

DONCASTER



Registered Charity No. 1074577



December 2019 - January 2020

From the Chair



October has been a terrible month for weather, but a better month for U3A! Groups are now back in full swing and our new groups of Enjoying Poetry and Brass Band are getting underway. The latest suggestions are for a Vegetarian Cookery group and Canasta. We are all being encouraged to cut down on eating meat to do our bit to save the planet so it seems like a good idea to learn a few interesting recipes without meat that we can use regularly - even if we don't intend to give up eating meat altogether.

Plans are in place for our 25th Anniversary Celebrations with a Festive Afternoon Tea at the Mansion House on the 16th December, replacing the December General Meeting. We will be entertained by David Harmer (a U3A Member) and David Globe, known collectively as the Glummer Twins, recently returned from a spell on the Edinburgh Fringe.



Their publicity material says *"The irrepressible Glummer Twins are back to celebrate the joys, absurdities and indignities of getting older. A delightfully downbeat double-act with a unique take on stand-up spoken word comedy and music."*

Back in the good old days they were part of a comedy poetry group Circus Of Poets along with the 'Bard of Barnsley' Ian McMillan. They toured Europe and appeared on TV reading out their words - angry, funny, politically angsty verse - to anyone who'd listen. One reviewer called them "the Four Tops of Poetry". Then they grew older, got respectable jobs and decided that living out of a van in the name of verse was a younger man's game.

Fast forward to 2015 and a chance meeting in Sheffield railway station and the decision to "get the band back together again" [well, half of it]. A few weeks later two old blokes ambled on to a makeshift stage at the Riverside pub in Sheffield and started speaking rhythmic rhymes. Sometimes saying the same thing but more often than not saying different things at the same time. Some people laughed, so they decided to keep doing it. And they're still at it. And people are still laughing...."

If you would like to join us at the Mansion House you will need to buy a ticket, details are on page 13.

We have been gathering information from founding and long standing members but sadly we don't seem to have unearthed many photos. We will put together the information we have for later circulation and if you can help us by supplying more then please get in touch.

The two-page spread in the Free Press about Doncaster



U3A and in particular the Love of Nature group will have helped to spread the word. Thank-you to Jane Page for organising that. If you know of friends who might be interested in joining U3A then do suggest they contact Jill Laming, the membership secretary, to ask for a month's pass so they can enjoy trying out various groups. I sometimes think U3A is one of Doncaster's best kept secrets – when I say to people I'm a member they often say 'what's that!' You can help in small ways by leaving copies of newsletters and the national publication Third Age matters in doctor's and dentist's surgeries. If you do that with the newsletter please first tear out the last page with names and phone numbers to protect our committee and group leader's privacy.



Exciting times ahead. Enjoy your Christmas and New Year, but also enjoy your U3A - it has a lot to offer.

Wendy Hattrell

Future General Meetings:

18th November 2019: Topic: Tax, Care and Toy Boys
Speakers: T.B.A.

16th December 2019: NO General Meeting
Afternoon tea and entertainment at the Mansion House - Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Doncaster U3A.
Attendance is by ticket only. See page 13 for details.

20th January 2020: Speaker: Dennis Ashton
Topic: Iditarod (The last great race on earth)



WELCOME



A warm welcome to our new members

**Jaqueline Allen, David Bryan, Peter Cotterill,
Margaret Rose Mary Cavill, Linda Clarke, Denise Coe,
John Coe, Susan Costin, May Harrison, Robert Harrison,
Janet Lowe, Margaret McKevitt, Pamela Stevenson,
Karen Williams**

Victoria Kilner

Died 2nd September 2019

I only had the benefit of having Victoria as the leader of 'Easier French' for a few sessions. She was always incredibly well prepared and organised. It seemed like nothing was too much trouble for her in her quest to plan meetings that were designed to extend our knowledge and understanding of the French language. She could come across as one of those quite strict and scary schoolteachers you remembered from your secondary schooldays. A sort of 'no nonsense' leader who ensured everyone was always on task. And those tasks were often very challenging to such an extent that I thought 'Easier French' was a bit of a misnomer.

But I always detected a twinkle in her eyes and suspected that beneath that quite stern 'school teacherly' demeanour there was someone who had enjoyed a rich and eventful life and who would have some good stories to tell.

