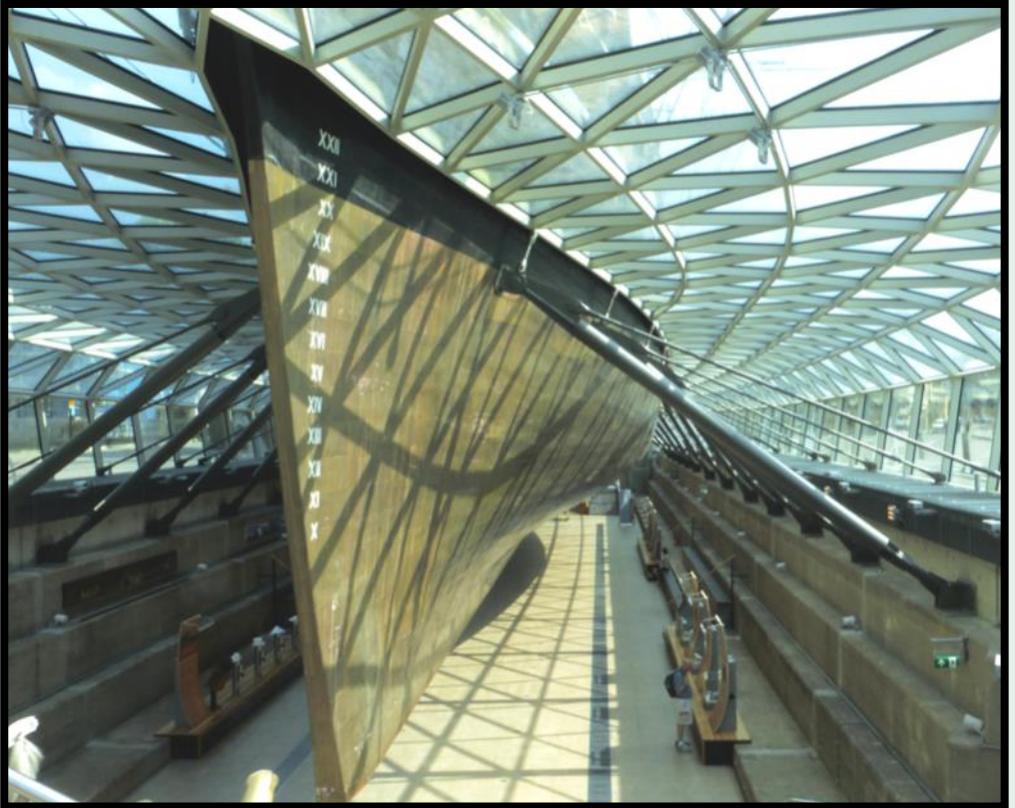


DONCASTER u3a

Registered Charity No. 1074577



April - May 2024

From the Chair



Dear members,

As I write this in February, I am aware that you are going to read it in late March "In like a lion out like a lamb and in like a lamb, out like a lion" So I hope March came in with a force so that we can look forward to a lovely Easter filled with the scent of daffodils, hyacinths and tulips.

Members' Meetings continue to develop in all sorts of ways, attracting more and more members. Most meetings are still following the tradition of a speaker, but where there is a fifth Monday in the month we hold some sort of social event. A couple of this year's meetings have had a musical flavour - In January we had Roger Browne telling us about the Great American Songbook stalwarts and Sugarfree were back by popular demand in February, which also included a session with those members who wanted to stay behind and sing with them.

And now for something completely different, as the Pythons used to say We have in April a pie and peas lunch event, cooked freshly for us by the chef at Milk And Honey, the cafe in Powerhouse. Tickets are probably down to the last few but do please ask Diane Woolven, Kim Beresford or me if you are still wanting a ticket, which will cost only five pounds. The three of us are always at Members' meetings and coffee mornings.

And to round off this lovely event Chris Woolven will sing us some of his favourite songs. How wonderful to have such talented people in Du3a!

I do hope you are enjoying the groups that you attend, which are constantly developing and growing. If you want to try something new, just contact the group leader to check the group day or time has not changed and that the group is not full.

As the financial year comes towards its close, so does the committee year. In May our AGM will be held in place of a normal Members' Meeting and quite a number of committee members come to the end of their two year stint. There are also new members wanting a place on the committee. At first this looked like an election, but as there are three people leaving the committee and three wishing to join, there will not need to be an election.

The next newsletter will introduce the new committee and say thank you to retiring committee members.

I would like to thank you for so many very positive, helpful and kind comments about the committee and the job it does in furthering our wonderful organisation. It means a lot to feel appreciated for what we do.

