

# DONCASTER



Registered Charity No. 1074577



**April - May 2018**

# From the Chair



As March approaches and the seasons change from winter to spring, and the trees begin to show some colour, so our interests begin to change from mainly indoor activities to fresh air pursuits. The clocks will soon be changed and the lighter nights and brighter weather will give us a more positive outlook on life as we look forward to planning our holidays at home or abroad.

Your committee here at DU3A are always endeavouring to work on your behalf in the hope that we can help to develop more diverse interest groups being initiated by the membership. Each group that is independently set up will hopefully bring together a band of like-minded enthusiasts who will enjoy spending some time together indulging in similar interests. With our membership now over 380, we are anticipating news of a number of new interests being developed. One such new group is Country Dancing, with a Scottish flavour. You can read more about this group later in this edition.

Changes are also being seen in U3As throughout the country. The National Office has moved its location to South East London. There is a new National Chief Executive Officer who no doubt will bring new energies and perspective to the Third Age Trust. Already we are seeing changes to the administration systems that we are being asked to follow. One of them is for all U3As nationwide to consider a small but vital change to their constitutions. This advice has been arrived at after consultation with the Charity Commission, and will enable all U3As to continue their activities, conforming to the legal aspects of being a registered charity. We will be asking you, the membership, to vote on this issue at our AGM.

Further changes are afoot here at DU3A. At our AGM we are looking to fill some committee posts that will become vacant. These include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and four other positions on the Executive Committee. These have come about as some current members have reached the end of their elected term, and others wish to stand down for personal reasons. Whatever the case, we are looking to welcome some new faces and personalities. We meet once a month, working on behalf of our members.

Please remember that the AGM is now on Monday May 21st. The meeting on April 16th will now be a talk on the Sand House.

This is the last edition of the newsletter before the end of this year's planned activities. Please contact any member of the committee if you wish to make any comments about your experiences of this year, and if you have any suggestions to be considered in preparation for the next twelve months. Above all, please find a way of sharing with others your life's experiences, as we all seek to Learn, Laugh, and Live together.

*George Kirk.*

## CHANGE OF DATE

The AGM will now be held on Monday 21st May.

See the Agenda on page 4

Richard Bell will now talk about 'The Sand House' at the General Meeting on Monday 16th April.



### **A warm welcome to our new members:**

Yvonne Aspinall, Kathryn Burnage, Jan Campbell, Robert Couper, Nicky Dixon, Jane Dobinson, Joan Fagg, Linda Farmer, Madeleine Floy, Errol Guest, Audrey Hamilton, David Harmer, Paula Harmer, Davina Hughes, Simon Hughes, Jackie Lewis, Margaret Loughran, Derek Marriott, Pat Marriott, Andy Martin, Linda Martin, Pam McIntosh, David Morley, Georgina Newman, Peter Oliver, Tony Packer, Frances Paddock, Marie Parrish, William Robinson, Margaret Rusling, Pauline Spree, Hilary White, Nancy Wilde.

## **Sunday Lunch**

**GEORGIAN TEAROOMS - 29th April** at 1.00 p.m.

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

Menu available from Monday 16th until Monday 23rd April. Please contact me to choose from the menu or to let me know if you are unable to attend this lunch.

**REGENT HOTEL - 20th May** at 1.00 p.m.

Prices are: 2 courses: £12.50  
3 courses: £14.50  
Tea/Coffee extra  
£1 extra for salmon

Menu available from 7th to 14th May. Please contact me to choose from the menu. Let me know if you are unable to attend this lunch.

*Eileen Dickson*

**Doncaster U3A Annual General Meeting**  
**21st May 2018**  
**Venue – Trades Club – 1.30 p.m.**  
**AGENDA**

- 1 Minutes of AGM 19 April 2017
- 2 Minutes of SGM 16 October 2017
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Secretary's Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report and appointment of Auditor
- 7 Group Co-ordinators' Report
- 8 Adoption of Reports
- 9 Election of Members of the Executive Committee  
Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary  
Other members of the Executive Committee - up to 4

**10 Resolution concerning a new Object Clause in Section 3 of the DU3A Constitution.**

*This new wording has been sent to all 1000+ U3As from the Third Age Trust at U3A Headquarters, after consultation with the Charity Commission with the recommendation that it be adopted by U3As as part of their constitution.*

**The Executive Committee asks the membership to agree to the replacement of the current Charitable Purposes from the DU3A constitution:**

- i to advance education and in particular the education of people not normally in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age (being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility) residing in Doncaster and its surrounding locality.
- ii the provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.