I got to know Victoria much better through an exchange of emails after her diagnosis. Yes, she certainly had enjoyed a good life and was a most fascinating and eloquent person. She was also a warm, witty, generous and self-effacing woman who was always on the side of the vulnerable and dispossessed. In her quite long emails she shared many aspects of her life with me but sadly had little time left in which to do this. I really admired the courageous and stoical manner she displayed towards the end of her life and am left with a feeling of deep regret that I didn't have the privilege of knowing this remarkable and memorable woman better during her lifetime.

Cath Lawson

I would like to echo the above. I only knew Victoria for a few years but in that time I got to know a person who cared about the world down to its smallest creepy crawlies. She was a fascinating individual who showed an interest in such a wide range of topics. Our general knowledge was developed by her fortnightly worksheets, in particular the translation exercises.

Numerous members of DU3A joined with some of Victoria's close friends, at the Chapel at Rose Hill Crematorium, to remember and celebrate her life. We heard, along with a summarized life story, about her times in Africa and about her love of gardening. It was very clear that she was a free spirit.

As we arrived at the chapel we were each presented with a rose and as we left we were given a chocolate bar and a packet of crisps! A lovely way to remember a lovely lady.

Bridget Thompson





Enjoying Poetry

The Enjoying Poetry group is now firmly established, meeting at Prego on the third Tuesday of every month from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00. Members have brought poems ranging from Pam Ayres to TS Eliot as well as poems from pre-twentieth century writers. It's fun and everybody has something to say about the poems they enjoy. It is so simple. If you like a poem, bring it along and read it and say why you like it! We are quite full but

there is always room for one or two more.

Our next meeting is on the 19th of November.

David Harmer

TRAVEL GROUP

Harlow Carr

Although I am not a gardener myself I do enjoy visiting the many Houses and Gardens in Yorkshire and surrounding counties. When it was decided we should visit Harlow Carr in September I was delighted. Each season has its own special beauty there from snowdrops and spring bulbs through the magnificent summer beds to the changing autumn colours of the trees.



We left Doncaster interchange at 10.15 a.m. in the pouring rain and it was not the easiest of journeys. Harrogate was preparing for the UCI Road World Cycle Championships. Riders from 90 countries ploughed through the Yorkshire Dales in relentless rain, culminating in Harrogate. Traffic was therefore diverted along lanes which were flooded in places and it was quite scary in places.

All but five of us got off the coach at Harlow Carr and made straight for Betty's tea shop for a cuppa and cake and because it was such a nasty day there was no queue! The shop there is very good and spacious so plenty to browse through and pass an hour or so.

Those who so desired were able to have the loan of a large brolly and take a walk outside. Well worth it since everywhere looked lovely. I did feel sorry for the gardener picking the remaining beans! The glass Alpine House had lots of wonderful specimens and the Streamside, which is one of the longest in the country, certainly had plenty of water gushing along.

Then back to the café for lunch and another visit to the shop where there were plenty of ideas for Christmas stocking fillers and back to the coach for the journey back, picking up the five who had decided to spend their day in Harrogate.

It was an uneventful journey back and it was still raining.

Elisabeth Parker



GROUPS - UPDATES / NOTICES

DINING OUT ★❄️★❄️★

The first meeting of the Dining Out Group in 2020 will be held on February 18th at the Ada Turkish Restaurant on Nether Hall Road.

Would you please let me have menu choices accompanied by a cheque made payable to DU3A by Saturday 9th February. Thank-you

Joan Condron



GENERAL MEETINGS ★❄️★❄️★

The November General Meeting will be held at C-View.

There will be NO General Meeting in December. Instead there will be a ticket-only event at the Mansion House. See page 13 for details.

TENPIN BOWLING ★❄️★❄️★

Next meetings: 19th November



THEATRE ★❄️★❄️★

This group is no longer running due to lack of support.

DISCUSSION ★❄️★❄️★

Allen and Brenda Whittaker have taken over the leadership of the Discussion group. Many thanks to Jack Chantry.

LIVING HISTORY ★❄️★❄️★

NO meeting on Wednesday 1st January.

FAMILY HISTORY ★❄️★❄️★

NO meeting in December.



