

## **Interest Group Reports**

### **Art Group**

We are a small friendly self-help group who would welcome new members of any artistic ability. We mainly use watercolour, acrylics and sometimes pastel or crayon. We meet in the VC Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday mornings from 10 -12 with the Cardcraft group and enjoy being sociable with another group's members. (Sometimes we may join in with their activity too!)

Mary Marshall

### **Book Club**

6 members attended the inaugural meeting for this new group held at Little Jacks on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 where it was agreed that the group would meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Little Jacks at 2pm. A book was chosen for the January meeting, (Matt Haig's 'Midnight library'), & members were requested to bring 2 book choices to the January meeting from which the year's books were chosen.

Since then the group has lost one member (due to moving), but gained a total of 13 members overall. Eleven books have been read – a mixture of fiction & nonfiction. Members agree that they have widened their reading & each book has led to active discussion, accompanied by purchased refreshments. No book was chosen for December but several members met for a festive meal together.

Contact Mary Marshall or Carole Noble for further information & the 2024 book selection.

### **Cardcraft Group**

We are now only a small but friendly group and all are always ready to help each other with new ideas. Techniques we have used include die cutting, stencils, stamping, prick & sew, parchment, iris folding, shaped cards, embossing, colouring with water colour pencils as well as making a Christmas tree decoration. Please look at our display table to see some samples. We celebrated Christmas 2022 in February 2023 with a meal at Pauls with the Art & marquetry/modelling groups.

We meet at the VC Hall on the first and third Wednesday mornings of the month, 10-12, and share the space with the Art group and any Marquetry/Modeling members.

Contact Julie Stansby.

### **Flower Arranging Group**

The Flower Group has met ten times in 2023, in the small village hall meeting room which provides and much cosier atmosphere for our small group.

After some discussion on members' preferences, we decided to move away from taking turns to "demonstrate" arrangements for others to imitate, and adopt a much freer approach. We have a programme agreed up to July 2024 based around themes ranging from harvest and Christmas to Burns Night, May Day and Seaside.

At each meeting we produce an arrangement in our preferred form, then discuss ideas for the next month's theme, with the aid of numerous magazines, books and you tube videos. We've maintained our environmentally friendly approach by trying to only use bio-oasis and

experimenting with reusable wreaths and containers – including empty baked bean tins. We also forage for plant materials where appropriate and donate flowers and greenery from our own gardens, to keep costs down.

Most importantly, we enjoy a good chat, a cuppa and biscuits and the pleasure of working with beautiful flowers. Everyone is supportive and we never cease to be amazed at the variety of arrangements we produce!

Anyone who loves flowers and fancies spending a couple of hours a month learning new skills or just having fun arranging them is welcome to join our small, friendly group on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, at 10:30 in the VC Hall.



## **Garden Group**

We have enjoyed a very busy year of interesting visits to varied gardens in the local area, mostly part of the National Garden Scheme, whose members open their gardens for a nominated charity. The weather has been kind this year and most of the visits have been blessed with warm (some even hot!) sunny weather.

In March, we held a lively plant and seed swap meeting in the Village Hall, followed by a visit to Floral Media in Newark in April. The main part of their business is to grow cut flowers for farm shops & other outlets, and although we learned all about tulip planting, we are excited to be going back for a second visit next year, but this time in the summer. May found us at Goadby Marwood Hall, an interesting house with varied gardens, and a tale of an aircraft that crashed in the grounds in WW2.

In June we made a visit to Park Farm in Southwell – at last, as it had been postponed twice, during the COVID year and due to last year's drought! Everyone agreed it was one of the nicest we have visited, with lovely plants for sale and views of Southwell Minster. In July, some of us joined with Long Bennington Garden Association for a coach trip to Cascades Gardens in Derbyshire, and August found us in Long Bennington again, at the home of members Amy and Mark, to see their extensive garden renovation and Mark's metal sculptures. We paid a visit to the Palace Gardens at Southwell Minster in September, learning how the gardens were being brought back to life after a long period. October found us being entertained by Di Illsley, another member, who told us of her garden journey from blank canvas of a new build to an exciting and varied plot- it was her first talk, but you would never have known it!. In November, we visited Brookfields Garden Centre at Mapperley, and finished the year with a splendid Christmas Party in the Village Hall, with an entertaining quiz set by Bryan Colbourne which was won by Heather Ansell. We look forward to a fiendish quiz she will set for us next December!

Marilyn Hood/Heather Ansell, December 2023

## **Music, Movement & Relaxation**

After the sad loss of June Pedge, the leader for several years, the group has managed to continue meeting at the Methodist chapel on a Monday morning at 10.30am with an average attendance of between 16 -20 members. We continue to do many of the exercises June instigated exercising our minds as well as our body trying to remember what we do to this piece of music! Often we go 'off piste' and a 'Mexican wave' isn't unusual. Anne Cossins has gamily stepped in to help and has introduced us to Chinese Qigong which involves using exercises to optimise energy within the body, mind & spirit with the goal of improving & maintaining health & well-being. Overall the general emphasis is on keeping ourselves mobile in a gentle, fun way followed by a period of relaxation & then tea/coffee & biscuits & of course time to chat.

