

DONCASTER



Registered Charity No. 1074577

DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018



From the Chair



When I woke up this morning and looked out on the world, I thought "what a wonderful idea, to invent a 25 hour day". To have the luxury of an extra hour to rest some weary bones, or to be able to enjoy what seemed like an extra hour of daylight to be actively involved in pleasurable outdoor activities. We can enjoy the extra hour to get through the usual Sunday chores, or we can take the dog for a longer walk or take our time mowing the lawn for the last time this year, even though it gets darker an hour earlier. Isn't that a more acceptable situation to be in, rather than having to work the night shift and perhaps not getting paid for the extra time during the dark hours?

During the month of October, our DU3A Group Leaders had a successful meeting with the new Co-ordinators John Wheeler and Diane Williams. Each leader or their representative had the opportunity to give a brief summary of how their group was progressing, and where they might look to benefit from either financial or administrative help, or perhaps a change of venue. After some light refreshments we welcomed some of our newest members and some would-be members. They were given a Powerpoint presentation by Chris Woolven on the range of interest groups available to members at the moment. Hopefully new members will bring a new range of interests and skills and will possibly look to starting up some new groups themselves.

A Special General Meeting was attached to our last General Meeting. **The two items** that required a vote **were both passed unanimously**.

The first item was to reword paragraph 6 of our constitution, without any change in outcome, so that at election time committee members may now be named either officers or non-officers. (We are waiting for confirmation from the Charity Commission that this is acceptable to them).

The second item was to reduce subscriptions for 2018-19 by £1 for individual and for joint members.

We are always looking for new members to bring new ideas to the Executive Committee. We are all volunteers and are elected to serve for an initial period of two years, which can be extended on re-election. If you would like to contribute to the future of DU3A please think seriously about putting your name forward for 2018-19.

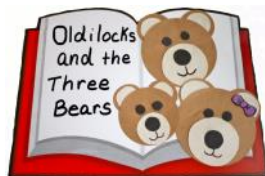
With Christmas not far away and this being the last newsletter this year, may I, on behalf of the committee, take the opportunity of wishing you all a healthy winter season and joyful celebrations over the Christmas and New Year period.

George Kirk



Forthcoming General Meetings

18th December: Christmas Event: 'Ladies who love to Sing' - a musical entertainment and singalong, 'Oldilocks' - the pantomime and refreshments.



Places are limited due to fire regulations.

Ticket holders only. If you would like to attend please contact Diane Williams to purchase a ticket. £4.00 per ticket.

15th January: Mike Atherton: 'Long Shots' (Medics behind the Lines)



Welcome



A warm welcome to our new members:

**Linda Bennett, Kim Beresford, Tina Brain,
Jean Brierley, Margaret Crompton,
Celia Griggs, David Griggs, Janet Guyler,
Denise McNeilis, Tony McNeilis, Eileen Molloy, David Phillips,
Keith Rimmer, Maria Shires, Corinne Chivers.**

Sunday Lunch

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: EARL OF DONCASTER:

26th November at 1.00 pm.

2 courses: £16.95 3 courses: £19.95

Tea/Coffee included (and mince pies)

Balance to be paid on the day. Please gather in the lounge near reception before 12.45 p.m.

DECEMBER: No Sunday Lunch held in December

GEORGIAN TEAROOMS - 28th January at 1.00 p.m.

Prices are: £14.95 for 2 courses; £17.95 for 3 courses

Tea/Coffee included.

Menus will be available from Monday 15th until Sunday 21st January. Please contact me to choose from the menu or to let me know if you are unable to attend this lunch.

Eileen Dickson



GROUPS - UPDATES/NOTICES

DINING OUT ●●●●●

The next meeting of the Dining Out group will take place on **Tuesday 13th February 2018** and the venue will be notified at a later date.

We would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2018.

Carole & Joan



CARD MAKING ●●●●●

There will **not** be a meeting in December as this falls between Christmas and New Year. The next meeting will be on the last Wednesday in January.

STRIDERS ●●●●●

The next walk will be on **28th November** at Idle Valley Nature Reserve (North Rd, Retford, Notts DN22 8RQ). There is parking by the Visitors' Centre which has a good cafe selling cakes, sandwiches, toasties, jacket potatoes, soup and bread and meals like curry, pasties etc. It is vegetarian!

The walk itself is around the nature reserve and is approximately 7 miles, about 3 hours walking time. There are plenty of opportunities to look at the wildlife so some may wish to bring binoculars. The terrain is flat on well worn paths and tracks. Just in a few places it is a bit wet and muddy but we should be able to get round them without any problem. The only toilets are at the Visitors' Centre.

