

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.



Welcome ...

... to the Autumn, 2023 issue of the Beverley & District u3a Newsletter. This is the first newsletter that I have compiled and I would like to thank **Graham Buckton** and **Helen Kitson** for all of their fantastic work producing the past editions.

Our newsletter is very much dependent on input from u3a members. Please feel free to send me any u3a-related contributions for future newsletters on email at simontull@gmail.com. I particularly encourage new groups, and those wishing to attract new members, to send me something. **Simon Tull**

Chair's Message

I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer although, at the time of writing (early August), we still seem to be waiting for the good weather.

A number of events have taken place over the summer months. In June our u3a was represented at the Beverley What's On Event held at the Leisure Centre. This was a good opportunity to raise awareness and meet representatives of other community organisations. Thank you to Nadine and Simon Tull for organising our participation and to the many members who helped during the day.

We continue to attract new members and I was pleased to meet many of them at our welcome coffee morning in late June. It was also a useful occasion at which to find out about members' interests and explore the possibilities for starting new groups.

In August, six members attended the regional Summer School near Easingwold and a reflection on this event appears below.

The new committee, elected at the AGM in June, held its first formal meeting in July. With the majority of members being new to the team, much additional time has been spent getting to grips with our new roles and I would like to thank all the trustees for their input.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome Barry Brook to the committee. Barry has taken over the role of Groups Facilitator and is the person to contact if you have any ideas for new groups. **Pam Buckton**

Membership Secretary's Message

Our membership currently stands at 604. We are always looking to attract more people to join. New members very often bring experience, knowledge and skills which enable us to increase the depth and range of our activities.....so, please encourage your friends to join! **Colin Robertson.**

Social Events




A date for your diary



Christmas Cracker

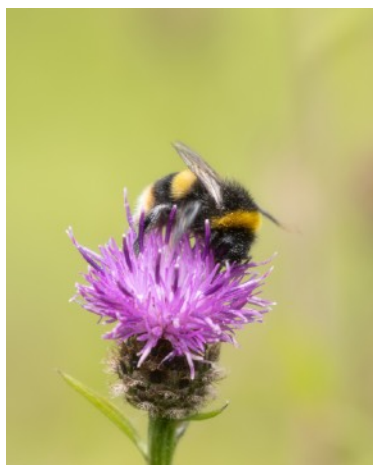
Wondering what happened to Christmas? Wonder no more!

Your 🧑🏻‍🎄 Beverley u3a Committee 🧑🏻‍🎄 is bringing it back! Some of our talented u3a artistes 🎭 will present "A Christmas  Cracker" in the Memorial Hall on **Thursday 14th December at 2:00pm**. Those lucky enough to attend will witness music 🎸 and words from our very own u3a groups, while some of those not performing will be advertising their groups in the hall. The usual refreshments ☕ will be available. 🍪

We intend to present a similar programme in June 2024 in order to showcase the talents of other groups. If you require further information please contact the Speaker Secretary, **David Barton**, cruton65@outlook.com



Monthly Meetings



Our monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday monthly, 2:00 pm at the Beverley Memorial Hall, 73-75 Lairgate, HU17 8HN. Meetings comprise a talk followed by tea/coffee and biscuits. We very much look forward to seeing as many members as possible at these events.

Upcoming meetings this quarter are as follows:

21st September - Wendy Maslin, Bees.

19th October - David Bell, Plague Doctor.

16th November - Roger Browne, "The Timeless Music of Cole Porter".

The September talk is all about bees ...

14th December - Christmas Cracker.

Out and about with our members

Six members of our u3a attended the Yorkshire and Humber Region (YAHR) Summer School, Hawkhill, July 31st to August 3rd, 2023.



Beverley & District u3a Summer School participants

Pam Jolly has been moved to verse to describe the experience:

From Yorkshire and from Humberside, from towns both new and old,
From other areas also, we came to Easingwold.

We all converged on Hawkhill, a lovely place to stay,

To take part in a Summer School, arranged by U3A.

With such a range of topics, you did not know where to start –

Should you choose Spanish, Drama, or try Mixed Media Art?

Volcanoes, Spanish Culture, Life Drawing could be done.

Science for Archaeology, Greek Theatre should be fun.

And what about Impressionists, a very jolly crew,

Or learn to make some jewellery, and take it home with you?

The meals were so delicious, the staff were a delight.

The Hawkhill grounds and gardens were really quite a sight.

And every evening, something planned, a range of things to do –

A singalong, a quiz, and then a murder mystery too.

But if you were too tired and didn't fancy that,

The bar was always open, just to meet your friends and chat.

So come along and join us when we meet again next year.

You'll have some fun and make new friends – there is no need to fear.

You really will enjoy it – there's such a lot in store

For those who do the Summer School in twenty twenty-four!

Pam Jolly

Group News

Please note that all of our active groups are listed in the Groups List mailed with this newsletter.

