

## A Word from the Chair



Well it's arrived at last - City of Culture, 2017!! Hope you've had the opportunity to get involved in all the events that have gone on so far within the first couple of weeks. Hope also that you've recovered from our brilliant Christmas Extravaganza. It was great, and much appreciated, to see all the audience become involved in the show. As those of you who were there know, you were so good we finished quicker than we expected and had to resort to extra songs. Who knew that by the end of that meeting you could all go home saying you could sing two-part songs! Don't worry those of you who missed it – just watch this space for the future Summer Spectacular - who knows what might happen there.

I couldn't close this month's Word without mentioning the very sad loss of Geoff Annis, a lovely person and a true gentleman. He made a massive contribution to AWAKE and will be sadly missed. It's so nice that one of his last contributions was the Play Reading Group Presentation at one of our Monthly Meetings. He thoroughly enjoyed producing it and it will remain as a lasting memory for us all to remember his marvellous talent.

Have a very Happy and Healthy 2017.

Chris

## Latest News/Events



The 'Massed Band' in good voice at the Christmas Extravaganza



The Fairy on the Christmas Tree  
(or is it The Jeanie!)



Elin as Rudolph on the Piano

## ***New Groups!***

We are always looking for opportunities to start up new groups especially where members show a keen interest. If you have an interest or activity for which we do not have a group there may be one in a neighbouring U3A.

**BE ADVENTUROUS** - have a chat with Sue McPhee or any of the existing Interest Group leaders, all of whom are volunteers, and you might find it's not as daunting as you think!!

### **Family History Group**

Hello from the new Family History Group! Well, our first proper meeting seemed to go very well, everyone said they had enjoyed it, especially the tea and biscuits!

We meet monthly and our next meeting is Monday 6th February 2017, 2 - 4p.m. at my home.

We now have 14 members and I'm afraid that is the maximum I can fit in! If you feel you'd like to join us you are welcome to phone me and I will put your name on a waiting list!

Christine Gibbs Tel. 01482 654897

### **Ten Pin Bowling**

As the outdoor Bowling group is dormant in winter, Dave Bodecott is looking to form a Ten Pin Bowling Group. He has enquired at the Princes Quay bowling centre and they are offering two games, coffee & a bacon sandwich for £5 (an offer too good to miss, I say). Use your bus pass to make it an even better bargain!

Dave would like anyone interested to contact him (656317, mobile 07539592804) ASAP to set up an initial meeting of interested parties to determine the best time to attend.

## **Interest Group News**

A happy New Year to you all, let's hope we can have another successful year like the last one with even more new groups starting.

**The Guitar Group** is hoping to start in January, also we hope to get some more names for **a second Wine Appreciation Group**.

Unfortunately the **Gardening Group** is still lacking a group leader or leaders, if there is anyone who would be willing to help please get in touch with me.

**The Dancing Group** would be pleased to welcome new members to swell their ranks, you do not have to know the dances, John, our teacher, will help you. Also, if you can dance come along and join

this very friendly group. The next session in 2017 will be Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm (cost £2.50p, inc. tea & biscuits)

For any information about these or any other groups get in touch with me, Sue McPhee(652766).

**Please note, information on all of our Interest groups can be found on our website (just put AWAKE U3A into Google, other search engines are available!)**

## **Book Groups**

Our November books consisted of 'Kolymisky Heights' by Lionel Davidson, a spy-thriller set in Siberia during the Cold War; 'Finding Tipperary Mary' by Phyllis Whitsell, a true story of a young woman's search for the mother who abandoned her; and finally, 'A Strangeness of My Mind' by Orhan Pamuck about a yoghurt-selling family in Istanbul. All books produced mixed reviews. The first and last ones presented complex and sometimes boring reads whilst the true story raised many questions about the reality of searching for lost parents. By contrast, our Christmas read (and lunch) was 'Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and was thoroughly enjoyed, especially the story presented with sound effects!!! If you are interested in joining one of the Book Groups please contact Chris Watson on 659773.