We will meet at 10 a.m. for coffee at the Visitors' Centre and then start the walk around 10.30. We could stop for a snack half-way round and then get a bite to eat at the cafe when we finish at approximately 1.30 - 2.00 p.m. Please contact Diane Harris or

Wendy Hattrell if you are going to join us.

DISCUSSION ●●●●●

The Discussion Group will now meet fortnightly. The dates will be: Wednesdays:

November: 29th;
December 13th;
January 3rd, 17th, 31st;
February 14th, 28th;

and so on until further notice. By arrangement with the management, the music will be turned off for one hour for us to hold our discussions. Please come with ideas for topics to be covered which will go on a list. The topic to be discussed at the next meeting will be decided at the end of each meeting. Our meeting time remains the same at 11.45 am. for the discussion to begin at 12.00 noon.

Carole Lewis



CROWN GREEN BOWLS ●●●●●

We are now being allowed to carry on weekly through the winter, weather permitting.

George Kirk

LITERATURE ●●●●●

The meeting time of my Literature group has changed from an 11.00 a.m to a **10.30 a.m.** start time. We meet on the second Monday of the month.

Beryl Kellett



CHRISTMAS LUNCHES ●●●●●

For those of you who have booked a Christmas lunch with your group—a reminder of the date:

Sunday **26th November**

Sunday Lunch: Earl of Doncaster 1.00 p.m.

Wednesday **27th November**

Card Making: Woods Tea Rooms 1.00 p.m.

Wednesday **6th December**

DU3A Christmas Lunch: The Regent Hotel 2 p.m.

Monday **11th December**

Criminology: The Regent Hotel 12.00 noon

Other groups may have organised Christmas Lunches in addition to those above. Check with the group leaders.

YAHR ●●●●●

A further workshop is being planned for **Monday, February 5th 2018** at the Trades Centre, Frenchgate, Doncaster on the subject of "Social Media". This will be led by Margaret Fiddes who led the excellent workshop earlier this year on U3A publicity within a U3A and out into the community. Further information will be circulated later.

THE BULLETIN is the YAHR Team's first two page news sheet to be published approximately five times a year. It is also available to view on the website www.yahru3a.co.uk

FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE + ALL DU3A ●●●●●

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are looking for volunteers. Members of the For the Love of Nature group may be interested but this is open to ALL members of the DU3A. See pages 20-21 for more details.



TENPIN BOWLING ●●●●●

The next session will be on **21st November**. If you would like to join the group contact Linda Hitchman or Mike Bowser. Would members also let Linda or Mike know if are **not** attending.



Reports from General Meetings:

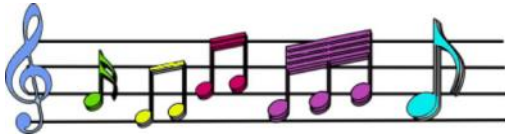
September: MUSICAL CONNECTIONS

Alan Copley came up with the idea of a Musical Quiz when he was on a river cruise and the evening entertainment was sparse. Unless he happened to have a case full of music scores he must have delved into his musical memory.



There is no doubt that, in general, our members are of an age where nostalgia gets us through life and it has been found that old favourites of songs trigger the life into fading brain cells.

Songs that we enjoy stay with us through the sheer melody. It is proved that if an audience does not leave a theatre humming the music of a show, then that show is doomed.



Alan kept us both entertained and challenged as he teased us with his quizzing links between rousing choruses.

David Allen

October: A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Crematorium

IT'S YOUR FUNERAL

At first glance the subject, funerals, could have been a little touchy considering the audience was retired people, with at least four long-time members of Doncaster U3A who are well into their nineties, one of whom being Joyce Burgin, who was incidentally present, and had her ninety first birthday on the day of the meeting.

However, in spite of the dour subject, the speaker Jane Price happily managed to keep her talk on funerals on a light note that was often very funny. Jane is a lay preacher and has officiated at many funerals, which gave her an insight into the many different forms funerals can take. Jane also passed on to her audience practical information about various aspects of what can, and cannot, be done when arranging a funeral, be it one's own funeral, or for someone else.

One thing that emerged from listening to this talk was that really anything goes so long as the basic legal aspects are followed. This became apparent during the talk when Jane described how she was asked by a person who was dying, if she would officiate at her funeral when the time came, and then stipulated that she be allowed to be sitting upright in her coffin, facing the mourners for the duration of the service. Jane then gently explained that for various reasons this would not be practical, and excused herself from officiating at that particular funeral. The talk was informative and thought provoking as well as amusing.



It is to be hoped that it will be a long time before we need to use the information that Jane Price gave us in this talk.

