

DONCASTER

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Registered Charity No. 1074577



APRIL / MAY 2017

From the Chair



This U3A year seems to have flown by. It doesn't seem twelve months since I was asked to take over the role of Chair, in addition to four new committee members being elected after volunteering their services on your behalf.

We have had a very busy year on the administrative front. Not only have we adopted a new constitution to bring the old one up to date, but we have managed to manually transfer all of our data to a completely new database called Beacon which has been developed by some very knowledgeable National U3A members for the benefit of the 1000+ nationwide associations. That it took such a short time is undoubtedly due to the hours put in by our ex-chair **Chris Woolven**, our vice chair **Wendy Hattrell**, and our secretary **Diane Harris**, who were constantly working together in conjunction with **Jill Laming** our Members Secretary until the job was completed. There may still be the odd hiccup in the information transfer, so Wendy will be sending emails to those with email addresses asking you to check your details. For those not on email, if you have changed your address or phone number or would like to send us an email address please contact Jill Laming.

The deadline for nominations for your committee for 2017-18 has passed. In the coming year we will have a new secretary. Diane Harris is leaving the Committee having given in to her single status, giving herself more time to prepare herself for her impending marriage in June to Chris. Many thanks, Di, for all your unseen work, and for keeping us up-to-date with all the National News which comes our way from Bromley. DU3A certainly lives up to its reputation for bringing people together in learning and social situations. We are all as young as we feel!

Beryl Kellett has put herself forward to be elected as Diane's replacement as Secretary. For the last twelve months she has been Acting Treasurer. She has been fastidious in keeping our finances in fine order whilst also trialling the Beacon finance system, which at times has needed some lateral thinking. She has taken advantage of us having a "Beacon Supremo" in Wendy, who is progressively attempting to educate Group Leaders and Committee in how to take maximum advantage of this purpose-built database.

John Parkinson has volunteered to keep our finances in order and will be looking to make a smooth transfer of operations from Beryl. We are all behind him in his future responsibilities as Treasurer. **Mike Bowser** has done a sterling job leading a team of greeters at our General Meetings, helping new members to settle in among our more established members .

Two current committee members, **Beryl Kellett** and **Carole Lewis**, together with **Mark Frost**, **Diane Williams** and **John Wheeler** have submitted their nominations to join the committee next year. They will fill the gaps left by those

who have come to the end of their two year tenure, including **Monica Dawson** who has successfully led our administrative sub-committee and been Coordinator of our many interest groups. I have every hope that you, the members, will again fully benefit from the skills we are all able to offer Doncaster U3A on your behalf.

I hope you all enjoyed the March Newsletter. This was the first one **Bridget Thompson** has produced, and I personally think we are so lucky to have someone of her talents as our editor. We surely must be the envy of many other U3As as they browse our Website, which, incidentally, also has Bridget's quality mark attached to it.

This is the last Newsletter before the AGM on Monday April 24th 2017. If you wish to contact any member of the committee please refer to the Contacts pages at the back of this edition.

Please come and support your present and your future committee at the AGM on 24th April. Entry and a drink on this occasion are free to members. A reminder of the Notification can be seen below.

George Kirk

NOTICE OF DU3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 24th APRIL 2017 at 13.30

at the **TRADES CLUB** in the **FRENCHGATE CENTRE**:

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2017 / 2018

Calling all Doncaster U3A members. We are now fast approaching our financial year end and therefore the time for you to renew your membership.

Jill Laming and her team will be at the March and April General Meetings with the new membership cards. Having gone through an exercise last year asking members to complete a renewal form, you will be pleased to know you won't need to complete a form this year.

Payment of your subscription: £15 for an individual, £25 for 2 members at the same address (with an additional £4 if you wish to have your 6 newsletters posted). Cheques are helpful because it is easier for the Treasurer to trace the payment, but of course we can accept cash. If you wish to change your election of Gift Aid please inform either the Treasurer or the Membership Secretary in writing.

If you cannot attend either of those General Meetings you can renew by posting a cheque together with a stamped addressed envelope to Jill Laming, _____

If, for any reason, you do not intend to renew your membership we really would like to know why. You can pass this information to any committee member.

Wendy Hattrell

General Meeting report

Lady Mary Palmer, alias Maureen Taylor, led us through a story of Elizabethan Life. Dressed in a very heavy (and warm) outfit of the period she regaled us with the attitudes and situations of the poor and wealthy ways of life of that era. All the mundane subjects were touched on especially hygiene and toileting arrangements. The well off lived the good life with money marrying money, whereas surfs were happy to receive shelter and food from being good servants. We shall see Lady Mary Palmer included in our programme in the future.