## **CARAVAN (is going places) NEWS**

**Oxford Canal** - Narrow Boat week FULL

**Jaguar factory** - could take a few more. It is on for a date in March TBC

**Manchester Ship Canal Cruise.** Sun May 14<sup>th</sup>. Early start, Coach out to Salford, six hour cruise through living history on a Mersey ferry with cafe toilets and commentary. Coach back from Liverpool. Home about 7pm. Cost coach £10, ferry £35 = £45

If you think you are on the original list call Roger to confirm your place(s). Some have already confirmed with me or confirm with Steve Roberts at the Jan. meeting. There are about 5 places left on our 75 seat super coach. Get a confirmed place at the Jan. meeting or call Roger.

**PAYMENT** Pay in full by cheque £45 payable to Roger Coates only **between March 15<sup>th</sup>** (monthly meeting day) **and April 5<sup>th</sup>**. My address is 27, Hawthorne Ave, Willerby HU10 6JQ. Unpaid places after April 5<sup>th</sup> will go to the stand-by list. Joining details will be in the March newsletter. There will be 75 AWAKERS on this trip. Please follow the plan.

## **Peak District, Tissington Well Dressings and Crich Tram Museum**

Fri. May 26<sup>th</sup>. Coach. Cost £22 approx. Wander the village to see the wells on the first day of this ancient tradition. Tissington is said to be the best. Re-join coach for Tram Museum for the afternoon. Unlimited rides on the old trams in a Victorian street scene and woodland. Good cafe. Back by 7'ish. Call Roger for a place. 657105. Payment only **between March 15<sup>th</sup> (monthly meeting day) and April 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Edinburgh Fringe Festival** Aug 14<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>. 5 nights, 6 festival days. Train travel and hotel. These dates cover The Book Festival. This is a repeat of last year's first Caravan trip. Back by popular demand .You set your own festival pace and programme by advance booking or each day on the spot. There will be guidance on this if you want it. This is the world's biggest arts festival and all the world comes. You should be good on your feet and ready for lots of steps. Guide price £240 shared room (can be single) and train, no food. List open after Wed 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Call Roger Coates 01482 657105; 07941 222499**  
**coatesroger@outlook.com**

## **Craft Group**

An apology is necessary for the cancellation of the display and sale of our Christmas Ornaments at the December Meeting.

This was due to my unfortunate illness late on the morning of the meeting. We still have the wonderful ornaments made which we will keep until next year. I thank all the members of the Group for their hard work and support. I will organise a deputy just in case of an emergency in the future.

Twenty three of the Group enjoyed our Christmas meal at the Star Inn and it was nice to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Looking forward to 2017, we will be discussing our programme at the January meeting and hopefully coming up with more exciting projects and ideas for the future.

**Brenda Stapleton**

## **Dancing (Please see Interest Group news)**

## **Digital Photography**

The Digital Photography group now meets with the Hessle DP Group and normally runs on the 1st Tuesday of the month at All Saints Church Hall, the Square, Hessle from 10.am to 12noon.



At the December meeting, Peter Richardson gave a tutorial on composition and at the January meeting we reviewed pictures taken over the Christmas period using those principles of good composition. The prize competition for January on the subject of "Autumn" has been postponed to the February meeting. Each entrant submitted up to 3 newly taken photographs at the January meeting. At the February meeting Peter will review the submissions and choose 6 that he considers to be the best. The group will then vote for their favourite in the shortlist.

Whatever your ability or knowledge of Digital Photography and Computer skills, you will get encouragement from other members and, of course, you could share your expertise with others. This is what U3A is all about.

For more information please contact Stewart Mawer on 655642 or email [stewart@mawer.me.uk](mailto:stewart@mawer.me.uk)

## **Local History Group**

This is one of AWAKE U3A's most popular groups and meets on a monthly basis. The talks in our programme cover an interesting variety of subjects of local historical interest:

### **AWAKE U3A Local History Group Programme for the next four months**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2017** 'Hull's Musical Heritage' by Paul Schofield

**16<sup>th</sup> February** 'Tranby Croft' by Joanna Dunn\*

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March**, 9.45 a.m. Trinity House visit (fully booked#)

**16<sup>th</sup> March** 'Sir Mark Sykes' by Chris Watson

**20<sup>th</sup> April** 'A Century of Hull Mayors' by David Ostler

***Everyone welcome!***

Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in St. Luke's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Willerby, and all AWAKE U3A members are warmly invited. There is an admission charge of £2 per person. Guests are most welcome to attend up to two meetings, but ongoing attendance requires membership of AWAKE U3A.

