



DONCASTER U3A

April - May 2023

Registered Charity No. 1074577

From the Chair



A plan to set up a network of u3as within a locality which is geographically connected has been proposed. In Doncaster's case the network will certainly include other South Yorkshire and probably some north Lincolnshire u3as. Such successful networks already exist in other parts of Great Britain.

Their objective is to create a framework within which mutual growth can be achieved, aiming to raise the profile of the organisation, but not to add another layer of bureaucracy. On February 22nd I, as your Chair, our Vice Chair and Secretary attended an exploratory meeting of potential u3a members and we shall give a full report at the next Committee Meeting and encourage du3a, as a group, to participate. We shall report on its outcome in due course.

On a much more local level the call for prospective committee members for the forthcoming year is repeated here. Under the rules no committee member can serve for more than two years without re-election, so a healthy stream of new candidates is desirable. That is in no way to denigrate the work of the 2022/23 committee, whose commitment and ability to work as a team has been exemplary.

It is well known now that our monthly general meeting has had a name change. It is, from now on, to be known as a Members' Meeting. The idea is to make it more welcoming and inclusive in order to attract a larger attendance. This in no way prevents members from bringing along a new prospective member, in order to introduce them to our du3a.

During the year I have been in the Chair I found that there was much to learn in order to perform effectively. The learning curve was mostly to do with communication – with The Third Age Trust, The Charities Commission, via Zoom and of course our own membership by way of Beacon. To this end I have compiled a Chair Induction Training Programme which over two half-hour sessions gives all the access details which need to be known to make effective contact with all parties.

It must be said that effective chairmanship can only be achieved by drawing on the combined knowledge and experience of current and former committee members. Their pool of information is essential.

By the time this newsletter is in circulation we shall already be in early Spring. Do you, like me, wonder where the time goes?

Simon Hughes

Cover photo: April sunset - South Anston looking west towards Sheffield
by John Wheeldon Digital Photography Group

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members

Jill Adams, Julian Bennett, Sylvia Binks, Teresa Bury, Peter Charnley, Margaret Cooper, Hazel Davies, Paul Davies, John Deighton, Jean Edge, Alison Ferguson, Catherine Margaret Finch, Kathleen Flunt, Ronald Forshaw, Julie Gill, Michael John Higton, Janet Kerry, Phil Leadbetter, Brian May, Sheena May, Barbara Mayman, Lynne Napier, Lynne Regan, Michael Regan, Lynn Rowley, Iris Schofield, Jean Shorthose, Margaret Simmons, Denise Smith, Lesley Smith, Martin Smith, Janet Thomlinson, Felicity Thompson, Melvyn Thompson, Lynn Walker, Wendy Wilkinson, Janet Williams, Margaret Williams.

VACANCY AT THE TOP...

After some soul-searching I have decided not to stand as Chairman at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in May.

This is because of commitments to other trusteeships and family needs.

The elected Chair for 2023/24 can certainly count on me to provide support and information in order to make the transfer of responsibility as smooth as it can be.

I would also just like to take this opportunity to give thanks to committee members for their help in the past year. It would not have been possible to function effectively without their assistance.

Simon Hughes
Chairman

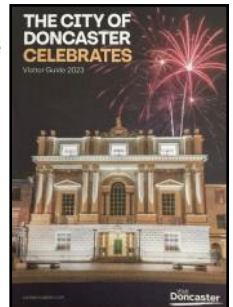
The 2023 guide is bursting with information to help you make the most of the City of Doncaster.

You can download your copy at:

<https://www.visitdoncaster.com/visitor-information/visitor-guide>

OR pick one up at:

Tourist Information Centre, 1 Priory Place, Doncaster, DN1 1BN



June – July 2023 Newsletter

Articles for the June - July newsletter need to be received by

Wednesday 26th April.

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc. to

bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com

GROUPS - UPDATES / NOTICES

Photography competition

However you take your photographs, be it with an SLR camera, iPad or mobile phone, there is a chance your picture could be a winner. This competition is open to Du3a members (Digital Photography group excluded). Show off your artistic side by submitting a photograph on one of three themes. All photographs will be displayed at the June Members' Meeting. For details see page 16.