Happy Spring, gentle gardening and a healthy year ahead,

Paula Harmer

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members

David Andrew, Guy Aston, Ian Barkley, Kate Burnage,
Janina Bywater, Gillian Chambers, Robert Chambers,
Maureen Cilenti-Beirne, Robert Coleman, Victoria Coleman,
Patricia Heeson, Steve Kellett, David Maxey, Peter Newman,
John Sanderson, Tina Sanderson, Vaughan Skirrey, John Statter,
Yvonne Statter, Jane Stirling Martin, Sue Taylor, Marilyn Tuck,
Susan Webster

AGM NOTICE

DONCASTER u3a ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20th May 2024 at 1.30 p.m.

Venue – Powerhouse, Christ Church Doncaster

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of AGM 15th May 2023
3. Chair's Report
4. Treasurer's Report and appointment of Auditor
5. Adoption of Reports
6. Election of Members of the Executive Committee
7. Proposal of adoption of a revised Constitution

On completion of the business our Members' Meeting will continue as usual.

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

June - July 2024 Newsletter

Articles need to be received by **Wednesday 24th April.**

bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com

Cover photos: front: Greenwich Maritime Museum back: Swan
by Bill Dixon Digital Photography Group



Obituary

Colin Brown

Colin was a longstanding member of u3a. He served on the committee and for ten years ran the Jazz group. He was a member of several other groups.

Colin was born and raised in Bentley and just before leaving school he went to see the editor of the Doncaster Evening News and Gazette to ask for a job. He was offered one, but was unable to accept it. On leaving school he got a job in local government. After National Service, during which he spent time in Egypt, he joined the police force. He later trained to become a teacher.

Colin loved writing and contributed a lot to Writers' group. He wrote about his childhood growing up in Bentley and about his father's experiences as a fireman on the Flying Scotsman. He amused us all with his tales about his time as a young bobby on the beat and about his time in the army. He loved writing westerns and could really conjure up the Old West in his writing.

Colin was a very kind and caring person and a talented writer who will be very sadly missed by all his friends in u3a.



MOTO

(Members on their Own)

The recently formed Members On Their Own (MOTO) group meets on the second Thursday of the month at Prego. The aim of the group is to help members who may be on their own meet up and take part in various activities. Over the past month individuals have got together for meals, coffee, a pub quiz and to go to the cinema and the theatre. If anyone is interested in joining the group please contact Andrea Charlesworth so that she can add you to the WhatsApp Group. Contact number on page 22.



Y AHR SUMMER SCHOOL

22nd – 25th July 2024

Hawkhills, Easingwold, YO61 3EG

<https://yahru3a.uk/summer-school>

For a summary of courses available go to:

<https://yahru3a.files.wordpress.com/2023/11/2024-ss-courses-of-offer-1.pdf>

FINAL REMINDER FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: 2024 - 2025

As the membership year for Du3a runs from April, membership fees are now due by 31st March. Most people now know the payment details, but just as a reminder I thought it may be helpful to give them here. The fee for the year is reduced to £12 for an individual and £20 for a joint membership (people living at the same address). If you require the newsletter to be posted it is an additional £6 for both individual and joint subscriptions.

Membership can be renewed at a Members' Meeting where a card reader is available.

Monies can also be paid into the Du3a account by bank transfer (details on page 21). Please use your name as a reference to enable the payment to be tracked.

Alternatively a cheque payable to the Du3a can be forwarded to Christine Curtis (address on page 21). If you wish a receipt to be posted to you please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Your membership number will be the same for as long as you remain a Du3a member.

Thank-you

Christine Curtis

DONCASTER'S CIVIC AND CULTURAL QUARTER

For more information go to:

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/business-investment/the-civic-and-cultural-quarter-introduction>

Danum Gallery, Library and Museum (DGLAM)

<https://www.dglam.org.uk/museum>

<https://www.dglam.org.uk/art>

Café 1910: located within the building, has a full menu for sit-in and takeaway during opening hours. **<https://www.dglam.org.uk/cafe1910>**

Savoy: Silverscreen

<https://savoydoncaster.uk/SavoyDoncaster.dll/Page?p=1&m=mm&sp=1>

Just a few activities at DGLAM:

Saturday. 23 March 2.00 p.m. - Curator Talk: Alewives and Affray.

Explore the fascinating Conisbrough Manor Court Rolls and the insights they offer into the lives of ordinary people across South Yorkshire in medieval and early modern times. Book Tickets: £5.00

Friday 5 April 10.00 a.m. - The History of Doncaster Minster.

Free - but need to complete an online form to guarantee a place.

Friday 3 May 10.00 a.m. - Top 5 Doncaster Archaeological Finds.

Time to stop and take notice of art and history. At this session we'll be digging into Doncaster's archaeological history. There will be object handling and a craft activity.

Friday 7 June 10.00 a.m. - The Story of Art in Doncaster.

At this session we'll be inspired by the story of art in Doncaster. There will be object handling and a craft activity.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Members' Meetings shown below start at 1.30 p.m. (doors open - 12.45 p.m.)

