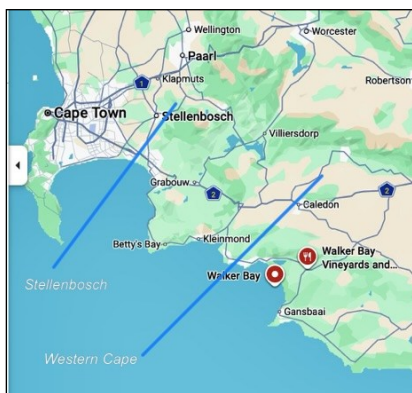
A magnificent display of woodland bluebells accompanied by wonderful birdsong, greeted members of the Gardening Group when they visited Felley Priory on 17th April.



Our subsequent stroll around the gardens, to see the outstanding collection of topiary, an ancient “Pera Jagonelle” pear tree planted in 1557, swathes of narcissi and other Spring flowers, completed our visit.

Wine Tasting Group

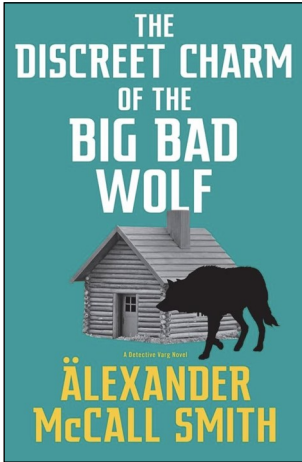
South African wines were featured in our April meeting. Again, we were at capacity and in May a different venue means numbers will



have to be restricted. South Africa was the 8th biggest wine producer in the world in 2015. The vineyards are mainly in the province of Western Cape. The Wine of Origin, WO, appellation system defines about 60 appellations meaning that the grapes used originate from the defined area. The white wines were mostly sauvignon blancs from Stellenbosch and the Western Cape, reds included a pinot noir and cinsault.

The topic for June is Eastern European so the search is on to find more unusual wines.

Friday Book Group



Our book this month was “The Discreet Charm of the Big Bad Wolf” one of the Detective Varg series by Alexander McCall Smith. This genre is described by the author as Scandi Blanc. It is a gentle crime novel with interesting characters who evolve as the book progresses.

Views of the group were divided from “ploddy” and “pedestrian” to “enjoyable” and an “easy-read”. Some would recommend the book others wouldn’t but it certainly made for a lively discussion. Personally I would recommend the book and will certainly read others in this series. Liz Thornton

Brush up your French/German and Beginners’ French groups.

Brush up your French is now full again. Brush up your German is also full but there are two spaces in Beginners’ French.

Angela Sell contact angibill@gmail.com 07467102083 for information.

Knit & Natter



Knit & Natter convenor Joy Clayton held a stall selling knitted items, during the May Ruddington Village Market, from the end of her drive.

The group are currently raising money for St John’s Ambulance. It meets each Friday morning at 10;00 a.m. upstairs in Philo’s. Contact via email seesee_81@hotmail.com

Lunch Club

The next Lunch club meeting will be at The Riverside Pub on Thursday the 4th of June at 1:30 p.m. Contact Margaret Marshall for more information: margaretmarshall70@gmail.com.

Photography Group

Some of our images from the April visit to Highfields. There will be more of the animal kingdom to follow after our June 10th. meeting.

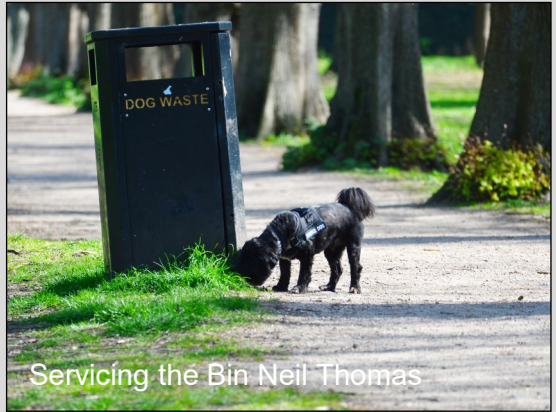




Mike Davey



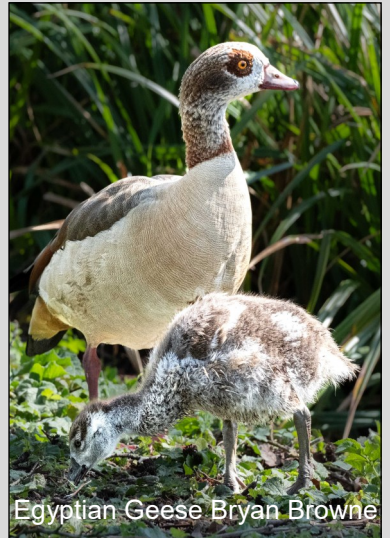
Nuts by Sarah Thomas



Servicing the Bin Neil Thomas



Peter Davison



Egyptian Geese Bryan Browne

Tai Chi



We celebrated World Tai Chi and Qigong Day on Saturday 25th April 2026.