Playreading

Here are some of the plays we will be doing in the first half of 2023....

Private Lives - by Noel Coward

Lettice and Lovage - by Peter Shaffer

Home, I'm Darling - by Laura Wade

In Praise of Love - Terrence Rattigan

Ghosts - by Henrik Ibsen

Why not give us a try? Do please contact me first, as we try to keep numbers to a max of 12, so everyone gets a chance to read a good part.

Geoff Tagg

Strollers

Future meetings:

23 March: Barnburgh; 27 April: Finningley; 25 May: Barnby Dun.

New members please contact the group leader before turning up as the walks may change.

Literature Group 2

Due to high numbers in the Literature group, a second group has now started led by Bernard Parkin (contact number on page 23)

Digital Photography

The Digital Photography group has a new home and meeting time, its the 4th Wednesday of the month at 14.00 in the Danum Museum and Library and welcomes all photographers whatever they use. We will also be meeting at a variety of locations between the monthly meetings.

John Wheeldon

AGM NOTICE

Doncaster U3A Annual General Meeting

15th May 2023 at 1.30 p.m.

Venue – Christ Church, Doncaster

AGENDA

1 Minutes of AGM 16 May 2022

2 Matters Arising

3 Chairman's Report

4 Treasurer's Report and appointment of Auditor

5 Adoption of Reports

6 Election of Members of the Executive Committee

On completion of the AGM there will be an opportunity to socialise

Entry is **free** to members and tea/coffee will be provided.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Venue for the Members' Meetings:

Christ Church, Thorne Road,, Doncaster, DN1 2HG

20th March 2023

1.30 p.m.

Speaker: Sue Clifton

Topic: **The Birds in Your Garden**

17th April 2023

1.30 p.m.

Speaker: Ann Featherstone

Topic: **A Storm in a Teashop;
The Waitresses Strike of 1908**

15 May 2023

1.30 p.m.

AGM

+ 'Sugarfree' a female Barbershop Quartet

INTEREST GROUPS

Please contact group leaders **before** attending a meeting for the first time. There may be limits on the group size.

BEACON UPDATES

Have you changed any of the following?

- ◆ your home address
- ◆ your mobile number
- ◆ your landline
- ◆ your email address
- ◆ groups that you attend

Please check your details on Beacon and update if necessary.

Log on to the Doncaster U3A website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster>

Click on the 'Membership' button.

Click on the link 'DU3A Membership Portal' and fill in details of your membership number, forename, surname, post code and email address if you have one,

Click on 'Confirm Identity'

Select an option and update.

Click on 'Members Portal' to return to the options page.

Select the second option if necessary and update.

To log out, click on 'Return to Doncaster u3a website'.

If your details need updating and you do not have internet access to Beacon, please get in touch with the Membership Secretary (contact number inside the back page).

NB. If you have changed your email address, you will need to enter your original email address when opening the Membership portal. You will then be able to add your new email address.

Committee nominations

Paula Harmer

Hello, I'd like to introduce myself as a candidate for Chairperson of Doncaster u3a.

I joined u3a five years ago, meeting hosts of interesting people, many of whom I now count as friends. I have attended a number of groups, establishing an art group and lately an Italian learners group.

I have been on the committee for three years, recently booking speakers and introducing them at Members' Meetings where I also organise displays from different groups. I am now looking at other ways to increase attendance at those meetings. I ran the recent Beetle Drive, which was a roaring success and will be repeated.

Should I be elected Chairperson, I wish to assure you that I shall work hard to have the interests and wishes of every single member at the forefront of everything I do.



Simon Hughes

Because of other than du3a, trustee-related commitments I do not intend to stand as Chairman at the forthcoming AGM in May.

I do hope to remain on the 2023/24 committee as an ordinary member, drawing on knowledge and experience gained as Chairman. I hope to attract enough votes to serve.



SPECIAL DAYS

April 4: Tell a Lie Day

Have a little fun and get creative by telling a harmless fib and honing your acting skills. Make up stories about the long ago days of youth, where you accomplished fantastic deeds with amazing grace, and got away with all the things that you really got caught at.

