

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 Winter, 2023 issue of the Beverley & District u3a Newsletter and a Happy New Year to all of you. A number of you have been kind enough to write to me to say that you enjoyed my first effort in the role as newsletter editor. Thank you for that! Of course, the newsletter is very much dependent on input from u3a members. With this in mind, please do send me any u3a-related contributions for future newsletters on email at [simontull@gmail.com](mailto:simontull@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>. **Simon Tull**

### Chair's Message

I would like to wish you a very happy 2024 and another year of stimulating activities with our u3a. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find details of how to renew your membership. The committee has simplified the renewal process for the year commencing 1st April, 2024 so you will not need to complete and return another membership form, as we already hold an application form signed by you. Instead we will write to you to review the essential information we hold on our membership database and ask that you advise us if any details have changed. If not, you will just need to make payment and you will receive your new membership card.

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<sup>1</sup> Clicking on text formatted like **this** will take you to your default email program / web browser

In December 115 members attended our **Christmas Cracker** event in the Memorial Hall where several groups and individuals provided seasonal entertainment. A huge thank you to all who contributed and especially to **David Barton** who organised the event.

At our six monthly meeting of group coordinators and helpers in October, I was able to thank them on your behalf for their dedication and hard work in helping to provide such a varied programme of interest groups. Should you have an interest or skill that you could share with your fellow members, do have a chat with **Barry Brook**, Groups Facilitator ([bazbrook@gmail.com](mailto:bazbrook@gmail.com)) about starting a new group. There is plenty of help available to get you started.

Our monthly meetings at the Memorial Hall are attracting around 100 members each month and we often welcome visitors who are coming to see what our u3a has to offer. These meetings rely on a small team of volunteers to welcome attendees, prepare refreshments and wash up. If you are willing to join the team, even on an occasional basis or as a 'reserve', please contact the Speaker Secretary, **David Barton** ([cruton65@outlook.com](mailto:cruton65@outlook.com)). **Pam Buckton**

### Membership Secretary's Message

The time has come that we have to start thinking about renewing our u3a membership. The 2024 membership fee remains at £15. All u3a members have signed membership forms agreeing to the terms and conditions of your participation in Beverley & District u3a, use of their personal data, and any Gift Aid declaration. As noted in the Chair's message above, we will write to you with these details. You should check your details and if needed let us know of any changes. Your 2024 subscription can be paid by any of the normal methods (cheque, cash or BACS transfer). You also will be able to pay in person at our monthly meetings, starting in January. **For those paying by bank transfer, please note our new bank details given below.** Please quote your membership number as a reference when sending your bank transfer.

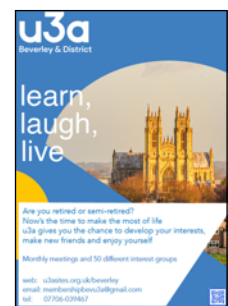
Bank	NatWest
Account Name	Beverley and District u3a
Account No.	58655980
Sort code	53-50-57

### Spreading the word about our u3a

We are conducting a publicity campaign to spread the word about our u3a, so look out for this poster around town!

Our **Facebook** page is a good way to publicise upcoming meetings and to let everyone know what groups have been up to. You can join the page [here](#) - note that you will need to provide your membership number to do so.

Our [website](#) is always being updated with new content, so please have a look from time to time and bookmark it for future reference. **Simon Tull.**



## Social Events

### Christmas Cracker 14th December 2023

Here's a pictorial celebration of the Christmas Cracker organised with great aplomb by **David Barton**. Some 40 members provided their very considerable talents to entertain us. Thanks to Anne Barton, Graham Buckton, Ukes 1 and 2, The Guitar Group, and the Writing Group. **Nadine Tull**.





## 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.

Meetings this coming quarter are as follows:



*The Land of Green Ginger, Hull Old Town*

18th January - "**Just three Words**" - Chris Cade will talk about the Local Defence Volunteers of 1940.