We have celebrated the day each year since the Ruddington and District u3a Tai Chi group first started in 2018. In the early years the numbers who gathered for it were small and I well remember our Tai Chi efforts in my garage, with heaters giving us some warmth, while the wind howled outside and rain squalls battered the garage doors. In other years, with good weather, we celebrated in my garden.

Now our numbers have increased and we use Ruddington Village hall to gather. This year 43 people registered for the occasion. We were joined by 5 from the Westbridgford u3a Tai Chi group.

Following an introduction, Tai Chi commenced at 10 00am joining the world wide celebration of Tai Chi. WTC and Qigong Day had commenced in New Zealand and travelled around the world following the sun reaching UK and travelling on to North and South America. We traveled in music through China, Asia, Tibet, Mongolia, Japan, Arabia and Africa. After an hour of Tai Chi we had an excellent Brunch, enjoyed by all at The Country Cottage Hotel.

Theatre Exploration & Appreciation Group

After a successful 2 years this group is taking a break.

I have enjoyed hosting this interesting & friendly group, but due to taking on a part-time job, I am no longer able to commit the necessary time.

Thank you to all who have attended and I hope that you continue to expand your theatrical horizons. Jae Marriott

Travellers' Tales



Our May meeting was to have been an Australian guest speaker talking about the Great Barrier Reef. Unfortunately, the war in the middle east scuppered his travel plans. Fortunately, Steve and Mandy Hewitt were able to present the second half of their talk about their visit to South Africa at the end of 2025. This featured cities, beaches, mountains and a bit of politics (uncensored), all very interesting and informative.

One in one

This month's meeting will be on May 28th, with all 3 venues being in the Sneinton area of Nottingham and commencing at the later time of 3:00pm. The later time is due to the opening times of two of the venues. The first venue at 3:00pm will be The Fox & Grapes, 21 Southwell Road, NG1 1DL, followed at 4:00pm at Bunker's Hill, 36/38 Hockley and finally 5:00pm at The Bath Inn (one not to miss this amazing pub). The nearest number 10 bus stop is George Street, at the top of Hockley. Hope to see as many members as can make it on that day and any new potential members will be made very welcome. Pete Wakelin.

Events & Tours Barbara Breakwell

Older Drivers Workshop

Thank you to all who expressed an interest in this. We have a date in July sorted and I will be contacting those who signed up for it. If anyone else is interested, please email me for details.

Amazon Tour.

These are fully booked until the end of June. I will apply again when the next dates are released.

Stoke Bardolph Waterworks Visit.

It is proving difficult to get a response from here but I will persevere. Thank you Barbara Breakwell breakwellbarbara5@gmail.com

Monthly speaker meetings.

Monday 18th May 2:00 p.m. u3a Annual General meeting
followed by **Martin Grant - REMAP Making Things Possible**



REMAP's mission is to improve the quality of life for people who experience short or long-term disability through infirmity, illness, or ageing.

Martin will talk about this national charity which designs and makes custom made devices, in order to enhance the independence of people with disabilities. All the members are volunteers with organisational or practical skills, in areas such as woodwork, metalwork, electronics, plastics and fabrics. They work from home by making and adapting equipment to meet the unique needs of individuals. All the devices they produce are free of charge.

Monday 15th June 2:00 pm Jim Campbell Forensic Talk.



With modern analytical equipment we can now detect a substance at a level of one part in one million millionth, and we can analyse DNA from just one molecule. Although these techniques were developed with criminal forensics in mind, we use these principles in our laboratory to solve problems, identify species at risk, and track everything from foreign substances in food through to rare animals

being poached and smuggled around the world. Using real examples from case history, we explore the application of forensic techniques applied to everyday assignments encountered in the laboratory and look at the latest analytical techniques and how we can apply them.