Mary Marshall & Anne Cossins

### **Scrabble Group:**

We have enjoyed a good year with numbers between 8 and 12 at the monthly meetings with new members Jackie, Jean, Julie, Pam & Mo joining us. We still have room for new members, whether experienced or wanting to learn to play Scrabble.

We meet on the second Monday of the month in the Meeting Room at the VC Hall at 2pm. Scrabble boards are provided. We stop for a cuppa & biscuits & catch up with the gossip.

Contact Mary Noble 01476 566578 for more details.

### **Sewing & Knitting Group**

The group now meets in the main room at the VC Hall which has worked well as the group continues to expand. We regularly have up to 17 members attending and we now have the space to spread out if needed. All sorts of handicrafts take place ranging from embroidery, cross stitch, dressmaking, bag making, quilting, appliqué, tapestry, knitting, crochet, 'loom knitting' and patchwork to name a few! If anyone has a problem with a particular piece of work there is generally someone who can offer help & advice. We always break for a drink together in the kitchen & enjoy biscuits or some home baking as well as lots of chat. We like to celebrate Christmas with a meal out together, usually in February! We are very sad at the recent death of Kate, a regular attendee. The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 1.30pm. Anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome whatever your skill level and interest & even a complete beginner who wants to learn a new craft.

Have a look at our display at the AGM and speak to Barbara Herd or Mary Marshall for further information as we have plenty of room for further members.

### **Singing Group**

We have had a good year with fewer disruptions and numbers have increased. We have welcomed new members from Bottesford, Bingham and other nearby villages and they have all stayed with us so we are beginning to sound much more confident.

Our pianist is Deborah Cosgriff and Isabel Daw is still leading us. We are very grateful to them both. Isabel has worked hard to adapt some of our previous songs to suit our present members. She is still hoping that someone might step in and allow her to become a singing member once more. There is a face book page now, called Bottesford Singers, and there has been an article in Village Voice, but so far, nobody has approached us. We live in hope.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, (except for August), in the Methodist Church schoolroom from 2 till 4.

Our numbers are up to 30 but new members are always welcome, with or without experience. We have far many more sopranos than altos, tenors or basses.

Do have a word with me, Val Lever, if you would like to find out more, or just come along and give it a try.

### **Table Tennis Group**

Dave Botham our group leader for several years retired this year and handed over the reins to John Hopkins. Since moving to the Fuller/Parish Rooms the group has continued to be well supported with several new members this year and has between 24-30 people most weeks. We play doubles if the numbers are high to ensure everyone gets plenty of games; otherwise we play singles for the first hour and then doubles for the second hour. We now have 4 tables thanks to Steve & Avril Goad's kind donation and we thank the Parish Council for their support and agreement to the storage of this fourth table. We have purchased new nets and bats this year too. Skill levels range from beginners to very competent players but we are a non competitive group as the emphasis is on enjoyment. Table tennis is deemed to be one of the best forms of exercise both mentally and physically for our age group. Christmas was celebrated by 29 of us by a meal at Pauls. We meet every week from 10-12. Contact John Hopkins for further information.

### **Ten Pin Bowling Group**

The Ten Pin Bowling Group started back in May last year with around twelve members, this has continued to grow to around twenty. We meet just once a month at Grantham Bowl in Grantham with a standard arrangement with Grantham Bowl for two lanes, this has had to increase to three lanes due to our numbers growing over the last few months.

It has been great to see how it has allowed everyone to be involved, with the use of the bumper bars, any of us can have a game. It is great fun with all of us trying to better our scores from the previous games, but it's also a great social event.

We have an agreement with Grantham Bowl for an agreed price of £6 for one game per member or £10 for two games, this is a significant saving on the standard pricing of £7.75 for one game and £14 for two games.

If you are interested please contact me Keith Noble on 07830129198 or email me on [keithnoble14@gmail.com](mailto:keithnoble14@gmail.com).

### **Walking Group**

Starting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and averaging 12 members per walk, the group has covered 20 circular walks of around 5 miles each. Starting points have been from Bottesford, Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, Redmile, Stathern, Colston Bassett, Aslockton, Waltham on the Wolds, Harby, Hose, Long Bennington, Hickling, Farndon and Allington. We have walked across arable fields, meadows, up and down hills, along canal towpaths, riverbank footpaths, Viking Way & Jubilee Way, bridleways, disused railway lines, minor roads, farm tracks, woodlands and climbed over numerous stiles in both sunshine & rain. We have 2 walks a month usually, alternating a Wednesday walk with a Friday walk. John Richardson has led many of the walks but other members are beginning to take turns to plan and lead a walk. We've enjoyed a summer meal out after our last walk in July before our summer break and Christmas meals after walks in late November and December.

John Richardson and Mary Marshall

**Whist, Chess & Board games Group**

The group has grown in size this year having had some new members; and up to 12 members meet each week. New for this year are some Chess players. The main games played are Whist, Rummikub, Canasta, Cribbage and now chess too. The group meets weekly on a Thursday afternoon at the Fuller Rooms from 2-4pm courtesy of the Parish Council. Any new players would be very welcome.

Contact Eddie Clark.