**with the wording:**

*the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.*

- 11 Close of Meeting

**Open Meeting**

- 1 Notices
- 2 General discussion: Feedback: 2017-18  
Planning: 2018-19

## Reports from General Meetings:

Most work is a routine and if that routine suits our aptitude, we enjoy it and happily get through to retirement.

Our speaker in **January**, Mike Atherton, recalled his life in the British Army, where he became the first Trauma specialist in the Service. Serendipity is a word that I like to apply where changes in life have come about, not through planning but by accident, being in the right place at the right time and seizing opportunities that have presented themselves. World Politics dictated that a number of theatres of war from The Falklands to Iraq involved our Services and Mike was in the Medical thick of it. His story was fascinating and his natural wit kept us all rapt with interest.



**February** saw Neil McGregor, Assistant Manager (Exhibitions, Art and Outreach) at Doncaster Art Gallery and Museum illustrating the changes in the town recorded in drawings and paintings. Before WW1 Doncaster was a small market town on the A1 road, linking London and Edinburgh, with 10 coaching inns at its centre and 12 stately estates around the perimeter. Whilst the town was affected by the Victorian Industrial Revolution, it was the development of industry and therefore housing which powered the expansion from 1918 up to the 1970's. The Racecourse along with grand facilities of the Mansion House and the Noble Estates with their house parties made the town a meeting place for High Society. There were comparatively few paintings recording industry. He showed a couple portraying a smoky view of the Yorkshire Main Colliery, Edlington and a delightful painting of two famous steam locomotives being repainted ready for fast rail services at The Plant. In closing, Neil invited us to arrange parties to visit the Gallery along with the Archives.



*David Allen*

## Forthcoming General Meetings

- 16 April 2018: Speaker: Richard Bell: Topic: The Sand House
- 21 May 2018: Annual General Meeting
- 18 June 2018: Speaker: Ann Featherstone:  
Topic: Music Hall: singers & dancers
- 16 July 2018: Speaker: Maureen Taylor:  
Topic: Bess of Hardwick a woman of many parts



# GROUPS - UPDATES/NOTICES

## ◆◆◆◆ DINING OUT ◆◆◆◆

The April meeting of the Dining Out group will be held at El Toro, a Spanish restaurant on Nether Hall Rd on Tuesday 10th April. The meal will be a selection of tapas at a price of £14.95 per head and the food will initially be served at the table with a further selection available, if required. The Tapas menu is online or can be seen at the drop-in session at the Trades and Labour Club between 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. on a Saturday. As usual the time will be 6.30 p.m. for 7pm.

Please forward your cheque made payable to DU3A no.2 Account to either Carole Lewis or Joan Condron by 27th March at the latest or contact Carole or Joan for further information. (See inside the back page for contact numbers).

Carole and Joan

## ◆◆◆◆ TENPIN BOWLING ◆◆◆◆

Did you know that Tuesday 20th March is the Vernal (Spring) Equinox? No? Well more importantly did you know that it is our next Ten Pin Bowling session?

Mike Bowser

## ◆◆◆◆ GERMAN ◆◆◆◆

From March we are now having an extra session a month. In addition to meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, we will also meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month, again at 1.00 p.m. at Prego.

Monica Dawson

## ◆◆◆◆ DISCUSSION ◆◆◆◆

The Discussion Group now meets at the Red Lion. The group is now almost full so anyone interested in joining us should first ring me or Jack Chantry. (See inside the back page for contact numbers).

Linda Simpson

## ◆◆◆◆ FREE FIRST AID COURSE ◆◆◆◆

We have been contacted by the Red Cross who are offering to deliver a First Aid course specifically for the over-65s entitled "Slips, Trips and Falls". This course also covers diabetes and how to help a stroke victim.

The course will run on Tuesday June 12th from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. If you would like to reserve a place, please contact Beryl Kellett. (See inside the back page for contact numbers).

# Applied Criminology

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, 25 members of the Applied Criminology group attended the Regent Hotel for a presentation called '**An Audience with CSI**'. It was very professionally delivered by **Leisa Nichols Drew** BSc MSc PGCertHE MCSFS MFS ABILD MITOL FHEA and **Sue Proctor** from a company called '**Think Forensic**'. Both ladies are experts in the field of Forensic Science with Leisa touring the world lecturing in her specialisms of fingerprint analysis and body fluids.