Betty Alexander

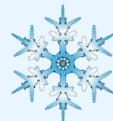
Dining Out

On Tuesday 17th October the Dining Out group met at Turkuaz on Nether Hall Road for our last meeting of 2017. The varied menu was excellent and served very promptly by efficient and cheerful waiters and the restaurant was soon full to capacity. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Joan Condron



STRIDERS TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER



A group of 5 striders met at the Red Lion in Todwick for a morning coffee before beginning an 8 mile walk in the area of Kiveton Park. We drove to the local railway station to park cars and then started the walk out of Kiveton along minor roads before taking the footpath across the fields towards Shireoaks. We passed Netherthorpe airfield and made our way down to Shireoaks Hall, a



country house built in the 17th century but now disused. We walked past fishing lakes and down into Shireoaks itself, a former pit village, and then up to the Chesterfield canal where we had a very pleasant picnic lunch sitting on a bench watching the world go by! After lunch we followed the towpath westwards along the canal and found a lovely little refreshment kiosk with a wonderful summer house to enjoy our drinks and ice creams. Continuing along the towpath we came to an old wharf where stone, locally quarried, was loaded onto barges and transported up to West Stockwith then transferred onto boats to be taken down to London via the Trent, Humber and North Sea. They were used in the

rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament which had been damaged in a fire in the 1830s. We then arrived back in Kiveton to finish the walk. It had been a most enjoyable day. The weather had been kind and despite the haze there were some good views. The section along the canal was particularly pretty and we passed numerous locks along the way. Many thanks to Phil Rawlins for organising a very successful walk.

Guy Howitt





LIVING HISTORY



The Jewel in the Crown of the North



When I was a child at school in nineteen forty something or other, our class was shown a film about the City of York. The commentator said that York was known as the "Jewel in the Crown of the North". That phrase surprised me. Surprised me because my grandmother lived in York and I had until then always thought York was an ordinary place compared to where we lived in Doncaster.

Seventy five years later the memory of that film returned to me when our group leader suggested that we, in the Living History group, spend a day at the York Castle museum, and all agreed. So on a nice bright autumn morning our group met at the Doncaster market car park and boarded the bus that had been booked for us, and which then rapidly drove us to York where we alighted a short time later at the entrance to the York Castle Museum. This was wonderful. No parking worries, no distance to walk for those of us who are not so good on our feet, which meant that we were nice and fresh and able to enjoy the experience of the museum. We had four hours to spend at the museum before the bus would be back to pick us up for our return to Doncaster. One would think that a couple of hours would suffice, and for most museums it would, but York Castle Museum covers a large area. As the name implies, it was originally a castle built by the Normans. If York was known as the "Jewel in the Crown of the North", the castle is the "Jewel in the Crown of York" sitting, as it does, on a hill in the centre of the city.

From being a castle, it then became a prison, eventually maturing in nineteen thirty eight into becoming a social history museum. The latter change in the use of the castle was led by the efforts of a Dr. Kirk, a keen social historian and an amateur archaeologist, who was responsible for many archaeology finds in and around York in the first half of the twentieth century. Of interest to the U3A Philosophy group is the fact that Dr. Kirk was also an honorary member of the York Philosophical Society. By all accounts, a very busy man.

Lunch and a natter was welcome when we reached half way round this large museum. There was hot food as well as snacks, not a large selection, but adequate. It was interesting to listen to the U3A group's impressions of the artefacts we had seen. Many mentions of memories recalled from childhood, by seeing household objects on display; remarks such as, "I remember my grandmother using that". There was a particularly good display of the fashions of the sixties. Some of us are old enough and brave enough to say that we recalled using, or wearing, some of the objects that were there.

The second half of the tour could be a bit depressing, when going round the prison cells and exercise yard with the stocks and the scaffold on display. How

lucky we are to be living in this age was a thought that went through our minds. With all its imperfections, it is still better than the past, at least in our part of the world. One thing we have now, that was an immediate blessing on our day out, was the fact that there was a lift in the museum for those who could not get around easily, as there were lots of stairs. There were also seats scattered around that one could rest on from time to time.

A look around the Museum shop was our last stop before saying goodbye to York Castle Museum.

Our hired bus collected us at the entrance and, as no one was missing, we left in timely fashion for our return to Bonny Donny. It was an interesting visit made enjoyable by visiting in the company of other U3A members, where it was possible to have the time to renew acquaintances and meet new friends.