April 7: No Housework Day

It is a day for people to enjoy being lazy and happy. As soon as you have finished the washing and the cleaning, it all needs doing again, and again, and again. Well, today put down the laundry and toss out the to-do list. For this one day, give yourselves a break and do what you want around the house.

“Housework is what a woman does that nobody notices unless she hasn't done it.”
Evan Esar

Diane Williams

I have been on the Committee approximately seven years and joined the Du3a over eight years ago following the death of my husband, and encouragement from a friend. The u3a is a great place to meet people and make new friendships and with that in mind I encourage membership and participation in the many available groups. I have also provided support at a number of publicity events.

In my role as Groups Coordinator I have been able to promote and set up new groups. I am Group Leader for 'Love of Nature' therefore I have the experience to assist others who may want to try their hand at taking on the role.

Being on the Committee has given me insight into the various functions required to keep Du3a on track with membership and groups being fundamental to the success of Du3a. I believe I continue to have something to contribute as a Committee member.



Nancy Raynsford

Prior to taking early retirement in 2021, I wanted to feel confident that I would be able to keep busy. Discovering u3a made my decision easier.

I am currently a member of:

Enjoying Poetry
Coffee Quiz
Digital Photography
Scattergories
Art
Literature
Writers
Canasta



Being able to participate in such a wide range of activities is great - it provides me with some social interaction and the opportunity to keep my mind active.

Because I feel that the organisation is so worthwhile I am really keen to give something back and I feel that being a committee member would enable that.

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

The situation in Ukraine is very serious. Your help is needed. If you're able to, please donate today.



Ukrainian Centre, Doncaster



For more information go to: <https://www.ucdoncaster.co.uk/helpukraine>

Donations can also be made at the **DEC** (Disasters Emergency Committee)
<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Members' Meetings

16th January 2023

Masters of Mirth

Mike Storr started by talking about the origins of music halls and some of their legends namely Sandy Powell, George Formby, Arthur Askey and Max Miller. He went on to recite various poems and monologues; some familiar and some new. These included:

Robb Wilton (1881 – 1957) - **The Home Guard** (from 'The day war broke out')

Sir George Robey (1869 – 1954) - **It's the first time I've ever done that**

Marriott Edgar (1880 – 1944) - **The Battle of Hastings**
The recumbent posture

Gerard Hoffnung (1925 – 1959) - **The bricklayer's lament**

Pam Ayres - poems - **They should have asked my husband**
Clive, The fearless birdman
The embarrassing experience with a parrot

Sir Bernard Miles (1907 – 1991) - **Barber's shop**

Stanley Holloway (1890 – 1892) - **Albert Ramsbottom - The lion and Albert**
(monologue written by Marriott Edgar).

20th February 2023

Radio Encounters With Celebrities

Gerry Kersey - a.k.a. 'A very good bloke' at Radio Sheffield.

Gerry Kersey gave us a brief life history highlighting times when he encountered celebrities. Whilst he was working at an exhibition at Olympia in London he saw Stanley Unwin, Robert Beattie and Stirling Moss. But his first real celebrity encounter was with Ken Dodd at the London Palladium. He made Ken Dodd a tungsten cintride tickling stick with feathers.

Rony Robinson (Radio Sheffield) and Bernie Clifton gave him advice when he took part in pantomimes at Rotherham Civic theatre. Gerry spoke fondly of Chris Chatell (Eric Pollard in Emmerdale) and how he raises lots of money for charities including participating in the 3 Peaks Challenge. Gerry was in Scarborough and met most of the cast of 'Carry on Laughing'. He found a mixture of pleasant and not-so-pleasant stars.

A surprise encounter was with Sebastian Coe who, later in life, had recognised Gerry as his drama teacher at a Boy Scouts show.

Gerry wrote reports on being an extra at the Royal Ballet's performance of Giselle (in the tent at Norfolk Park, Sheffield), flying a single engine aircraft and driving a double decker bus. He attended the after-show party at the revival of 'Evita' at the Manchester Palace theatre where Andrew Lloyd Webber told him that he had originally thought that 'Pie Jesu' was not very good. Gerry even took Hollywood star Gloria Grahame shopping in Sainsbury's.

