

NEWSLETTER - December 2022

Welcome to the December Newsletter

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2022; where did the time go? Your executive committee all wish you a Happy Christmas and the very best for the New Year. Our tree has gone up in the Methodist church – many thanks to everyone who contributed a decoration to showcase your group. They are many and varied and show the creativity we can all demonstrate when given the chance.

I'm sure that we've all enjoyed participating in our different group activities over the year and look forward to continuing in 2023. We've also had a wide variety of speakers over this year – many thanks to Sonia Brodell for organising these.

As the dreaded covid has become less of a worry, though sadly not banished from our thoughts, we have also been able to enjoy refreshments after each general meeting. Many thanks to Pat Stewart for organising these and ensuring that there are people to serve them. Sadly, Pat will be stepping down from this role because of ill health, so we are in need of someone else to step in immediately. Please give serious consideration to offering your services so that we can all continue to benefit from the chance to relax with friends after the meeting.

Please contact me with your offer – it would be fantastic to have several offers and be able to have strength in depth which is so vital in an organisation such as ours where we all like to think we are indestructible whilst knowing that we're not and disaster may strike at any moment. Once again, Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Chris

The national u3a has a number of initiatives which have a wide range of learning activities for members to get involved in - from challenges and projects to competitions. Some are one-off events and others run over an ongoing period of time.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/new-for-autumn>

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

General Meetings



Images from the November meeting, the topic was Ice Age Journeys



For those of you who missed the talk on the Ice Age at November's general meeting, you missed a treat.

The speaker was both informative and interesting. She told the meeting that the three nearest sites of ice age activity are, Farndon Fields, Cresswell Crags and Bradgate Park. Bradgate Park also having a visitors centre.

The speaker explained about flint "knapping". This is how sharp tools etc were produced. Her group run various workshops and you can have a go at this activity. She said small children are particularly good at knapping.

The speaker told the meeting that flint is about 300,000,000 years old. The people who lived in the period travelled across the continent before it divided and we know the land masses as they are today. Flint which is native to Norfolk has been found over 100 miles from there, so this shows how far and even further these people travelled.

We were able to see some objects that the speaker had brought and it made the talk come to life more. Some replica objects have been placed in educational toolboxes and one is kept at the Civil War Museum in Newark. We were told that if you know of any teachers that would like to borrow the toolbox, then they must contact the museum and talk to the education people there, where further information can be obtained.

Richard

Advance notice of Speakers at the General Meeting

The general meeting takes place on the fourth Wednesday in a month, apart from December, at 2 p.m., in the Memorial Hall in Collingham.

December 14th Festive gathering

January 25th Two Queens and a Countess

Groups

Contacting group leaders

A full list of groups can be found on our website. <https://u3asites.org.uk/collingham/groups>.

To contact one of the group leaders by email please use the contact link on the specific group page.

Board Games

We meet once a month in Members homes on the third Wednesday in a month at 2 p.m.. There will be a meeting on the 21st December for those who can make it.

Liz

Bridge

The last meeting for this year will be at The Royal Oak Friday 9th December 2pm - 4pm
Our first meeting in the New Year will be Friday January 6th at the Royal Oak 2pm - 4pm
Many thanks to the Royal Oak for allowing us to play there,
Happy New Year to all.

Chris

History

At our November meeting, we heard about the lives and relationships of some of the members of the 18C Lunar Society. Our December meeting will be on the earlier date of 16th At 11.30am. Please bring some nibbles to share and a pen for the quiz. Mulled wine will be available. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Ann

Kurling

The December meeting which was rearranged to the 16th has had to be cancelled, the next Kurling meeting will be the 27th January 2023 when I will present the trophy to the winner who was top of the league this year. Many thanks to you all for your help and for supporting the Kurling. Thanks also to Pat for all her help.

John

Literature

We have been reading 'Meet Me at the Museum' by Anne Youngson; 'A thoughtful and gentle meditation on buried passions, regrets, love, grief and loneliness. It's characters somehow resist following their story and reverse themselves into a new one. A beautiful lasting read.'

For January we have chosen another debut novel 'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stuart which won the 2020 Booker Prize. This novel will be more of a challenge, but Alan Yentob's BBC program 'Imagine' couldn't have recommend Stuart and his novel more highly.

We are looking forward to a Christmas lunch at the Royal Oak on the 15th December, and wish one and all a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

The British Red Cross are asking us to remember The Power of Kindness and, yes, they want our money, which is put to very good use.

Sheelah

CHRISTMAS

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hooker's Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial public houses blaze
And Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the Red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all.'

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And Oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,
This Most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's Stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissueed fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive sent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives to-day in Bread and Wine.

JOHN BETJEMAN

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# Music Makers



Though we are presently shivering in mid-December temperatures, swaddled in our thermal underwear and anxiously awaiting the next eye-watering fuel bill, the above serves as a reminder of warmer climes, harking back to the summer of 2018, when the Music Makers (aka Seven Shades of Grey) performed in the grounds of Doddington Hall during the Gin Festival.

George Ezra's Budapest is coming along quite well, as are several new pieces. It is good to be free of the tyranny of backing tracks, encouraging greater freedom of interpretation by vocalists.