Betty Alexander

Tenpin Bowling



Another great afternoon was enjoyed on our last ten-pin bowling session in September by our enthusiastic crowd of U3A players. Winning the day were our worthy chairman George and Carol for the ladies, but our winners were overshadowed by our new player Pat who, despite her mobility problems, entered into the game with gusto and a walking stick, showing us all that 'Can't do' is not in the U3A vocabulary. Well done Pat"



Mike Bowser



THEATRE AND DISCUSSION

On the 5th October the Theatre group went to see 'The Weir' at The Cast in Doncaster, written by Conor McPherson. It was an atmospheric play set in a remote country pub in Ireland with just five cast members. The play begins with some light banter between a few of the locals and the barman. Another former local man then brings along a woman, new to the area, to introduce her to local life. To impress or to entertain the newcomer three of the men recall supernatural tales they have experienced. However, far from them being light hearted anecdotes, in the case of two of the men, it was clear that they were profoundly affected by their experiences and inadvertently revealed their fears and insecurities.

This change of tone led the newcomer to reveal her own devastating loss that has led to her move from the city to this area. When two of the characters leave and the newcomer is left with the barman and the oldest character, a confirmed bachelor, the latter surprisingly reveals his own tale of lost love that has devastated his life. Although parts of the play were very dark, it was interjected with light through comic dialogue. I found the play well-crafted and absorbing. It unfolded very holistically, which was aided by the play not having an interval, (though this led to a few of us shifting around in our seats a bit towards the end!)

At the end of the play, after a short break, we had the opportunity to put questions to the cast, who were all excellent actors. We discovered that four of them were Irish and they felt that this helped by bringing their knowledge of the culture to the play. They get together and discuss their performance after every play to improve their future performances. Although the play was quintessentially Irish, its central themes of isolation and loss, like most strong plays could translate into different cultural settings.



As we have been offering a wide range of productions, each production doesn't appeal to every member, so there is room for a few more members.

Monica Dawson

If you are interested please contact Monica.

SATURDAY DROP-IN at the TRADES CLUB

This picture was taken at the drop-in on September 30th, showing a good group of people, most of whom ate lunch. The food at the Trades is freshly cooked and very nice. There are also snacks for those not requiring a meal.

Ann Windle



HISTORY



Members of the DU3A History group visited Leeds Armouries on 20th September. This is an extensive collection of arms, armoury, with innovative design and fine examples of fine craftsmanship. Even the horses had armour, though one is bemused as to how the beasts managed to gallop around with such armour on themselves and on

their riders.

One of the finest decorated pieces of armour has gold embossing with a lion's head, although the helmet is marked with sword cuts, possibly received during tournaments.

There is an ugly horned helmet made for Henry VIII for use when fighting against the French. There are also examples (sadly) of armour made for the children of rich noblemen who reared their children to expect to have to engage in battles once they were older.

In the Oriental Gallery is armour made for an Elephant. It weighs 118 kg and is entered in the Guinness book of world records as the largest and heaviest armour in the world.

There are over eleven types of helmets, since head injuries were seen to be more likely than other injuries.

There are many examples of Longbows, mostly made of Yew wood. English archers were famous in the victories over French forces such as at Agincourt, during the Hundred Year's battles and during the Wars of the Roses. The iron heads of the arrows were forged by specialist blacksmiths and the fletchings were made from the flight feathers of geese.

There are innumerable examples of guns, rifles and machine guns. By the end of the seventeenth century the first bayonet appeared as well as awesome pikes. Not all guns were made for men. There is the Tula Garniture which belonged to Elizabeth Petrovna, daughter of Peter the Great and Catherine the 1st of Russia in 1741. Elizabeth led a military coup and declared herself Empress of Russia. During her reign she encouraged Russian arts and founded the Academy of Fine Arts in St Petersburg and the University of Moscow.

There are five extensive galleries and many places to eat at a reasonable cost. It was impossible to visit all of them in the time we had there. Hopefully we can return and visit parts of the exhibitions we were unable to see on this first visit. Like so many of our museums and galleries, it is absolutely free and well worth a visit.

Jean Graville-King

CRIMINOLOGY



A group of around 17 members of the Criminology Group took a trip out to Southwell Workhouse on the 9th October 2017. We left Doncaster around 11.15 a.m. and arrived there at 12.05 p.m. After a short walk through the gardens we all went to the Coffee Shop for refreshments before exploring the workhouse.

On arrival we were greeted by a volunteer who gave us an insight into how people used to end up in the workhouse, how it was run, and also about the founder, the Rev. J T Becher.

As you will see from the photo of the outside of the workhouse there are two wings off the middle. The one on the right was the mens' quarters, the one on the left for the women and the middle was used for the old, infirm and children.

The younger able-bodied men were sent to work on the local farms to earn their keep (no free board and lodgings) whilst the women worked in the laundry, kitchen and general upkeep of the workhouse.

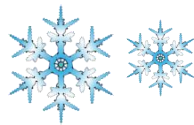
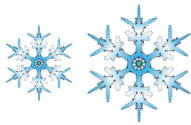
The children did receive an education (better really than the ones on the outside, so to speak).