15th February - "**Hull Old Town**" - Paul Schofield, the English Heritage accredited guide, will talk about Hull Old Town.

21st March - "**Stages**" - Richard Avery, the Artistic Director at East Riding Theatre will talk about acting.

18th April - "**Dazzle**" - Graham Buckton will talk about camouflage and how stripes helped win a World War.

## Group News

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

## Recycled Cyclists



*The Recycled Cyclists on a well deserved rest, North Newbold*

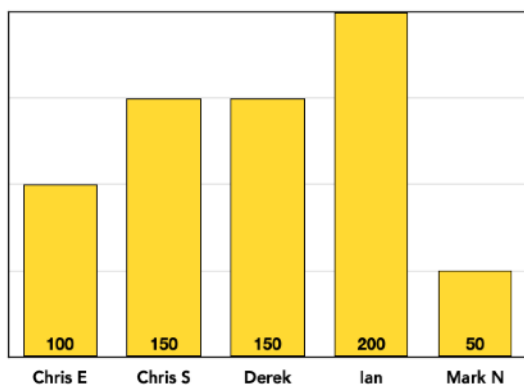
Although we have been really lucky with the weather this year we have now hung up our helmets until next spring. We thought that this would be a good time for a review of our 2023 cycling season.

We started off in January with a gentle trip to Hutton Cranswick and 45 rides later we visited the Zoom Café in North Cave, having covered a total of 1,508 miles. Individual rides varied between 23-50 miles (average 33.5 miles). A variety of local destinations were visited including North Cave Wetlands, Burton Constable, Goodmanham, Humber Bridge, Bentley, Barton, Brandesburton, Huggate, Skipsea, Aldbrough, Lelley, Londesborough, Tibthorpe, Watton and many more.

In addition to these regular weekly rides, we had our annual expedition in June, when we cycled along the coast from Newcastle to Edinburgh, visiting some prominent castles on the way. Seven of us completed the 170 mile trip in four days. A great time was had by all – and we only had one puncture !!

Next year's trip along part of the Trans-Pennine Trail has already been booked for March – spaces are still available if you want a relatively easy challenge !?

The group welcomed three new members during the year and five of our existing members achieved their own personal milestones. Each was awarded a special trophy and/or a commemorative medal but most importantly a sticker for their bike to show the world their achievement – worth all the effort I'm sure you'll agree !! Congratulations to all those riders,



*The Recycled Cyclists' 2023 honour board*

There are several more knocking on the doors to complete their own milestones. Keep up the good work everyone.

If any of this has sparked an interest in joining us then don't delay, please contact [Ian Metcalf](#) and come along for a free taster – the only thing we bite are the bacon butties and sausage sarnies !!

**Derek Clark**

## Local History

For two years now, Local History Group 1 has been researching the history of some of the villages of the East Riding. Teams of between two and five of us have been visiting their chosen villages during the summer to explore, research and to speak to locals. The teams also take photos and then report back to the rest of the group when we meet together at the Lairgate Hotel.

This year we researched Brandesburton, Tickton and Huggate. We learnt about local landmarks, records in Domesday Book and wartime tragedies, and were invited by one



*Local history group members undertaking vital research at Rachel's Walnut Café in Huggate*

local to view an original fire engine in his garage. Most importantly, of course, our researchers reported back on the village tearooms and hostelryes!

Who knew that David Hockney got drunk for the first time in his life at the Wolds Inn in Huggate while stooking corn as a youngster? Or that there's a village pump in Tickton still bearing a plaque commemorating the typhoid epidemic that caused it to be built. Or that a certain Colonel Harrison, a big game hunter from Brandesburton, brought back a group of the Mbuti tribe from what was then the Belgian Congo, parading them round the country as curiosities, known as the 'Brandesburton Pygmies'. He also built a glasshouse in the grounds of his home to emulate their tropical conditions! We look forward to more fascinating and disturbing stories next summer from our intrepid researchers. **Helen Kitson**

## **Zoom Talks**

The Zoom Talks group was set up during the Covid lockdown to provide monthly talks on subjects of general interest to members in the comfort and safety of their own home. The group has continued by popular demand and members can enjoy a wide variety of illustrated talks presented by members of Beverley & District u3a. The 30-40 minute talks are followed by an opportunity for questions or comments.