18th March 2024

Members' Meeting:

Speaker: Dr. Ann Featherstone Topic: t.b.a.

15th April 2024

Members' Meeting: Event: Pie and pea lunch, followed by musical entertainment. Ticket only (see page 20 for more details)

29th April 2024

Beetle Drive 1.15 p.m. prompt (doors open 12.45 p.m.) (see page 20)

20th May 2024

Members' Meeting: AGM +

Coffee mornings - weekly - Tuesday 11.00 a.m.

Venue for the Members' Meetings, Beetle Drives and Coffee mornings: Powerhouse, Christ Church, Thorne Road, Doncaster, DN1 2HG.

(Travelling to Christ Church: Buses 65 and 66; parking on the street for 2 hours; parking in the car park where the Gaumont used to be - currently £2.50 for 2 hours or £3.00 for 3 hours).

INTEREST GROUPS

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

If you have an idea for a group that you would like to start either face-to-face or on Zoom please get in touch with David Harmer, Groups co-ordinator. (See page 23).

Calendars: There is a key for Group Meeting VENUES on page 21.

Group Leaders can be contacted by telephone (see pages 22/3) or by clicking on the blue bird on their group page on the Du3a website which is currently on <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster> then click on the 'GROUP' tab. Go to the bottom of the Groups 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.



PÉTANQUE

- LES PRIX TRICOLORES

Display one of these fine trophies on your mantelpiece for a whole year.

How? By entering our Du3a tournament to be staged this summer...

Not played before? No problem - we are holding 'taster sessions' for novice players in Hexthorpe Park, most Wednesdays from 11.00 a.m. during March, April and May.

Our existing player members are, of course welcome to compete.

Just check out the dates on the Du3a calendar.

Simon Hughes

CROWN GREEN BOWLS

2023 gave us an interesting season at Haslam Park. The weather was not always kind to us and there were more sessions cancelled than we would have liked. However, the camaraderie that we enjoy has endured over the season and we were able to celebrate our efforts with our usual Christmas get-together in January at the Woodfield Farm Hostelry. Our new experimental competition brought about joint winners as seen in the attached photo, with Tony Frith (on the left) and Ray Bicknell being the ones to beat in the coming season.



Thanks must go to Andy Martin for inventing and administering this very successful event, and Graham for his unseen efforts in preparing the surface each week after our wormly overnight visitors have departed. Our group has seen increasing numbers wanting to join us over the past couple of years, and if this continues we may have to ask Haslam Park to extend our allotted time (more than 12 on the green simultaneously feels like the bus is full, with standing room only). Potential new members will always be made welcome - bowls can be provided - just give me a ring before you appear. The group photo does not illustrate our dark side (lighting at WFH didn't help), but it may be good enough for your dart board.

George Kirk



Photography on the National u3a site

If you are interested in photography you might like to check out these initiatives.

Found in Nature

Members share any photos which are 'wild and interesting'.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/found-in-nature>

u3a Eye

This is a rolling photography project to encourage members to take and submit pictures of their surroundings. A different theme is posted each month and you are invited to submit your photo on that topic.

This is not a competition. It is about looking for any interesting photos and interpretations of the theme. Anything which has captured your imagination or caught your eye. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/u3a-eye>

LOVE OF NATURE

January

In the style of Enid Blyton, the January meeting could have been entitled 'Five go Adventuring again'. The weather was dreadful, as it hardly ever stopped raining, but this did not deter the five members from having a wonderful time at Potteric Carr nature reserve, discovering new routes and various fungi along the way. The morning was finished off with a welcome meal at the reserve's café.



Bridget Thompson



GENTLE STROLLERS

The 'Gentle Strollers' met on Sunday February 4th at the Cenotaph on Bennetthorpe. We strolled through Elmfield Park, Doncaster's first public park. Perhaps not at its best at this time of the year but still plenty to see and appreciate. A new 'green' pathway has been introduced; there are trees planted to celebrate significant events, wildflower areas, lots of additional bulb planting and plenty of seating. After our stroll we adjourned to the nearby Earl of Doncaster for refreshments. Hats off to the staff who happily put tables together to accommodate us all and even provided a free plate of



lovely home baked cookies for us to enjoy with our drinks. It may have had something to do with a previous complaint but excellent service and refreshments on this occasion so a big thank you to the hotel and staff. The next meeting is on Sunday April 7th - details will be sent out beforehand. The 'gentle strollers' are a smashing group who are friendly, chatty, and welcoming so if you want to meet new people, enjoy socialising and a bit of very gentle exercise in the great outdoors well why not come along? You will be most welcome.

Cath Lawson



Art competition 2024

I have been overwhelmed by the talented artists we have amongst us. Some of them I meet twice a month in our art group, but many of them are a surprise!

The artist who is judging the pieces was equally impressed, but managed to draw up a shortlist.

