

Syston and District

u3a

learn, laugh, live

APR
2025

Vitality!

Official newsletter of the Syston and District u3a

CHARITY No 1180152

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Hi Everyone,

The daffodils are in full bloom, my Magnolia tree is full of blossom and everywhere is looking a lot brighter.

Can I just remind everyone that you still have a chance to let the committee know whether you are in favour or not about the change to our constitution.

I hope to see you at the next Members meeting when Andy Smith will speak about his Life in Music. See you soon.

Clive

WE WANT TO LET YOU KNOW

I am repeating this from last month as a reminder –

If you haven't seen the email about proposed changes to the constitution, please check your spam/bulk/junk mail, it may have been diverted there by your email provider.

In essence we are looking to change the length of time people can serve on our Executive Committee. The aim is to mitigate the difficulty of finding volunteers, yet potentially having existing volunteers forced to stand down, when they would actually be willing to carry on. That said, we don't have completely free rein on this, as changes must also be approved centrally by the Third Age Trust, the National u3a body.

I have reproduced the details relating to these changes, just in case you can find no trace of the email message containing them. Unfortunately, we have limited control over what happens to messages we send out, whether by email or snail mail. We are seeking these changes through an EGM, so that they can be applied at the forthcoming AGM. Otherwise, the existing rules on length of service would have to be applied for another year.

Present Constitution

7.4 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS & PERIODS OF SERVICE

7.4.1 Once appointed, the officers, with the exception of the Treasurer, may serve for up to three (3) years without re-election, be eligible for re-election for any other officer or non-officer role for a further three years making a total of six (6), and a further maximum of one (1) year, if no replacement comes forward and it is agreed by members at the Annual General Meeting. Officers would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one (1) year.

7.4.2 The Treasurer may serve six (6) years without re-election and a further one (1) year if no replacement comes forward and it is agreed by members at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one year (1).

7.5 APPOINTMENT OF NON- OFFICER MEMBERS & PERIODS OF SERVICE

7.5.1 Once appointed, a non-officer member may serve for up to three (3) years without re-election, be eligible for election to any other officer or non-officer role for a further three years, making a total of six (6) and a further one (1) year if no replacement comes forward and it is agreed by members at the Annual General Meeting. Non-Officers would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one (1) year.

7.5.2 An individual may not serve more than seven consecutive years in various different Officer/non officer committee member roles.

7.5.3 A previous committee member may be nominated to become a committee member after a one-year break of service, but their period of service must not exceed ten years maximum.

Proposed Change to the Constitution

7.4 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS & PERIODS OF SERVICE

7.4.1 Once appointed, the officers, with the exception of the Treasurer, may serve for up to three (3) years without re-election, be eligible for re-election for any for any officer role for a further three (3) years at the Annual General Meeting up to a maximum of nine (9) years. Officers would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one (1) year.

7.4.2 The Treasurer may serve six (6) years without re-election and would be available for re-election for a further three (3) years at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer would then not be eligible for re-election for a period of at least one year (1).

7.5 APPOINTMENT OF NON- OFFICER MEMBERS & PERIODS OF SERVICE

7.5.1 Once appointed, a non-officer member may serve for up to three (3) years without re-election, be eligible for election to any other officer or non-officer role for a further three (3) years at the Annual General Meeting up to a total of nine (9) years.

7.5. A previous committee member may be nominated to become a committee member after a one-year break of service

If you wish to see the full current constitution, it can be found on our website in the members area. The Special General Meeting is on 9th April at the start of our monthly meeting, but you can also vote by post/email using the form provided by Clive with his email.

GROUP NEWS

NEW GROUP IDEAS

If you have any ideas for a new group, please contact Barbara Sargeant our groups co-ordinator sadu3agroups@gmail.com or speak to her at one of our monthly general meetings. Alternatively contact her assistant Angie Baker email sadu3agroupsasst@gmail.com Acting as a group organiser doesn't have to be onerous, it doesn't have to be down to just one person, and it doesn't mean you have to organise everything the group does.

Is the group you want to join currently full? How about starting a second group? Barbara and Angie are happy to provide support and guidance on how to get going. On that note

2ND KURLING GROUP

A second Kurling Group has now been formed, starting on April 25th, 2025, at **Rearsby Village Hall**.

It will place on the last Friday in each month.

This is a fun activity for all, taking place in a large, well-lit hall, with kitchen facilities for a cuppa during the break.