By the time that this newsletter reaches you we shall be anticipating a talk by Astronomer Dennis Ashton.

April finds us once more with our A.G.M but once this is over we shall be looking forward to our May meeting when we welcome Sheffielder Steve Drinkall with his superb images of Wildlife and Wild places.



David Allen

Strollers

As storm "Doris" was predicted for the day of our Cusworth walk we were not surprised to wake up to wind and rain. We had many phone calls asking "Are we going in this weather"! but as leaders we needed to turn up but didn't think many would join us. We were pleasantly surprised that 15 hardy U3Aers arrived. After a short discussion we decided to brave it.

Although very windy, the rain was only light and intermittent, with even spells of sunshine. We headed to Cusworth via the Trans-Pennine Way and walked round the two duck ponds and returned back along the same route, which is a disused old railway line.



Back at the Newton Inn our tables were reserved for a delicious carvery lunch. In the morning, what seemed like a complete washout, turned into an enjoyable day.

Allen and Brenda



WANTED

The Association requires another Speaker Coordinator to plan the General Meetings from May 2018. If you are interested please contact David Allen.



GROUPS - UPDATES

●●●●● NEW GROUP ●●●●●

A new group has been formed called "[Dining Out](#)" in place of the Italian nights and we are now including Mediterranean and other cuisines. This group will be administered by Carole Lewis and Joan Condron.

As there are a limited number of places available please contact either Carole or Joan by e-mail or phone to express your interest.

The first meal will be held on [Tuesday 25th April](#) at [Movida Tapas Bar](#) at 10 Priory Walk. If interested, please contact Movida for a menu and then send your choice of meal to us along with a cheque made payable to 'DU3A No.2 Account' by 30th March.
Joan Condron

●●●●● CARD MAKING ●●●●●

The Card Making group meets on the last Wednesday of the month. Please note that in [March](#) this is the [29th](#) (not the 22nd as on the Calendar).

●●●●● SMARTPHONES & TABLETS ●●●●●

The Smartphones & Tablets group will now meet at the [Trades Club](#). The next meetings will be on [Monday 27th March](#), 1.00—3.00 pm.

●●●●● PHILOSOPHY ●●●●●

Starting with the March meeting, the Philosophy group will now meet at the [Central Library](#).

●●●●● LIVING HISTORY ●●●●●

There are still a few Living History booklets left to sell. The booklets comprise of 20 stories written by group members and are for sale at £5 each. Please contact Betty Alexander or Jess Parkinson if you would like a booklet.

●●●●● TENPIN BOWLING ●●●●●

The next meeting will be on [Tuesday 16th May](#). Please contact Linda Hitchman for further details.

●●●●● LOOKING AT ART ●●●●●

This group has moved to [Room 4](#) at the [Central Library](#) and the next meeting will be on [Friday 7th April](#) at 1pm. This Room is on the Second Floor on the left from the lift.

●●●●● GROUP LEADER'S MEETING ●●●●●

The next Group Leader's meeting will be held at Prego on [Tuesday 4th April](#), at 12.00 noon.

Looking at Art

A recent topic we addressed in the Looking at Art group was 'Colour: The Art and Science of Illuminated Manuscripts'. This was an exhibition held in the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge which I visited in December 2016.

This museum holds the largest collection of Illuminated Manuscripts in existence. The museum was established by Viscount Fitzwilliam in 1816, who was a collector who recognised that such manuscripts were a 'monument to lost art'. Others have donated their collections since.

The curators of the Fitzwilliam have, wherever possible also purchased important manuscripts when they came up for sale at Christies or Sotheby's to prevent them leaving the country...

Paul Getty has much to answer in this regard since his vast wealth often enabled him to bid highly for the works of art he coveted for his private collection. Thus many works of art are lost to this country.

Over time many paintings, wall panels were destroyed by war, greed, puritanical zeal or simply time. Illuminated manuscripts are the richest source for the study of European painting between 6th and 16th centuries.

Via study of the manuscripts you can imaginatively travel from 8th century Northumberland, 17th century Nepal, via Oxford, Paris, Bruges, Florence Constantinople and Jerusalem.