A most interesting talk.

The Pins and Needles group displayed a variety of their work. Some items were for charities whilst others were personal projects.

Bridget Thompson



ART

Our numbers have risen this year, with around possibly seven new members, which means we must now say we are completely full and can admit no more!

So far this year we have increased our confidence in making speedy marks, sketching dancers in two minute bursts And oh boy, were these successful! I am not revealing them here, as they will form a display at an upcoming Members' Meeting.



Paula Harmer



ITALIAN - ZOOM

This new group is on zoom every week at seven and has ten members at present. We began right at the start of the language, which members with a little Italian used as revision. As group leader, I am quite literally three steps ahead of the group so I am paddling pretty fast! Everyone is gaining in confidence and learning at a good pace - even doing their homework! By this time next newsletter, who knows?



Paula Harmer

ENJOYING POETRY

We have been reading some wonderful poetry recently, with several members finding poems from a number of different sources such as family letters, old newspapers and personal archives. Often these poems are very simple in construction but make a powerful emotional impact. Of course, Pam Ayres continues to make us laugh and the generous gift to the group of The Nation's 100 Favourite Comic Poems has been a great success. Our numbers are growing and we hope to be putting some of our favourite poems on display at the April Members' Meeting for all to enjoy.



Please remember we aren't a writing group (although some of us do share our own work) and we aren't a Poetry Speaking group. We just like poems and enjoy sharing them with each other.

David Harmer

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

It is now 5 years since we started this group - and its getting ever more popular. We now have 38 members in total, with around 25 each week attending.



Geoff Tagg

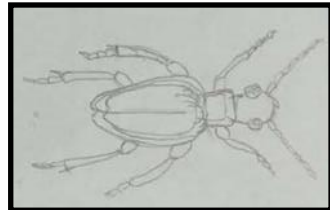
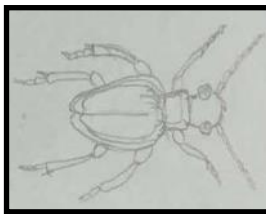
Doncaster u3a Beetle Drive

Almost 40 members of the Doncaster u3a met on Monday 30th January in the Christ Church to enjoy a Beetle Drive. The event was organised by the Du3a social sub-committee and led by Paula Harmer. The event provided an excellent opportunity for members to meet new people and make new friends, and culminated with prizes for highest score and best drawing of a beetle.

A thoroughly good time was had by all and we look forward to the next such event which is planned for the last Monday in May.

Thank you Paula, for a fun afternoon.

Chris Woolven



What's on in Doncaster

The Cast:	https://castindoncaster.com
Doncaster Little Theatre:	https://doncasterlittletheatre.co.uk/whats-on
Danum Gallery-Library-Museum:	https://www.dglam.org.uk/whats-on
Heritage Doncaster:	https://www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk
The Dome:	https://www.dclt.co.uk/whats-on
The Leopard:	https://leopard-doncaster.co.uk (Live music)
Visit Doncaster	https://www.visitdoncaster.com

Old Age

I have a birthday approaching that I never thought would happen. Yes my ninetieth birthday. It has come upon me sneakily. Without warning. The eighteen months leading up to this birthday became a race between the medical profession and death, with me as an observer. With the use of modern technology and drugs the medics won, and so here I am very close to ninety.

Whilst the above was in progress I was sustained by friends and relatives.

I regressed from being a normal adult being, into a huge useless baby, who had to be fed and changed regularly, and given medication that any Witch doctor would be proud of. While my friends visited and kept gently reminding me that I was a grown adult being worth all the effort given into getting me to this landmark age of ninety.

Thank you friends, all of you. The u3a, as an association, played no small part in keeping me reminded that I could and should, recover. And recover I did, cheered on by the many visits, and enumerable cards from my many friends, and the committee of the u3a,

Having had plenty of thinking time this past twelve months, I am reminded of joining the u3a knowing just the two friends who had introduced me, in I think, two thousand and nine, I was a widow of four years, still finding my way around the world as a single person, after fifty years of marriage. Those first two people who introduced me, all those years ago, would be astonished to know how large my circle of friends in the u3a has become. Thank you all once again. I will see you, a little shaken, but upright, soon.