If interested contact Angie Baker angiecbaker14@gmail.com

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

This month we looked at problem solving in family history research. We all get involved with problem solving to some extent in our daily lives, but it's an important part of genealogy. If you enjoy it, you will probably enjoy finding out about your ancestors. Information doesn't just fall into your lap, nor does it always make immediate sense. You need to use the old grey matter to try and untangle what you have found – which is why the experts say that, as a hobby, it can help keep the mind active.

Here is an example of a family history puzzle for you to look at. I'll give you some historical context to help.

There were 2 men of the same name born within 2 years of each other in Bassingham, Lincolnshire.

John born 1607 was the son of Richard, whilst John born 1609 was the son of John.

Both men married within a couple of years of each other and were having children around the same time in Bassingham

The Bassingham parish registers at the time usually only show fathers names. (Sorry ladies, mothers generally didn't merit being named in this era). However, the clergy of that time did make some attempt to distinguish between the 2 men for at some of the baptisms at least.

The 2 brides were Ann Croft and Elizabeth Alcocke.

John and Ann married in 1638. John and Elizabeth married in 1640.

The baptisms were as follows – (the dates have been adjusted to reflect our modern calendar)

John	30 Nov 1639 - mother noted as Ann (was Croft)
John	10 Oct 1641 – mother noted as Elizabeth Alcocke
Ann	24 Apr 1642 – father named as John the older
Elizabeth	10 Jun 1643 – father simply named as John
Thomas	24 Nov 1644 – John the younger
Thomas	12 Feb 1645 – John the older
Edward	3 Jan 1646 – John the younger
William	20 Mar 1652 – father named as just John

Both sets of parents were alive during the period covering these baptisms.

So, can you work out which children fit with which parents? Are there any that remain uncertain?

A few of pieces of historical context –

Because of higher infant mortality rates, and the general belief that you needed to be baptised in order to go to heaven after death, parents baptised their children very soon after birth.

Couples usually had their first child within a couple of years of marriage.

Naming children after parents and grandparents was very common.

Answer further on in this newsletter.

If you would like to find out more about those in your family that came before you, but don't know where to start, consider joining the group; contact me juliedjohnson@yahoo.com to find out more.

LITTERPICKING GROUP

A few Syston and District u3a litter pickers having a beverage after an hour's litter picking around Barkby last month.



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP



Steve Kenney



Tina Horsman



Linda Elson



John Haigh

On the last Thursday in February, the group visited the National Gas Museum (Aylestone Road, Leicester).

We had booked a Group visit (free) and were given a 15min introduction by a member of staff there, together with a video of the history.

Fascinating venue and lots of interesting objects, relating to gas, were available to photograph. If you ever get a chance to visit, it's well worth it – I remember some of the gas appliances from my mum and dad's house!

After spending around 90mins there, we drove up to the Morrison's store and had a chat and something to eat.

If anyone interested, here's the website:

<https://www.nationalgasmuseum.org.uk/>

YOGA GROUP



The group now has a new organiser, Pushpa Pancholi has taken over from Phyl Veron Wilson. Phyl has been at the helm of the group from the early days of our u3a. Her last session as organiser saw group members thanking her for her efforts and, as you can see from the photograph, she was presented with some flowers to mark the occasion. It's great that the group can continue without a break.

Pushpa tells me that the group will be meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.00am, with the next session on 16th April.

UKELELE GROUP



On 13th March, some members of the ukulele group entertained the 'Young At Heart' Group at Syston Community Centre.

We played 2 sets, with a break for tea/coffee and cake, which was most welcome!

The audience sang and clapped along to our songs and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



EVENTS – PAST, PRESENT & PLANNED

DESERT ISLAND DISCS



17 members enjoyed a morning of music and reminiscing where an eclectic choice of music was played. We sang, danced and told our stories. We ate cake and drank tea and coffee.

What a lovely way to spend a couple of hours on a Friday morning.

Some stories made us laugh; some reminded us of our younger days.

We had Cliff's song, "until the twelfth of never" using sign language, very moving.

How we all sang along to the Beatles, Don McClean, Buddy Holly and the Jam to name but a few!

This was the first time we've had a "one off" like this. It was so successful we may do it again in the Autumn.

Watch this space.

Thanks to all who helped on the day.