NEW GROUPS ★❄️★❄️★

See the opposite page for information about two new groups: 'Cooking without Meat' and 'Canasta'.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING ★❄️★❄️★

It's our Christmas "party" on Friday December 20th. We invite any DU3A member to come and join us - **its free to all** - hot drinks and cake - and a chance to see us in action, or even give it a try. Please do let us know you are coming, so we can plan the food and drink. It is at our usual venue, the Baptist Church Hall on Chequer Road - doors open 9.45am, dancing from 10am - ends 11.45am.

Geoff Tagg

Sunday Lunch

December: NO meeting

GEORGIAN TEA ROOMS: – 26th January at 1.00 p.m.

Prices are: £14.95 for 2 courses: £17.95 for 3 courses
Tea and coffee included.

Menu available from Monday 13th until Sunday 19th January. Please contact me to make your choice of dishes or to let me know if you cannot attend this lunch.

Eileen Dickson



COOKING WITHOUT MEAT

Cooking without meat is easy but such a shift for some of us that it throws us off balance and it seems like starting all over again. We just need a bit of support - hence this new group! This will be a sharing group, for vegetarians or people who want ideas on how to reduce the meat in their diet. There will be lots of ideas shared, some tasting and plenty of thought provoking recipes.

Come along and see how to make veg centre stage. See what alternatives there are out there and try a few to see what you like. See how many ways there are to cook those humble - and cheap - vegetables. Share cooking successes and failures. Explore useful gadgets as well as those that never get used!

Bring a notebook for the wealth of interesting ideas you will collect. Come and set the agenda for future meetings!

The first meeting will be upstairs in Cafe Prego, 10.30 -12.00 on Tuesday 3rd December and thereafter on the first Tuesday of each month, unless we decide to meet more often. At the first meeting we will be swapping ideas for ways to cook cauliflower, useful web sites and favourite cookery books, plus useful kitchen appliances.

Please contact me if you want further information (see top of page 22)

Paula Harmer

CANASTA

Celia Griggs is interested in starting up a weekly/fortnightly 2-3 hours duration Canasta card game group. She anticipates that the group members could share hosting the card games or, if there are a large number interested, have the meetings at Prego.

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th November at 10.00 a.m.

For more information please contact Celia (see top of page 22).

Love of Nature

Foraging at Potteric Carr- September 3rd 2019

Before we started foraging, Kat explained that we had permission to forage on the site for educational purposes only. She had brought three containers in which we were to collect ingredients for a hawthorn syrup and three different teas. The intention was to forage on the route to the Education Centre (see below left) where Kat had set up the equipment needed to make the teas, the hawthorn syrup and some cooked pasta to eat with the syrup. (see below right) Accompanying us were a photographer and reporter from the Free Press who came with the intention of writing an article about U3A groups.