They were encouraged to find paid work where possible This was to help facilitate them to be able to leave eventually and become a family again.



Joyce Clarke

To see many more annotated photographs about this visit go to the DU3A website and click on the 'Criminology' group page.



Welcome to the **December/January** culture page

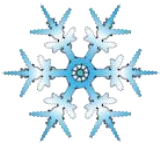
Just a few ideas for up and coming things you may like to do.
It's that time of year again "oh yes it is" Panto

Cast

Friday 1st December to Sunday 31st December

Beauty and the Beast

Call 01302 303959 or visit www.castindoncaster.com



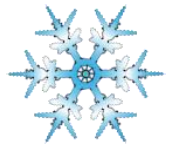
Hall Cross Lower School

Simply Voices - Christmas concert

A choir who sing for pleasure and charity

6th December Doors open 7:15 £6 per Ticket

Contact Jess for further details



The Dome

Sunday 3rd December – **That'll be the day** – 2017 Christmas Show

Sunday 10th December – **Christmas with the Jerseys "Oh What a Night"**

Saturday 13th January – **The Glenn Miller Orchestra**

Call 01302 537704/538504 or visit www.dclt.co.uk

Sheffield Lyceum

Friday 8th December to Sunday 7th January – **Mother Goose**

Monday 15th January to Saturday 20th January - **Stranger on a Train** (play)

Monday 29th January to Saturday 3rd February – **Hairspray** (musical)

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

The Crucible

Friday 8th December to Saturday 20th January – **The Wizard of Oz**

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

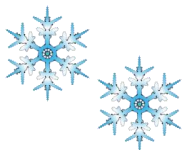
Vue Doncaster

Wednesday 13 December – 6:45pm -

A Christmas Carol live from The Old Vic

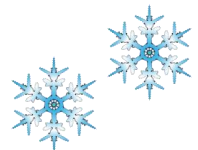
Release date 29th December – **Darkest Hour** (Winston Churchill)

Visit – <https://www.myvue.com/cinema/doncaster/whats-on> for all listings



Hope you find something you like.

Jess Parkinson



PUZZLE PAGE

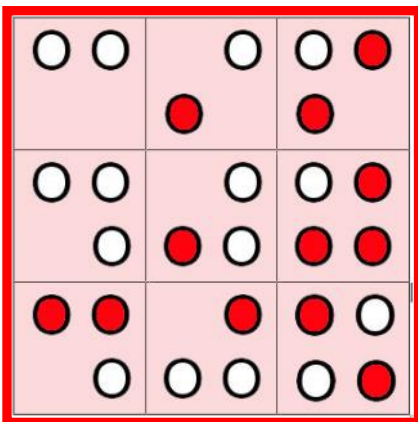
Solve the clues and then fit the answers into the grid on the right.
(The numbers in brackets indicate how many letters and words there are).



- OT book that tells of where Jesus will be born (5)
- Joseph fled here with his family (5)
- Christmas hymn (5)
- A Christmas of which you may dream (5)
- Made from distilled wine (6)
- London gets a wooden one each year from here (6)
- Surname of famous actor born in 1899 on Christmas day (6)
- Always winter, never Christmas here (6)
- How many pipers played? (6)
- Magi gift (7)
- God with us (8)
- Scrooge's Christian name (8)
- Presents (anag) (8)
- New Year's eve in Scotland (8)
- Who received good news of great joy (9)
- House of bread (9)
- Mary's cousin (9)
- Traditional Italian cake eaten at Christmas (9)
- He penned Auld Lang Syne (6,5)
- Mittsearchers (anag) (9,4)
- Best selling Christmas hit (5,9)



Solution to October/November's puzzle



A



Looking both across and down each row and column, the contents of the third square are formed by merging the contents of the two previous squares as follows:

One white or red circle remains;
Two red circles become white;
Two white circles become red.



CRACKER QUIZ

1. What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?
2. What has a head and a tail, but no body?
3. What kind of room has no doors or windows?
4. What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?
5. If you have me, you want to share me. If you share me, you haven't got me. What am I?
6. Feed me and I live, yet give me a drink and I die. What am I?
7. What is always coming but never arrives?
8. What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?

Answers: 1. A stamp 2. A coin 3. A mushroom 4. A Palm 5. A secret 6. Fire 7. Tomorrow 8. The letter 'm'

DID YOU KNOW?.....