**\*All please note that this meeting will take place at Tranby Croft (Hull Collegiate School) at 2 p.m. (prompt) and will**

include a guided tour of the house (including the famous 'Baccarat Room'). The cost will be £4 per person (pay at the door) and will include refreshments at the end of the tour. Numbers for this visit are limited – please book in advance with the group leader.

# It may be possible to organise a second tour to Trinity House at a later date subject to further interest.

Our **May** meeting will be entitled 'Within Living Memory' and we are seeking any reminiscences members may have of any aspect of life in Anlaby, Willerby and Kirk Ella over the past 75 years or so. All contributions will be welcomed by the group leader.

For more details about the Local History Group, please contact the group leader: Francis Davies (650449; [francisvdavies@live.co.uk](mailto:francisvdavies@live.co.uk))

### **NatureWatch**

Proposed programme for 2017 (see website for full year)

27.1.17 North Cave (Group need to test lunch for 2017)

17.2.17 \*Pearson Park (East Yorks. Wildlife Trust)

17.3.17 Noddle Hill Reserve

\*The Pearson Park visit is to meet at least one representative from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust as they seem to use Pearson Park as a base and could be very useful contacts in the future. However, as they are coming in specially to talk to us, we need to be sure that we can get enough people there to ensure that it is worth them coming so it would be helpful if you could let us know by the end of January if you are likely to be attending that meeting.

We hope to see you at our January meeting. The last winter visit to North Cave produced a much higher number of bird species than we ever expected but I think that were only four of us to see this.

**Happy New Year** from Mark (blame him if the dates are wrong!) and Celia.

### **Play Reading**

#### **Geoff Annis**

Although Geoff stepped down from leading the Play Reading groups in September, he remained an important force in our subsequent meetings. His ability to change character just with his voice or facial expression encouraged us, as it always had, to gain in confidence in our own abilities to adopt a new persona.

His last meeting was on December 7<sup>th</sup> when, after finishing a reading of '*Charley's Aunt*', we adjourned to The Lounge on

Southella Way for some pre-Christmas cheer. And cheer we had with the exchange of the funny stories which abound in the experience of people of a 'certain age'.

Little did both groups realise that, for some of us, it was the last time we would see Geoff.

The news of his passing came as a shock on so many levels. He was generous with his time in seeking out scripts which he felt were appropriate for us; he used his experience and expertise to guide and encourage us to experiment; he was an excellent and warmly humorous raconteur who could bring the mundane to life.

We shall miss him greatly but we shall honour his legacy and think of him each time we meet. Geoff's favourite playwright was, unsurprisingly, Shakespeare so the group which meets later this month will focus on the Bard.

*Good night, sweet prince,*

*And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!*

### **Message from Lesley Annis and Family**

We would like to pass on our sincere thanks for all the wonderful messages and cards which gave comfort and support after the death of Geoff Annis.

### **Quizzing Group????**

Still proving very popular and we may need to find another room at Manor Farm if our numbers continue to increase. Mind you, after a Music Round this week we may be banned for unharmoniously singing!!! The dates for the next two months are:

January 19<sup>th</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

Give Chris Watson a ring on 01482 659773 if you would like further information.

This month's Newsletter quiz turns to **AGRAMANS** (can you see what I did there!) Each anagram is a clue to the answer.

- 1) They see**
  - 2) Here comes dots**
  - 3) Moon starer**
  - 4) Cash lost in me**
  - 5) Lies; Let's recount**
- (Answers on page 14)



## **Singing for Fun**

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas Extravaganza as much as the singers enjoyed performing, what a difference a year makes to the confidence of the group.

When we started the group everyone said we can't sing but we enjoy singing, can we join, but I think we proved we can sing, we hope you agree.

As you can see we have a lot of members but we don't turn anyone away who would like to join us.

The next two sessions are Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> - any more details get in touch with me.

Sue McPhee.

## **Stately Homes Group**

November's meeting, presented by visiting speaker Mike Brookes, involved a decision-making task as to whether Capability Brown was a 'Goodie' or 'Baddie' based on information provided by Mike. It was a very enjoyable session where it was decided that Brown was a 'Goodie'. Sadly the December session had to be cancelled due to heating problems at the venue. This was managed for our January meeting where we looked back at our trip to Cheshire last year and our proposed trip to Northumberland this year. If you are interested in attending our Stately Homes Group sessions please contact Chris Watson at [chrisbaz@chrisbaz.karoo.co.uk](mailto:chrisbaz@chrisbaz.karoo.co.uk) or on 01482 659773 where you can receive more information.