For two hours the group members were enthralled by the revelations that the two ladies presented about Forensic Science in the area of criminality. The subject is vast and it was only possible to scratch the surface, but topics ranged from DNA, fingerprints and fingerprint analysis, (see left) how to differentiate between the skeleton of a man and a woman, forensic entomology, i.e. how to ascertain the time of death from the 'bugs' found on or in a body.

We hope to take up their invitation later in the year to visit their premises near Huddersfield where a full range of exhibits, including a 'blood pattern' room, are available together with microscopes and other scientific equipment. It promises to be a 'hands on' experience and one to which we are looking forward.

*Peter Gospel*

(There are more photographs on the DU3A website—Applied Criminology group page)

## Scottish Country Dancing

This is a new weekly activity, 10 a.m. every Friday in school terms - run by members Nicky Dixon and Geoff Tagg. The first 5 sessions have averaged around 20 members each time, which is good - but we hope it will grow to 30 plus - so do feel free to get in touch. Around half of the members come with a partner, and half solo - it makes no difference as we dance in sets, rather than just with a partner. The dancing is similar to English country dancing, very sociable (The Gay Gordons, anyone?!) - and we try to help out anyone who feels dancing is not their top skill - just ask George Kirk or David Allen! And of course, as well as being good fun, it's a good way to get a little fitter.



*Geoff Tagg*

# Dining Out



The latest outing of the Dining Out group was to Villas Romana on Nether Hall Road on Tuesday 13th February. The

service was very prompt and efficient by charming and helpful staff which made for a very pleasant evening and the food was plentiful and delicious.

*Joan Condron*

# Tenpin Bowling



At our January session we had a special presentation for our 2017 overall winners - for the Guys - George Kirk and the Ladies - Jill Laming. So well done to them. Our winners on the day were Ron and Carol. So if you want to be in with the winners put a spring in your step and join us at 3 p.m. on the 20th March and maybe have a bite together after. See you there.

*Michael Bowser*



# Writers

Do you enjoy writing? Do you like playing with words? If so, why not come along to the Writers' group. We're a friendly, informal group who love all aspects of writing. We meet at the Central Library every other Thursday morning. If you're interested please contact me.

*Chris Short*



# Striders

The new year started with a Striders trip to Clumber Park. Nine hardy souls prepared for the worst of January weather but were rewarded with blue skies and almost double figure temperatures.

Starting off from Hardwick village, we walked around the lake to enjoy a coffee in the cafe before setting off for Thoresby via the old bridge and walking through woods and fields. Along the way we saw a pair of goosanders on the lake and were then treated to a pair of buzzards hunting over farmland. (Good birdwatchers always have trusty bins around the neck)



Luckily Wendy had pre-booked seats in a delightful cafe which was well packed when we arrived. A variety of freshly cooked food was enjoyed and the chance taken to shed a few outer layers ready for the walk back.

Suitably recharged we set out for the return leg initially retracing our steps before taking a right fork and arriving back at Hardwick via the ford. A quick check of my Fitbit revealed a personal record of over 22 thousand steps which equated to about 9 miles.



It was particularly interesting to walk in parts of the park we were not familiar with as we have tended to do the same route most visits.

*Lynne & Ray Harrison*

*If members would like to walk with Striders but don't have a car we would try where possible to offer lifts. Please ask Diane or Wendy to put you on the list so you get the walk information sent to you.*

# Play-reading

This new group has got off to a flying start - the first twelve places filled quickly, and we now have a waiting list. The first two plays were "Blithe Spirit" by Oscar Wilde, then "Grapes of Wrath", an adaptation of the novel by John Steinbeck - both enthusiastically received. There is an option to move to two groups, especially if someone would volunteer to assist as group leader (not too demanding, as I would arrange the books and location - the leader would just need to be there on the day to hand out roles etc.). Meanwhile, any member interested is welcome to contact me to get on to the waiting list.



*Geoff Tagg*

## THE VIRGIN QUEEN

On Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 the History group met to explore and discuss “Elizabeth I’s love life. Was she really a ‘Virgin Queen?’”

Over many years countless books, novels, plays and films have depicted Elizabeth I’s relationships with figures such as Robert Dudley, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex and the Duke of Anjou. Rumours about her love life circulated throughout her reign. Some hostile (foreign/Catholic) observers named her ‘the whore of Europe’.