Auditions for drummers and keyboard players have had to be postponed until after the holidays. In the meantime, on behalf of the group, I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Phil

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# Photography

The group reviewed their Triangle themed images this month. Next month our theme is "Wheels".

In addition to our selection of 'Triangle' images we are adding a collection of images of winter scenes taken in and around Collingham. We hope you enjoy them and get into the seasonal spirit.

May we also wish all our fellow u3a members and families a very Merry Christmas.

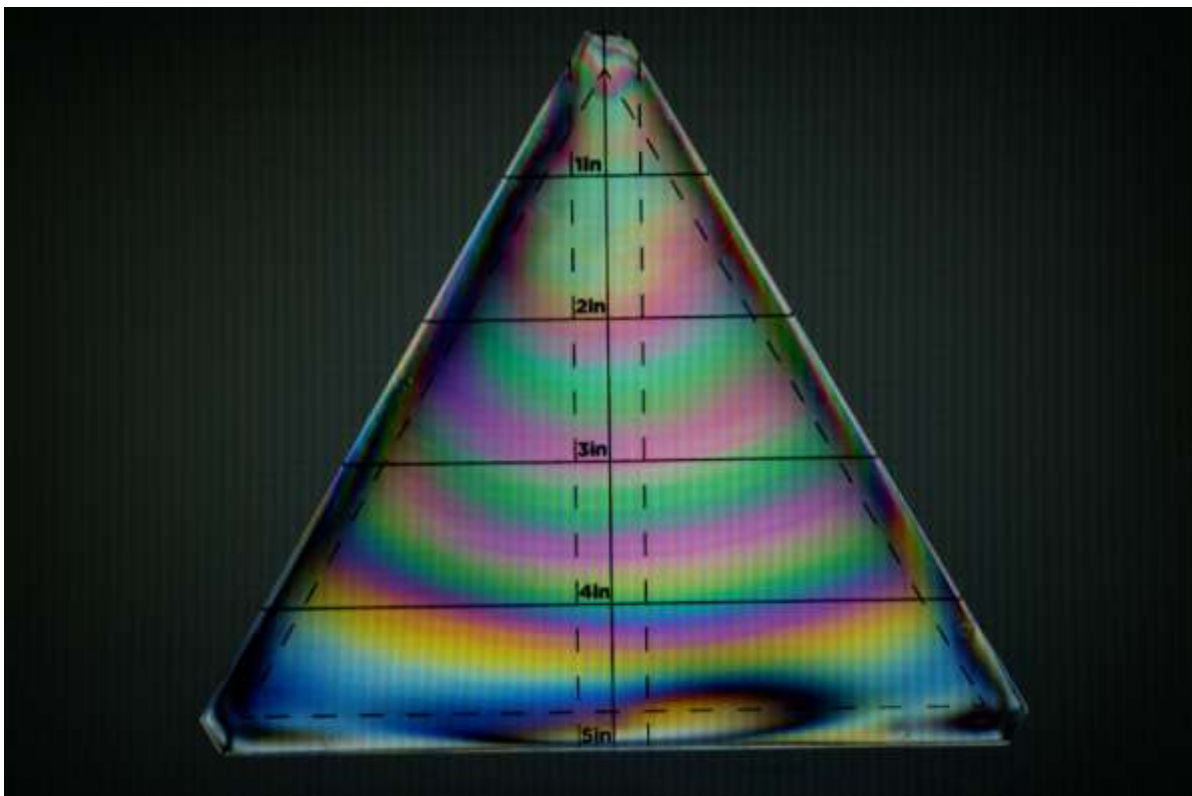
Paul



Freyas Ears by Gill Bass



Clear Off It's Mine by Jenny Macpherson



Cross Polarisation by Paul Bass





Looking Up by Paul Bass



The Pyramid by Colin Smith



Nearly Finished by Gill Bass



The Blue Light by Jenny Macpherson

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The Gardeners Friend by Colin Smith



## Collingham Winters Past



Carlton Ferry Lane December 2010



South Collingham Church January 2010



North Collingham Church March 2018



Stocks Hill March 2018





The Cricket Field  
January 2010

Trent Gantry February  
2012



Trent Wharf Cottages  
February 2012

# Sunday Lunchers

With so many activities occurring during December, it was decided not to have a Sunday Lunch this month, but instead, look forward to meeting up again on January 8th, 2023. Venue still to be decided, but I will let everyone know before the New Year.

Margaret

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## Table Tennis

Our friendly table tennis group usually meets twice monthly at the Winthorpe Community Centre for 1 hour from 10 – 11 am. Afterwards many of us enjoy a cup of coffee and the occasional cake at the Lord Nelson in Winthorpe. We do provide bats and balls and new members are always welcome.

Do come and give it a try!

Here are the dates of our forthcoming meetings:

|                 |                                            |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>January</b>  | <b>12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>from 10am to 11am</b> |
| <b>February</b> | <b>9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup></b>  | <b>from 10am to 11am</b> |
| <b>March</b>    | <b>9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup></b>  | <b>from 10am to 11am</b> |

Peter

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## Weekenders

There is no meeting at Pennels this month as we are having our Christmas meal on the 16th at the Royal Oak. In January we will be meeting on the 21st.

Liz

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