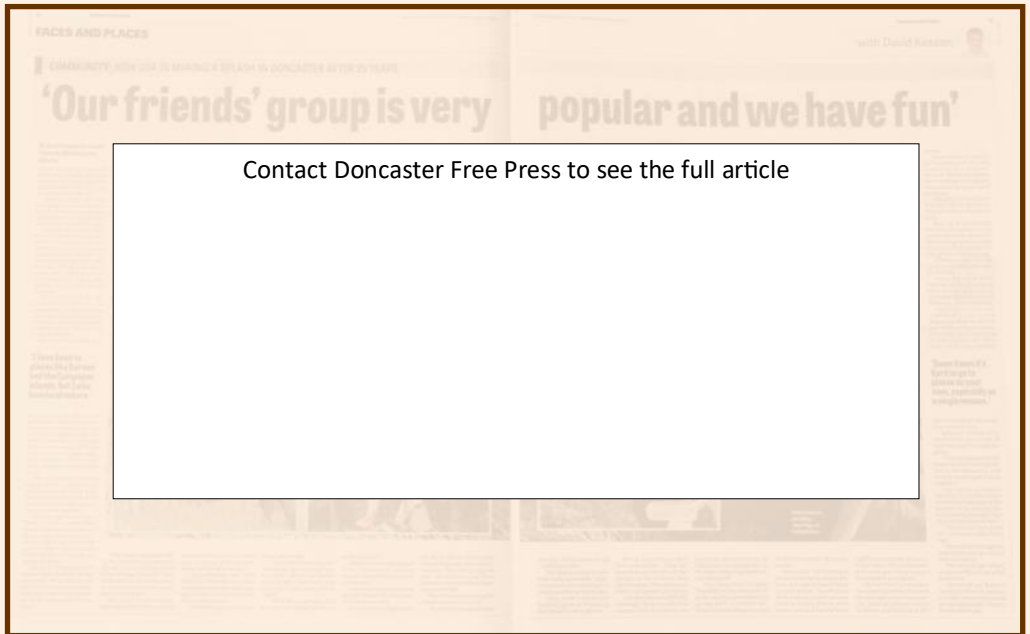


The teas we made were blackberry and beech leaf, water mint and elderberry and yarrow leaf. You may be familiar with the yarrow plant. (see flower below with the feathery leaf).



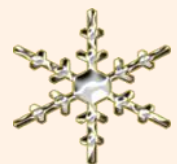
The ingredients were simply infused in boiling water for a few minutes before drinking.

I found the combination of Hawthorn Syrup and pasta worked very well and the addition of some grated cheese made it even more tasty. Judging by the number of people going back for a second taste I wasn't the only one who enjoyed the experience! Thanks to Kat for making the syrup and cooking the pasta and for making the tea.



Contact Doncaster Free Press to see the full article

A big thanks to Jane Page, our publicity officer, for arranging the interviews and the photographer. A wonderful advertisement for Doncaster U3A.



Strollers

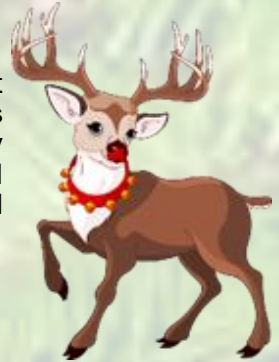


After several days of endless rain, again we were lucky and the day dawned fine. Austerfield was a new destination for us with a walk that was led by Martin and Jackie who walk this area regularly with their great dog, George.

We were walking in the old sand quarries so the ground was fairly dry and the trees were displaying their beautiful autumn colours. If we had been knowledgeable about fungi we could have had a feast. Never have we seen so many different varieties, and so many of them, different colours, shapes and sizes, seemed to be sprouting round every tree. The most striking one was bright red with tiny white spots and seemed to have only just emerged as it still had soil clinging to it. Needless to say, with our combined lack of knowledge we looked, admired but didn't touch.

Everyone enjoyed the walk and we made it back to the start just as the weather began to change so it was into our cars and off to The Ship at Bawtry where we were made very welcome, had a menu to suit everyone and the tasty and very generous portions of food came quickly to our reserved tables.

Pat Burton



Stretchers

U3A stretchers walk on Tuesday 10th September from Wadworth Church. Eleven of us met at the church car park on a very pleasant morning.

We walked through the 12th century church grounds, we passed Wadworth Hall and went beneath the A1M and the M18 onto Springwell Lane and along the perimeter of Edlington woods.

We walked back under the M18 into Wadworth woods then through fields to Lodge Farm, passed Ant Wood, along by Wilsic Hall school and back into Wadworth village through the sports field back to the church car park,

Seven of us went to the White Hart for a very good lunch.

An enjoyable 5.5 mile walk with good company.

Tony Hodge





An earlier Strollers walk via the Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

Dining out

The final meeting of the Dining Out group for 2019 took place on Tuesday 22nd October at La Rustica on Nether Hall Road. We enjoyed a varied selection of starters and main courses and agreed the portions were a generous size but a few people still found room for a dessert. It was a good night with a convivial atmosphere.

I would like to wish all the group members a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Joan Condron

INFORMATION WANTED

Are you a long-standing member of DU3A?

We are collecting information about the DU3A over the past 25 years. Can you add more?

Jean Jones has been able to name the first six chairpersons - all women. She was chairperson 2002-2004 and the General Meetings were held at the Little Theatre.

Maisie Green remembers there were 39 members and 7 groups when she joined including gardening, craft, bridge, theatre/trips and local history run by Mr Bycroft who used to give them a quiz at end of the year to see what they had learnt!

I would be grateful if you would send me any stories such as how a group was formed, General Meetings, venues, interesting trips/ walks, photos, old newsletters etc..

John Weston (contact details on page 22)



Tenpin Bowling

While the cat's away the mice will play!