Within days of her accession, rumours spread about her relationship with Robert Dudley. He was appointed ‘Master of the Horse’ which guaranteed daily contact with Elizabeth. The Spanish ambassador reported to the King of Spain that ‘Lord Robert is in such favour he does whatever he likes and her Majesty visits him in his chamber day *and night*’. When Dudley’s wife, Amy Robsart, was found at the bottom of a staircase with a broken neck, speculation was rife as to what involvement the Queen and Dudley had in her death. Nevertheless, their relationship continued but the possibility of marriage was ruled out.



*Robert Dudley*

Meanwhile, her councillors determined to secure a favourable marriage as a means of consolidating England’s position in Europe and to provide an heir to succeed her. Suitors included Phillip II of Spain, Erik XIV of Sweden, Archduke Ferdinand and Charles of Austria. None found favour with Elizabeth. Meanwhile, whilst foreign negotiations continued, Elizabeth enjoyed the attention of many young male courtiers, all of whom flirted their way into her favour. But Robert Dudley remained the first and arguably her only love. Councillors still attempted to form a match for Elizabeth.



*Francois, Duke of Anjou*

In the autumn of 1578, Elizabeth welcomed at court Francois, the Duke of Anjou, brother of the king of France. He was considered a possible, suitable husband for her. However, the match was not ideal. Anjou was 26, whilst Elizabeth was in her early forties. He was a Catholic, heavily pock-marked and rumoured to be a transvestite. Elizabeth called him her ‘little frog’. After a few weeks Anjou returned to France and negotiations appeared to falter in the face of public opposition to the match. But Elizabeth declared, in public, that she did intend to marry him. But overnight she announced that she had had second thoughts and would not marry him. With the failure of the French match, hopes that Elizabeth would marry came to an end.

As she grew older she continued to seek the attention of her male courtiers. Her last flirtation was with Robert Devereux, the young Earl of Essex. He too soon became ‘Master of the Horse’ and moved into the palace. Elizabeth was never

swept away by her emotions and she never lost a keen sense of political reality. In 1601, there appeared to be an attempted coup against her by Robert Devereux and others. Elizabeth ordered his and other conspirator's execution.

In 1603, almost 70 and unmarried, Elizabeth died. Her death served only to continue speculation as to her private life. There was a growing sense that her private feelings and affairs had compromised the integrity of her rule. Nevertheless, most historians look beyond her private liaisons and agree that her reign heralded in 'a golden age' for England.



*Robert Devereux*

*Jean Graville-King*

## Strollers

On a cold but sunny day, the Strollers set off from the Hatfield Chace pub, after pre-ordering lunch. A record 32 members walked to the bridle path behind the pub and continued into Dunsville and the Quarry Park, which is just off the main road.

The park is well maintained by volunteers with spring bulbs just coming up, but we were a little early to see all but the snowdrops. We walked through a wooded area leading to the perimeter



and then back to an open area and the outdoor gym equipment. The park is well used by dog walkers but also a tranquil place to just hear the birds.

We came back via the path that crossed Broadway, the main road through Dunsville, and back to the Hatfield Chace where our pre-ordered lunches were soon served to our very long, reserved table.

*Allen Whittaker*

### Dates for your Diary:

### DONCASTER HERITAGE FESTIVAL: 28th APRIL - 13th MAY

For more details go to:

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/culture-leisure-tourism/doncaster-heritage-festival>

### TOUR DE YORKSHIRE: 3rd - 4th MAY

3rd May: passing through Fishlake, Stainforth, Hatfield, Auckley, Bessacarr, and finishing in Doncaster.

4th May: passing through Hooton Roberts, Conisbrough, Denaby Main, Mexborough, Adwick-upon-Deerne, Harlington, Barnburgh, and Hooton Pagnell.

<https://letour.yorkshire.com/the-latest/full-route-for-2018-tour-de-yorkshire-announced>

The **Writers** group have been writing about some of the irritations of daily life.

## Irritations

As my age increases I find my tolerance levels and patience are decreasing. When I look around at life today there is so much that not only irritates me, but saddens me as well. The march of progress seems to be leaving so many people behind. There is a general assumption that everyone has, or has access to, a computer and is computer-literate. Many are penalised by it in so many ways. Those who can least afford it often end up paying more not just for utility services but all kinds of goods and services that are cheaper when bought online.



I have a computer and I find it a useful tool but to many it isn't a tool, it's become a dominant feature of their lives. Social media with its 'tweets', its 'friends' and its 'likes' and 'dislikes' is alien to me. It all seems a trivial waste of time, especially for the young who should be getting out and doing things and making real friends; friends they'd actually recognise if they saw them. It saddens me when I see young people on their phones in a family group and not taking part in the conversation. It irritates me that their parents do nothing about it.