We are lucky to have so many members who are prepared to present a talk on their area of interest or expertise. Past subjects have included local, natural, family and maritime history, walking and cycling adventures, archaeology, civil infrastructure, astronomy and current affairs. New volunteer speakers are always welcome! The following talks have been arranged for 2024:

25th January - Becoming a Naturalist (Helen Kitson)

22th February - The World beneath our Feet – An introduction to Geology (Simon Tull)



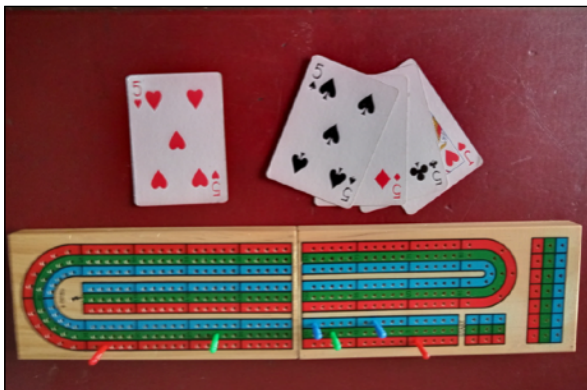
28th March - *All Political Careers end in Failure*: was Enoch Powell right? (Bill Jones)

25th April - Who do I think I am? (Ann Scruton)

Zoom can be downloaded for free via a link on the [Zoom Talks](#) page of our website. Group members receive a clickable link by email prior to each Zoom meeting. If you need help using Zoom, this can be provided.

To join the group or to discuss presenting a talk, please contact **Pam Buckton** at [pamelabuckton@outlook.com](mailto:pamelabuckton@outlook.com)

## Cribbage



*A Royal Flush*

Would you like to ..... Exercise your brain? Meet some really nice people? Revive memories of playing crib in the past ? Or do you want to start making new memories of playing crib again ?? Perhaps you've never played before but would like to learn (It's very easy!) .....

If you answered YES to any of this then why not come along to our weekly sessions on Monday afternoons 2.30pm to 4.30pm at The Lairgate

Hotel. Please contact Fran Gaskell if you need more information by emailing [frangaskell17@gmail.com](mailto:frangaskell17@gmail.com)

The photograph above provides a little taster of the game. It shows a Royal Flush, the best hand you can have in cribbage ..... how many different ways of making 15 can you find ? (Note that the Jack counts as 10) ... Answer at the end of this newsletter! **Derek Clark / Fran Gaskell**

## Garden Interest



We have had a busy summer and as we approach the year end, are busy planning events for next spring and summer; our programme of visits will be available soon. What with all the rain we have been having, our gardens are saturated right now and I am sure you can't wait for dry and sunny days to come again. Since the last newsletter our visits have included Stonefield Cottage where, despite the weather, we had a lovely afternoon looking at helibores, dahlias and hydrangeas before heading indoors for a delightful afternoon tea.

Then came a visit to Mires Beck where we had a demonstration of spring bulb planting, closely followed by a return visit to Ellerker Lodge in Evingham which didn't fail to impress. The palettes of jewelled colours in the borders and the wide range of unusual shrubs and trees were wonderful.

In October we were entertained to a talk with slides on the gardens of Cornwall, the Isle of Wight and Jersey, and the speaker's own large and beautiful garden.



Our last talk of 2023, supported by slides, was on natural remedies and toxins which was very informative. Thanks to all GIG members who have supported our events. **Sue Symmonds.**

### English Language for Interest (Elfi)

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The English Language for Interest group has proved popular and is now in full swing after its first three meetings. In our meetings so far the group has looked at the reasons underlying some of the major changes as a prehistoric language migrated across Europe to Britain, and how later invading Danes and Normans brought new variety. Grammar and pronunciations have continued to change in fits and starts to the present day, whilst spelling has remained quite static.

