

Did you know that the national u3a organisation publishes a magazine called 'Third Age Matters'? You can sign up for a paper copy when you renew your membership, alternatively you can view the magazine digitally at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/u3a-matters>.

Dr Matt Hill from Leicester University is conducting a study on falling in older adults. The study aims to understand whether witnessing or hearing about other people falling (e.g., friends, family members, or others) influences individuals' own concerns about falling. Participation is entirely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Members can access the survey online at their convenience, and there are no right or wrong answers – they are interested in participants' experiences and perspectives. If you are willing to assist, you can access the study at this website: <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/leicester/how-seeing-or-hearing-others-falling-affects-older-adults-worri>

Last month's talk on Caravaggio by Peter Edwards was truly amazing as you can see from an attempted summary below. However, words do not do justice to the talk. This month, Justin Newland will talk to us about roses. Justin will celebrate and explore our continued fascination with the rose. He says from rosettes to rose gardens, from poems to romance, the rose is ubiquitous across all centuries and cultures. It's as ancient as the pyramids and as mysterious as Persian poetry, and yet its aroma remains as intoxicating as ever.

Liz Ouldrige (Chair)

Important dates

16th June: Coffee morning for all at 'The cafe @ Mole Avon' in the Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am.

17th June: Open meeting at the Boniface Centre: 'A Rose by any other name' by Dr Justin Newland, Refreshments from 9:30am. The talk will start at 10:20.

15th July: Open meeting at the Boniface Centre: 'Grace Darling and the Art of Saving Lives at Sea' by James Taylor

21st July: Coffee morning for all at 'The cafe @ Mole Avon' in the Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am.

May's talk: Caravaggio: Genius and Chaos by Prof Peter Edwards

Peter started his talk by placing Caravaggio in his historical context. He was born in 1571 in Milan. The Renaissance movement in Italy lasted approximately 200 years from late 1300s to the late 1500s. By the time Caravaggio was an adult painter, the prevailing style was Baroque and it's in this style that Caravaggio painted. To contrast the two styles, Peter showed us the same subject (on the next page) , Judith and Holofernes by Cranach (a German renaissance artist, picture on the left) and by Caravaggio (on the right). Caravaggio's picture gives a feeling of more movement. The dark areas are darkened further, a technique called Tenebrism. His style shows dynamic realism.

When Caravaggio was five, his family moved out of Milan to the town of Caravaggio to escape the plague. However, most of his family succumbed. His mother died when he was 13, leaving him an orphan. Caravaggio moved back to Milan and was apprenticed to Peterzano, who today is largely remembered as Caravaggio's teacher. Italy was a violent place at this time and Caravaggio was no different. He drank, he brawled and he had to flee Milan for Rome after assaulting a police officer in 1592. In Rome, he worked for Cesari, the pope's favourite painter. It was here that he began to establish his reputation and painted one of his most famous paintings, the Cardsharps, also shown on the next page. This painting shows another Caravaggio characteristic, he didn't use models, preferring to use people he found on the street, including peasants and prostitutes. Eventually, his violent lifestyle caught up with him. He killed Tomassoni, a gangster, probably over Fellide Melandroni, who was mistress to both. So, he fled to Naples and after more violent behaviour, to Malta.

The last months of his life were bizarre; he fled Malta for Sicily and then Naples again. He made a plea of mercy to the pope in regard to the murder charge, painting David and Goliath as a peace offering. Goliath's head is thought to be a self-portrait. On the journey back to Rome by boat, he seemed to have stopped off at Porto Ercole, where he was later found dead on the beach. He died in July 1610, and the pope pardoned him posthumously.