Another thing that irritates me is the reduction of the English alphabet to twenty-five letters. I miss hearing the letter 't'. It's hardly used now. The 'g' at the end of words also seems to be fading.

I don't know where to go next in my irritations' list. I know – celebrities! What are they? I go to the hairdresser's and am presented with 'Hello' magazine to read. I see articles and pictures about people who wear gorgeous clothes and live in fabulous houses, but I don't know who they are! I see names in television listings for 'celebrity' programmes – they don't mean a thing. When I was young – here I go! - people were famous for their achievements or special talents. Singers could sing, actors spoke clearly so you could hear them and comedians were funny without shouting or swearing.

Adverts! Well what can one say? The majority of them seem to be intended for people with the intelligence and concentration span of a carrot. I record most programmes I watch on ITV so that I can skip them. Some adverts are, I admit, clever and some are amusing. The ones I dislike are the ones that imply that if you don't use a certain product, drive a particular car or enthuse over a mediocre take-away meal, you're one of life's losers.



What else irritates me? The audiences on live TV programmes. I can't stand the whistling, hooting and screeching. It sounds so false. I stopped watching 'Strictly Come Dancing' for that reason. The final straw was when the cheering for the dancers drowned out Andrea Bocelli's singing.



I could go on, but I must finish, I'm depressing myself. If I look out of my window I can see the snowdrops and crocuses and the one narcissus that's out. Spring is on its way. There! I've managed to end on a positive, not so grumpy old woman note.

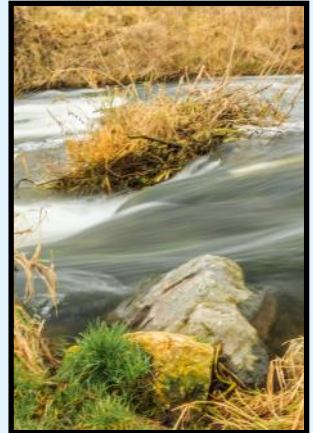
Chris Short - Writers Group



?? COULD CHRIS BE A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR BBC's 'ROOM 101' ??



I hope the illustrations do not add to the irritation!



On a frosty, murky February morning the [Love of Nature](#) group visited Idle Valley Nature Reserve, near Retford.

Photos by Terry Gunnill, Eileen Johnston and Diane Woolven.



# PUZZLE PAGE

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

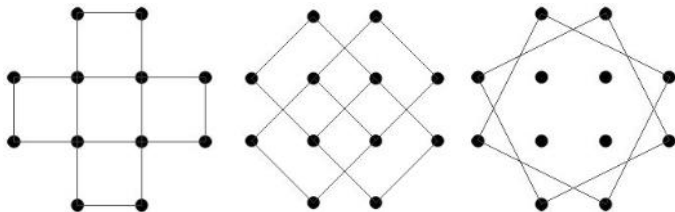
## CLUES

- |    |                  |                    |              |
|----|------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. | A confused mass; | Corner;            | Country road |
| 2. | Fashioned;       | Digging tool;      | Hastened     |
| 3. | Mountainous;     | Not fancy;         | Suffering    |
| 4. | Rubbish;         | 1000cc;            | Grow weary   |
| 5. | Hired;           | City in Yorkshire; | Sleigh       |

- ◆ Three clues are given against each number.
- ◆ The answer to the first clue is a 6-letter word and should be entered in Column B.
- ◆ The answer to the second clue is a 5-letter word and is an anagram of the answer to the first clue less one letter. Enter the answer to the second clue in column C and enter the unused letter in column A.
- ◆ The answer to the third clue is a 4-letter word and is an anagram of the answer to the second clue less one letter. Enter the answer to the third clue in column D and enter the unused letter in column E.
- ◆ If you have got the correct answers you will find that reading down columns A and E gives a 3-word phrase.