Sadly, although I can give you the shortlist here, there is not enough room for all the pieces here and to select only some would be very unfair. I offer you the shortlist as a list, therefore.

Mike Bowser	Pier Silhouette Cleethorpes Blue tit	Acrylic Acrylic
Stephen Cuffling	Sun and Moon Driver and Fireman	Ink and Gouache Gouache
Mavis Edson	Man Hand	Pencil Coloured pencil
Mary Gee	Early Morning Walk in Woodland	Acrylic
Sylvia Johnson	Irises Tuscany	Watercolour Watercolours
Nancy Raynsford	Perspective	Oil pastels
Mark Scrivener	A Day At The Cricket	Pencil
Val Strawbridge	Five-a-Day	Acrylic
Martin Taylor	Lime Tree Avenue, Clumber Park	Pen, ink, watercolours
Robert Whaley	Lady With Flowers In Her Hair Breaking Waves	Acrylic Acrylic
Anne Windle	Cushion	Fabric and thread

There were almost fifty entries - a big thank you for sharing your wonderful artistic work with us Not reaching the shortlist means nothing other than the sixteen that were chosen were more to this one judge's taste. Keep making art!

At the March Members' Meeting these shortlisted pieces will be displayed and the winner announced. They are absolutely worth coming to see - they cover all sorts of subjects and use a range of materials.

I can tell you honestly, I'm so glad it isn't me who has to judge them!

Let's do this again next year!

Paula Harmer

LOVE OF NATURE

February 6th 2024

The venue for the February meeting of Love of Nature was Sandall Beat Wood, a designated Local Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific interest, due to the rare insects, such as the Stag beetle, to be found in the wood.

The group met in the Sportsman car park and walked down Armthorpe Rd to enter the wood via Sandall Beat Lane. The first point of interest were the masses of snowdrops growing beneath the brambles.

At the end of the lane we followed the outer edge of the wood taking us along a path which crosses a small area of fen, a remnant of the more extensive fenland which existed before re-forestation which took place between 1809 and 1812. The most obvious dominant plant in the fen is the tall grass, commonly known as Common Reed *Phragmites australis*.

In the 18th century the area which is now occupied by the woodland was a mixture of three habitats: fen, heath and pasture. When the re-forestation of the area occurred in order to produce more timber for ship building, all three habitats were extensively reduced and replaced with a mixed woodland of larch, oak, ash, beech, sweet chestnut, sycamore, lime, Scots pine and elm. Silver birch was already there as part of the heath.



On the Armthorpe side of the fen stands a rather ornate brick building which was built by Doncaster Corporation in 1921 to act as a pumping station to pump excess water from Armthorpe pit into the fen, thus providing the wet conditions necessary to maintain the fenland. Since the closure of the pit, the pumping station ceased to be in operation. Some of our members took a look inside and Karen Williams took a great photograph of the building surrounded by fen.

The majority of the wood was littered with silver birch trunks so we looked for the two most common fungi to be found in a birch woodland, namely Hoop fungus *Fomes fomentarius* and Birch Polypore *Piptoporus betulina*. We weren't disappointed and found several examples of each, mainly on decaying branches on the woodland floor but some on the trunks of trees which were still growing.

Continuing along the path adjacent to the railway line we passed the newly restored railway bridge and the building which originally was occupied by the woodsmen but which now is a Community Environment Centre, open theoretically from 9pm to 3pm. Adjacent to the centre is the sensory garden created in the late 1990s.



*Birch polypore by
Andrea Charlesworth*

On the bird feeding station in the garden of the Centre we saw robin, great tit and blue tit. There were other birds in the wood but often all we saw was a silhouette, making identification difficult.

We passed the children's playground opposite the Centre and stopped for a short while to investigate fungi growing on piles of logs which had been cut down in other parts of the wood and left near to the path we were following. Most of the fungi were brackets and crusts which survive the winter, including the colourful banded Turkeytail *Trametes versicolor* and a creamy white bracket covered in green algae called Lumpy bracket

Trametes gibbosa.

By now we were about 10 minutes away from the car park at the end of Sandall Beat Road and could see the racecourse through the trees.

We crossed the car park and headed back to the point where we entered the wood near to the Riding Stables, stopping to look at the interpretive sign which illustrated the paths through the wood. Before long we came to the edge of the wood and found ourselves walking up Armthorpe Rd and into the Sportsman where we had arranged to have lunch.



The group looking at fungi by Andrea Charlesworth



Nora Boyle

Lumpy Bracket covered in algae by Karen Williams

WALKING CRICKET

We have had a difficult time sorting out an indoor venue this winter. Unfortunately we were not allowed in the Dome as they decided to use all the space in their sports hall for an exhibition about computer games.

There is clearly an argument to be had about this but we are past that for the time being.

Thanks mostly to the efforts of our secretary Diane Woolven, we are now playing at a new venue, The Dearne Valley Leisure Centre.