## **Table Tennis**

The Table Tennis group continues to flourish with around 18 active members, we have been asked once again to conduct some coaching sessions with the Church Youth Club in the New Year.

New members are always welcome to join us at the Anlaby Methodist Church, Anlaby Common from 2pm to 3.30pm on the second and fourth Thursday in every month.

For further information contact Steve Roberts (659816)

## **Barely Awake Ukulele Group**

From our first public appearance just twelve months ago we now find ourselves with 18 regular members and a beginners group of 6 just started!

We made four appearances in the run up to Christmas including an away day to Featherstone to entertain the Yorkshire Polio

Fellowship, the very successful Christmas extravaganza and to our shock and amazement when we played at a Derringham Bank Methodist fundraising event we found out that people had actually paid £5 entrance fee!

We already have 10 bookings for 2017 so we must be doing something right!

## **Walking – Longer Walks**

New walkers are always welcome to join our group of about 10 regulars. Would anyone new please phone Les 659830 on the Wednesday evening before the walk to make sure the walk is on.

It would be appreciated if everyone would lead at least one walk throughout the year.

Future walks planned as follows:

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> January WELTON** 6 miles, meet near Church, Leader Les.

**Thurs February 9 FANGFOSS** 6m. Leader Carol

**Thurs February 23 WATTON** meet layby 6m. Leader Les

All walks start at 9.30 unless otherwise indicated.

## **Walking – Short Walks (2-3½ miles)**

The walking group meets 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 10am. SHORT WALKS are of about 3 miles at a gentle pace. They often involve a chance to discover something new about your environs but there are no tests at the end. Walkers are expected to wear clothing and footwear appropriate to the time of year and the terrain.

**Monday Jan 23rd 2017 - Cottingham,** Park at King George V playing fields.

**Monday Feb 13<sup>th</sup> – Newland Park,** Park Bricknell Ave playing fields car park off County Rd. North, turn left into Langdale Ave and follow your nose.

**Monday Feb 27<sup>th</sup> – Brough,** Park off Welton Road in dead end portion at right turn at the Police Station just after first roundabout into Brough

**Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> - Victoria Dock Village (tea at Peter Levy's Pad?)** Park at Community Centre car parks off south Bridge Road

**Monday March 27<sup>th</sup> – Cottingham, Park at King George V**  
playing fields.

Contact Ian Jones at [gianj@gianj.karoo.co.uk](mailto:gianj@gianj.karoo.co.uk) or leave text messages at 07847850309.

## **Wine Appreciation Group**

In November the Group tasted the excellent red and white wines of Brown Brothers, an independent Australian wine producer. There was no meeting in December! The programme for the first four months of 2017 is:

**February 20<sup>th</sup>** South American wines (Chris Watson and Ann Kay)

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** Wines from Italy (Chris Coates)

**April 10<sup>th</sup>** Mainly English wines (Enid and Alan Townshend)

We have two members who would like to be part of a second Wine Appreciation Group. If there are other members who might be interested in joining them, please contact Alan Townshend (651212), who will be pleased to facilitate the formation of the new Group.

## **IN MY OWN WRITE**

Write an article for *AWAKEN* and win £20. Your article will appear under the title 'IN MY OWN WRITE.' What we are looking for is a reflective, interesting, amusing or opinion piece rather than a purely informative article. The content can be lighthearted or serious but it must be suitable for the *AWAKEN* readership. Your article must be approx. 450 words long (one side of A5). Avoid religion, politics and too many exclamation marks!!! Include your Name and Membership Number.

Contributions should be sent to Steve Roberts, preferably email [sadrob@outlook.com](mailto:sadrob@outlook.com) or on paper copy to 18, Ellerker Rise, Well Lane, Willerby HU10 6EY

This month Margaret Smith follows on with the theme from the last edition, this time centering on the USA. Her words make me realise just how lucky we are to have a large network of like-minded friends with the opportunity to meet on a regular basis and providing a network of support - long may that continue.

