

**Cambourne & District u3a
Bulletin January 2024
Issue No. 60**



Christmas quiz winners 2023

Should old acquaintance be forgot

The coming of the New year always makes me think of home -the birth one. My mother cleaning the house before Hogmanay; from changed bedding to the scrubbed kitchen floor. Not that I thought about the symbolism of clearing away the old year particularly in relation to your ash strewn open fire, just that everyone did it. Then on Hogmanay various people coming to first foot after midnight and my father playing the accordion for the inevitable sing song. His famous phrase on someone asking for a song he didn't know was- you hum it, I'll play it. Not sure it always worked.

Of course at the chiming of the bells at midnight everyone sang Auld Lang Syne. Burns' poem now sang across the world is mostly looking backwards and asking -is it right that we forget the old times? Very much the sort of nostalgia of old folk and old folk songs, I think Burns would acknowledge. Having a drink and reminiscing about the good times past.

I remember a new year's party in the film 'When Harry met Sally'. Harry says 'I've never understood that song- how am I supposed to remember old friends I've forgotten?' Sally replies, 'perhaps it is just saying remember old friends.' Indeed.

'We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne'.

Happy New Year
Kath

EDITORIAL

First , a very sincere apology to Gill for having cut short the end of her article in last month's edition. Sorry Gill I don't know what happened, like many of us, I suspect, when things go wrong with 'the computer' we blame the technology, when ninety nine per cent of the time we should be looking to our own mistakes. There would be many more in each edition if it were not for my wife, Sue , proof-reading. So thanks to her, and she's not even a u3a member.....yet.

Thanks to Christine for the report about the quiz and the front page photo of the winners and those who came second on the next page.

On pages eight and nine Kath celebrates with the publication of our very own New Years honours list. What an excellent, very positive idea.

On page eleven there are some pictures of wonderful rag rugs from the Caxton group. This is not a u3a group but we welcome adverts from organisations such as this which may be of interest to members.

Finally, thanks to those who have contributed to the newsletter in 2023. We need more: Photos, drawings, articles, poems, jokes, memories. For example what about those days when we used rag rugs because we had to.....?

Over to you.

Peter

The Christmas Quiz

Our Christmas Celebration was held on 15th December with mulled wine, mince pies and a not-too-difficult quiz to stir our brains. Seven teams bearing the names of various pantomime characters pitted each other to win the magnificent prizes.

The 'Cinderella' team won first prize - not a handsome prince but a tub of Quality Street to share. While appropriately enough the 'Buttons' team won second prize with a box of Ferrero Rocher chocolates.

It was a pleasant end to the year and one which for sure, everyone enjoyed.

Christine Tyler



The Buttons team happy with 2nd prize

Need help with risk assessments for u3a activities /outings etc? Wendy Park will help or advise.

Contact Wendy : fwendypark@aol.com

FORTHCOMING TALKS

19 January	N.E. Spain & the Pyrenees by Graham Bruce
16 February	Traditional winter festivals and feasts by Joanna Bogle
15 March	C.H.A.S.E. (Community Health and Sustainable Environment) Africa - a British charity providing medical and environmental aid in East Africa by Prof. Stephen Bown
19 April	East Anglia and the Danelaw by Ian Cameron
15 November	Winter Feasts and Festivals by Joanna Bogle

The usual words ‘ Are you ready for Christmas?’ have been substituted, as the poem explores what Christmas means for different people.

Were you ready for Christmas?

Were you ready for Christmas, had the cards all been posted?

Was the turkey all ready and set to be roasted?

Were you ready for Christmas, had you bought a nice frock?

And was Grandad pleased with his hankies and socks?

Were you ready for Christmas? Did you sharpen your claws?

Were you ready to battle the dreaded in-laws?

And the food was it generously piled to the sky?

Were the presents all wrapped and piled equally high?

Were you ready for children, squabbling and fighting?

Were you ready for children, pinching and biting?

Were you ready for children, awake and delighted ?

Were you ready for children, overtired and excited?

And what of the booze?

Inhibitions releasing,

Spirits unceasing,

Corks daily popping,

Toasts without stopping,

Were you ready for that?

Were you ready for Christmas, was everything clean?
Were you ready for Christmas? On the day did it mean
You by yourself
and a day having seen
no one?
Except for friends on the telly?
Were you ready for Christmas? Enhanced by the lights,
endlessly flashing on that darkest of nights?
Were you ready for Christmas?