Linda and Rod being on holiday for the September bowling gave we lesser mortals a chance to get a victory in. The pair have been doing really well of late. However, we had our noses pushed out again. Jill back after a long absence took the crown for the ladies and newcomer David took the gents title. So well done to them.



The next session at the Doncaster Bowl is on the 19th November at 3.00 p.m. So why not come along and try it for yourselves. It would be great to see you afterwards when we head for a bite.

Mike Bowser



Discussion

The Discussion Group at Yates. The group is held each Wednesday for a lively debate on everything.

Allen Whittaker



Local history

This is the Local History group at a very interesting talk by Jim, one of the group, on his life on the buses.

Allen Whittaker



25 Years of Doncaster U3A

To mark 25 years of Doncaster U3A we are holding a Celebration Event at the Mansion House on 16th December at 2.00 p.m. This will take the form of a festive afternoon tea and entertainment.

We will be entertained by David Harmer (a U3A Member) and David Globe, known collectively as the Glummer twins, recently returned from a spell on the Edinburgh Fringe.



Their publicity material says "*The irrepressible Glummer Twins are back to celebrate the joys, absurdities and indignities of getting older. A delightfully downbeat double-act with a unique take on stand-up spoken word comedy and music.*" So I think we are in for a treat.

The tickets cost £20 and are available from both John Weston and Jane Page. Jane attends a number of groups. Anyone with dietary requirements, vegetarians or allergies for example, should let John or Jane know in advance.



John and Jane's contact numbers are on page 22, or send a cheque made payable to DU3A with a stamped addressed envelope to John Weston (address on page 22) making clear who you are and how many tickets you would like.

Tickets will also be on sale at the November General Meeting at C-View behind the Minster.

Wendy Hattrell

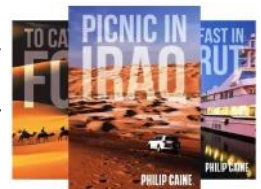
REPORTS FROM GENERAL MEETINGS

September: Philip Caine: Barrow to Bagdad and back

From the title of the talk I was expecting to hear about a soldier's account of warfare. I was surprised to hear the life story of an entrepreneur and author. Philip Caine told his story, starting in Barrow and ending in Barrow. He was easy to listen to as he gave an outline of his working life and experiences in remote and dangerous places across the world. It was a unique insight into a world very few would ever encounter. From cooking for the differing palates of the Scots and the French workers on an oil rig in the North Sea, on to the Soviet Union and an encounter with the KGB and the Russian mafia, with some time in Africa and the Middle East for good measure!

He settled back into life in Barrow and, in a much safer environment, he now works as a writer of fiction, calling on some of his adventures and dubious characters he met for inspiration. A most engaging speaker.

B Thompson



Spurn point

Early October and the Love of Nature group headed off to Spurn Point for its second safari along the long stretch of sand which extends three and a half miles into the Humber Estuary.

Its only vehicular access is by UNIMOG. A great big lumbering forces type lorry with extra large wheels that drive in any direction over any terrain. Just what's

needed now for this 'tidal island' with its unpredictable tidal areas that can soon isolate the reserve from the mainland. The unimog is much improved since our last visit now taking only sixteen passengers with its recently improved seating (very much like coach seats) as opposed to the bench seats we sat uncomfortably in previously. Seat belts as well as clear plastic windows/sides to protect against the weather (well sort of). Certainly it was warmer, more comfortable but sadly, not any quieter.

Spurn is managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and has become a renowned national and international important wildlife haven, developing into one of the top destinations for bird migration. It also has a rich maritime and military history plus a fascinatingly modernised lighthouse/museum. There is an unused Life Boat 'village' area, ample evidence of war time activities. Even if you are not a nature lover it's certainly an interesting place to visit, especially on a unimog.

There is a beautiful coastline for bird lovers as well as various habitats such as reed, bush, scrub and wetland. As a bird lover it is probably best to explore on foot. Travelling by unimog is exciting but very unsettling for the birds.

Andy our guide tried very hard to set us down in bird rich areas but although he could see them from the vehicle by the time we had stopped and disembarked they were long hidden.