Betty Alexander

FAMILY HISTORY

The Family History group are looking at 2023 as being a year where new methods of research are explored, including gleaning more information from already obtained documents which will be of help to beginners to seasoned family historians. There is also the prospect of looking at sources from across the world that would be useful to those members who had ancestors transported to penal colonies in Australasia, child immigrants to Canada, USA and Australia along with European sources, to name just a couple.



Last year we visited the Wilderspin Victorian School and there has been a request for a return visit. There is also the re-opening of the Society of Genealogists library in their new premises this summer. The library is the largest family history archive and library outside of North America and holds sources from around the world including donated family histories. Our last visit to the library, pre Covid, was a great success and it's one we would like to repeat, which includes a tour.

In 2022 we had several new members with varying degrees of expertise which adds to the pool of knowledge and experience to the group, and we hope to expand further.

Dawn Jarvis & Sue Costin

Yorkshire and Humber Region Summer School

31st July – 3rd August 2023

The Hawkhills, Easingwold, YO61 3EG

www.thehawkhills.com



Yorkshire and Humber Region

The Hawkhills is once again our chosen venue to run our Summer School

Set off the A19 just south of Easingwold and set within a 240 acre estate, the venue boasts well-appointed conference facilities and a modern accessible accommodation block providing comfortable, hotel style double en-suite bedrooms with all amenities. The Hawkhills owns a reputation for first class cuisine as well as providing a cosy bar, relaxing lounge and conservatory areas, and magnificent landscaped gardens opening out onto woodland with waymarked walks.

Courses Topics to choose from:

Spanish Conversation
Life Drawing
Volcanoes and Earthquakes
Impressionists and Impressionism
Ancient Greek Theatre
Basic Science for Historians and Amateur Archaeologists
Multi Media Art
Introduction to Jewellery Making
20th Century Spanish Culture
Improvised Drama

Costs for our 3 night top class residential Summer School:

Full Board Delegate £395pp

Day Delegate £195pp

More information including preliminary course details will be available along with booking forms at:

<https://yahru3a.uk/summerschool/yahru3a.co.uk>

The aim of our Summer School is to:

- ◆ Provide members with new learning opportunities
- ◆ Enable our members to explore a topic your u3a may not be able to offer
- ◆ Enable delegates, in a magnificent setting, to share time out with other u3a members from across the region and beyond

We look forward to meeting you!

Special Days continued

April 13: National Scrabble Day

Scrabble inventor Alfred Mosher Butts was born on this day.

FINAL REMINDER FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2023/24

The membership year for Doncaster u3a runs from April to March so annual subscriptions for 2023/24 are due by 1st April 2023. Thank you to all of those members who have already renewed their membership for another year.

We are happy to confirm that costs remain unchanged at £14 per member or £24 for joint membership (two people sharing a single address). An additional £6 is payable if you have elected to receive the six Doncaster u3a newsletters by post rather than email.

Payment by bank transfer is preferable though not essential. For bank transfers or standing orders please note that we have a new bank account (Details on page 22).

If you wish to pay your subscription by cheque, please send your payment to the Membership Secretary (Details on page 22)

You can also pay by cash or cheque at a Members' Meeting.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enjoy your 2023/24 membership.

Peter Hermes
Treasurer

Special Days continued

April 14: International Moment of Laughter Day

"Laughter comes right after breathing as just about the healthiest thing you can do. It relieves stress, instils optimism, raises self-confidence, defuses resistance to change and enhances all your relationships"- Izzy Gesell (2020)

The main purpose of this day is to motivate people to help them find positivity in life.

Membership renewal 2023/24

Full Name/s:

Address:

Please tick the appropriate box:

Single membership: £14.00

For couples living at the same address:

Joint membership: £24.00

Please make cheques payable to: Doncaster U3A.

