

APRIL 2026

DOWNHAM MARKET U3A NEWSLETTER



Monthly meeting at
the Town Hall on
Monday, 13th April
2pm



Our meeting in April is the AGM
Please come along and join us.

It is an opportunity to make suggestions
and take part in continuing to move
things forward .



Group Updates

Walking Group April



Monday 6 th April.
No walk-Easter Monday

Monday 20 th April
Fincham Village
Walk 4.5 miles.

Park/Start in a layby off the main road (A1122) opposite Fincham Village Hall or in the Village Hall carpark.

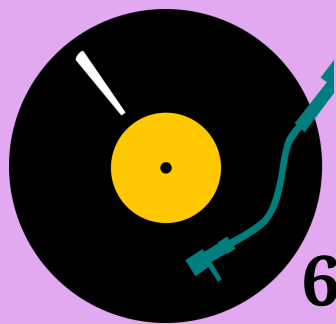
Going level on field margins, paths and tracks.
Distance from Downham miles.

Use postcode PE33 9EJ for Satnav or Google Maps for Start location.

Walk leader **John Cowin.**



Spotlight



60's Music Appreciation



This April marks our **first anniversary**. The year has flown by and the group has grown- but new members are always welcome of course.

We meet on

**The second Friday of every month at
Wimbotsham Village Hall
at 2.00 pm.**



Lunch at the nearby pub highly recommended. Due to our varying ages, it's more of a 1955-1975 selection these days but great music guaranteed.

We've had a talk, a Christmas party with music provided by group members, a couple of vinyl sessions, and our latest venture is a feature band-the group voted for their top ten British group of the 60's-no surprise, **The Beatles** came out top. We had a wallow in nostalgia with a Beatles themed quiz, a potted history and of course the wonderful music.

This month features **The Kinks** who came in at number 2-I'm very happy as I love them!

The group is very informal, refreshments are provided and we have been known to have a bit of a dance. There is usually an ice breaker quiz which gets everyone chatting.

If you are interested, please contact me at **the.blandings@btinternet.com**- or just

come along to Wimbotsham on April 10 th.

I'll be on the door!

Elaine

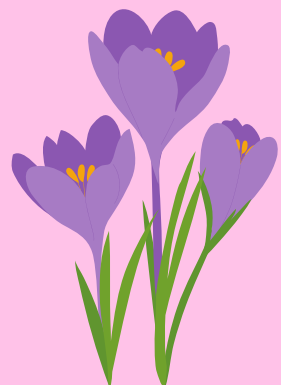


Poetry Corner



Spring Changes

The sun returns with early Spring
And Nature begins blossoming
We look in in sheer delight
At such a truly splendid sight.
Myriad shades of white and pink
Dance above us, trees that prink
In their annual beauty show
While we gaze in wonder from below.
Bees hum among the fragrant flowers
Bare woods become leafy bowers
Where we can wander, or sit still
And of this bounty take our fill.
For blossoming is part of life
The radiant smile of the lace clad wife-
The rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes
The never wanting to say goodbyes
First love-a thing we all recall
We bloom like roses as we fall.
So, as we all enjoy the Spring
With all the pleasures it can bring
Beauty and warmth from the sun above
Remember- we too blossom with love.



Elaine Carpenter

Group news

The Garden Group

The Green Fingers group has been meeting for 18 months in the Jubilee Hall. We are not horticultural experts, we are a group of people who love to grow things - flowers, vegetables, shrubs, trees etc.

We swap seeds and plants, talk about our successes and failures in a friendly lighthearted manner. Our outside spaces range from courtyards, cottage gardens, to woodlands and acres. No plot is too small or too large.

We share successes and failures, problems and solutions in a supportive friendly atmosphere with a quiz and cakes to help us along.

New members are always welcome.



2nd Tuesday each month Jubilee Hall
10.30-12.0

Group news



Patchwork and Quilting are continuing with a new pattern challenge each month.

Meeting on the 1st Friday each month, Barton Bendish village Hall 1.30-4.0



Message from the Treasurer

Did you renew your membership in March by a contactless payment of £20 at the monthly meeting?