There was one highlight during the journey, the tent-like shape of lacy looking spider-like webs in the scrub which neither of us had encountered before, which were in fact the over wintering silk tents of the Brown Tailed moth caterpillar. Quite fascinating and ruthless as once hatched the caterpillar devastates the area by devouring all the foliage. Fortunately the moth cleverly doesn't winter in the same area the following year allowing the area to quickly recover.

We travelled down to the point and were then guided around the end of the point, around the life boat village and many relics of war time looking for sightings. Andy had a flash sighting of a sea diver but we didn't witness that. We could hear some chattering in the bushes of the Scandinavian thrush identified by Andy but they were very illusive.

It was a beautiful sunny day even though there was a howling wind and we did



hope we may see something exciting on the beach, but sadly it wasn't to be. The only things we really saw were the freight ships that travel along the estuary constantly to maintain our supplies.

Spurn Point is a very interesting place to visit especially with a ranger but we only managed to have any real sightings once inside the hide on the return to the visitor centre were we saw Brent Geese, snipe, red shank, little egret, oyster catchers....

Maybe on our next visit we will need to bite the bullet and walk along the coastline.



Writers

If only I could.....

If only I could run
Life would be more fun
I'd race the kids
And do some skids
If only I could run



If only I could dance
I'd salsa, chassee and prance
I'd even compete
With my two left feet
If only I could dance



If only I could sing
Such happiness I'd bring
I'd hold a note
And prepare my throat
If only I could sing

If only I could fly
I'd launch myself on high
I'd sit on a wall
A hundred feet tall
If only I could fly



If only I could write
I'd bring so much delight
My books would sell
And my head would swell
If only I could write



*Lynne Harrison
16 October 2019*

I used to like

I used to like singing
At the top of my voice
Joining the chorus
Now I've no choice
(Voice cracked, one lung)

I used to like drama
Doing a play
I'd be restricted to mime now
Because, as I say
(Cracked voice, one lung, no memory for ...erm)

I used to like walking
Up and down gentle hills
An hour max on the flat now
Otherwise the pain kills!
(You've guessed it, one lung, wonky hip, dicky ticker)

I used to like writing
Any old theme
Now coming up with ideas
Is one more past dream
(No memory, no imagination, brain death etc)

But I'm good at self pity
I do that so well
And the effort it takes
I expect you can tell
(Why suffer in silence is my motto)

*Sue Levan
Oct 2019*



Welcome to the

December / January culture page

A few ideas for up and coming events and of course it's pantomime time.

Oh yes it is!

Cast Doncaster

Friday 29th November to Tuesday 31st December – **Cinderella**

Friday 29th November – Dementia friendly cinema - **Gigi**

Tuesday 17th December – The Play Reading Club reads **Oliver Twist**

(Join them for a cuppa and enjoy reading together a variety of plays connected to shows in our season. Open to everyone, you don't have to be an actor to join them).

Thursday 23rd January – **The Chicago Blues Brothers – Musical**

Friday 24th January - Dementia friendly cinema – **On the Town**

Call 01302 303959 or visit

<https://www.castindoncaster.com/Pages/Events/Category/whats-on>

Rotherham Civic Theatre

Friday 29th November to Sunday 5th January – **Sleeping Beauty**

Wednesday 4th December – **The Big Band at Christmas**

Saturday 11th January – **Past Masters, Lets Rock the Dukebox** (Music)

Call 01709 823621 or visit www.rotherhamtheatres.co.uk

Doncaster Little Theatre

Saturday 14th December – **Sleeping Beauty**

Friday 3rd January – **Cinderella**

Saturday 11th January – **Aladdin & the Golden Quest**

Thursday 16th January – John Godber's **Bouncers** (contains some swearing)

Call 01302 340422 or visit <http://www.doncasterlittletheatre.co.uk>

Sheffield Theatres

Friday 6th December to Sunday 5th January – **Cinderella** (Lyceum)

Tuesday 7th to Saturday 11th January – **Nutcracker** (Ballet) (Lyceum)

Monday 20th to Saturday 25th January – **My Cousin Rachel** (Play) (Lyceum)

Saturday 7th December to Saturday 18th January – **Guys & Dolls** (Crucible)

Call 0114 2496000 or visit <https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/whats-on>

Sheffield City Hall

Wednesday 4th December – **Kate Rusby at Christmas** (Folk)

Monday 9th December – Neil Sands –

Christmas Memories – Musical extravaganza

Friday 27th December to Sunday 5th January – **Dick Whittington**

Tuesday 14th January – **Sorry I haven't a Clue – Stage tour**

Call 0114 2789789 or visit <http://www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk>

The Dome

Wednesday 11th December – **Choral Christmas**
Wednesday 18th December to Saturday 4th January –
Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat
Call 01302 370777 or visit <https://www.dclt.co.uk/whats-on>

What's on in Doncaster?