Single membership with posted Newsletter: £20.00

Joint membership with posted Newsletter: £30.00

This slip should be returned with your payment to: The Du3a Membership Secretary, (see page 22 for the address) or handed over at a Members' Meeting. If posted please remember to include an SAE for the return of your Membership receipt.

Membership Renewal slip: see previous page

(New members - please contact the Membership Secretary for a New Members form or go online to <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster/page/58488>).

Special Days continued:

April 18: International Day for Monuments and Sites (aka World Heritage Day)

World Heritage Day encourages us to celebrate all the world's cultures, and to bring awareness to important cultural monuments and sites, and to espouse the importance of preserving the world's cultures.

April 21: National Tea Day

National Tea Day is celebrated in tea rooms, hotels, pubs and cafés through special events, and charitable fundraising events. Tea brands and press outlets run promotions and features in conjunction with the day.

April 30: Hairstyle Appreciation Day

It celebrates the uniqueness of all styles of hair and honours the people who make artful hairstyles possible.

May 5: No Pants Day (trousers)

The No Pants Day requires publicly wearing just undergarments on the lower part of the body.

A small campus club at University of Texas at Austin known as the Knighthood of Buh thought that dropping trousers was a humorous stunt for the end of the semester. They wanted to celebrate freedom from conforming to society.

May 12: National Limerick Day

Limericks were not in fact created by Edward Lear although it was he who popularised them, bringing the love of limericks to the masses.

The distinctive sound of a limerick which uses a special metre and rhyming scheme are ideal for the creation of nonsense verses. The best limericks tend to be both hilariously childish and somewhat obscene.

Out and about with my camera



Photographs by Diane Woolven
Digital Photography group



Photography Competition

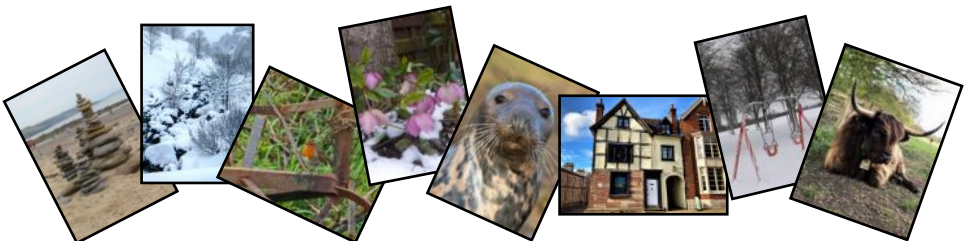
The Du3a Digital Photography group announce a photography competition:

- 1 The themes for the competition are: **Natural World;**
Landscape
Buildings & Structures
- 2 The competition is open only to Doncaster u3a members.
(Digital Photography group members are excluded).
- 3 All work must be the author's own work.
- 4 Entries may be in colour or black and white.
- 5 The maximum number of entries per person is **one**.
Print size: 8" x 6" to 10" x 8"
- 6 Your entry must show on the **reverse** side:
your name, address and Du3a membership number.
- 7 The closing date for receiving your entry is **17th May 2023** - deliver to Christ Church, Thorne Road (at the May Du3a Members' Meeting/AGM).
- 8 Judging: Members of the Digital Photography group will judge each theme separately. Three certificates will be awarded for each theme: 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

From the three category winners, an overall winner will be selected by Du3a members present at the June meeting. The overall winner will receive a **£20 prize**.
- 9 Results and photos will be displayed at the Du3a Members' Meeting at Christ Church, Thorne Road, on **19th June 2023**.
- 10 Du3a may use the pictures in their publications and/or displays/exhibition.
- 11 Photos may be collected after the Du3a Members' Meeting and photograph exhibition at Christ Church, on 19th June OR at the Members' Meeting on 17th July (at the latest).

John Wheeldon

If you have any queries/questions please email me (contact details inside the back page).



STROLLERS

The **January** stroll led by John Weston, was a circular walk from the Cheswold, via Bessacarr and then around the Lakeside lake back to the Cheswold. On the way we met a man feeding the cows and saw a very young calf. Afterwards the group enjoyed a welcome meal at the Cheswold.

