

Beverley & District



Our Mission

The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full-time work by all means, including associated activities, conducive to learning and personal development.



Winter 2022 NEWSLETTER

Editor – Graham Buckton
Reporter – Helen Kitson

[Confused ducks on the frozen Beverley Beck - Pam Buckton]

Welcome to the Winter 2022 issue and this time more emphasis is on indoor activities following all the outdoor pursuits featured in the last edition.

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR CHAIR, DOREEN OSUCH

It's my pleasure to announce that Jo Herrick will be taking over the role of Treasurer from Paul Sears and I know you will offer her all your support and wish her every success.

At the beginning of October we held a very successful Group Leaders meeting and, as a result, I want to thank all our members who are currently leading groups. I should also like to thank those members who have volunteered to undertake the many 'helper' roles.

The Members Monthly Meeting raffle has been re-introduced and we now have a small team providing refreshments. Even though we have a small number of members making teas/coffees, there are never enough, so please consider volunteering to help the catering team. Attendances have jumped significantly in the last three months, with around one hundred at the November meeting. With the programme for the whole of next year in place, I look forward to seeing you at the Memorial Hall, Beverley in the near future.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewals 2023-24

The **Renewal Form** for next year is attached to this email. It will also be available from the beginning of January on the Membership page of our u3a website and as a paper copy at the monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The fee of £15 can be paid by BACS, cash or cheque from the beginning of January and to the end of March.

Enquiries to Ann Scruton, Membership Secretary on membershipbevu3a@gmail.com

Statistics

As this issue went to 'press' our total membership stood at 589, of whom 52 have joined over the last three months, an increase of about 9% in a very short period. Only 35% of members are male, so come on let's get more men involved They cannot all be beavering away on their own in their sheds!

And finally a big THANK YOU from Ann Scruton

Thank you to all our u3a members who have given me their used postage stamps for charity. I have now sent a large parcel to RNIB. I have collected used stamps for years, so am happy to receive them any time. They can be standard or commemorative, British or foreign, but they **MUST** have at least one cm of paper around them.

Christmas is a time for receiving stamped mail so please bear in mind that they can be put to good use.

OUR ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETINGS

Mike Farrimond has put together the following programme for the winter period:-

December

Sorry no meeting this month

19 January

**Scams, spam and on-line thieves
-How to avoid them!**

FraudWatch[ERVAS]

Fraud comes in many different forms, and absolutely anyone can become a victim. Fraudsters aim to trick individuals into giving away cash, bank details or other personal information. This session will help you understand the challenges.

16 February

Wellbeing

Fifa Clarke – NHS IAPT

Wellbeing is about 'how we are doing' as individuals, communities and as a nation and how sustainable this is for the future. Fifa will be talking about the East Riding IAPT Emotional Wellbeing service, the leading provider of psychological therapies within the East Riding.

And here is the full programme for the remainder of 2023 to go in your diary.

16 March

World War 1 - a soldier's tale

Chris Cade

20 April

Amy Johnson

Michelle Beadle

18 May

Flight over East Yorkshire

Colin Bradshaw

15 June

The new " new buildings" of Hull

Malcom Sharman

20 July

The Brontës

Catherine Rayner

August

Sorry no meeting

21 September

Agatha Christie

Stephen Wells

19 October

Plague doctor

David Bell

16 November

Jazz piano

Roger Browne

If you have not been for a while, come along to the Memorial Hall at 2.00pm on the dates above and find out what you have been missing. All restrictions are now off at the venue and refreshments and the raffle are back on offer.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The number of interest groups now stands at 49 [one per twelve members] and below we feature a number to demonstrate some of the activities on offer. If your personal interest is not covered, why not talk to Pam Buckton at pamelabuckton@outlook.com or 01482 865330 about the possibility of setting up a new group.

Although some groups are fully subscribed, they operate waiting lists, which allows vacancies to be filled if members leave or, should numbers be sufficient, new groups to be formed.

CHAIR THANKS GROUP LEADERS AT THE ARMSTRONG CENTRE

It was good to see so many of our group leaders at the latest leaders meeting in October, which was held for the first time at the Armstrong Centre.

34 people gathered at this refurbished venue to renew acquaintanceships, meet committee members, hear about new initiatives around promoting groups, publicity and compliance.....and eat cake!

But the first objective was for our chair, Doreen Osuch, to express the thanks of the membership for all the hard work that takes place behind the scenes by leaders and helpers which enables our u3a to offer such a varied programme of activities.