Were you ready for Christmas and ready to forget
The world's most mournful song?
Did you blank out the sadness, and the things going wrong
In Gaza and Ukraine?

Were you ready for friendship? Ready for love?
Were you ready for kindness and really above
all

for a future of peace?

Peter Cornwell

The Cambourne and district u3a New Year's honours list

Interest Group leaders

Richard Davies -World War I

Sandra Davies - Theatre Group

Anne Jones -Get to know your I pad

Jeff Jones -Genealogy

Louise Kershaw – Book club 1

Janet Leonard -Book club 3 Walking group

Colin Norman -Bridge Club

Fran Panrucker -Allsorts Art Appreciation Book club 2

Dance fitness

Christine Tyler -French Intermediate

Lesley Woodger – Out to Lunch Gardens Galore

Refreshments

Organiser

Caroline Adams

Assistants

Anne Jones Jeff Jones Tricia Maguire

Recent sign ups

Susan Wright, Eileen Green, Sandra Davies, Janet Leonard

Alex Duncan

Speaker Secretary

Christine Tyler

Webmaster

Nigel Day

Monthly meet 'home grown' reenactment performers

Archie Black Ingrid Black

Back up technical support team at Speaker meets

John Smith Karen Smith

Committee

Peter Cornwell -Newsletter

Gill Habicht -Minutes Secretary

Colin Norman -Treasurer

Jan Nuttycombe- Membership secretary

Wendy Park – Equality Accessibility and Diversity

Kathleen Thompson -Chair

Christine Tyler -Secretary

Resident poet

Lucy Purvey

Last but not least trip organisers and newsletter contributors and all the members of this small but vibrant u3a. Cambourne and district take a bow.



**Cambourne & District u3a
On 19th January 2024 at 11.00
The Hub Community Centre
Cambourne**



Talk on
North Eastern Spain and the Catalonian Pyrennees
By
Graham Bruce

‘This talk is based on a holiday taken in 2016, touring from the Costa Brava, through the regions of Catalonia and Aragon, including the Pyrenees, while staying in Paradors. We hope to provide a flavour of the area through its’ scenery, history, flora and fauna.’ GB





Rag rug making group.

We meet on the second Monday of each month in Caxton Village Hall at 10 am.

More info from

Shirley Spottiswoode

Spottiswoode.art@gmail.com



Cambourne and district u3a Interest groups Nov 2023

Dance Fitness Group -members 12

This group meets weekly in term time, on Wednesday from 12.15 to 1pm in the Cambourne Hub meeting room (currently). It is led by Tanya Grey, a professional dance tutor who uses music from the 60s 70s and 80s to create dance sequences, mostly in lines or circles. It is energetic, but can be taken at a pace appropriate to the individual. The form the class takes may change over time. Appropriate wear could be light, loose clothing or tights, and trainers or similar. The cost will be termly at £5 per lesson and would be payable in advance.

To express an interest please contact

Fran Panrucker: fran@panrucker.co.uk

Art Appreciation -members 10

Meeting usually on the first Thursday of the month, this is a self-led group for those interested in learning more about the art of the twentieth century and contemporary art. It sometimes takes the form of visiting exhibitions in galleries both local and sometimes further afield. We may also gather to watch a DVD of a particular artist or type of art, or research to produce short presentations to share with the rest of the group.

Leader: Fran Panrucker fran@panrucker.co.uk

Allsorts -members 38

This is by the group for the group, in that anything not covered elsewhere in our u3a can be suggested and organised by Allsorts members. This can be a trip to a garden centre; somewhere to meet for coffee or afternoon tea; a visit to an historic house; trip to a mosque or museum; or anything else that a member may be interested in.

It really is up to the individuals in the Allsorts group to suggest something to the rest of the group, and those who are interested can then enjoy the experience together.

Leader : Fran Panrucker fran@panrucker.co.uk

Theatre group -members 13

We are a group who meet to go to the theatre, at present, in Cambridge.

(preferably matinees) We buy our own tickets, but try and coordinate so we can sit together and arrange where and when to meet up. We meet over coffee twice a year to agree the productions we want to see. Members may also discuss other options such as concerts.

Leader Sandra Davies

Gardens Galore

This is an opportunity for you to visit gardens you might not have thought of visiting, or revisiting old favourites. You do not have to be a gardener to enjoy the results of others labours. Some of the gardens have a house attached which can also be visited. Each trip usually incorporates a coffee and possibly a lunch break depending on the length of the visit and peoples wishes.