The October meeting traced the development of Cockney - the London Language. Until the c16<sup>th</sup> this was the language of all Londoners other than those at Court. Later the City was transformed by money and trade with Cockneys moving to the East End. They enjoyed words and word-play, and rhyming slang grew out of this. A rhyme starts as two words, e.g. Butcher's Hook = Look. The second then disappears and you say 'Have a butcher's at this'. Another example is 'Barnet' = Barnet Fair = hair. New rhymes form all the time. There are still places available if you would like to join in, so please contact Jo Herrick at [joherrick27@gmail.com](mailto:joherrick27@gmail.com). **Jo Herrick/Anne Scruton.**

### Mah Jong



*The Mah Jong group Christmas party*



## Croquet

On 30th November ten members of the Croquet Group met at Kavanaghs in Beverley for afternoon tea in order to celebrate the end of the playing season. The tea was gorgeous and everyone was very impressed. This was a lovely afternoon when we were able to enjoy each others company in a non-croquet setting. The group gave me a lovely card hand drawn by Roger Beal, a lovely surprise and a real treat. We can't wait for the 2024 season to start! Thank you to all of my group for being such a lovely supportive set of people. **Anne Gower**

## YAHR Summer School

The Yorkshire and Humberside u3a Summer School will take place between 22nd-25th July 2024 at The Hawkshill conference centre, Easingwold. The aims of the event are to provide u3a members with new learning opportunities, and to enable attendees to share time out with other u3a members from across the region. Courses offered cover current affairs, history, art, drama, languages and science. Further details are available [here](#), or you can contact the organiser Jean Blackburn at [j.blackburn21@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j.blackburn21@hotmail.co.uk) / Tel: 01274 591581.

## General u3a News

The **u3a National Festival** will be in York next year. The festival will run 18th to 20th July at the University of York, based around their exhibition centre. See [here](#) for more details and to sign up for regular updates, or write to the organisers at [festival@u3a.org.uk](mailto:festival@u3a.org.uk).

The Third Age Trust website includes a wide range of resources of potential interest to members. The **learning zone** has a whole range of **online groups** that you can join for an annual fee of £12, and there is a subject interest network for anything you can imagine. See [here](#) for more information.

There are also numerous online learning events. The best way to find out what learning events are coming up is to subscribe to the learning zone mailing list [here](#).

The TAT news page is another source of information. One very good way to keep in touch with all things u3a is to sign up for the **national newsletter** which you can receive via email.

## Scam Alert

Members will no doubt be aware that there are many ways in which scams can reach us - whether in person, by email, text message or phone call. Some can be very convincing, as is the case with recent examples u3a members highlighted to me that purported to be from HMRC and from the British Lung Foundation charity.

Members are urged to be very cautious of any unsolicited request that requires sharing financial details, or sensitive data such as national insurance numbers. The Citizen Advice Bureau provides some very good information about recognising scams and how to deal with them, including on their [website](#).

If you lack confidence with IT issues or when you are online, then our u3a's **Technology Support Group** can help. You can find more details on their webpage, which is [here](#).

**Simon Tull**

## Community Announcements

A 25% discount at all East Riding Yorkshire Council (ERYC) leisure centres is available with your u3a membership. The application form may be accessed via the [membership page](#) of our website, For full details contact [leisure@eastriding.gov.co.uk](mailto:leisure@eastriding.gov.co.uk)

## Cribbage quiz - answer

There are 8 ways of scoring 15 ... And the total points in the hand is 29.

## Credits

*Images included in this newsletter were all taken by members of Beverley & District u3a. Photo credits: Derek Clark, Anne Gower, Helen Kitson, Sue Symmonds, Nadine Tull, Simon Tull*