Have you received an email thanking you for renewing your membership?

**If you have NOT, I would appreciate it if you would contact by email as there was one payment which is unaccounted for, as I forgot to put your name on my list !!
(And you will be getting a reminder that you have not paid!)**

My email address is u3admtreasurer2@gmail.com

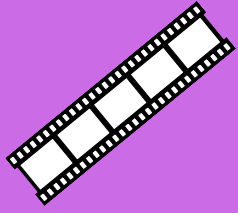


Barrie's Movie Quiz

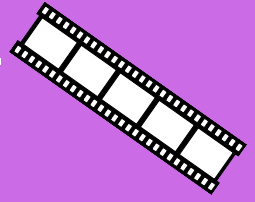


1. In the famous film franchise, what is 'Bourne's' first name?
2. "The first casualty of war is innocence" is the tagline of which 1986 Vietnam war film?
3. How many Oscars did 'Titanic' pick up at the 1997 Academy Awards?
4. "You talkin' to me?" is a famous line from which 1976 film?

Group updates



Vintage Film Appreciation



We will be meeting on **April 15th**
2.0pm at

Discover Downham Centre
to watch:

‘Outcast of the Islands’

A 1952 British adventure drama film based on Joseph Conrad's 1896 novel, exploring betrayal, moral corruption, and isolation in a remote East Asian setting.

Starring

**Trevor Howard, Ralph Richardson, Robert Morley, and
Wendy Hiller**

We will also watch a short film by Barrie Gordon - ‘From Paradise to Grandchester.’



Editor's Note



**Thanks to Barrie for
this beautiful photo
taken at the
Wimpole Estate.**



Answers:

- 1. Jason**
- 2. Platoon**
- 3. 11**
- 4. Taxi Driver**

What's on in the community?

Willow Leaping or Dancing Hare Workshop

With Rich Love—Life in Willow
Sunday 12th April —9.30 to 3.30



Come and join me for a willow weaving leaping or dancing hare sculpture workshop. No experience necessary, just enjoy the day, learn a new skill and take home a garden sculpture. Refreshments provided, bring a packed lunch.

Discover Downham,
28—30 Priory Road, Downham Market, PE38 9JS

£65

To Book:
Email: richalove@icloud.com or
call 07786 152076
Lifeinwillow.co.uk



Discover Downham

The Old Fire Station

Priory Rd, Downham Market, PE38 9JS



Bedrooms, Banquets and Balls

A talk by John Vigar

Wednesday 15th April 2026

7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Admission: £5 or £4 if you are a DMDHS Member

Everyone welcome - no booking required

This off-beat and amusing look at the development of the English Country House takes as its starting point the medieval Hall-House and follows architectural tastes and fashions to the mid-20th Century. It looks at the architecture of the houses, their furnishings and the way in which the rooms were used in different periods. We also hear about the people who lived in these buildings - many of them eccentric and memorable - and discover the ways in which their whims fashioned the houses we see today. We will hear about exploding cakes, tight mistresses and exotic princes!

DISCOVER DOWNHAM

OPENING HOURS: Thursday & Friday 10 am - 4 pm, Saturday 10 am - 1 pm

Downham Market & District Heritage Society (DMDHS) CIO: Registered Charity No. 1154267

The Old Fire Station, 30 Priory Rd, Downham Market PE38 9JS

01366 384428 info@discoverdownham.org.uk www.discoverdownham.org.uk



Discover Downham

The Old Fire Station

Priory Rd, Downham Market, PE38 9JS

Coffee Morning

Friday 24th April 2026

9.30 am to 12 noon

Everyone welcome

Meet a friend - Make a friend



Prize Raffle

Table Service

In aid of Discover Downham

Homemade Cakes



DISCOVER DOWNHAM HERITAGE CENTRE

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Downham Dementia Coffee Morning

Friday 10th April 2026

10 am to 12 noon

At Discover Downham

(Old Fire Station) Priory Road



Come and join us to enjoy some lovely Homemade Cakes, Scones and Sausage Rolls a Raffle & a Craft Stall



Registered charity no. 1195466