## Solutions to February/March's puzzles

**ANSWER:** There are 5 small squares, 4 medium squares, and 2 large squares as shown below:



**ANSWER:** Here is one possible solution:



**ANSWER:** Six squares of the same size can be formed.



## **Welcome to the April/May - culture page**

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

### **The Dome**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Illegal Eagles - tribute band  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Aurora Fashion Extravaganza – cancer charity  
Call 01302 370777 or visit <https://www.dclt.co.uk/whats-on>

### **Cast**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Seven Drunken Nights – Dubliners tribute  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April -The Scary Bikers  
– a John Godber play  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Spamalot  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Walk Right Back – Everly Brothers tribute  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Simon and Garfunkel tribute  
Call 01302 303959 or visit  
<https://www.castindoncaster.com/Pages/Events/Category/whats-on>

### **Hall Cross Lower School**

SIMPLY VOICES – Singing for The Grace appeal DRI maternity unit  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April Doors open 7:15 - £6 per Ticket  
Contact Jess for further details – 01302 539628

### **Sheffield Lyceum**

1<sup>st</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> May - the Rat Pack  
19<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> June - Jersey Boys  
Call 0114 2496000 or visit <https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/whats-on>

### **Sheffield City Hall**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Chitty Chitty Bang Bang  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – An evening with Alexander Armstrong  
Call 0114 2789789 or visit [www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk)

### **The Little Theatre**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Bouncers - a John Godber play  
Call - 01302 340422 or visit [DoncasterLittleTheatre.co.uk](http://DoncasterLittleTheatre.co.uk)

Hope you find something to enjoy.  
Jess Parkinson



## **Admin Matters**

The Third Age Trust's new Chief Executive, Sam Mauger, is finding her feet! Those of you who use the National U3A website will have noticed it has been redesigned and now looks sleeker and more attractive. Committee members have relied on the website for its downloadable advice sheets and these have been reorganised and rewritten in many cases.

Sam has also had discussions with the Charity Commission clarifying what has previously been a grey area and one has been discussed by the DU3A committee in the past - should our financial returns to the Charity Commission include group finances? The answer now is a definite yes.

Groups Leaders already complete a return annually, including finances. This will now have to be included in the overall income and expenditure accounts for DU3A. We will offer assistance to groups if it is needed.

You may already know that the Data Protection act is changing in May. This will also have implications for us. As an example, photos of members included in the newsletter will need explicit permission for the photos to be published. Implied permission will no longer suffice. The easiest way round this is to ask all members to sign a form giving permission for photographs to be used. We also need to ensure you all know what we do with the data we collect - name, address, phone and email, how we keep it safe and how long we keep it. Thankfully we don't keep any sensitive data like date of birth or medical information.

George and I recently attended a workshop in Leeds entitled 'Keeping it Legal'. As well as Data Protection there were seminars on insurance, safeguarding and equal opportunities. The DU3A admin sub group has met to consider these issues and the policies to recommend. Just before Christmas there was a 7-page document on Finance issued by the Third Age Trust. We have also discussed this and what it means for DU3A.

We live in interesting times! The aim of the committee is to put the necessary systems in place to cope with these changes while minimising disruption as much as possible. If you are asked to do things slightly differently you can be sure it is for a good reason.

If you feel you would like to contribute to these discussions, options exist to co-opt additional committee members as necessary. Contact me or Beryl Kellett.

*Wendy Hattrell*

# A few National Awareness Days to consider:



## March

National Bed Month

- 2 National Old Stuff Day
- 5 British Pie Week
- 20 International Day of Happiness
- 29 Wear a Hat Day
- 31 NSPCC Big Board Game Day

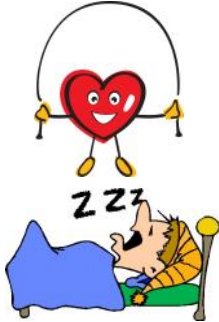


## April

National Pet Month

Mathematics Awareness Month

- 7 International Pillow Fight Day
- 21 National Tea Day
- 22 International Mother Earth Day
- 23 St. George's Day
- 23 National Skipping Day
- 23 National Stop Snoring Week
- 25 World Penguin Day
- 26 National Richter Scale Day
- 29 International Dance Day
- 30 National Gardening Week
- 30 International Jazz Day



## May

National Walking Month

National Share a Story Month

Local Community and History Month

- 3 Tour de Yorkshire (to 6th)
- 5 Save Lives, Clean your Hands Day
- 7 International Dawn Chorus Day
- 8 Donkey Week
- 9 National Lost Sock Day
- 11 World Ego Awareness Day
- 11 Eat what you want Day
- 12 National Doughnut Week
- 12 National Limerick Day
- 13 National Children's Day
- 14 British Sandwich Week
- 14 National Vegetarian Week
- 15 International Day of Families
- 15 National Smile Month
- 18 Great British Fish and Chip Supper
- 18 International Museums Day
- 22 British Tomato Week
- 23 World Turtle Day
- 29 Oak Apple Day



For more go to: <https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/list>

Regional Study Day



## Iron, Coal and Bricks The Industrial Archaeology of Bradford

Monday 14th May 2018

Bradford Club, Bradford

1 Piece Hall Yard, Bradford BD1 1PJ

**10.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.**

Doors open from 10.00 a.m. for registration and coffee.