After a few games we have realised it is a much better venue for our games with a cleaner floor, better lighting and easy access. The only real problem is its location which makes it difficult for a few members to get to.

We are expecting to go back to Goals in the Spring but for the moment we are very happy with the new location.

If any members are interested in joining the group you are most welcome. No experience is required so please contact me. My details are at the back of this newsletter.

Chris Woolven





STRETCHERS



The trials and tribulations of a Group Leader

The weather forecast was poor. The planned walk was from Firbeck to Roche Abbey and back, followed by lunch at the Black Lion in Firbeck. The walk leader was unavailable so as I know the area I offered to take over. We had already had a lot of rain in the previous few days and I started to get messages early on the day of the walk. Folks were waking up to rain running down their windows. People were dropping out. I had a decision to make.

To walk or not to walk.....

I decided not. It would have been muddy and slippery underfoot and heavy rain would have put people's waterproofs to the test - so I set about contacting those people who had previously said they were coming. The WhatsApp group helped as I got an immediate response from some. I emailed as well and then set about phoning or texting those who I hadn't heard from. It was a long list so it took a while.

I had pre booked the pub and they didn't open until 12 so I thought I would drive to Firbeck. Not a long drive for me but just as I approached the pub I heard a rhythmic scraping. I must have caught something on the car. I pulled into the car park and to my dismay realised I had picked up a bit of S shaped heavy gauge wire in my rear tyre which had scraped the paint above the wheel arch as well as puncturing the tyre.

I spotted a car across the road with a lady who looked as if she might be a walker and discovered she was a Sheffield member - but not yet a Doncaster member - who was planning to walk. I also went to the pub kitchen entrance to cancel the pre booked table - they were grateful for the heads up.

Messages from the AA kept moving their arrival time later and later. It was a long wait but at least I wasn't on the side of a motorway. The pub opened at 12 and the AA finally arrived about 12.30 just as I was settling down to my lunch. I could soon get on my way after they fitted the spare tyre.

The walk was rearranged for the following Monday - a smaller party this time as it wasn't our usual day. Yet again the weather was foul and I cancelled. Fingers crossed for our Christmas walk - in January!

So the tyre has been replaced and the paintwork will follow. A very expensive morning for a cancelled walk!!

Wendy Hattrell 27-11-23



STROLLERS

January

We had a lovely Strollers walk in the morning on Thursday 25th around Lakeside, then on to the White walk into Bessacarr and then on to the Red path back to Lakeside. I am pleased to say the weather was very kind to us.

We had a lovely lunch at the Beefeater, Lakeside.

Thank-you everyone for coming.

Celia Griggs



February

We met at the Glasshouse for a walk round Kirk Sandall and Barnby Dun.

Fifteen started on the walk, through the housing estate down a small lane to a field which was a bit muddy after all the rain we have had recently. Across the road over the railway bridge and on to Barnby Dun. We passed the Pinfold (see photos). Across another road and down to the canal. We walked down the side of the canal to St Oswald's church in Kirk Sandall. After passing the church we walked down the lane back to Doncaster Road and to the Glasshouse. Three more joined us for lunch which was organised by Celia. We all had a very enjoyable meal .

Dawn Celia and Sue



FILM GROUP

This month the Film Group met to watch the new version of the Colour Purple. As usual we met in the Savoy cinema's foyer at 11.00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month to make the most of the Silver Screen offer of a film, tea, coffee and biscuits for a reduced price of £4.50. At 11.20 a.m. we all started to take our seats ready for the film to start at 11.30 a.m. However, instead of the normal adverts followed by the feature film nothing happened. We all sat there patiently waiting but by 11.50 a.m. people started to become restless and then the manager appeared to inform the waiting audience that the projector would not work. I must admit I thought oh no we are now going to have to wait in a very long queue for refunds to be given out. However, we all formed an orderly line and like school children on an outing were led from one screen to another, complete with complimentary chocolates being handed out!! Finally, at 12.15 p.m. the film started and we all settled down to watch it, eating our free chocolate.

The Colour Purple is a 1982 book by Alice Walker detailing the life and hardships of Celie, a poor African-American girl living in rural Georgia. When it was published the novel won a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and features on the BBCs Best Loved Books Poll. In the story the colour purple represents the full spectrum of human experience and emotions from suffering and pain to joy and happiness. The book was previously made into a film in 1985 starring Whoopi Goldberg as the older Celie. In 2005 a musical adaptation of the film opened on Broadway and this new film version is based on that stage musical. It stars Fantasia Barrino in the role of the older Celie with Whoopi Goldberg making a cameo appearance as the midwife who delivers Celie's second baby. The film lasted just over two hours and although it had lots of lavish musical numbers it still stuck to its hard-hitting storyline, which at times made some of the audience gasp. The film has had mixed critical reviews but has received a solid 7/10 from user reviews on the International Movie Database (IMDb).

