

DONCASTER

u3a



December 2022 - January 2023

Registered Charity No. 1074577

From the Chair



Doncaster u3a is a charity and its committee members are trustees. Nationally, there are more than 1000 u3a groups and they are all members of an umbrella charity called the Third Age Trust (TAT) which in turn is reportable to a governmental body called the Charity Commission (CC).

The Third Age Trust held its Annual General Meeting via Zoom on October 6th. After the normal business of electing trustees, issues in relation to management for the forthcoming year were voted on.

Paramount among these issues was how TAT is to be financed.

The majority of those voting were concerned about the level of subscriptions payable and as a result all u3as in the country have had a communication from TAT chief executive, Liz Thackray, saying that the organisation will be underfunded, that they are going to have to revise financial forecasts and devise an action plan.

Will keep you posted...

On a local level, Doncaster u3a membership-building is going well. Please bear in mind that the COVID pandemic partially caused a substantial drop in numbers and our situation proportionally followed national figures. In our case, we dropped from 382 to just over 300. Luckily, numbers are recovering quite well now with an increase to 328.

Growth is assisted by the work of our Publicity Officer, Jane Bowser, who on October 11th ran a promotional event at the Transport Interchange in town. Six new members can definitely be attributed to this exercise. About 20 of our u3a members handed out more than 220 leaflets. The leaflet in question highlights the 30-odd interest groups run by willing group leaders, who we thank for their dedication. As these interest groups come and go the promotional leaflet is under constant review, where additions and deletions happen all the time. Membership Secretary, Christine Curtis takes charge of this and we thank her also.

I shall put out the usual call for committee members and if you feel it is right for you just come along to one of our monthly meetings and see how we operate. This is becoming more important as both Diane as Secretary and Chris as Vice Chair are unlikely to continue in their posts from next May.

To finish, I wish you all the Merriest of Christmases & a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Simon Hughes



With regards to discussions about annual subscriptions and the funding of the Third Age Trust - a fuller report can be found on pages 4-5 of the Third Age Matters magazine (Issue 54 / Winter 2022).



WELCOME



A warm welcome to our new members

**Keith Argyle, Stephen Barrett, Nick Chandler,
Rita Collins, Stephen Cuffling, Mavis Edson,
Catherine Farmer, Sharon Hammerton,
Helen Hart Davis, Angela Loomes, David Loomes,
Annette Matthews, John Matthews, Claudette Munn, James Scott,
Raymond Smith, Gerri Stevenson, Elizabeth Wyman.**

U3A Online Learning

Free Online via Zoom

Learn Digital Life Skills: YouTube Week

Presented by Systems & Smiles with instructors from Three.

Discover how to find videos you love, subscribe to channels and create your own playlists.

Friday 25th November, 2022, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Live Cookery Demonstration - Vegetarian Christmas Special

Led by roving Chef Alex from 'Vegetarian for Life'.

Thursday 1st December, 2022 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Genetic Genealogy – understanding DNA testing

Join Stephen Dyer, u3a Genealogy Subject Adviser.

Tuesday 6th December, 2022 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Writing Poetry for Publication and Performance

Led by author and poet Sophia Blackwell.

Up-to-date advice on writing poetry for publication and performance in today's world.

Tuesday 13th December, 2022 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sleep and Dreams

Led by Dr. Bob Pullen of Prudhoe u3a.

An interactive talk explaining how our brains make us sleep and dream.

Monday 9th January, 2023 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For more information go to:

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

February - March 2023 Newsletter

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

Wednesday 28th December.

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

bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com



Cover photo: by B Thompson

Digital Photography Group



GENERAL MEETINGS

We are pleased to have found Christ Church as a home for general meetings. Its location is central and bus stops in both directions are fairly close. It is a lovely piece of architecture with a really outstanding stained-glass window and welcoming atmosphere. It also has a café.