- **ROBINS** on cards were a joke 150 years ago when postmen wore red tunics and were named after them.
- **CAROLS** began as an old English custom called wassailing, toasting neighbours to a long life. Carols weren't sung in churches until they were introduced by St. Francis of Assisi in the 13th century.
- The abbreviation '**XMAS**' isn't irreligious. The letter X is a Greek abbreviation for Christ. The first letter of the Greek word *Christos* is transliterated into our alphabet as an X. That X has come through church history to be a shorthand symbol for the name of Christ.
- **CHRISTMAS PUDDING** was originally a soup made with raisins and wine.
- **GOLD-WRAPPED CHOCOLATE COINS** commemorate St. Nicholas who gave bags of gold coins to the poor.
- **MISTLETOE** (*Viscum album*) is from the Anglo-Saxon word *misteltan*, which means "little dung twig" because the plant spreads through bird droppings. The Germanic word for "mistletoe" literally means "dung on a twig." The Druids actually believed it worked as a physical aphrodisiac.
- '**JINGLE BELLS**' was written for Thanksgiving, not Christmas. Composer James Lord Pierpont wrote the song in the 1850s to play for his Boston Sunday school class during Thanksgiving as a way to commemorate the famed Medford sleigh races.
- It is technically illegal to eat **MINCE PIES** on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything to do with gluttony. The law has never been rescinded.
- **WHITE CHRISTMAS** - For a Christmas to be officially classified as "white" a single snowflake needs to be observed falling in the 24 hours of 25th December on the rooftop of the Met Office HQ in London.
- The Viking god Odin is one precursor to the **MODERN SANTA CLAUS**. According to myth, Odin rode his flying horse, Sleipnir (a precursor to Santa's reindeer), who had eight legs. In the winter, Odin gave out both gifts and punishments, and children would fill their boots or stockings with treats for Sleipnir.
- The image of **SANTA CLAUS FLYING IN A SLEIGH** started in 1819. It was dreamt up by Washington Irving, the author who created the 'Headless Horseman'.
- The Germans made the first **ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES** out of dyed goose feathers.
- The earliest known **CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS** were apples. At Christmastime, medieval actors would use apples to decorate paradise trees (usually fir trees) during "Paradise Plays," which were plays depicting Adam and Eve's creation and fall.
- The first **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED IN BRITAIN** is thought to have been in York in 521AD.





NEW YEARS DAY 2018



The Ancient Greeks celebrated New Year at the first new moon after the 21st June. The Roman New Year (before Julius Caesar) was celebrated on 1st March. In the Middle Ages, New Year coincided with the feast of the Annunciation on 25th March. In the UK and many western cultures, New Year's Day is on 1st January, the first official day of the **Gregorian calendar**, which Pope Gregory XIII established in 1582 to account for a discrepancy of 10 days that had accumulated since Julius Caesar had borrowed the Egyptians' 12-months-and-365-days-plus-leap-years format. (Earth's trip around the sun is, inconveniently, not quite 365.25 days long).

Other New Year's Days around the world in 2018:

January	2	Mahayana (Buddhist)
January	14	The Old New Year (Orthodox Christians)
February	16	Chinese New Year
February	16	Tsagaan Sar (Mongolian New Year)
March	17	Nyepi (Bali Hindu)
March	18	Hindi New Year
March	21	Norooz (Persian/Zoroastrian) + Naw-Ruz (Baha'i)
April	1	Assyrian New Year
April	13	Songkran (Thai)
April	14	Choul Chnan Thmey – Kmer New Year (Cambodia)
April	14	Vaisakhi (Sikh + Hindu)
April	17	Myanmar New Year (Buddhist)
April	30	Theravadin (Buddhist)
September	10	Rosh Hashannah (Jewish)
September	11	Enkutatash (Ethiopia)
September	12	Hijra (Islam) + Muharran (Islam)
October	30	Murador New Year (extinct Aboriginal tribe)
November	7	Diwali (Hindu)
November	8	Jain New Year
November	8	Vikram New Year (Hindu)



For the jet-setters in the DU3A - you can enjoy New Year more than once a year!
Read more about some of these celebrations below and on pages 18 and 21.



HAPPY NEW YEAR



September 11 2018: Enkutatash – Ethiopian New Year.

Enkutatash means “gift of jewels” in the Amharic language. This East African nation uses a unique calendar, which counts its year seven to eight years behind the Gregorian calendar. Presently (2017), the country has just celebrated the arrival of 2010. The day begins with church services followed by the family meal. Young children will receive small gifts of money or bread after the girls gather flowers and sing and boys paint pictures of saints. The ritual of coffee serving and drinking, which can last for hours, is an important social occasion offering reunion for relatives and friends and a chance to discuss community matters while enjoying top-notch coffee. To be invited to a coffee ceremony in an Ethiopian family is a sign of great respect.