In the four years preparing for this exhibition, scholars using modern technology made new discoveries regarding pigment used and materials rarely associated with manuscript illumination.

e.g. Smalt – obtained by grinding blue glass, detected in an illuminated book circa 1420

e.g. Analysis of sketches lying beneath the paint surface shows later additions and changes to manuscripts.

e.g. Adam and Eve, originally shown naked in an ABC book commissioned in 1550 by Queen Anne of Brittany for her 4 year old daughter. A later owner of the book offended by the nudity gave Eve a slip, Adam a short skirt. Infra-red imaging techniques made it possible to reconstruct the original pictures without harming the book.



What impressed me about those many, many manuscripts in the exhibition was the sheer amount of gold present. The gold was laid on very thick. Obviously those who commissioned these manuscripts were very rich indeed.

One particular illuminated book was the **Macclesfield Psalter**

Apparently the Earl of Macclesfield failed to notice that the gaily coloured old book in his library was one of the greatest works of art in British history. The Psalter came up for auction at Sotheby's in 2004. Attempts to buy it by the Fitzwilliam cohort was foiled by Paul Getty [who else?]. But luckily there was a temporary government

export ban on Californian dollars. So it stopped the psalter being exported.

After a major fundraising campaign, and a great deal of media support, a list of donors managed to eventually buy it in 2005. So it stayed in Britain at the Fitzwilliam.

Just as in so many other areas of painting, it will come as no surprise that Illuminated Manuscripts were also forged.

From about 1830, new printing methods and new technologies enabled the reproduction of medieval artwork in books for the use by students and scholars.

This promoted the revival of illuminated manuscripts as an art form. This in turn led to skilful replicas and infamous forgeries.

Calligraphy and illumination were seen as a fashionable and fitting pursuit of 'young ladies'



One **Caleb Wing** – who tutored ladies taking the waters in Bath, was an engraver and illuminator.

He added images to manuscripts, restored damaged miniatures and replicated them in newly painted facsimiles.

He removed 12 miniatures from a Flemish Book of Hours, touched them up and repackaged them as a set. He used 5 of the miniatures as models for scenes he painted afresh, combined them with other restored miniatures and created yet another set.

Thus, from 1860's onward, Wing sets were sold and bought as genuine medieval illuminated works. However, whether restoring a piece, or forgery, or making facsimiles, Wing *did* preserve the original medieval style.

Yet another forger of great ability was known as '**the Spanish Forger**'. He created a style which remained consistent throughout his career. Convincing everyone, even his buyers, that his work was genuine fifteenth century art.

His crafty use of old wooden panels, intentionally distressed and medieval manuscripts with the text scraped off on one side to accommodate his images, fooled those who were looking for genuine examples of medieval paintings. For several decades his prodigious output was fetching considerable sums of money in the sale rooms.

He was discovered and named by the curator of the Pierpont Morgan Library, Bella da Costa Greene, who first suspected that his very first manuscript 'The betrothal of St Ursula', was a forgery. Analysis of the work revealed that the green pigment used was copper arsenite, which was not available before 1814.

The Spanish Forger was one of many contemporary artists who seized the moment and saturated the market hungry for medieval art. Some still remain to be identified. Though of course, if, as a collector you have paid a great deal of money for an illuminated manuscript or other work of art, perhaps you would be apprehensive regarding admitting that you had been duped.

The Fitzwilliam Museum is currently engaged in providing a more apt space to display its collection of Illuminated manuscripts. It is hoped this will be completed by late 2017, when all their collection will be available to view all the time.

The British Library and Dublin Museum also have good collections of Illuminated manuscripts.

All three are well worth visiting to view their collections.

Jean Graville-King



WALKING FOOTBALL

We are looking to arrange a taster session of "Walking Football" on Monday April 3rd in the sports hall at Doncaster Dome. Sessions take place between 11.30am and 12.30pm and the cost is £2 per person, payable on entry.



These sessions are open to both men and women and there is no age barrier. Their eldest player is 82!

It would be extremely helpful if we could have an idea of numbers of those people who would be interested in attending the session, so if you are interested please contact me, Beryl Kellett, on ———, or email me at -----

There are alternative sessions run on a Wednesday evening between 6.00 and 7.00pm at the Keepmoat Stadium. If anyone would like to attend a session of walking football but can't make Monday mornings and would like to go on a Wednesday evening, please let me know.

Beryl Kellett

YAHR From The Region

Regional Trustee

Our regional Trustee Neil Stevens is due to stand down from his position on the National Executive Committee of the Third age Trust which is our parent body. The position will become Vacant after August this year and nominations are sought for someone to take over.

The election for this post will take place at the AGM for the Yorkshire and Humber Region of the U3A on **27th April 2017**. The position is open to all members and if you wish to be considered contact our regional Secretary Hazel Ward.