## **Our Friend Jerry**

The recent article about a visit to Australia and their U3A reminded me that we first heard of the organisation from a friend who belongs to the Perth branch in Western Australia. The U3A's international standing encouraged us to do an internet search for a branch in Louisiana where our friend, Jerry, lives, to no avail so far. We met Jerry and Helene when we lived in Ankara, Turkey. He worked on the American airbase there and Helene and I discovered the city together and kept each other company. That was some 30 years ago and we have been firm friends ever since, fitting visits to them into our travels whenever possible.

Now 93, Helene has dementia and resides in a care home. She still remembers us when we go and can happily join in the conversation and wander down memory lane. Jerry meanwhile has moved in with his daughter nearby but spends much of his days with his dearly loved Helene.

Jerry was born in Chicago and became a submariner in the Second World War. Subsequently he worked in Europe, Turkey and Puerto Rico, all of which has honed his sense of adventure, interest and involvement in the world at large.

We phone him frequently and once the pleasantries are over the conversation turns to what's going on in the world, his latest ideas about politics – and what do we think of them – and, in particular, his great passion, education. We can easily pass an hour discussing whatever comes up and he just loves our calls because he has no-one else to talk to about these things. To most Americans who have never travelled, the world starts and ends in the U.S. of A..

At age 87, Jerry asked if we could help him set up a new internet-based political party to reach like-minded people around the world. Sadly we didn't know how! At 91 his doctor said a medical problem might give him trouble 15 years down the line. He didn't want to have to cope with that "when he was old" so he opted to have the operation straight away. Like all of us, Jerry is still 21 most of the time and eager to put the world to rights.

He cannot be alone over there in his enthusiasm for life and wanting to remain a fully paid-up member of society. Such a shame there is no U3A in Baton Rouge where he could discuss all his ideas and whatever is happening on the planet face to face rather than over the phone to people 4000 miles away. On second thoughts, I wouldn't want to miss out on all those chats, so ....

## **Rogers Rant**

We like to steer clear of politics but perhaps we will make an exception in this case!

Chris Watson asked for thoughts on the “grammar school issue” - it would be rude not to respond. The absurd idea of returning to a selective school system comes around every few years and every time the plan cannot be backed by research evidence. There is currently growing dissent in both houses so it may soon be dead in the water as usual. The “I did very well at grammar” brigade kid themselves that such feelings will help all children. That “comprehensives” can continue without being comprehensive, the retiring Chief Inspector of Schools Sir Michael Wilshaw, never afraid to speak out, says it must not happen and that damage to the economy will result. Margaret Thatcher, scientist (used to working with evidence) and grammar school girl when pressed to turn back the clock would have none of it. The Blair government made legislation to prevent grammar expansion. If you want a grammar school move to Bucks or Kent or buy a place. (Let’s hear it for all ‘late developers’ who managed to make something of themselves despite not attending the fabled Grammar Schools)

## **Just a Thought (from the Editor)**

I gave my wife a fridge for Christmas  
Not much of a gift, I know, but you should have seen her face light up when she opened the door!

Bought most of my Christmas presents on line this year,  
unfortunately I messed up and used my Donor card instead of my Debit card.....cost me an arm & a leg!

## Dates for your Diary – Monthly Meetings

**February 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Louise Beech** (Life & Times of a Local Author)

**March 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Clive Hedges** (Wallace Simpson)

**April 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Carol & Steve Robson** (Stormy Seas & Tragic Tales)

### Next **AWAKEN**

Please send any items to be published to:  
Steve Roberts at [sadrob@outlook.com](mailto:sadrob@outlook.com)  
And Stewart Mawer at [stewart@mawer.me.uk](mailto:stewart@mawer.me.uk)

The deadline for items to be included in the next edition of **AWAKEN** is **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017**. Written contributions and photographs of group activities are always welcome and needed to keep fresh interest in our groups.

Registered Charity Number 1150988 ANLABY WILLERBY AND KIRK ELLA U3A

The website may be found at <http://u3asites.org.uk/>

### Anagram quiz answers

- 1) The eyes
- 2) Morse code
- 3) Astronomer
- 4) Slot machines
- 5) Election results





Action shot from the Badminton Group



Some of the Barely Awake Ukulele gang  
on the Pickering to Whitby Uke Express





Three Book Clubs groups tucking into their Christmas lunch  
(Why is Sheila wearing a giant bib! please Sheila, not the Teachers Stare!)



The Happy, Smiley Crafty Group at work