Friday 22nd to Wednesday 27th November – Doncaster Minster – **Festival of Light**
Thursday 5th to Sunday 22nd December – **Enchanted Brodsworth Hall**
Friday 6th December – Mansion House, **Afternoon Tea**
Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th December –
Christmas Fair at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park
Sunday 15th December – Cusworth Hall **Christmas Craft & Gift Market**
www.visitdoncaster.com/whatson

Hope you find something to enjoy.
Jess Parkinson

Speaker Finder

I'm very disappointed that no-one has yet come forward to take over from me as Speaker Finder. In April 2020 I will have completed the two years I agreed to and would like to pass on the baton to someone who could bring new ideas to the group.

It isn't a particularly time consuming job and I have lots of information I can pass on and would be more than willing to spend time with anyone volunteering, if required.

I have realised over my many years of various volunteering that it's always a core number of people who are willing to do jobs to keep groups running. Please consider being one of those core people and take the pressure off the Doncaster U3A volunteers, not just me as Speaker Finder but the whole of the committee who keep your U3A up and running. Without volunteers there is no U3A.

Jess Parkinson



Deadline

Articles for the February/March newsletter
need to be received by

Thursday 2nd January

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

du3anewsletterbmt@btinternet.com



CONTACTING GROUP LEADERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Group Leaders can be contacted by telephone (see pages 22/23) or by clicking on the Blue Bird on their group page on the DU3A website. Go to: <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster> Committee members can also be contacted via the DU3A website by opening the 'Contact' page and then selecting the appropriate member.

PUZZLE PAGE

1. When was the first commercially produced Christmas card printed?
2. Which plant, beginning with P, is associated with Christmas?
3. The first royal Christmas broadcast – which monarch made it and in which year?
4. Who invented the Christmas cracker?
5. What is a female turkey called?
6. When does the Russian Orthodox Church celebrate Christmas?
7. Who introduced the Christmas tree to the UK?
8. Who banned Christmas, after the English Civil War in 1647?
9. What was Christmas pudding originally made of?
10. On Christmas Eve 1990, a film called *A Grand Day Out* introduced us to which iconic British duo?
11. Why do we give chocolate coins at Christmas?
12. What is 'Smoking Bishop'?
13. What were the first eight reindeers?
14. Which reindeer name means "thunder"?
15. Which reindeer name means "lightning"?
16. Which US states have towns actually named Santa Claus?
17. What is wassailing?
18. Which saint introduced the Nativity play?
19. What was the first Christmas song broadcasted from space?
20. What were the main ingredients of mince pies in Victorian times?



Solutions for October / November puzzle page:



$$\blacktriangle = 7 \quad \blacksquare = 6 \quad \blacklozenge = 3$$

$$\blacktriangleup = 5 \quad \blacksquare = 12 \quad \blacklozenge = 18$$

$$\blacktriangledown = 36 \quad \blacksquare = 27 \quad \blacklozenge = 5$$

$$\blacktriangle = 28 \quad \blacksquare = 8 \quad \blacklozenge = 36 \quad \blackstar = 7$$





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

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

Sudoku Rules: Fill the other empty cells with numbers between 1 and 9. Numbers 1-9 can appear only once in each row. Numbers 1-9 can appear only once in each column. Numbers 1-9 can appear only once in each region (block of nine squares).

Scottish Country dancing

It is now coming up to two years since the Scottish Country Dancing Group began - the photo is from a recent session, with a group of us trying hard not to look posed! We are at least smiling, which is a fair representation of what we get up to. We might not get every dance correct but we always enjoy the attempt! As one member said "I always know I am going to start Friday with plenty of fun and laughter". And of course, any dancing is good for your physical health and even for keeping your brain ticking over.