Suitable for anyone who would like to know more about Bradford's industrial heyday. Useful tools for Industrial Archaeology projects in your own area will be discussed.

Presented by

Derek Barker

YAHR Summer School Tutor and independent community archaeologist

Bradford guest speaker

Members of the Bradford Archaeology & Geology Group

**Cost £26**

Includes lunch and refreshments, payable in advance.

**Any interested U3A member can apply.**

To Register: Send a cheque for £26.00 made out to

'U3A Yorkshire & Humber Region' to: -

Hazel Ward, YAHR Secretary, 361 Bricknell Ave, Hull, HU5 4TN

Please include your email address\*, your U3A and any special dietary or access requirements.

\*Note that when you supply an email address we will use it to let you know about YAHR events and activities. You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting [secretary@yahrU3A.co.uk](mailto:secretary@yahrU3A.co.uk)

**For enquiries about registration:** Please email [secretary@yahru3a.co.uk](mailto:secretary@yahru3a.co.uk) or write if you are a non-internet user.

For map and directions to the venue, please access [yahru3a.co.uk](http://yahru3a.co.uk) and go to Events.



## **2018 NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOLS**

The Third Age Trust are running 2 Summer schools in 2018.  
Bookings are now open for both of them.

### **Summer School 1:** **Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire**

Monday 23rd July to Thursday 26th July

- ◆ Crosswords - Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners
- ◆ France - Regards sur la France actuelle
- ◆ Garden History - Influential Women Gardeners in English History
- ◆ Literature/Philosophy - Brothers in Arms - William & Henry James
- ◆ Mathematics - The Unexpected Pleasures of Counting
- ◆ Opera - Shakespeare's Opera Giants - Othello and Falstaff
- ◆ Play Ukulele
- ◆ Recorder Ensemble Playing - Making Music
- ◆ Spanish History - From Moors to Conquistadors: Spain 711 to 1598

### **Summer School 2:** **Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester**

Tuesday 11th to Friday 14th September

- ◆ Art History - British Art Between Wars
- ◆ Music - Classic Albums of the 50s & 60s
- ◆ Creative Writing - Let's Write a Soap Opera
- ◆ Drama - Vengeance, Plague, Death, Confusion
- ◆ English Poetry - English Love Poetry
- ◆ History - The French Revolution of 1789-95
- ◆ Linguistics - Conversation Theory
- ◆ Language - Latin Remembered
- ◆ Musicals - Make Believe
- ◆ Singing - Singing for Pleasure

For full details on how to book and the courses on offer please visit  
<https://summer-schools.u3a.org.uk>  
or call National Office on 020 8466 6139

Cost: Residential Place - £325.00 Day Delegate - £110.00

## **'A Time to Remember'**

**Barnsley U3A** would like to invite members of Doncaster U3A to their  
**Spring School**

Thursday and Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May,  
at The Ibis Hotel, Barnsley.

Courses on offer:

- DNA and Forensic Science • Mixed Media Art
- Battle of Passchendaele • Charles Dickens—his life and writing
- Photoshop - is it Art? • Computing at your level • Music can be Fun
- Poetry Workshop • The Greek language and how it affects us • Cosmology.

The date for paying deposits has passed (15 March) but places may still be available. Contact Beth Rudkin, on 01226 241477 or [rudkinbeth@gmail.com](mailto:rudkinbeth@gmail.com) for more information.

For full details see 'SPRING SCHOOL' on the 'Events' page of the Doncaster U3A website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster/events>

## **April Fool's Day**

The origins of the day are uncertain.

Most people think it stems from Pope Gregory XIII. In 1582, he wanted his new Gregorian calendar to replace the old Julian Calendar. This called for New Year's Day to be celebrated on January 1st instead of the end of March. But some people apparently didn't get the memo and continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1st. These poor folk were made fun of and were sent on 'fools errands' for a laugh.