After the film finished some of the u3a members went to view the frieze that was once located above the entrance of the Gaumont Cinema and is now in Sir Nigel Gresley Square. This frieze created by sculptor Newbury Abbot Trent in 1934 shows the making of a film from the writing of the story, to the building of the sets, and lastly the shooting of the film. When the Gaumont was modernised in 1968 the frieze was hidden with aluminium cladding and was not revealed again until the building was demolished in 2008. Coincidentally this frieze had also been discussed this month by the Local History Group who were reminiscing about cinemas in and around Doncaster. The group were discussing which cinemas they had been to as a child, films they had watched and even gave renditions of the individual song that each cinema chain used at their Saturday children's clubs. Some of the members also



regaled us with some of the bands and singers that had performed at these cinemas including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Cliff Richard to name but a few.

If anyone is interested in joining the Film Group then please feel free to come along on the first Wednesday of the month with a mug, as the cinema are happy to provide drinks but do not have cups!!

Andrea Charlesworth

Members' Meetings reports

January

In January we were entertained by Roger Browne and his talk on the Great American Songbook. His career started when he sang Al Jolson songs at the age of 4. At the age of 8, as the youngest entrant in a 8 - 80 concert, he won the prize of a Toni perm. He joined a jazz band when he was 15. Roger talked about rent parties and about different formats of music. He punctuated his talk by playing the keyboard and singing many familiar songs.



A short bio of Roger's career can be seen on Swanland u3a's website:

<https://www.swanlandu3a.org.uk/Bio/Roger%20Browne%20Bio.pdf>

Bridget Thompson

February

The Sheffield women's a capella (barbershop) group SugarFree made a return visit. The meeting started with an explanation of how each of the four voice parts play a role. The lead part generally sings the melody. The tenor part sings harmonies above the melody line, and the bass part harmonises below it. The baritone part has a very similar range to the lead, and usually lies underneath the lead to complete the chord structure. The women's barbershop uses names for the singing parts that usually refer to male voices, as associated to American barbershop.

Having found the starting notes with the aid of a pitchpipe, SugarFree sang a variety of songs from stage and screen including, among others, 'Almost like falling in love' from Brigadoon, 'Anthem' from Chess, 'Moon River' and 'Diamonds are a girl's best friend'. A jazzy 'Java Jive' followed. My favourite was a folk song called 'Sheffield Park'. They concluded with a trilogy of love songs, one of which was Bob Dylan's 'To make you feel my love'.

B Thompson

Following the Members' Meeting half a dozen of our members stayed behind to sing with SugarFree. After a short introduction taking them through the breathing and standing needed for singing they were off. First they sang London's Burning as a round - the actions were fun - then they learnt a new song Bella Mamma. They finished off with a medley of 'When The Saints' and 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot'.

Nancy Raynsford



STRETCHERS

Monday January 8th

On Monday January 8th 2024 Stretchers met at Bawtry Caravans to start the rearranged walk from December. Although during the previous couple of weeks there had been non-stop rain the route had been planned to ensure we were not ploughing through mud.



There was a good turnout including a couple of new members. Everyone was ready to blow away the cobwebs after the Christmas period. The walk commenced along Bawtry Road before turning off to walk along a lane to Austerfield Maize. Out into Austerfield, along the road to Bawtry before turning back to walk through King's Wood ready for a very pleasant lunch at Classic and Contemporary. An enjoyable walk blessed by good weather.

Jenny Burnett

Monday January 22nd

A group of 14 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. Luckily we missed the worst of Storm Isha! Although the winds were still strong, the sun was shining and it was not too muddy.



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. We then 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. We had a lovely lunch mostly taken from the Monday Madness Menu! A really nice morning was had by all.

Guy and Carol Howitt

Free online learning events via Zoom

Below is a sample of some of the online zoom events. There are many more. Check them out on <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

John Snow and **The hunt for the source of cholera in Victorian London**

Wednesday 20 March 10.00 a.m. (Details and a booking link should now be available online).

Secrets of the Human Brain: Talk Three: Brain & Behaviour

This talk by Dr. Bob Pullen of Prudhoe u3a, explains that we have "old" and "new" parts of our brain and both parts drive our behaviour.

Wednesday, March 27 · 2.00 - 3:30 p.m.

Suffering and hope in Tolstoy's Anna Karenina

This is the first of a series of four talks by Professor Christopher Dowrick, illustrating how the creative arts, including literature, poetry, classical music and contemporary folk/rock, can enhance our wellbeing.

1st: Thursday March 28 · 2.00 p.m. 2nd: Thursday June 27 · 3:30 p.m.

From Pleasure Gardens to Theme Parks

Moira MacQuaide, Guildford u3a, is hosting this talk which touches on a selection of gardens and parks, past and present, looking at their history.

Friday, April 5 · 2.00 - 3.00 p.m.