B Thompson



There was a good turnout of 21 of the Strollers group which met at Yorkshire Caravans of Bawtry for the **February** walk. We set off walking along Bawtry Road and then turned into Kings Wood and keeping the railway line to our right made our way to the Mosaic Trust land at Austerfield, which is a former sand quarry and maintained as a nature reserve. It was dry underfoot and the weather turned out to be sunny and bright. Eventually we made our way back to Yorkshire Caravans where we had lunch in The Classic Cafe.

Cynthia Morris



Special Days continued:

May 18: International Museum Day

The International Council of Museums chooses a theme every year, and museums across the globe strive to organize activities around the subject. This year's event will focus on 'Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing'.

Members Meetings by the Speaker Finder

If you have been coming to the Members' Meetings, you will already know that they have changed. If you have not been coming you need to try them again because they have changed!

The speakers are still coming, but I am really trying hard, within the limits of my budget, to find speakers reflecting members' interests. If you have a particular interest that you feel would be welcomed by others too, please do let me know and I will try to find a speaker to match.

In addition, we have displays from different groups, to showcase what they are doing or have done in the past. This is, of course, not possible for every group Italian, for instance, does not lend itself to any form of display for others to view, whereas Art could easily display their work every month!

This led me to another idea to pique your interest, which is the introduction of various competitions to involve members. The first of these was announced by John Wheeldon, group leader of the Digital Photography group and there are details of that in this newsletter. You will also receive an email of the details to be sure you have them one way or another. Please do support the Digital Photography group by entering - there is a prize of twenty pounds for the winner!

Throughout the year there will be other competitions announced.

As a spin-off from Members' Meetings, the Beetle Drive gathered forty members and seemed to be enjoyed by them all. It was a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon and so more of these are planned, trying a host of other games for large groups - so if you were not there, talk to someone who was and you will perhaps be tempted to join in!

So, in April and May, what do we have in store?

Well, in April we have Ann Featherstone, "A Storm In a Teashop", which is the true story of the waitresses strike of 1908. She will tell us about the start of the strike in Piccadilly, London, and how the waitresses were all sacked for taking strike action. Their response to that is inspiring and tells of working women amidst the suffragette movement, who took on a major company and well, come and find out! Ann is a very professional speaker, who was a teacher and lecturer but now writes books and gives talks. Her particular interest is the nineteenth century and its popular entertainment ... more of this later in the year.

In addition to this talk, which I believe will be very interesting (or I wouldn't have booked it!), we have a display of favourite poems by the Enjoying Poetry group and the announcement of another competition.

May, of course, is the month of the AGM, where you have a golden opportunity to influence your u3a. Admission to the AGM is free, of course, so please do come along. The AGM is quite short, so there will be an entertaining event after it for about an hour. 'Sugarfree', a female barbershop quartet

As a little taster, I'd like to tell you a bit about June and July, to whet your appetite.

In June we have David Templeman talking about Lady Arabella Stuart, the queen that never was, despite the efforts of her rather pushy mother, Bess of Hardwick. More of this in the next newsletter. This month will also be the announcement of the photography competition finalists, the winner to be decided at the meeting by you.

In July we have the superstar that is Doctor Michael Leach, with a talk as yet to be decided. Dr Leach, let me remind you, is world famous in wildlife and conservation circles. Most of his year is spent travelling in search of a specific animal and a very short time is spent back in UK giving talks. He is the biggest, most prestigious speaker we have ever had and I do hope you will take this opportunity to see him - it is unlikely to ever happen again. I am absolutely thrilled and delighted to bring him to our u3a and I will certainly be reminding you often about him! As if that won't be enough there will also be an announcement of the winner of another competition that I can't tell you about yet.

So, look, if you have previously given up coming to Members' Meetings (formerly General Meetings - name changed in response to a discussion with members), because you felt they were not offering you anything, please consider trying them again. There have been changes, as you can see here, and will continue to be changes to get it right for most members. Being part of the organisation, meeting people of similar age and varied interests, meeting up with friends are all worthwhile things to do. We exist entirely for you, the members.

Please come along without you, there IS no u3a!

Paula Harmer

visitdoncaster.com

DONCASTER BRICK FESTIVAL 2nd April at the Dome
A LEGO fan event dedicated to all things brick!