However, others think April Fool's Day stems from the age when people used to hold spring festivals marking the end of winter with 'mayhem and misrule', according to the Museum of Hoaxes. The Ancient Roman festival of Hilaria celebrated the resurrection of the god Attis and involved dressing in disguise. Many other cultures have held renewal festivals in Europe around April 1st and there are references to these dating back to the 1500s. What is clear though is that by the 1700s, the day of hilarity was well entrenched in Britain, and now April 1st is officially the most amusing day of the year.

The French call the day 'Poisson d'Avril', or 'April Fish'. French children will often tape a picture of a fish on to the back of their friends and wait for them to realise. This is also the case in Italy.

In Scotland, April Fool's Day used to be called Huntigowk Day – gowk being Scots for a cuckoo or a foolish person. Traditionally people were sent on a foolish errand to deliver a sealed message reading 'Dinna laugh, dinna smile. Hunt the gowk another mile'.

Do you remember:

### **Spaghetti harvest**

In 1957, the BBC broadcast a film on Panorama showing Swiss farmers picking freshly grown spaghetti, calling it the Swiss Spaghetti Harvest. The BBC was flooded with requests about the plant.

### **Smell-o-Vision**

In 1965, the BBC purported to conduct a trial of a new technology allowing the transmission of odour over the airwaves to all viewers. Many viewers reportedly contacted the BBC to report the trial's success.

### **Hair-Restoring Well**

In 1977, BBC's Nationwide news programme ran a segment about a well located on the farm of James Coatsworth in Rothbury, Northumberland. This well supposedly had the power to make hair grow on bald men's heads.

### **Flying Penguins**

In 2008, the BBC caught viewers out by running a video clip of flying penguins, claiming that the birds were flying to tropical rainforests in South America to escape the harsh Antarctic weather.

## **The role of the Greeter**

To many people entering a room of 80 or so complete strangers can be a highly stressful situation. If it can't be a familiar face, then we hope that it is a friendly welcoming face that they meet. That is our job as greeters.

To help newcomers through that first daunting experience, talking them through some of what the U3A is all about is the job of the greeter. After giving them a brief outline of what they can get from our organisation, we help them through the choices they have. We pass them on to our membership secretary where they take up one of the membership options.

Whenever possible, introductions are made to Group leaders when interest has been expressed by the new member. Full details of all the activities are outlined in the membership pack.

Every effort is made to make everyone feel welcome and the occasion enjoyable.

*Michael Bowser*

*If you would like to help please contact Mike.*

MAY I RECOMMEND:  Cleethorpes.

Step back in time to the 1950s. Harriets is a little time capsule of those times. Lace table cloths and doilies, little side tables for serving and a warm family atmosphere.

From snacks to roast dinners for less than a fiver and good old fashioned English puddings this is a place not to be missed on a trip to the coast. The give away is the number of locals who use this restaurant and are welcomed as old friends when they enter. So give the fish and chips a miss next time you visit the coast and try a blast from the past. Harriets is on the High Street opposite Wetherspoons.



*Mike Bowser*

## Clouds Counselling Service

Bereavement Counselling

For more information visit [www.cloudscounsellingservices.com](http://www.cloudscounsellingservices.com)

or phone our client line: 07962907053

Sally Chamberlain

## CONTACTING GROUP LEADERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In addition to the telephone numbers below, most Group Leaders can be contacted by clicking on the Blue Bird on their group page on the DU3A website. Go to: <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster> then click on the 'GROUP' tab. Go to the bottom of the group page and click on the group that you require. Click on the Blue Bird in the top right-hand corner and a form will open for you to write your message.

Committee members can be also be contacted via the DU3A website by opening the 'Contact' page and then selecting the appropriate member.

# Contact Numbers

## DU3A Committee Members

<b>Chair:</b>	George Kirk
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Wendy Hattrell
<b>Secretary :</b>	Beryl Kellett
<b>Treasurer :</b>	John Parkinson:
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Jill Laming
<b>Group Co-ordinators</b>	Diane Williams John Wheeler
<b>Welfare:</b>	Carole Lewis
<b>Newsletter Editor :</b>	Bridget Thompson <a href="mailto:bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com">bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Website Manager :</b>	Bridget Thompson
<b>Volunteers:</b>	Mike Bowser:
<b>Publicity:</b>	Mark Frost

## **Prego Café**

We would like to thank our friends at the Prego Café for their help over the past years. 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.

## **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.....

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

## **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 **Monday 30th April.**

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc. to [du3anewsletterbmt@btinternet.com](mailto:du3anewsletterbmt@btinternet.com)