Our u3a relies on members volunteering to lead or help with our interest groups. Although inevitably there is some record-keeping required, this is kept to a minimum. Anyone considering starting a new group can expect practical support including help finding a venue, promoting the idea to members, using the management database (Beacon) and dealing with group finances. A new Group Leaders Guide, which will be of particular help to new leaders, was launched at the meeting.

If you have an idea for a new interest group please contact me at pamelabuckton@outlook.com or 01482 865330. [Pam Buckton]

ART APPRECIATION

A new Art Appreciation group will be starting on 16 January 2023 and will meet at the Lairgate Hotel, Beverley on the 3rd Monday monthly at 2.00pm. The programme will consist of presentations on an agreed topic, hopefully prepared by a group member and, where appropriate, visits to exhibitions. The new group is proving very popular, so if you wish to participate, please contact Graham Buckton on grahambuckton@outlook.com or 01482 865330. [Graham Buckton]

CROQUET

On 15 September the u3a Croquet group gathered at Rowley Manor near Little Weighton, for a tournament organised for us by Bruce Merrells of the Beverley & East Riding Croquet Club. It was a keenly fought contest as we all tried to win one of the two tiny trophies (which can just about be seen in the photos) marked u3a Croquet Group Champion. In the end, the proud pairs of winners were Sue Walker & Bobby Walkington and Roger Beal & Jake Lehan. Bruce said a few words and then presented the trophies to the proud winners. It must be said that all the players showed just how far they have come from total beginners in most cases to being very good players indeed. This is a great group where we all enjoy each other's company and yet we are still learning but having a really enjoyable time in the fresh air and beautiful surroundings. How lucky am I to be group leader!!! Needless to say I didn't come anywhere near winning either of the trophies!

On 6 October we gathered for the final game of the season. We all miss our Thursday afternoons, but we will be meeting up again in the spring of 2023 and next season I will have the huge help of a deputy group leader, John Keating - we are all so pleased that he has volunteered to do this. However, we couldn't just leave it at that, so a post season afternoon tea was organised at the Croft Café, Little Weighton. We met up on a beautifully sunny afternoon and enjoyed sandwiches, quiches, sausage rolls, cakes & macarons, with tea or coffee of course! We were joined by Helen from the host club who, among others, has mentored us along the way this season. Here's to the next season starting in Spring 2023. [Anne Gower]



FAMILY HISTORY

In October members of our Family History Group had a fascinating and informative guided tour of the Archives in the Treasure House, Beverley. Our guide was Archivist Hannah Stamp, who is responsible for storage, cataloguing and preservation of historic documents.

Thousands of documents, going back to the Middle Ages, are preserved and catalogued in a strictly temperature-controlled environment. Amongst the records we were shown were those relating to the capture and imprisonment of John Palmer in Beverley. Palmer was better known as the notorious highwayman Dick Turpin.

In the Conservation Room the conservator, Kat, demonstrated the painstaking process of restoring ancient books and documents, using delicate paper produced only in Japan, by methods handed down through centuries. She ascertains the physical makeup and the paper and ink which has been used, with her knowledge extending to the unique features of seals, ties and types of glue used to bind and fasten documents.

A thoroughly enjoyable learning experience for our members. [Ann Scruton]

FOODIE GROUP

On 25 November we held one of our bi-monthly New Members Meetings when the possibility of a further Pub Lunch group was raised. If there is sufficient demand another group will be formed to run in Beverley, so if you are interested in joining other members over lunch please contact Doreen Osuch on doreenosuch@hotmail.co.uk.

GARDEN INTEREST

During the summer, members of the Garden Interest Group enjoyed several delightful private visits to local gardens. For the most part, the weather was kind, and we were able to see the gardens at their best, learning about their development and ongoing planting projects. Of course,

delicious afternoon tea was part of the experience!!!! Of all the gardens we visited, I am sure everyone will have their own particular favourite and if anyone has any photographs of the visits they would like to share please let me know on susan99@susan99.karoo.co.uk.

Unfortunately, our planned visit to Pilmoor Cottage, Helperby was cancelled but the owners have said they would like to open their garden to us next year so hopefully we will be able to arrange that.