Publicising the U3A

On **28th June** there will be a regional workshop looking at issues surrounding publicity and use of social media.

Newsletter Workshop

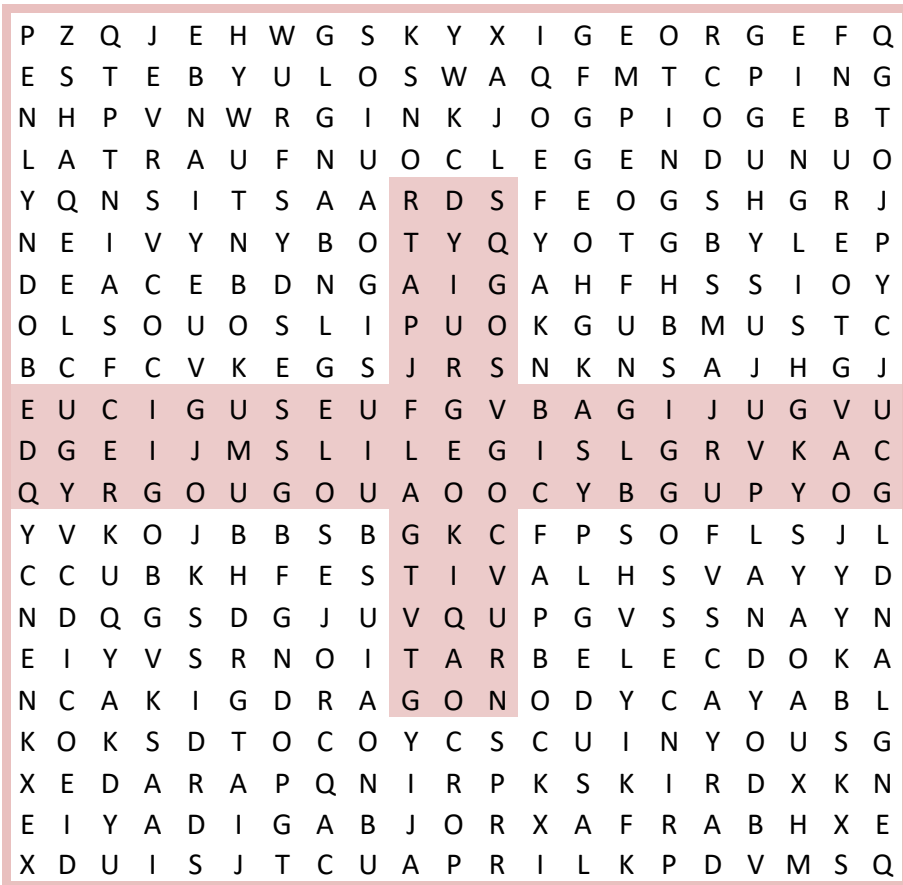
In the Autumn there will be a "Newsletter workshop" at which representatives of U3As in the region will be getting together to share ideas and best practice.

Please contact me if you are interested in attending any of the above events as places are limited.

Chris Woolven (YAHR Regional Representative)

April Puzzle Page

St George's Day Wordsearch



One of the words listed below does not appear in the word search above. Can you work out which word it is?

Spring, Festival, April, Patron, Saint, George, England, Shield, National, Day, Parade, Celebration, Legend, Dragon, Princess, English, Flag



Puzzle designed by Chris Woolven

Answer to last month's puzzle:

Onerous, Liberated, Delphi, Hibernate, Admonish, Balalaika, Incisor, Timid



Welcome to the April & May culture page

Just a few ideas for up and coming things you may like to do.

Cast Doncaster

Tuesday 11th to Thursday 13th May – The Empty Nest Club

Sunday 7th May- The Searchers

Monday 8th to Saturday 13th May - The Woman in Black

Call 01302 303959 or visit <https://castindoncaster.com/whatson>

Sheffield City Hall

Saturday 8th April – Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th May – Singing in the Rain

Call - 0114 2789789 or visit www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk

Sheffield Lyceum

Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22nd April – Jane Eyre

Monday 24th to Saturday 29th April – Shirley Valentine

Call 0114 2496000 or visit - www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

Sheffield Crucible

Thursday 18th May to Saturday 10th June – William Shakespeare's

JULIUS CAESAR

Call 0114 2496000 or visit - www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

Conisbrough Castle

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May – Medieval Life

Call 01709 863329 or visit

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-castle>

Bawtry Phoenix Theatre

April 18th - 19th Hambledon Productions presents a touring production of

Ray Galton and Alan Simpson's STEPTOE AND SON,

Visit - www.hambledonproductions.com

May 13th - 20th 2017 '**Quartet**' by Ronald Harwood

Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred reside in a home for retired opera singers. Each year there is a concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday. Jean, who used to be married to Reggie, arrives at the home and disrupts their equilibrium. She still acts like a diva and refuses to sing. But the show must go on in this funny and poignant play.