February 16th 2018: Mongolian New Year

On “Mongolian New Year’s Eve” there are a number of rituals that Mongolians perform in order to bring good luck for the year to come. First, houses must be cleaned out thoroughly, which is often a day-long task. Candles are lit to symbolise enlightenment and to give light to any spirits who have “become Buddhas” that might visit. Three chunks of ice are also left just outside the door, since the horse of Palden Lhamo, a Buddhist god, visits every home on New Year’s Eve and will be thirsty. Finally, a family dinner is enjoyed in the evening, card games are played in the hopes of beginning a year-long good luck streak, debts are paid off, and grudges are forgiven.

On the Lunar New Year itself, people visit their relatives, beginning with their parents and continuing in order of descending age. They make many short visits to dozens of relatives. Each time, special rituals are followed. The guests must ask the hostess, “Are you living in Peace?” The hostess kisses the guest’s cheeks, gives out a gift of money or vodka, and serves tea mixed with milk. Gifts may also be exchanged.

March 17th 2018 : Balinese New Year

Contrary to many other cultures all around the world who celebrate the New Year with dynamic and sparkling festivities, the crowning point of the Balinese New Year celebration is a day dedicated to complete silence

On the second day of celebrations (the eve of Nyepi) festivities take place throughout the island with large papier-maché effigies, called *Ogoh-Ogoh*, paraded around the villages and along beaches accompanied by loud gamelan music. These are then torched and, it is believed, that with the conflagration, any evil spirits that have brought disease and misery to the island during the past year will have also been banished.

The third day, Nyepi (which means “to keep silent” in the local language), falls on the day following the dark moon of the spring equinox. Nyepi is a day fully dedicated to connecting oneself more closely with God (*Hyang Widi Wasa*) through prayers and meditation and at the same time, as a day of introspection to decide on values, such as humanity, love, patience, kindness, and others, that should be kept forever.

The entire island of Bali comes to a complete halt, in “lock down” mode - to allow all to follow the prescribed rituals. Bali’s International Airport closes. No planes land or take off for 24 hours. All traffic across Bali is stopped. All shops close. No pedestrian traffic is allowed on the beach or on the streets. Hotels are asked to cover their windows. No light or candle may be lit in any Balinese home. No cars on the road, no motorbikes, no people. Local watchmen known as *pecalang* ascertain that this rule is strictly obeyed. At night, all lights will have to be turned off. Hotels close all curtains so that no ray of light shines to the outside. All sound and music indoors must be held to its lowest volume.

It is, indeed, a special experience, for all Balinese, visitors and tourists .

MORE THAN THE NEWSLETTER CAN HOLD

Visit our DU3A Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster>

WELCOME

Notices
Current Calendars and Newsletter



GROUPS

Calendars
Group Activities Booklet
Ideas for New Groups
FutureLearn and MOOCs (free online courses)
List of all the current groups – click on each one to get details of date/time/venue/frequency and basic description plus photographs

EVENTS

Programme of General Meetings and speakers for the year
Past and Future events information including YAHR events

SOCIAL

Culture Page
Social events - additional to Group events - maybe as a taster for a future group OR a one off e.g. Archery

MEMBERSHIP

Information about fees, renewal dates, renewal forms and dates of newsletters

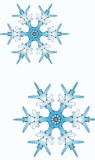
NEWSLETTERS

Current and past newsletters – ease of access (rather than via email)

DU3A PLUS

Help and factsheets:
These are not adverts – they are links to various websites

- Health
- Safety
- Pensions
- Transport
- Community Services
- Crime Prevention/Scams
- Housing/Accommodation
- Other Benefits
- First Stop / EAC (Elderly Accommodation Counsel)



CONTACT

To contact Committee members – click on the appropriate person and write a message

To contact a group leader

- via website – many have a bluebird on their group page
- via phone – numbers are NOT included on the web version of the newsletter (will need to look at your e-mailed version or hard copy)

COMMITTEE

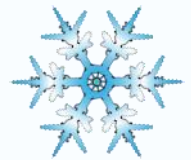
List of committee members
Constitution
Messages from the Chair
Minutes – available by entering a username and password

YAHR

Link to the Yorkshire and Humberside website

GALLERY

Lots of pictures from most of our groups



U3A

Opens the National Third Age Trust website

Do let me know if you would like anything else including on our website. *B Thompson*



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust



Good at Counting Sheep?

We're creating a Yorkshire rich in wildlife for everyone and we're getting a helping hand from some of our woolly friends! Sheep graze areas of our land to help keep rough competitive species under control, leaving room for wildflowers and grasses which are important for a huge range of insects, birds and other amazing wildlife.

Can you stay awake
when counting sheep?
If you can we need
your help!