On 19 October, we were given a very informative and interesting talk on 'Beverley in Bloom' whose team of keen volunteers ensure that baskets, tubs and borders around the town are beautifully planted out and maintained. We learnt such a lot about their work, supported by numerous photographs, and I am sure that we all went away appreciating all the more their displays, including the wildlife area near the station. When next you go to the Memorial Hall, take time out to admire the border next to it, courtesy of the Beverley in Bloom team who took it over and created a delightful space after years of neglect. If you did not attend the talk and want to learn more, please take a look at their website. Without the dedication and enthusiasm of the volunteers, it would not be possible to maintain the gardening challenges and the speaker said that more volunteers are always welcome. So if you have some time to spare (even a few hours as and when) and are keen on gardening (you don't have to be a Monty Don!) please contact the group's Chair, Linda Freeman, on 01482 862275 for more information.

In the meantime, upcoming events for autumn and winter are:

5 December at 2.30pm

Lairgate Hotel, Beverley – a wreath and Christmas flower arranging demonstration. This event is full but please contact Eileen Dawes on 01482 862875 (dawes83@dawes83.karoo.co.uk) as there might be some cancellations.

17 January at 2.00pm

Lairgate Hotel, Beverley – a social including a "guess what" quiz and raffle. If you have never seen Derek Clark before, you are in for a treat and you will really discover what those things lurking in the back of your cupboards could be! More details to follow but expressions of interest please to Barbara Dalton on 01482 860131 (dalton10@hotmail.co.uk)

24 February at 11am

The Old Priory, Leconfield - a visit to see snowdrops and crocuses, set among 3 acres of garden. More details to follow. This will be the first time we have visited the garden, so we are very excited to see it.

A gentle reminder..... numbers at the indoor events are limited so please, if you book a place at any of the events and find yourselves unable to attend, would you let us know so we can offer a place to someone who might be on the "reserve" list". We look forward to seeing you. [Sue Symmons]

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Vocal or instrumental? Classical or pop? Beethoven or the Beatles?

These are the types of conundrum faced by Music Appreciation members when seeking a piece of music which fits with that month's chosen theme. Meetings are held in the Goulding Court residents lounge on the second Monday afternoon to appreciate [or not] the music selected by fellow members. With members having different musical preferences this selection is important, as it has to appeal to the majority.

Maybe there is a perception that all music appreciation groups are only interested in 'classical' music by internationally renowned composers, but this is not the case with this group. The music chosen covers a wide spectrum, in addition to classical, with folk, jazz, pop, brass bands and



vocals featuring. The choice of music is not totally random, as it has to conform to the theme for the session, but some of the links to that theme can be somewhat tenuous.

Generally speaking, the member gives a brief background on the composer/song writer, prior to their piece being played via CD. There then follows a discussion about the choice, or maybe where members first heard it live or some insight into composer/performer.

'National' was the theme for the October session, which left plenty of scope for members' imagination. However, most of those present homed in on English composers and music of a

nationalistic nature. Just five of the fourteen present wandered off beyond England.

If going for British nationalistic music, then almost inevitably the first piece must be *Pomp and Circumstance*, but not the movement usually heard. Next up was a Scottish folk song about a young woman standing on a hill overlooking the sea, waiting for her fisherman lover to return. Some noted the story's similarity to a scene in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* and questioned which came first, the folk song or the opera.

At this point the foreign 'National' theme came into play. First up was a typical French song from 1943, the first pop song, Simon and Garfunkel's *America*, the *Hungarian Dance* from *Swan Lake* and the European Union anthem, *Ode to Joy*. This change seemed to signal a more 'quirky' approach to the choices, including *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, the theme music from the James Bond movie, a piano solo played at twice its normal speed and Flanagan and Allen's *Underneath the Arches*. The afternoon was rounded off with the appropriate *Farewell to Stromness*.

This group is not just interested in classical music and takes a cosmopolitan approach to its choices, as can be seen from the above. [Graham Buckton]

UKULELE ONE

Ukulele Group One was delighted to be involved in the annual Ukulele Thrash event at Drax Power Station Sports & Social Club, near Selby, in early October. Having missed two years due to the pandemic, getting together with players from Howden, Pocklington and Selby was extra-special. Each group played a set of 6 songs followed by the communal strumming and singing of a further 18 pieces by the 75-strong ensemble.



Although small in number due to holidays etc, the group certainly held its own. Our set included sea shanty *The Wellerman*, featuring a strong solo from Bob Parker, *Happy Together* by the Turtles, McGuinness Flint song *Malt & Barley Blues* and *Little Ole Wine Drinker Me*, made famous by Dean Martin. After this we were ready for a drink!