Call – 01302 710825 or visit www.bawtrytheatre.co.uk

Sprotbrough Music Society

Present - Prince Bishop Brass Ensemble at St Mary's Church.
Thursday 20th April 7.30pm

Visit – <http://sprotbrough-music-society.co.uk>

Rotherham Civic Theatre

Tuesday 4th to Saturday 8th April – White Christmas
Wednesday 17th May – The Johnny Cash Roadshow
Call - 01709 823621 or visit www.rotherhamtheatres.co.uk

Vue Doncaster

Release date 22nd April – Eugene Onegin – Met Opera
Release date 13th May – Der Rosenkavalier – Met Opera
Visit - www.myvue.co/home/cinema/doncaster for all listings

Hope you find something you like.
Jess Parkinson

DU3A Website: Change of website address

Site Builder is the website that supports the Doncaster U3A Website. Site Builder is making browsing on the web more secure and has made changes to our website address. Please note a change of address for the web address for DU3A, and to avoid any confusion **never** use the **www** prefix.

It used to be <http://www.u3asites.org.uk/doncaster>

You should now use <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster>

You should now notice a small padlock alongside the web address.

Using HTTPS provides a reasonable guarantee to our website visitors that they are communicating with our actual U3A website and not some other site that is pretending to be a U3A Site Builder website.

B Thompson

Sunday Lunch

Georgian Tearooms - 23rd April

Prices are: £14.95 for 2 courses;
£17.95 for 3 courses;
Tea/Coffee included

Menus will be available from Monday 3rd until Sunday 9th April.

Danum Hotel - 14th May

Prices are: £13.95 for 2 courses; £16.95 for 3 courses;
Tea/Coffee extra

Menus will be available from Monday 1st until Sunday 7th May.

Please contact me to choose from the menu or to let me know if you are unable to be present at the lunch.

Eileen Dickson



EARLY MEMORIES OF BAD WEATHER

I have three recollections of really bad weather. The first was when I was 10 years old in 1963. We lived just outside Honiton in Devon on a static caravan site in a large blue caravan with a large Georgian window at the front. The family woke up to a scene from a Christmas card. When mum opened all the curtains all we could see was white.

The van had a side door from the living room and a back door from the kitchen. The snow had drifted from the back and side of the van where the doors were and we were completely snowed in. We weren't the only ones. All around us were caravans half covered in snow. Our toilet was outside in a shed which stood at the back of the van. This was also under several feet of drifted snow.

I don't remember how long it took to get us out but everyone rallied and eventually everyone was freed. My brother and I couldn't wait to get out into the snow but because I had a cold, only my brother was allowed out. Sulking wasn't tolerated so I just had to sit and watch my brother and the other children having a whale of a time.



I didn't need to worry as the snow lingered for what seemed like a life time. My best friend was Lorrain and she lived in the farm with her family who owned our caravan site. We were the same age and went to school together and I had some amazing adventures on and around that farm but that's a story for another day. Lorrain had two older sisters and a brother who must have been in his teens and once I was allowed out, we all went off to

the lane. The lane was the entrance for the farm and caravan site from the main road.

On one side of the lane was a narrow stream but the snow had drifted so high on that side of the road it was impossible to distinguish where the lane ended and the verge began. We spent our time throwing ourselves into the drifted snow, it was such good fun. This carried on until Lorain's brother completely disappeared. Once our panic had passed because we could hear laughter, we all crowded in to help him out. He'd gone right through the drift into the small stream below. That was the end of that game, at least for a while because it was off for a warm drink and get dried.

I have copied a picture from the internet but I remember cars being so covered that all you could see was a small patch of the roofs and in some cases buried completely. Even road signs only had the very tops peeking out. I looked on the internet to find dates and on 29 and 30 December 1962 a blizzard swept across the South West of England and Wales. Snow drifted to over 20 feet (6.1 m) deep in places, driven on by gale force easterly winds, it blocking roads and railways. The snow stranded villagers and brought down powerlines. The near-freezing temperatures meant that the snow cover lasted for over two months in some areas. Snow lay to 6 inches (0.15 m) deep. With an average temperature of -2.1°C (28.2°F), January 1963 remains the coldest month since January 1814 over Central England. Much of England and Wales was

snow-covered throughout the month. The country started to freeze solid, with temperatures as low as -19.4°C (-2.9°F) and freezing fog was a hazard for most of the country. Even the sea froze over in some places.