For journeys of up to an hour we usually travel in each other's cars and make a contribution to the cost of the fuel. We also try to keep costs down by making use of special offers such as The Gardeners World 2 for 1 offer.

Everyone welcome

Leader Lesley Woodger lesley610@hotmail.co.uk

Out to lunch group -members 31 -monthly usually Thursday
This group aims to try out restaurants with a difference in Cambridge and the surrounding area. Many of them accessible by bus. One month we may be exploring the delights of Jordanian food and another vegetarian. The possibilities are endless and suggestions are always welcome. After all it is your group and you are only billed for what you order.
Leader Lesley Woodger lesley610@hotmail.co.uk

Book group 1 -leader Lois Kershaw -meets 2nd Tues of the month

-leader's house

Book group 2 -leader Fran Panrucker -meets the last Thursday of the month

-The Holiday Inn express members 8 Maximum 9

Book group 3 -leader Janet Leonard -the first Tuesday in the month at the Holiday Inn Express. Members 5 Maximum 6

New book groups can be formed when others are full. If you wish to start up another one the committee can put information out.

Bridge Club -leader Colin Norman

Members 14 Can take more but must have experience of basic bridge conventions.

Venue —the Hub meeting room on Wednesdays 2.30-4.30
Day/time Wednesday 14.30-16.30

This group was proposed by Richard Davies.

Does the thought of putting together a Powerpoint presentation fill you with dread? Have you ever wondered what an Excel spreadsheet is and what on earth it is used for? If any members have any problems with Microsoft Office programs, Word, Powerpoint and Excel, I am willing to share my knowledge either as a group if sufficient numbers, or on a more individual basis rmdavies47@gmail.com

Study Trips —these are trips that are advertised to all members when they are organised.

I have put a leader for all groups although all are facilitated and many are shared responsibility in terms of organising events/ trips. Jan, the membership secretary, has organised the updating of membership lists for each group.

All of these leaders have spent time exploring what's possible and getting these groups up and running. So thank you.

You can contact group leaders either by the e mails provided or through the link on the website and we will pass enquiries on to the group leader.

Kath

Walking Group -leader Janet Leonard

Members -41

Group walkers encouraged to plan and lead a route. Usually 5 miles.

Day/Time -Every 2 weeks on a Friday morning start 10am

French Intermediate -leader Christine Tyler.

Members -8

Online with Zoom -easier for members living in Cambridge

Day/time -Every other Tuesday morning.

World war II leader Richard Davies

Members -9

Venue -House rotation. If the group gets bigger a venue will be sought

Day -Last Friday of the month rmdavies47@gmail.com

Genealogy-leader Jeff Jones

Members 9

Venue -Jeff's house in Hardwick but with increased membership may look for an alternative venue.

Meeting -every 3/ 4 months

Getting to know your I pad -leader Anne Jones

Members -9

Venue -The Apple store Cambridge

Day/time Wednesday morning every 3 to 4 weeks.

Apple will only allow groups of 8 at one time so there are now 2 consecutive sessions booked for the designated Wednesday.

It is helpful to bring your own I pad.

The following new groups have proposed by members.
Singing, Jazz appreciation, Classical music, Board Games
Medieval history, Railways, Science, Table tennis,
Gardening, Watercolour group, Craft and sewing,
Current Affairs, Spanish/French beginners and intermediate
group, Spanish/French conversation

To get any of these groups going requires members to identify what groups they would be interested in joining. If there is enough interest, people can get together to decide what to do. If you want to register an interest contact me through the group coordinator link on the website.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Life drawing class this term

A five session life drawing class will be held at Cottenham village hall on Monday mornings this term from 10 to 12. The sessions will be led by Steve Ferris, an excellent and highly skilled teacher and professional artist.

Steve hires both male and female models who are all experienced at modelling. The setting, in the upstairs room at the hall, is superb with excellent lighting. The sessions usually begin with five or ten minute studies with a different theme or focus each week. After coffee the poses generally last for fifteen to thirty minutes.

This is an established group who are very friendly and supportive.

The fee is £18 per session and 'drop ins' are welcome. If there is enough support for the course it may continue for a further five sessions.

Further information from
Jennie Browne jenniferannebrowne@gmail.com
or Peter Cornwell pccornwell@icloud.com

Shared transport may be a possibility.

Please note this is not currently a u3a course although it may be of interest to members.