DRAWING IN THE DARK: Henry Moore's Wartime Coalmining Drawings
6th May - 6th August at DGLAM (Danum Gallery Library and Museum)
Exhibition of a group of drawings which Henry Moore made as a war artist in 1942.

STEAMPUNK SPECTACULAR & VINTAGE MARKET

13th May at Doncaster Market Square.

Activities and events across Doncaster city centre, with a Steampunk themed market and entertainment around the Doncaster Market Corn Exchange

Special Days continued:

May 18: No Dirty Dishes Day

It is not the goal of this day to stack the dirty dishes and wash them the next day. One possibility of avoiding dirty dishes would be to use disposable dishes, which you can simply throw away. Another option is to just go out for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Yet another option is to only eat things that do not require utensils. Whatever you may choose to do, don't create dirty dishes at your home.

May 20: World Bee Day

On this day Anton Janša, the pioneer of beekeeping, was born in 1734. The purpose of the international day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem.

May 21: World Baking Day

The aim of this day is to spread the joy of cooking all around the world, especially to those who don't bake very often. The intention is to show people just how much fun it can be to make a cake or some biscuits, and that baking can be a great way to spend time with family and friends.

PUZZLE PAGE

Use the clues on the left and write the answers in the top grid. All the letters will now have a reference e.g. A1 = Z. Transfer these to the lower grid. (Clue = films and actors). When solved the mauve squares will spell out one new word.

Puzzle A

- Insect
- Before, sooner than
- Fine soft feathers
- Sea Eagle
- Compass Point
- Remain
- Neigh gently

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

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

Puzzle B

- Epoch
- Take part in a race
- Fair, proper
- Perceived sound
- Piece of furniture
- Try to avoid work
- Young bird

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



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

**Solutions to
February - March
puzzles**

1. Castigate
2. Prejudice
3. Nightmare
4. Plentiful
5. Affluence
6. Recollect
7. Sumptuous

Extra word: Character



1. Overwhelm
2. Plausible
3. Noiseless
4. Moustache
5. Originate
6. Nefarious
7. Pulverise

Extra word: Nectarine

STRETCHERS

January 23rd

A group of 13 members met at the Haxey Gate Inn, just south of the village of Haxey, to do a walk of just under 5 miles down to West Stockwith and back. Although it was during the cold spell, the weather was kind with lots of sunshine and light winds.



We walked from the pub following the River Idle to two old pumping houses that were originally used to help drain the land south of the river. We then took the path towards Misterton reaching the Chesterfield Canal and walked along the towpath to West Stockwith. There we passed the marina and went along the bank of the River Trent for a short way. Then we turned down a footpath, passed a pub with a micro brewery and followed the bank of the River Idle back to the Haxey Gate Inn where we stopped for a very pleasant lunch. A very enjoyable morning was had by all!

Guy Howitt



Group Leaders can be contacted by telephone (see below) or 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 to select 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 also be contacted via the Du3a website by opening the 'Contact' page and then selecting the appropriate member.

Page 12: Membership renewal:

Please use the link on the website to contact the Membership Secretary for details.

You will need to set up new payment details with your bank when paying by bank transfer. You cannot simply change the sort code and account number. The new account is a 'Business' account.

Contact Numbers

DU3A Committee Members

Chair	Simon Hughes	
Vice Chair	Chris Woolven	
Secretary	Diane Woolven	
Treasurer	Peter Hermes	
Membership Secretary	Christine Curtis	07735436176
Group Co-ordinator	Diane Williams	
Publicity	Jane Bowser	
Beacon Administrator	Wendy Hattrell	
Welfare	Jill Laming	
Speaker Finder	Paula Harmer	
Committee	Kim Beresford	
New Members	Corinne Chivers	

Activity Groups & Other: Contacts

Contact Group leaders - see printed Newsletter for telephone numbers, or DU3A Website

Newsletter Editor & Website Manager	Bridget Thompson	bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com
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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!

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.....

Monks Printers

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

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 2023 newsletter need to be received by

Wednesday 26th April 2023

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc. to bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com