Barbara



WHAT'S ON NEXT

GENERAL MEETINGS

In the Brookside Room at the Community Centre – talks usually start 10.30am
Tea/coffee and mingling from 10.00am

.April 9th, 2025

Life in Music

Musician Andy Smith: A journey through life featuring self-penned comedy songs and ballads ...plus a few well-known numbers for members to join in. I explain a bit about the instruments I have brought with me - which includes several guitars, ukulele and mandolin.

With lots of amusing chat and nostalgic anecdotes, this has become a very popular talk.



May 14th, 2025

All About Playing Cards

Mike Lister gives a talk/presentation: "All About Playing Cards", covering history, mystery, facts and myths.



June 11th, 2025

Tea and the Empress of China

Speaker Michael Burton gives a talk/presentation on *Tea and the Empress of China*

China tea became a British obsession. It sparked a global battle of politics and big money which ran for two centuries, leading almost to the collapse of the world's greatest country.

China's saviour was an unknown no-nonsense princess who seized control at the crucial moment, shrewdly keeping the predatory trading powers at arm's length. This is a story of spies, greyhound-like ships and a successful plan to "transplant China into India" – and all because of the British love of their "cuppa."



NATIONAL U3A ITEMS

u3a TALKS



A Glimpse at the Pre Raphaelites: The Potential of Love

Catherine Stevenson of Newcastle u3a looks at the Pre Raphaelites: The Potential of Love Unveiling Holman Hunt's Masterpiece

Thursday 10 April at 10am

Free – online via Zoom



Using the web to learn something new

Are you curious about learning something new but not sure where to start? Join us on this talk to get some insights on how to develop or expand your range of interests.

Tuesday 15 April at 2pm

Free – online via Zoom



The Assassination of President Kennedy

Join Pete Mellor, Oldham & District u3a, for this talk on the assassination of JFK, a topic he has researched for over three decades.

Friday 25 April at 2pm

Free – online via Zoom

Book [here](#)

Book [here](#)

Book [here](#)

If none of the trio of talks on the previous page appeals, you can find other options [here](#)

u3a INTEREST GROUPS ONLINE

With the new membership year starting it seemed like a good time to remind people about the above.

Interest Groups Online offers a variety of peer led, online learning opportunities for its subscribers.

As part of the u3a movement, members generously volunteer their time and share their knowledge, skills and experience with the members in their groups. Some groups are more interactive than others, with an expectation that all members take it in turns to present their knowledge. If in doubt, give it a go. The more groups you try, the more likely you'll find the one you love.

You can find out more about what's on offer [u3a - Interest Groups Online Groups](#)

To join a group, you must first be a paid member of Interest Groups Online. Annual membership is £12, covering the period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. If you join after 1st October, the fee is reduced to £6.

Whilst some groups have a waiting list, there are over 30 groups with places and more groups in the pipeline.

NOT u3a BUT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED



Frisby Players Present
THE PARK BENCH
 A comedy by Ash

CANCELLED

Frisby Village Hall
 Water Lane, Frisby on the Wreake LE14 2NP
Thurs 3, Fri 4, Sat 5 APRIL 2025
Doors open 7.15pm - curtain rises 8.00pm

TICKETS £10.00 - available from Tony Bird 07971472762
 School children FREE
 Payment can be made by bank transfer or cash

St Michael & All Angels Church
Thurmaston




An Afternoon with

Watermead Singers
And Friends
Life's True Delights

SATURDAY
5TH APRIL 2025
2.30PM

FREE CONCERT
FOLLOWED BY
TEA & CAKE

Retiring Collection for the Soar Valley Community

Food  Project





MELTON MAYDAY FESTIVAL
 MARKET PLACE, MELTON MOWBRAY
 SATURDAY 3RD OF MAY
 11.00AM TO 2.00PM
FREE!

Melton May Day Festival

Join us for a fantastic celebration of tradition and community at the May Day Festival on Saturday, 3rd of May 2025, held in Melton Mowbray Market Place from 11:30am to 2:00pm!
 Enjoy a vibrant and fun-filled day with activities for all ages:
 ~...

3 May 2025 Open 11:30 - 14:00

Where: Market Place, Market Place, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1XD

Contact details: 01664 567846



Old Town Festival

Old Town Festival is a new event for 2025 incorporating the traditional St George's Festival with the Historic Roman Heritage of the City.