This autumn we're welcoming a new flock of Hebridean sheep to our Carr Lodge reserve between Balby and Loversall. We're looking for local people to help watch over our flock by visiting the site once a week or fortnight for roughly an hour. You won't be needed to handle the sheep but use your keen observation skills to check all is well, count the sheep and report any injuries or illness to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust staff. No prior knowledge is required as full training is provided.

Livestock checks can be done at any time of day so are perfect if you have lots of other commitments to work around. You'll pick a slot on our rota that suits you. All we ask is that you can definitely make it when you say you can. If you have a spare hour, you enjoy being out in nature and fancy getting to know our flock, email volunteering@ywt.org.uk for more details.

Are you a people person?

We're creating a Yorkshire rich in wildlife and we want to share it with everyone! All across South Yorkshire we're reaching out into communities to connect people with nature. Through school visits, talks and events at our nature reserves as well as school assemblies and community events our fantastic team of volunteers are inspiring South Yorkshire to explore the wildlife on their doorstep.

We're looking for new volunteers in all our Inspiring People roles so if your passion for nature finds you enthusing your friends with wildlife tales and facts; or if you're already a great communicator and could occasionally use your skills to help wildlife we'd love to hear from you! No prior knowledge is required as full training is provided. So if you can spare a few hours every week or fortnight to inspire others about nature get in touch with volunteering@ywt.org.uk for more details.



A great way to meet
new people and
learn new skills!

www.ywt.org.uk

Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife

Volunteer open day at Potteric Carr: January 14th 2018:

for potential volunteers to come and meet us and chat about all our volunteering roles. For further information contact Jennifer Few:

Tel: 01302 365995 Email: jennifer.few@ywt.org.uk Website: <http://www.ywt.org.uk>

THIRD AGE TRUST—EVENTS

U3A Christmas Concert 2017 with the **Brandenburg Singers and Organ.**

There are three U3A Christmas concerts this year. It is the same program at all three. Designed to whet your appetite for the coming season, the concert will include traditional carols and be enhanced by the gentle glow of mulled wine and mince pies.

£19.50

The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Hill, London, WC2R 0DA

Mon 4 December 2.00 pm

Mon 4 December 5.30 pm

Tues 19 December 2.00 pm



For further information visit:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

April 13th 2018: Songkran (Thailand)

The word Songkran comes from a Sanskrit word and literally translates as "astrological passage". Thai people offer food to the monks, which some believe offers a requiem to their ancestors. People also offer tokens - like sand or construction parts - while others release birds and fish, or even larger animals, like buffalo and cows.

Songkran is an extended three-day celebration. People clean their houses, buy new clothes, visit temples, and make a visit to houses of near and dear ones to exchange gifts and wishes. There is a popular tradition of throwing water on one another, with a belief that doing so will purify one's soul from all sins and evil energies. With the arrival of New Year at midnight, Thais wish each other with 'Sawatdee pi Mai' or Happy New Year.

Some of the many things to do during the Songkran Festival:

- Pour water onto elderly family members of the family or society to show respect and gratefulness and ask for their blessing
- Enjoy folk performances and traditional games to preserve the Songkran tradition
- Plan to get wet and stay that way for at least three days if you're anywhere near the celebration. (Fortunately, Songkran is a great way to escape the scorching temperatures in April — the hottest month of the year.)
- Although the true Songkran tradition is to sprinkle water on people, travellers and locals alike, don water cannons and buckets to take the "blessings" to the extreme! (Dousing or sprinkling people with water signifies the washing away of bad thoughts and actions. It brings them good luck in the new year).

Clouds Counselling Service

NEED TO TALK >>>> WE LISTEN

Clouds CCS are delighted to announce that the Service has been awarded £10,000 from "Awards for All" Lottery Funding for the further provision of Bereavement Support Groups and to trial a Family Support Group in 2018. For more information visit www.cloudscounsellingservices.com or phone our client line: 07962907053

Sally Chamberlain



CONTACTING GROUP LEADERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DU3A members can contact group leaders directly—See your paper or emailed Newsletter.

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

Chair:	George Kirk
Vice Chair:	Wendy Hattrell
Secretary :	Beryl Kellett
Treasurer :	John Parkinson:
Membership Secretary:	Jill Laming
Group Co-ordinators	Diane Williams
	John Wheeler
Welfare:	Carole Lewis
Newsletter Editor :	Bridget Thompson
Website Manager :	Bridget Thompson
Volunteers:	Mike Bowser:
Publicity:	Mark Frost

WISHING ALL DU3A MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



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.....

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.

Deadline

Thank-you to all the members who have sent articles for this issue. Articles for the February/March newsletter need to be received by

Saturday 30th December.

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

du3anewsletterbmt@btinternet.com



QR Code for DU3A website

Newsletter edited by Bridget Thompson

