

# DISS U3A



## Winter Newsletter

February 2024



Hello Friends,

Happy New Year to you all. I wish all of you a joyous and healthy 2024.

I will be delighted to welcome you to any of our meetings at the United Reform Church in Mere St on the first Thursday of every month at 9.45.

We have some great talks coming up including The Moon Landing, Did you Jive in 55? And Chelsea Murders (one I am particularly looking forward to). Also do have a look on our website at our interest groups: [www.dissu3a.org.uk](http://www.dissu3a.org.uk)

Hope to see you soon.

*Fanny Grey – Chairman*

## **INTEREST GROUPS**

Most interest groups have space for new members. The following ones are particularly keen to grow: Singing for Fun; Writing; Bell Ringing.

French and Spanish groups are the most frequent requests I receive. Before Covid, we ran both of these groups at different levels but now the only language we can offer is Italian. Using one of the many courses available certainly does not need an expert. Among our 300 members there must be one or two who know enough holiday level French or Spanish to easily organise a group and improve with other members. It could be a new or long-standing member. It could be you.

Please think about it. If you would like to talk it over, please give me a ring:- *Duncan Livingstone* 01379 890189.

### **New Group**

‘Modern Folk Songs from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries’. David Young would like to start a group that could listen to and discuss songs from Woody Guthrie (1912-1967) to current singers and songsmiths. Folk songs often reflect the writer’s character in their

concern with contemporary issues and human emotions. David has a large collection of CDs and LPs and members would be encouraged to share their favourites. Meetings would be on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at David's house in Louie's Lane in Diss. Please contact: [david12string@gmail.com](mailto:david12string@gmail.com).

For more information about our groups you can google <https://u3asites.org.uk/diss/welcome> or contact:-  
*Duncan Livingstone*, [dissu3agroups@gmail.com](mailto:dissu3agroups@gmail.com)  
Phone - 01379 890189

### **Current List of Interest Groups**

**ART** (Wednesday 10am)

**BELL RINGING** (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 10am)

**BIRD WATCHING** (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday am)

**CANASTA** (Tuesday pm)

**CARD CRAFTS** (Monday 10am)

**CRIME FICTION** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm)

**DISCUSSION** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 10am)

**GARDENING** (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 2pm)

**HISTORY - Medieval** (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 2pm)

**ITALIAN WORKSHOP** (Mondays fortnightly am)

**LUNCH** (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 12.30 pm)

**LOOKING at BUILDINGS** (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday am)

**MAH-JONG** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 10 am)

**METAL DETECTING** (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday am)

**MOTO** Members on their own (various)

**PETANQUE** (Tuesdays pm)

**READING 1** (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2.30 pm)

**READING 2** (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 1.45 pm)

**SINGING FOR FUN** (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 1.30 pm)

**TABLE TENNIS** (1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 2 pm)

**TEXTILES & CRAFTS** (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 10.30 am)

**WALKING** (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.30 am)

**WRITING** (1<sup>st</sup> Friday 10.30 am)

### **Looking at Buildings**

We have another fun packed season coming up; clambering around some interesting parts of East Anglia. Our monthly trips will include investigating a recycling centre, climbing the Millennium Tower in Bury St Edmunds and catching a train to St Ives (not Cornwall!). Other more sedate trips are planned to Debenham and the newly re-opened Castle Museum in Norwich.

I hope you will agree, a varied and interesting programme.

*Fanny Grey*

## **Crime Fiction**

A few dedicated Crime buffs meet once a month to chat about books, films and TV to do with crime. We have a lovely relaxing afternoon with a cup of tea, what fun.

*Fanny Grey*

## **Discussion Group**

The Group continues to meet in Andrea Key's home. We're very grateful for Andrea's hospitality. Thanks also to Margaret Fawcett for sometimes hosting at her home.

Our topics have ranged from:-

"Is this the end of Humanity or the next evolutionary step ?"

All about "AI" to "Why Christmas ?"

Our February topic is "What do you think the future holds for Israel and Palestine?"

On a lighter note, we meet once a month for lunch, exploring local eating places and enjoying each other's company.

*Eileen Collins*

## **Writers group**

Writers Group meets on the first Friday of the month to discuss the latest masterpieces. There is no obligation to write the next bestseller. Whoever is interested is welcome to attend. There is no obligation to bring a literary contribution. WG member Colin Wheeler has recently published: *Second Coming* the second volume of his sci-fi titled: *The Eldoran Trilogy*. Another member regularly contributes humorous tales. There is a humorous historical fiction simmering, a feature due for publication in Suffolk Magazine, and much more.

*Patricia Lesley Stammers*



*December - Bryan Thurlow talks about Music Hall*

## **Feedback from Members**

The Thursday talks at the United Reform Church. These are all great talks, but the one on the Music Halls was a favourite, especially the mention of one of my 'old homes' when I was in East London - Brick Lane Music Hall!

I also did not realise that gravestones were so varied and interesting either.



Above is a photo of Brick Lane Music Hall. It would be a great place for us to visit.

And yes that is me with a giant Teddy bear at BLMH, I won it at a private event, and luckily there was somebody on my table who worked for a children's charity, so I just kept it long enough to get my photo taken! *Bob Rogers*





**Christmas Lunch at The Thatcher's Needle**



*Alannah Cripps won the Annual Gill Goadby award for service to Diss u3a (non-committee). You will all recognize Alannah who runs the 'café' before each monthly meeting....and below is Fanny, Chair of Diss u3a.*



*Thank you to Fanny Grey, Helen Rowland and their team for organizing such a happy occasion, not to mention the silly hats!*









**What are the next few u3a talks?**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Thu Feb 1st | Stephen Poulter<br>The Bard on screen                    |
| Thu Mar 7th | Sally-Anne Lomas<br>Julian of Norwich                    |
| Thu Apr 4th | Bobby Darbyshire<br>Where do novelists' ideas come from? |
| Thu May 2nd | Pat Alker<br>Silk Road cities of Ukbekistan              |
| Thu Jun 6th | Joy Hawkins<br>Mediaeval Medicine                        |

*Diss u3a:- Charity Number: 1179720*

## **Committee Members**

### ***Officer***

	<b><i>Name</i></b>
Chairman	Fanny Grey
Vice Chairman	Peter Sorrell
Secretary	Lynda Brooks
Treasurer	Pat Cooper
Membership Secretary	Lesley Morris
Programme Secretary	Helen Rowland
Publicity Secretary	<i>Vacancy</i>
Groups Coordinator	Duncan Livingstone
Health & Safety Officer	Barry Davies
IT Administrator	Tony Callender

### ***Non-Committee***

Badges	Carol Nutt
Registration	Gill Russell
Registration	Marian Wexler
Refreshments Co-ordinator	Alannah Cripps
Newsletter Editor	Georgina Livingstone

## **Message from the Editor:-**

Thanks to all of you who sent in contributions for this edition of the Diss u3a newsletter. I hope this is informative and enjoyable for you all to read, especially for our many new members.

*Front cover:-*

*Lackford Lakes and Lynford Arboretum Birdwatching group*

*Georgina Livingstone (Newsletter Editor)*



**Rogues' Gallery – Christmas 2024**

*Thank you to Barry Davies for sending in all the Christmas photos.*