26 Apr 2025 to 27 Apr 2025

Where: Old Town, Leicester, LE1 5DB

Contact details: +44 (0)116 4543600



Save the Date

Open Event

Thurmaston Royal British Legion

Melton Road, Thurmaston

Saturday 10th May 2025

2pm—5pm

Come and spend the afternoon with us;
Stalls / Musical Entertainment and lots more



Registered charity number: 219279



Bats of Bradgate

Join the team and volunteers to discover the fascinating world of bats! As dusk falls, we'll venture out into the park equipped with bat detectors to try and spot some bats in flight and listen to their echolocation.

Start: 25th April, 2025 at 7:30pm

Easter Activity Trail - Belvoir Castle

Journey through Belvoir's formal gardens, solving Easter activity puzzles along the way. You may even bump into the Easter bunny and his friends as you wander past the spring blooms, including tulips and camellias.

Once you have completed the outdoor trail, each child can collect an Easter egg prize at the end of their visit. (Dairy free alternatives will be available). An Easter activity trail worksheet and Easter egg is included in a child's garden entry ticket (child £8, adult £10). Under 4s go free.

The trail is now available, and will run until Monday, April 18. You can upgrade to a castle and garden entry ticket and take part in the free craft activities in the castle's Old Kitchen and a free-flow tour around the State Rooms.

The Engine Yard will also be hosting an Easter Weekend Pop-Up Market, on Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17. Dogs are welcome within the grounds, but must be kept on leads at all times.

Click [here to visit the website](#).



Easter Vintage Festival and Easter Animal Fun – Great Central Railway

Great Central Railway's Easter Vintage Festival returns from April 15 to 18, and you'll be able to step back in time to a country fayre at Quorn and Woodhouse station. There will be traditional steam gallopers and big wheel, traction engines, craft stalls, vintage cars, commercials and tractors.

There will also be a real ale tent with live music on Friday and Saturday.

Easter Animal Fun will take place from April 19 to 21. You'll be able to hang out with animals including Elvis the giant Flemish rabbit, Tula the barn owl, Petal and Flower the skinny pigs and Tiny Tim the baby tortoise at this special event.

You can also take a ride on the steam train, enjoy a mini funfair and see a Punch and Judy show.

For each of these events, a family ticket, including unlimited rail travel, costs £42 (2 adults, 3 children). Other tickets are available. Book via the [website here](#).

FROM OUR MEMBERS

SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION

I've recounted a couple of "rags to riches" type stories about my Lound relatives. However, they are not typical of my ancestors, some of them did not stay on the right side of the law. Let me tell you about Ann Sandall. The Sandall family were in the main a law-abiding lot. They and Lound family were connected by marriage. The menfolk were mainly small businessmen and tradesmen, small farmers, millers, stone masons and the like. Their daughters tended to marry similar men and so it seemed was the case with Ann. She was born in 1809 in Rippingale, Lincolnshire and married Henry Glenn in 1828, he was a tailor. She, Henry and their six children (a seventh had died as a toddler) were still in Rippingale come the 1841 census, but ten years later the situation was very different. She was in Lincoln jail, Henry was in Millbank jail in London, both having been sentenced to 7 years transportation to Australia in January 1851.

Whilst relatively minor transgressions were enough to result in transportation, the Glens were clearly well known to the local constables in Bourne for at least three years before their sentence. The family moved to their local town in the late 1840's. All their 11 children, the last born in 1847, had arrived by the time they moved. For some reason Ann was known as Mary or Ann Mary rather than her given birth name. The first reported brush with the law was in late 1848. Mary was sentenced to one month's hard labour, having been found guilty of "keeping a disorderly house". Henry seems to have escaped punishment on

the grounds that he was working at the time. He mentioned in court that he had “a daughter in the trade” who brought home disorderly companions, but he “couldn’t do anything about that”. This is borne out by the 1851 census, where Ann Mary junior is recorded in the neighbouring town of Sleaford as a lodger, occupation prostitute. She was only seventeen in 1851, so only fourteen or fifteen at the time of the trial in 1848.

In January 1851 Henry and Mary found themselves in court on two separate charges of what we would now call “receiving stolen property”. That the Glens were “well-known” to the law is evident. On hearing of the thefts, the Bourne constables visited them and found the stolen property still in their possession. The fact that they still had the goods may be partly explained by the fact that they, and those who had stolen the goods, were found on the premises drunk. The newspaper report described Mary as sitting almost naked by the fire! Although Henry was acquitted on one of the charges, Mary was found guilty on both counts. The chairman of the bench described the Glens as keeping a disorderly house, a pest to the neighbourhood, and said that it would be a public benefit if they were sent out of the country.

