



August 2026 News

Our Monthly Meeting in St Peter's Church Wellesbourne CV35 9LS

is at 2pm for 2.30pm on Tuesday 11th August.

Our presentation, by **Ginny Davis**, will be on ***The Mysterious Death of Amy Robsart***, exploring what befell the wife of Robert Dudley, courtier and rumoured lover of Elizabeth I.

Our Groups

We have a wide range of activities in our groups. Visit our web page <https://denevalley.u3asite.uk/groups/> to see what you can do.

Narrowboating

Our next trip will be in **September**, on a date or dates chosen by members of my mailing list. Fare around £20; Lunch at a waterside pub. Contact me if you'd like to come along.

See my Report on the first of 2 July trips.

Peter Davies [07973 908249](tel:07973908249) , dvu3anews@gmail.com

Subscriptions and AGM Our Committee have agreed a change in the Subscription year: it now runs from October to September, so we'll get a free month! Subscriptions will therefore be due fairly soon. They remain at £12 for the year, payable by BACS, cheque or cash. See <https://denevalley.u3asite.uk/join-us/> for details.

Our AGM will be at the **Tuesday 8th September** Main Meeting, when we'll be presenting reports and swearing in a new Committee. We'd love to have some new Committee members. Would you like to serve? More in the September Newsletter.

Chairman: Alison Edwards [01295 688247](tel:01295688247) alison.mallalieu@btinternet.com

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Copy for next month to Peter by the 15th please. Registered **Charity** Number 1183747

Web: <https://denevalley.u3asite.uk/> **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/denevalleyu3a

Reports

Gardens: visit to The Hill Cottage, Snitterfield

Narrowboating: trip on the River Avon from Bidford to Luddington

Trains, Planes and Autos: visit to Silverstone Racing Car and Bike Museum

Gardens: Tea with cake is always an enjoyable part of a garden visit and our June venue was no exception. We went to The Hill Cottage Snitterfield, where owner Gillie made us feel very welcome and joined us as we explored her beautiful garden.



Nothing of the garden could be seen as we arrived, but as soon as we entered through the garden gate the most amazing views opened up, right across the far side of the valley to the obelisk on the Welcombe Hills. The garden has been terraced in places and other areas have a natural slope leading down to the bottom of the garden.

At the top are seating areas, island beds with colour themed planting and specimen trees as well as a kitchen garden and greenhouse.

At the bottom there is a large pond, surrounded by beds full of roses, clematis and many other perennials, in this area can also be found the summerhouse where we enjoyed our refreshments. Finally, at the very bottom, there is a woodland with winding pathways- a lovely cool spot on a sunny afternoon.

Linda Ledger LiMLe@hotmail.co.uk 01789 638575

Narrowboating: 15 July trip on the River Avon from Bidford to Luddington

After a slightly chilly start and a briefing with particular reference to the weed hatch, a fine day with clear skies as we headed up the Avon. The weed was a problem as the hot weather had left the water particularly low, with our propeller dragging in weed at the bottom.



Mallard, with Lyn, Chris & Jean in a lock



activity at a lock



Our hero of the day, Tom, clearing weed and about to cast it aside; Paul looks on



Wildlife aplenty, captured by Tom

We were advised to stop for lunch on our outward leg as the steps were at the upstream end of the mooring at The Four Alls, Welford, where we stopped. Warned about the steps we were careful going up and down; one of our party was a little nervous and needed a little help, but all was well.



Cheers!



Nine of us enjoying lunch at the Four Alls

Having lingered two hours (I'm a slow eater, sorry!) we continued up to the fourth lock where we were told the river was wider above it, but our skilful pilot Steve was able to turn us around below the lock, saving us the trouble of going through it twice. Most of us have been watching Robbie Cumming's excellent River Boat Diaries, partly to pick up tips, but largely for his skill and the wonderful scenery he passes through, so we knew a lot about weeds, and a nice guy too.

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TRAINS, PLANES AND AUTOS June visit to Silverstone Racing Car and Bike Museum

This is now a state-of-the-art museum boasting over 4000 items from the early days of motor and bike racing through to some of the latest Formula 1 cars driven by the likes of Lewis Hamilton, including driving helmets overalls which have evolved to give enhanced protection.

Over the past 7 years there has been an investment of around £20 million, through the support of the National Lottery Fund, to bring many of the exhibits "alive" with audio visual and hologram displays.

We were also reminded of the origins of the site as a 2nd World War bomber training base, with the connection to that past still preserved through such features as the "hanger" straight on the main racing circuit. A great day was had by all, followed by a pub lunch in nearby Towcester.



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