English Language for Interest (ELFI)

Starting in September, we look forward to welcoming members to **ELFI**. We offer a lighthearted and fun journey along the 4000 year road to modern English, looking at how our language has developed to be as rich and complex as it is today.

There will be talks on a wide variety aspects of the language, and we will examine possible future trends. Anything that makes us stop and wonder why English is the way it is will make suitable material for a talk and discussion.

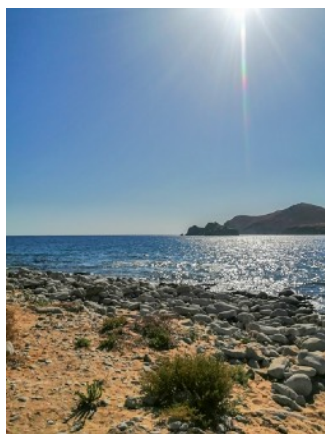
Topics will include: cockney rhyming slang, the changing alphabet, snapshots of changing words, Danish Influences, months of the year and days of the week, early American English, secret languages, and nursery rhymes.



Danish runes - the p-rune evolved into the English "th" sound

Meetings will be every third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am in the Lairgate Hotel, starting 20th September. The group is already attracting a lot of interest, but there are still a few places left. Please contact Jo Herrick at joherrick27@gmail.com, telephone 07970 815442 or Ann Scruton at scrutona@yahoo.com, telephone 01482 867421. **Jo Herrick / Ann Scruton.**

Greek for Holidays Group



If you would like to learn basic Greek conversation and everyday phrases in a friendly, relaxed setting, then you are welcome to join the new **Greek For Holidays** group. There is no grammar involved other than the alphabet. You will learn Greek by listening to the way it is spoken and you'll learn how to respond. You'll also be able to ask questions. We use audio tapes to reflect real life situations you may encounter while away. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 2:00pm at the Lairgate Hotel. Please contact Nan Griffin at nanagriffin123@gmail.com or call 07951 114108

Όμορφη Ελλάδα

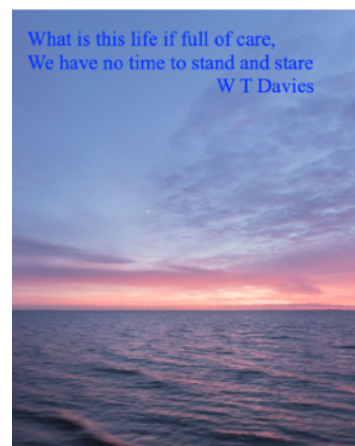
Scrabble Group

The **Scrabble Group** is looking for new members. We meet at the Lairgate Hotel, 2:00pm on the first Thursday in the month. Anyone interested in joining or requiring further information please contact **Carolyn Turner** on rwt47@aol.com or telephone 01964 543153.

Poetry and Prose Group

The **poetry and prose group** is a very friendly group who would welcome any new members interested in joining. Members bring writing from all genres to the meetings, some serious and many fun.

We share and discuss our love of poetry and prose with each other. It is not a writing group, but if any member would like to share their own writing with us, this would be a very welcome treat. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Beverley Conservative Club at 2:00 pm. If you would like further details please contact Hilary Kirk by telephone on 01482 825394. **Hilary Kirk.**



Leisure - W. T. Davies

Stitchcraft Group

The **Stitchcraft Group** is looking for new members. Stitchcraft includes sewing / knitting etc; We work on anything we are doing at home and have a chat. We meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 2:00pm. Anyone interested in joining or requires further

information please contact **Carolyn Turner** on rwt47@aol.com or telephone 01964 543153.

Current Affairs Group



What the papers say

The **Current Affairs** group, which ran prior to the pandemic, is starting up again with three monthly meetings beginning in October. **Bill Jones** returns after a period of ill health to present on a range of topics of current interest, with talks preceded by the distribution of briefing papers. He does so at a time when there is so much going on in the UK and in the wider world that merits discussion.....

.....Will Ukraine regain its sovereignty? Will Donald Trump get back into power? Will the Labour Party be back in government after 13 years in opposition? As

well as this, there are many new books to be discussed and debated.

The group will meet at 10:30 am at the Lairgate Hotel on the 1st Wednesdays in October, November and December. Should you be interested, please write to Bill at bill.jones@sky.com, or **Christine Benson** christine@abenson.karoo.co.uk or call 01482 883347. **Bill Jones**.

Technical Support Group

The **Technical Support Group** provides help to all members with any problems they have with their laptops, tablets, e-readers or phones. It may be a new device you aren't too familiar with, or an existing one that you would like to use in a more efficient or organised way. We're not saying we can solve every problem but we usually send our group members away feeling happy that we've had the time to explain how to help with their issues.