So, what happened to the children, the youngest of whom was only three going on four years old? On the 1851 census daughter Elizabeth was listed as the head of the household at only eighteen. She was looking after three younger siblings and had two lodgers in the house. Her oldest brother Jasper joined the army but had died in barracks in 1849 at only twenty. The whereabouts of their brothers, Henry born in 1830 and John born 1833, are unknown. Two of the younger children had died as toddlers and the whereabouts of Sophia in 1851 are unclear. Elizabeth married later that same year, sister Pheobe, was also married by 1861. Sophia was living with Elizabeth and her husband in 1861. However, Bourne workhouse guardian’s minutes indicate that the three youngest children were in the workhouse in 1854 – more of that later. Let’s get back to Mary and Henry. The records relating to the transportation of prisoners to Australia have survived quite well. Well enough that I know that Mary departed England 6th October 1851 and arrived in Australia 26th January 1852. There had been 200 females on the ship, 4 of whom had died during the voyage. I had expected the death rate to be higher, but I discovered that 1-2% was the norm. Conditions aboard ship were grim but had improved significantly from the earlier years of transportation. The crew included a ships surgeon, the ladies did have the benefit of some ventilation and decent enough food that they didn’t starve to death. They landed in what is now Tasmania. Records even provide a physical description of Mary, she was 5ft 3.25ins tall, with brown hair and hazel eyes. She was put to work as a “plain cook”.

I had expected to find similar records for Henry but could not. So, what had happened to him? I had thought that all those sentenced to transportation actually left England, I learned that was not the case. In fact, Henry was released on licence as the extract below shows –

<i>Reg. 3584. Henry Glenn -</i> <i>Recommended in consequence of</i> <i>his Exemplary character for a dis</i> <i>charge by licence and being offered</i> <i>employment - (jointly) by his</i> <i>Prisoners address - late employers -</i> <i>(Daughter) S. Cooper -</i> <i>Mill Street</i> <i>Bourne</i> <i>Lincoln.</i>	1851		<i>2 May 1854</i> <i>Discharged by</i> <i>Licensee</i> <i>(No. 715)</i> <i>Millbank - Good</i>
	1852	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
	1853	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
	1854	0 0 0 0	

He returned to the Bourne area and took up his trade as a tailor again, but he appears in the workhouse minutes -

8 March 1855. Henry **Glenn**, tailor, belonging to Bourn but residing at Rippingale, attended the Board, and offered to contribute the weekly sum of 4/6 towards the maintenance of his three children, Daniel, Sophia and Archer in the workhouse, provided he is not required to come in with them. Ordered that such proposal be reported to the Poor Law Board for their approval if they deem it a departure from the Prohibitory Order. [Page 17]

They obviously did seek advice and received a response -

29 March 1855. A letter was received from the Poor Law Board stating in reply to the clerk's letter relative to the case of Henry **Glenn** that looking to the peculiar circumstances of the case, and having regard to the fact that Henry Glenn has no permanent habitation, the Board sanctions the relief, which the guardians have ordered. [Page 30]

Henry may have avoided the workhouse at that time, but the 1871 census shows him as an inmate there. He was by then seventy years old. It was where he died in 1876. Whether he was resident there in the intervening years is not known.

Why was Mary transported, but Henry wasn't? I wondered whether the fact that she had a longer list of convictions would have come into play. A bit of research revealed that it may have. By this time, transportation was becoming less common, public opinion was turning against its' use. Mary's longer list of transgressions may have marked her as a "habitual" criminal, whereas Henry had only the one conviction.

On the 29th of July 1854 Mary applied to the authorities for permission to marry John Noble, who was not a convict. Oddly enough a female convict's marital status at transportation wasn't something that was consistently recorded. The authorities didn't probe too deeply into this when marriage applications were made. There was an imbalance between men and women in Australia at the time. Often men were more concerned about acquiring a wife, than they were about her being a convict. The authorities regarded marriage as a stabilising influence for both male and female convicts, so encouraged it. It appears they were prepared to turn a blind eye to the fact that some of these "marriages" were likely to be bigamous. I don't know what happened to Mary after that, there is no record of her death.