This annual event, which will be held in Pocklington next year, is a perfect demonstration of the fun and sense of achievement that comes from learning to play the ukulele. Most players started from scratch with their u3a, with many having never before tackled a musical instrument. No previous experience is required, and you do not need to know how to read music. We play from song sheets with chords so, once you have learnt a few basic chords, away you go. The group is now welcoming new members, from beginner to expert. We meet every Monday morning at Hanover Court. Get in touch with our leader, Pam Batham at pambatham@yahoo.co.uk for more information. [Pam Buckton]

SHORT WALKS

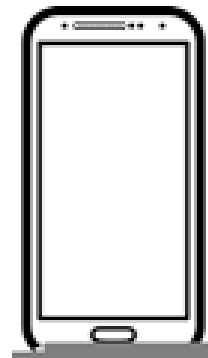
In the Autumn newsletter the Short Walks group featured and towards the end of the article it was pointed out that the leader of 10 years, Geoff Gilby, was stepping down and a volunteer was needed to take over the running of the group. A number of members came forward to help run the group and organise the walks, so it is pleasing to report that the group did not fold at the end of September and, hopefully, it goes from strength to strength. [Graham Buckton]

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT



The group has now met a number of times at the Lairgate Hotel, Beverley, with the sole aim of sorting member's digital technology problems. Members bring along their iPads, laptops, Kindles or phones for us to work with them and solve issues and increase their confidence and skills. Adrian Ramsdale, Paul Watson and I are on hand to help, and although we may not be able to solve every issue, you can be assured we give it a good go. Some of the issues we have successfully resolved include changing addresses on labels using Microsoft Word, setting up passwords, saving

Facebook posts, syncing email accounts, accessing Google maps and getting on the internet. If you feel less than confident with your digital skills, and would love to overcome your fears, then contact Anne Gower on annegower0909@gmail.com [Anne Gower]



The attached list of groups allows you to browse and seek out those you may wish to join.

EAST YORKSHIRE ACCORD GROUP OF u3as OPEN DOOR ARRANGEMENTS

ACCORD consists of the u3as of Beverley and District, Caves, Cottingham, Hessle, Swanland, AWAKE (Anlaby, Willerby & Kirkella), Howden and District, Hornsea and District, Driffild and Wolds, Pocklington, and Holderness, with the network sharing information, experience, and ideas for their mutual benefit.

We have devised "an open door" arrangement so that all members can attend other u3a activities within our area. The system applies to interest groups, monthly/general/regular meetings, and other events. If you wish to participate in some other u3a groups' activities or attend another u3a's general meeting you will find information on their website. If you would like a copy of the protocol, please email me on christine@abenson.karoo.co.uk. [Christine Benson, Chair of ACCORD]

THIRD AGE TRUST [TAT]

The following post, which appeared on the TAT Facebook page back in October, could provide opportunities of which you were not aware.

"On the u3a national website you can find information about all kinds of online learning events - Zoom talks and meetings on loads of different topics, so there is bound to be something there to interest you, and they are mostly absolutely free - there are nearly 20 of them this month!

Details are on this page <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events> and if you click on the link at the top of that page you can sign up for alerts and updates by email, so you don't miss anything.."

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER REGION U3A

In the Summer newsletter you were informed of the Region's upcoming Summer School. The following is an account of Marion Gamble's experience of attending the event, which hopefully encourages you to consider attending next year.

I attended the summer school at the lovely setting of The Hawkhill, Easingwold, North Yorkshire, where numerous diverse courses were on offer, of which I chose 'Four Philosophers of Four Centuries'.

We studied "I think therefore I am" by the 17th century French philosopher René Descartes; the 18th century Swiss Jean-Jacques Rousseau's "Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains" and the 19th century German Friedrich Nietzsche, whose best-known quote is "God is dead", even though the church in the 19th century was still going strong. The final philosopher was Bill Clinton's favourite, the American John Rawls, who represented the 20th century and is best known for his "Veil of ignorance" theory.

The different approaches of the four philosophers were debated, along with many diverse and moral issues, and we came away able to think outside the box and question everything. This was a very interesting and enjoyable course, and it was good to meet and socialise with u3a members from throughout the Yorkshire and Humber Region. [Marion Gamble]

Spring edition will be published on 1 March 2023

If you wish to contribute to the next newsletter please send items to Graham Buckton on grahambuckton@outlook.com by 15 February 2023.

And finally

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2023