Once the initial excitement of the first few days had passed the drudgery kicked in. It was so cold it's hard for me to remember now. Trying to keep a caravan warm in those temperatures was nigh on impossible. We must have gone through bottle after bottle of calor gas, which on occasions froze in the bottle. My dad worked outside as a borough surveyor and as the ground was frozen solid he couldn't work. It must have been a terrible time for them financially but as a 10 year old I didn't know that.

Everything became a chore. The two miles or so walking into Honiton and back every day for school was cold to say the least. Shopping was the same, everything had to be brought from Honiton. We only had wellies in those days and in the days before the snow was cleared or impacted it soon came over the top of said wellies. It wasn't long before I had chilblains. I cried a lot and I remember how painful and uncomfortable they were. However, my lasting memory would have to be the beauty of it all. Until the thaw came and the slush.

Jess Parkinson (Living History Group)

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Welcome

**Elaine Beasley-White, June Bolter,
Julia Farthing, Richard Farthing,
Eileen Johnston**

"To commemorate Vera Lynn's 100th birthday Doncaster Deaf Trust are organising a vintage show starring Susan St Nicholas from Sheffield who will give her personal tribute to Vera Lynn & Doris Day. Susan specialises in themed shows and will wear appropriate uniform/costumes. The show will be held in Eastfield Restaurant at the Deaf Trust premises on Leger Way (opposite the racecourse) on Thursday 18th May 2017 from 5.30 pm for 6.00 pm and it is planned to finish around 8.00 pm.

Tickets are £10, including a 2 course supper (vegetarian option available if notified in advance) in the interval. In the meantime, tickets can be obtained from John Weston at the General Meeting or from the Deaf Trust reception. The Bar will be open. Any surplus will go towards completing the sensory garden project.

Sit back, Relax and Enjoy"

Many thanks

John Weston



APPEARING HERE:

Eastfield Restaurant, Doncaster Deaf Trust
Thursday 18th May 2017
5.30 pm for 6.00 pm

SUSAN ST NICHOLAS
"Cabaret Vocalist"



Her personal tribute to
Vera Lynn & Doris Day

£10 inc. 2 course supper

Tickets available from
John Weston
07708 165100
OR
Doncaster Deaf Trust
Reception

Citizen's Advice Bureau

A new CAB office has opened in Doncaster town centre - Old Guildhall Yard, French Gate, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN1 1QW.

An Owl Colouring Book

Further to my article about Maureen Fisher's Owl drawings a couple of months ago, she has let me know that she has now published a colouring book for adults and older children. There are about 20 drawings in it. The paper can take watercolours, gel pens and coloured pencils.

This book will be on sale in April locally at Scicluna's Delicatessen on the market side of the Premier Inn when she also has a solo exhibition there.

Maureen is at present working on another book, which will have more open patterns so it can be used by younger children.

Wendy Hattrell



Contact Numbers

DU3A Committee Members

Chair:	George Kirk
Vice Chair:	Wendy Hattrell
Secretary :	Diane Harris
Treasurer :	Beryl Kellett
Membership Secretary:	Jill Laming
Group Co-ordinator:	Monica Dawson
Welfare:	Carole Lewis
Newsletter Editor :	Bridget Thompson
Website Manager :	Bridget Thompson
	Chris Woolven
	Mike Bowser:
	John Parkinson:

Help the environment and save money by receiving
the email version of the DU3A newsletters.

Prego Café

We would like to thank our friends at the Prego Café for their help over the past year. Not only is the tea, coffee and food excellent, but the free use of the upstairs room for meetings has been a great help to many of our groups. If you haven't been there yet, give it a try!

Monks Printers

We are grateful to Monks the Printers for their help in printing this newsletter.

Deadline

Thank-you to all the members who have sent articles for this issue.

Articles for the **June/July** newsletter need to be received by
Wednesday 26th April.

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc. to
du3anewsletterbmt@btinternet.com.

DU3A Website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster>

Visit the DU3A website for information about all the current interest groups, latest news/notices, membership information, meetings, social events, monthly calendars and newsletters, help/advice links, links to regional and national u3a and more.....