We are very much open to new members. So if you are tempted, either come along to the "party" (see page 6) or our early January sessions (Jan 3,10,17), when we will be going over the basics.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR SPARE TIME

Could you put your skills and experience into a rewarding volunteering role?

Community First Credit Union Ltd is the leading community owned organisation for financial services, offering loans and savings services to cater for all people and enterprises. Whilst the organisation is run by paid staff we are urgently in need of volunteers for the Board of Directors and the Internal Audit team, to oversee the work and make sure we operate within all the relevant rules and regulations.



If you are interested please email info@communityfirstcu.co.uk for further information inserting '**Board and Internal Audit Vacancies**' into the subject box. We would be delighted to hear from you.

*Heather Bottomley
Internal Auditor Community First Credit Union*

- What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? A Holly Davidson
What do wizards use to wrap their Christmas presents? Spell-o-tape
What do you give a reindeer with a tummy upset? Elk-a-seltzer
What do reindeers play in their stalls? Stable-tennis
What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite
What is white, lives at the North Pole and runs around naked? A polar bare
Where do snowmen go to dance? Snowballs
Why don't polar bears eat penguins? Because they can't get the wrappers off
What do you call a snowman in the summer? A puddle
Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A mince spy
How does good King Wenceslas like his pizza? Deep pan, crisp and even
What's the most popular Christmas wine? I don't like Brussels sprouts
What do you use to make a Christmas cake? Elf-raising flour
What do you get if you cross a bell with a skunk? Jingle Smells
Why are Christmas trees so bad at knitting? They always drop their needles
What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas? Cross mouse cards

Ha
Ha!



Ha
Ha!

THIRD AGE TRUST:

National Educational Event

Monday 3rd February: Discovering Children's Literature: 10.30 - 15.45 £24
The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB

Do you know where this is?
Answer in the next newsletter.



Photo taken by a member of
the Digital Photography group



Doncaster Deaf Trust
presents
A Celebratory Evening with
Gervase Phinn
Doncaster Deaf Trust
Celebrating
100 Years
Anniversary

Featuring hilarious tales from one of
Yorkshire's most popular storytellers, a
best selling author, radio and TV
personality.

Tuesday 26th November 2019
6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

Tickets: **£12** each
includes 2-course supper

Warde Aldam Centre,
Doncaster Deaf Trust,
Leger Way,
Doncaster DN2 6AY

Tickets on sale at Doncaster Deaf Trust Reception 01302 386700
or from John Weston 07708 165100
or email: enquiries@ddt-deaf.org.uk

Why is Boxing Day so called?

Arguments abound on the origins of the name Boxing Day. All the answers below are valid, so maybe it is one, or even all of them.

1. The name is a reference to holiday gifts. A 'Christmas Box' in Britain is a name for a Christmas present. Boxing Day was traditionally a day off for servants and the day when they received a 'Christmas Box' from the master. The servants would also go home on Boxing Day to give 'Christmas Boxes' to their families.
2. The name is a reference to charity drives. A box to collect money for the poor traditionally and placed in Churches on Christmas Day and opened the next day - Boxing Day.
3. The name refers to a nautical tradition. Great sailing ships when setting sail would have a sealed box containing money, on board for good luck. Were the voyage a success, the box was given to a priest, opened at Christmas and the contents then given to the poor.

Page 7

Cooking without meat
Contact Group co-ordinator

Page 7

Canasta
Contact Group co-ordinator

Pages 11 & 13

25th Anniversary Celebration
Jane Page:



Contact Numbers



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 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.

Please leave your telephone number so that we can contact you in reply.

DU3A Committee Members

Chair	Wendy Hattrell
Acting Vice Chair	Chris Woolven
Business Secretary	Chris Woolven
Treasurer	to be arranged
Membership Secretary	Jill Laming
Group Co-ordinator	Vanessa Whaley
Minutes Secretary	Nora Boyle
Publicity	Jane Page
Committee	George Kirk
Committee	David Smith
Committee	Diane Williams
Committee	John Wheeler



Activity Groups & Other: Contacts

Group Leaders :	see printed Newsletter for telephone numbers or DU3A Website	
Newsletter Editor:	B Thompson	bthompsonu3a@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.....

Monks Printers

We are grateful to Monks the Printers for their help in printing and distributing 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 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!

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year
to all our U3A members**

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

Thursday 2nd January

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

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