Back in England, her children's lives cannot be described as good ones. I can only find one who made anywhere near old bones, and his life clearly wasn't happy. I've already mentioned the death of the oldest Jasper, and that two children died as toddlers. Elizabeth, who initially tried to bring up her younger siblings, died in 1862 at only twenty-nine. Ann Mary junior, the "daughter in the trade" died at only twenty, not of any STI, but of smallpox. Phoebe somehow ended up in Wales, where she married and had six children, but she died at only thirty-four. Sophia only outlived big sister Elizabeth by a year. She was only nineteen when she died of consumption (TB) in 1863. Of note is that she died in the Lincoln and Lincolnshire Penitent Females Home, a refuge for "unfortunate women". It appears that she may have been engaged in the same profession as Ann Mary. The youngest Archer (who was she, not he) seems to have escaped being involved with the sex trade. She went "into service". Sadly, she too died young, at only twenty-five, another victim of consumption. Daniel, born in 1843, is the only one I know made it past forty. He became a navvy and moved up to Leeds. He did marry, but aside from the marriage record, I can find no trace of the couple living together, let alone producing any children. Census data shows him in various lodging houses in Leeds. He was fifty-nine when he died, he passed away in the workhouse, having been paralysed for the last six weeks of his life (probably by what we would refer to as a stroke). He was also described as a blind beggar.

Mary of course would have been oblivious to how her children's lives turned out. Did she care about them at all? Running a disorderly house, with at least one of her daughters a prostitute, certainly doesn't cast her in a good light. Why did this woman from a reasonably respectable family background get involved with the seedier side of life? What about Henry? He certainly doesn't come across as a typical Victorian patriarch whose word was law, quite the reverse. Why did he allow the family to be dragged into criminal behaviour? These are all questions don't expect I'll ever be able to answer. What of sons Henry and John, what happened to them? I haven't given up on finding some answers to that question.

Historical footnotes –

Between 1788 and 1868, approximately 162,000 convicts were transported from Britain and Ireland to various penal colonies in Australia. This practice was part of the British penal system, aimed at alleviating overcrowded prisons and establishing colonies.

A significant number of convicts sentenced to transportation never actually left Britain. Many served their sentences in prison hulks—decommissioned ships converted into floating prisons—or in regular prisons while awaiting transportation. Overcrowding and logistical challenges often led to convicts completing their sentences domestically.

Conditions aboard convict ships to Australia were notoriously harsh, especially in the early years of transportation. Convicts were often crammed into overcrowded, poorly ventilated, and damp quarters below deck. Hygiene was a major concern, with diseases like scurvy and dysentery being common due to unsanitary conditions and a lack of fresh food. Meals were basic, consisting of hardtack biscuits, salted meat, peas, and oatmeal. Punishments for misconduct were severe, including flogging and solitary confinement.

Over time, efforts were made to improve conditions. From 1814 onwards, qualified naval surgeons were employed on ships to oversee the health of convicts. Surgeons were incentivized to ensure convicts arrived alive, leading to better medical care. Activities like singing, dancing, and exercise were introduced to combat boredom and disease. By the mid-19th century, transportation became more organized, and ships were better equipped to handle long voyages.

Efforts to end convict transportation from Britain to Australia began in the early 19th century, driven by growing opposition in both Britain and the Australian colonies. Critics argued that transportation was inhumane, ineffective as a deterrent, and damaging to the moral fabric of the colonies.

In the 1830s and 1840s, public campaigns and petitions in Australia, particularly in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), gained momentum. Free settlers and emancipated convicts opposed the system, viewing it as a stain on their society. In Britain, reformers like Jeremy Bentham criticized transportation as a flawed penal policy.

By the 1850s, transportation to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land had ceased. Western Australia, however, continued to receive convicts until 1868, when the last convict ship, the Hougoumont, arrived. This marked the end of 80 years of transportation.

DECLUTTER DEN

Are you determined to declutter and get rid of things that you haven't used in an age this year? Look no further than Declutter Den.

Norma Grimes has recently upgraded her TV, would anyone like her old one?

40" Bush TV DLED40FHDS. About 5 years' old. Perfect working order.



She can be contacted on 07582 413517 or by email norma.grimes@btinternet.com



If you have something that you are prepared to give away – **strictly no items for sale!** Let me know and I'll put it in declutter den and hopefully we can help each other free up some space, whilst giving others something they have a use for, even if we don't.