Live Cookery Demonstration - Spring recipes

Chef Alex from 'Vegetarian for Life' demos his delicious spring recipes live on Zoom, especially for u3a members.

Thursday, April 11 · 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

More Spring recipes Thursday, April 18 · 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Events are continually being added to the list online.

Interest Groups Online Groups

Interest Groups Online offers a variety of peer led, online learning opportunities for its subscribers.

As part of the u3a movement, members generously volunteer their time and share their knowledge, skills and experience with the members in their groups. Some groups are more interactive than others, with an expectation that all members take it in turns to present their knowledge. If in doubt, give it a go. The more groups you try, the more likely you'll find the one you love.

To join a group you must already be a paid up member of Interest Groups Online. It costs £12 to join for the year, which runs from 1st April to 31st March. Check out the long list of groups available. They are groups not courses.

Once you have decided which groups you want to join, you need to log on to the Interest Groups Online u3a Members Portal on Beacon to join a group. Some groups are full, with a waiting list in place. We have listed below where a group has a waiting list. Do join the waiting list on Beacon and when a space becomes available, you will be contacted by the group leader and invited to join. We may set up an additional group to accommodate those on the waiting list.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online/interest-groups-online-groups>

?? PUZZLE PAGES ??

Can you decipher the following sayings/proverbs?

- PVIUMC AUJ'S PV AEYYCVMC.
- WUAR YN UQQ SMUKVC, XUCSVM YN JYJV.
- EYJVCSB LC SEV PVCS ZYQLAB.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
										D		R
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

A B C **D** E F G H I J K L M N O P **R** S T Y

- CBGQZFP CMXBZGT QDP LBON.
- IZRQ SDROP ABZ'GP MDPMN.
- ABZ TFBBVP, ABZ OBTP.
- BRO MFN SMQPG NB FBQ JRH.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
									M			
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
										V		

A B D E F H I L **M** N O Q R S T U **V** W X Y Z

From the initial letters of each word can you work out what these proverbs say?

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 8. T P I M T T S | 12. T G I A G O T O S |
| 9. B I I T E O T B | 13. T H A B T O |
| 10. L I T B M | 14. W T G G T T T G G |
| 11. T E B C T W | 15. A M T H G F |

**Solutions to
February - March puzzles**

Celebrity Anagrams

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Mel Gibson | 7. George Clooney |
| 2. Kate Winslet | 8. Meryl Streep |
| 3. Jim Carrey | 9. Nicole Kidman |
| 4. Tom Hanks | 10. Russell Crowe |
| 5. Reese Witherspoon | 11. Julia Roberts |
| 6. Tom Cruise | 12. Matt Damon |

2	6	9	3	4	5	8	7	1
5	1	8	7	2	6	3	4	9
7	3	4	8	9	1	2	5	6
6	8	5	9	1	3	4	2	7
9	7	1	2	5	4	6	8	3
4	2	3	6	8	7	9	1	5
8	5	6	4	7	9	1	3	2
3	4	7	1	6	2	5	9	8
1	9	2	5	3	8	7	6	4

Word Chains

APOSTLE - LEAFLET - ETHICAL - ALLERGY - GYMNAST - STRETCH - CHIFFON
 DRIZZLE - LECTURE - REQUIEM - EMPATHY - HYDRATE - TEXTURE - RESCIND
 GIRAFFE - FERTILE - LETTUCE - CENSURE - REJOICE - CENTAUR - URANIUM

Du3a COMPETITION

Our next competition is a **Writing Competition**.

We are not specifying any titles so you can write on any topic you want.

We have three categories:

Poetry - up to 30 lines.

Fiction - up to 1000 words.

Non-fiction - up to 1000 words.

Each category will be awarded a £15 first prize.

Please send any entries by email to Nancy by midday on April 19th 2024. (email address on page 21).

All entries should have a title (not included in the line/word count).

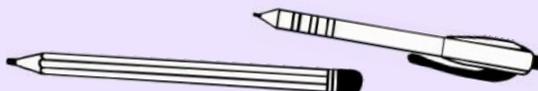
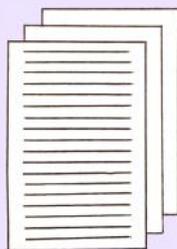
Please **DO NOT** put your name on the story but do include your full name in the email.

I can accept Word or Pages formats - if you do not have either of these please send as a pdf. If you are unsure about formatting please send your work anyway and I will work with you to ensure we have a readable document.

Entries will be judged by the Writers group. (They will not be eligible for entering the competition).

Thanks

Nancy Raynsford



Speaker Finder reporting

A good mixture of speakers and events ahead! All meetings are in Powerhouse at Christ Church. Doors open at 12.45 p.m. and meetings start at 1.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

April 15th - Pie and Pea lunch plus favourite songs from Chris Woolven. Tickets are on sale at the March Members' Meeting or you can buy them from Diane Woolven, Kim Beresford or me at any coffee morning or you can catch us in Prego most days at some point (email me or Diane to arrange a time) or you can send five pounds in an envelope to one of us and we will email a ticket to you. If you choose the latter option, don't forget to say what your choices of pie and of peas are! (Pie - mince and onion, chicken and leek, vegetable / peas - mushy or garden).