Ours is a very friendly group and our members have differing degrees of computer literacy, so please don't think your issue is too small nor keep on struggling when we're here to help. All it costs is a bit of your time and £2.50 for a hot drink!

Adrian, Anne & Paul are at the Lairgate Hotel waiting to help on the third Tuesday of every month, from 10:00am.

Please let Anne know if you've got any questions, or if you would like to come along - annegower0909@gmail.com or call 01482 861544. **Anne Gower**.

Ukulele Group 2

The **Ukulele Group 2** was invited to play for the residents of the Parklands Residential Home in Beverley. Sixteen group members attended on 20th July and we were really appreciated by a very receptive audience of about 40 residents and staff. We played the type of songs that appealed to the residents and it was really encouraging to have them join in the singing. It is fair to say that we 'The Group' enjoyed it as much as the audience. Please note that there is currently a waiting list to join the group. **Will McCutcheon / Margaret Richardson**.



The Ukulele Group 2 at Parklands

Italian Improvers Group

The Italian Improvers Group, having failed to get together for a Christmas *festa*, decided to have a midsummer lunch in an Italian restaurant. The lunch was also to say goodbye to a long-standing member who is moving to Italy and who will be very much missed. It was a very enjoyable occasion as can be seen from the photograph of the whole group.



The Italian Improvers Group at Lunch

Local History Group 1

The **Local History Group 1** visited Beverley Westwood for their July meeting and explored its Bronze Age and Iron Age burial mounds, as well as the "hollow ways" used by our Medieval ancestors to herd their cattle. The Bronze Age mounds must once have been prominent in the landscape, probably gleaming under a covering of chalk.



The group at a Bronze Age barrow on Beverley Westwood

The smaller Iron Age barrows were excavated in the late 19th Century and some of the finds - a burial cart and some horse bits are in the British Museum. The hollow ways are Romano-British or early Medieval and are thought to have been used to drive cattle between summer and winter pastures. You can read more about their investigations on their [webpage](#). **Helen Kitson.**

The June group meeting was devoted to a visit to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) St Martin's cemetery on Sloe Lane to find out more about the men buried in the 27 war graves located there. In addition to those commemorating the fallen of Beverley, there are a number of 'memorial' headstones dedicated to those with no known grave, or who are buried elsewhere, or who hailed from here and are recognised as such by the CWGC.



The group at a CWGC grave side

The visit was organised through the CWGC and led by one of their volunteer guides along with David Barton of Beverley & District u3a. David's passion is researching official war graves and his knowledge is encyclopaedic, something we all benefitted from. Those attending found it a chastening experience but came away with a fuller understanding of what the war graves represent, as well as an appreciation of the stories of the 27 now laying in peace, 100 years after their sacrifice. A report of the visit can be read on the group [webpage](#). **Graham Buckton.**

Beverley and District u3a Website

Some of you may have noticed that our [website](https://u3asites.org.uk/beverley/welcome), u3asites.org.uk/beverley/welcome, has been undergoing some changes in recent weeks. The website is an important means by which we keep existing members informed about u3a activities, as well as (hopefully) attracting new ones. With this in mind, it is being updated with input from committee members and from group coordinators.

In time, the website will move to a different platform which will provide a better, richer experience. Meanwhile, please take a look, bookmark it for future reference, and share any comments you have with me. **Simon Tull**.

East Yorkshire Accord

A reminder that we can take part in the activities of nearby u3a groups belonging to the "**East Yorkshire Accord**", subject to certain guidelines, details of which can be obtained from the secretary, **Nadine Tull**, nadinetull@gmail.com. All of the East Yorkshire Accord u3a websites can be accessed via the membership page of our own website, see preceding section for address.

Swanland u3a is looking at starting a saxophone group, something we do not currently offer. Should you be interested, you can write to the Swanland u3a Chair **John Munson** at chair23@swanlandu3a.org.uk.

The **AWAKE u3a** trips group is visiting London in October 2023 and our members are welcome to join them. Exact date is to be confirmed. They will stay in the East End with opportunities to visit all of the marvellous places of interest nearby, including 'olde worlde' public houses and the theatre. Transport will be by train or coach. Anyone interested should contact Roger Coates, coatesroger@outlook.com, telephone 07941222499 with no obligation.

General u3a News

The 40th AGM of the **Third Age Trust** takes place on 23rd October, 2023 in Milton Keynes. Members can also join online via the **TAT** website.

Early notice that the **u3a Annual Festival** will be in York next year. The festival will run 17th to 19th July at the University of York, based around their exhibition centre. See [here](#) for more details and to sign up for regular updates.

Keep in mind that there is a huge range of **online meetings** available on the Third Age Trust website, covering virtually any subject you could imagine.



York Minster

Community Announcements

A 25% discount at all East Riding Yorkshire Council (ERYC) leisure centres is available with your u3a membership. For full details contact leisure@eastriding.gov.co.uk