Email: sadu3aed@gmail.com

POETRY CORNER

Flood-Tide Of Flowers by Henry VanDyke

The laggard winter ebbed so slow
With freezing rain and melting snow,
It seemed as if the earth would stay
Forever where the tide was low,
In sodden green and watery gray.

But now from depths beyond our sight,
The tide is turning in the night,
And floods of colour long concealed
Come silent rising toward the light,
Through garden bare and empty field.

And first, along the sheltered nooks,
The crocus runs in little brooks
Of joyance, till by light made bold
They show the gladness of their looks
In shining pools of white and gold.

Spring by Christina Rossetti

Frost-locked all the winter,
Seeds, and roots, and stones of fruits,
What shall make their sap ascend
That they may put forth shoots?
Tips of tender green,
Leaf, or blade, or sheath;
Telling of the hidden life
That breaks forth underneath,
Life nursed in its grave by Death.

Blows the thaw-wind pleasantly,
Drips the soaking rain,
By fits looks down the waking sun:
Young grass springs on the plain;
Young leaves clothe early hedgerow trees;
Seeds, and roots, and stones of fruits,
Swollen with sap put forth their shoots;
Curled-headed ferns sprout in the lane;
Birds sing and pair again.

The tiny scilla, sapphire blue,
Is gently seeping in, to strew
The earth with heaven; and sudden rills
Of sunlit yellow, sweeping through,
Spread into lakes of daffodils.

The hyacinths, with fragrant heads,
Have overflowed their sandy beds,
And fill the earth with faint perfume,
The breath that Spring around her
sheds.
And now the tulips break in bloom!

A sea, a rainbow-tinted sea,
A splendour and a mystery,
Floods o'er the fields of faded gray:
The roads are full of folks in glee,
For lo,--to-day is Easter Day

There is no time like Spring,
When life's alive in everything,
Before new nestlings sing,
Before cleft swallows speed their journey back
Along the trackless track –
God guides their wing,
He spreads their table that they nothing lack, –
Before the daisy grows a common flower
Before the sun has power
To scorch the world up in his noontide hour.

There is no time like Spring,
Like Spring that passes by;
There is no life like Spring-life born to die, –
Piercing the sod,
Clothing the uncouth clod,
Hatched in the nest,
Fledged on the windy bough,
Strong on the wing:
There is no time like Spring that passes by,
Now newly born, and now
Hastening to die.

Spring Pools by Robert Frost

These pools that, though in forests, still
reflect
The total sky almost without defect,
And like the flowers beside them, chill and
shiver,
Will like the flowers beside them soon be
gone,
And yet not out by any brook or river,
But up by roots to bring dark foliage on.

The trees that have it in their pent-up buds
To darken nature and be summer woods -
Let them think twice before they
use their powers
To blot out and drink up and sweep away
These flowery waters and these watery
flowers
From snow that melted only yesterday.

And finally.....

What about that problem I outlined in the Family History Group piece?

Here is my partial solution, I think it demonstrates that not all problems can be fully solved.

The first 2 baptism records are key. They confirm the marriage years. Helpfully the 3rd baptism is stated as relating to John the older. Given the gap between the 2nd and 3rd baptisms is less than 9mths, John the older must be the husband of Ann Croft. The fact that the daughter is named Ann is also additional circumstantial evidence that Ann was the mother. John the younger must therefore be the husband of Elizabeth Alcocke.

The baptism of Elizabeth has no clarification regarding which John was the father, but the name provides circumstantial evidence that it is John the younger and wife Elizabeth who are the parents. However, there is still a question mark over the parents.

The baptisms of 2 sons named Thomas in 1644 and 1645 does state which father was involved. Likewise, Edward's father is clearly indicated. The problem is with the final baptism of William in 1652, which provides no clues. As both sets of parents were still living, it is impossible to be certain which John was his father.

When April Comes by Virna Sheard

When April comes with softly shining eyes,
And daffodils bound in her wind-blown hair,
Oh, she will coax all clouds from out the skies,
And every day will bring some sweet surprise, --
The swallows will come swinging through the air
When April comes!

When April comes with tender smile and tear,
Dear dandelions will gild the common ways,
And at the break of morning we will hear
The piping of the robins crystal clear --
While bobolinks will whistle through the days,
When April comes!

When April comes, the world so wise and old,
Will half forget that it is worn and grey;
Winter will seem but as a tale long told --
Its bitter winds with all its frost and cold
Will be the by-gone things of yesterday,
When April come