April 29th - as this is a Five-Monday-Month, this date will be a beetle drive by popular demand. It will be the last for a while, as we will be trying something different when next we have a five Monday month.

May 20th - Annual General Meeting - see Chair's welcome on page 2. Following that there will, by hook or by crook, be some form of entertainment! A speaker has been approached who may be able to provide a very interesting talk, but it is not yet confirmed. It is difficult to find a speaker for the short time after the AGM - I am doing my level best!

June 17th - an in-house event. There will be a variety of displays and some things to try out, from a range of our groups, plus a demonstration by our Scottish Country dancers and a few other surprises. Home grown talent!

July 15th - Roger Browne returns with his electric piano to tell us more about those 20th Century songwriters and musicians.

September 16th - Astrophysicist Brad Gibson will talk to us about a stellar topic, not yet finalised. Brad lectures at Hull University.

September 30th - another Five-Monday-Month! Let's have a go at a whist drive! You don't need to know how to play - you will have learned within ten minutes! Prizes!

October 21st - Hurray! It's Dr Ann Featherstone my favourite! Subject not yet arranged

November 16th - to be confirmed

December 16th - Christmas 'Do' plus entertainment, which will depend on how much arm twisting goes on But rest assured there WILL be entertainment!

Thank you for the many, many positive comments about the changes to Members' Meetings and I am glad they are meeting general approval. Over the year, there should be something to suit everyone.

Please remember that at Members' Meetings there are always the jigsaw library, the book box and the suggestion box. No more donations for jigsaw library thank you. If you donate a recommended book to the book box, you are required to take

one out - I have to carry them! Suggestions are always acknowledged.

There are often displays of members' work, like the magnificent exhibition by David Bryan in January. The display in March features the shortlisted artworks for the competition ... there are other exhibitions by members to come - and other competitions too!

I am always open to ideas and suggestions Talk to me!

Best wishes

Paula Harmer

KEY FOR GROUP MEETING VENUES

BCC	Baptist Church on Chequer Road	DN1 2AL	Chequer Road
BCH	Baptist Church Hall	DN1 2AL	Chequer Road
CL	Central library	DN1 3BZ	Sir Nigel Gresley Sq.
DCA	Doncaster Carers Association	DN1 2EE	Regents Terrace
Dearne V	Dearne Valley Leisure Centre	S64 0LB	Doncaster Road
FC	Flying Childers	DN4 7JA	Nostell Place
GL	Various starting points, contact Group Leader for details		
HC	The Hallcross	DN1 3NL	Hallgate
HP	Haslam Park	DN4 7DP	Ellers Crescent
HXP	Hexthorpe Park	DN4 0HY	Greenfield Lane
LP	Leisure Park	DN4 7NW	Herten Way
P	Café Prego on Hallgate	DN1 3NL	Hallgate
PCC	Powerhouse at Christ Church	DN1 2HG	Thorne Road
PL	Parklands Social Club	DN2 4LT	Wheatley Hall Road
SC	Savoy Cinema	DN1 3BU	Sir Nigel Gresley Sq.
SPC	Saint Peter In Chains	DN1 2AA	Chequer Road
Z	Zoom - online		

Please always contact group leaders before visiting any group for the first time

See emailed or hard copy of the newsletter for details of the following:

Page 5: Membership renewal:

Contact the Membership Secretary:

Page 19: Writing competition

Contact Nancy Raynsford

Contact Numbers

Activity Groups

Contact Group leaders - see printed Newsletter for telephone numbers, or Du3a Website

Du3a Committee Members

Chair	Paula Harmer		
Vice Chair	Chris Woolven		
Secretary	Diane Woolven		
Treasurer	Peter Hermes		
Membership Secretary	Christine Curtis	07735436176	christinecurtisU3A@gmail.com
Group Co-ordinator	David Harmer		
Beacon Administrator	Wendy Hattrell		
Welfare	Jill Laming		
Publicity	Simon Hughes		
Speaker Finder	Paula Harmer		
New Members Committee	Corrine Chivers		
Committee	Diane Williams		
Committee	Kim Beresford		
Committee	Nancy Raynsford		
Co-opted	Simon Hughes		

Deadline

Thank-you to all the members who have sent articles for this issue. Articles for the June - July 2024 newsletter need to be received by

Wednesday 24th April 2024

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc. to
btompsonu3a@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.....

Printer

We are grateful to Chris Peck @ CJS Print for his help in printing this newsletter

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 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!

QR Code for Du3a website



Newsletter edited by B. Thompson