Our first event there was helped along by a member of their staff who took audio-visual concerns away; the on-site facilities being superb. Feeding lap-top data into their system meant that we could all see well on conveniently placed screens and hear well through their public address system.

We hope we have found a permanent home for general meetings.

Simon Hughes

21st November 2022 Speaker: Josephine Gosling
1.30 p.m. Topic: **Strolls past structures**
Venue: Christ Church



Josephine enjoys walking. She will describe buildings in this country and on the European mainland and highlight questions which arise.

19th December 2022 A medley of songs by '**Fool's Gold**' - acoustic musicians.
1.30 p.m. Venue: Christ Church
Entrance is by ticket only.
Tickets cost £5 which will include a drink and mince pie.
Tickets will be on sale at the November GM.

16th January 2023 Speaker: Mike Storr
1.30 p.m. Topic: **Masters of Mirth**
Venue: Christ Church



INTEREST GROUPS

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

u3a Annual Poetry Competition 2022 - 23

Maximum of 16 lines on any topic.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/poetry-competition-2022>

Dining Out



It is after a great deal of thought that I have decided to give up leadership of the Dining Out group after five and a half years. During that time I have enjoyed meeting new people and trying out different cuisines but I now want to take a break to concentrate on other things. I hope that someone else will come forward to lead the group and I will of course offer them my wholehearted support.

Thank-you to all the group members who have made the last five and a half years such a happy experience and I wish you all the best for the future.

Joan Condron



Philosophy Group looking for a new leader

After 5 years in this role, I am stepping down - my last session will be on the 24th November.

Do you fancy taking it on? None of the existing attenders feel they can, but would love it if a new volunteer came forward. I would certainly be willing to assist and support you. If you have an interest - do give me a call. (Contact number on page 22).

I am often asked, what exactly is Philosophy? The answer is that it's a mixture of related topics - including political philosophy (different ways to organise and govern), moral philosophy (how to decide what is the right thing to do - both as individuals and as a society), the limits of what we can know, how do fairness and equality fit into our society - and many others. All these topics deserve careful thought and a willingness to challenge our own assumptions.

That list makes it sound rather hard going. Not so - we spend most of our sessions in enjoyable chat.

My thanks to the 25 or so members who joined me in the philosophical ride.

Geoff Tagg



UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

The situation on the ground in Ukraine is serious and, when winter arrives, things will get worse. Your help is needed. If you are able to, please donate today.



Ukrainian Centre, Doncaster

48 Beckett Road, Wheatley, DN2 4AD Tel: 07803 904766

Please note that aid donations are no longer being accepted at the Ukrainian Centre. Should that change in the future, they will give an update on the site below and on their Facebook page.

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



Donations can also be made at the following websites.

DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee)

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Donations have helped DEC charities to deliver vital aid to hundreds of thousands of people in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Hungary and Moldova.

British Red Cross

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

There are many other organisations where you can donate to the appeal.

2nd December 2022: Elf Day

Elf Day is a festive fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Society designed to get you in the Christmas spirit whilst raising money to help beat dementia. Unleash your inner elf by dressing up - as much or as little as you like.

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/elf-day>



Travel Group Day Trip To Bridlington - Monday 5th September 2022

Well it may not have been Bangor but didn't we have a love(r)ly time the day we went to Bridlington.

Having set off just after 10.00 we arrived in Bridlington just before noon, just in time for lunch.

Having checked on the weather the previous night, I foolishly had a rolled up waterproof in my rucksack which proved totally unnecessary, as indeed was any form of jumper. It was a perfect, beautiful, sunny day, hot but not too much.

On arrival at the harbour some of us alighted there, including me, whilst the rest of the group went on to visit Sewerby Hall and Gardens.

Those of us stopping at the harbour went off in pursuit of their ideal day, some went together and others did their own thing, as did I. Despite having brought sandwiches with me, I chose to have an over indulgent lunch in my favourite café, followed by a home made ice cream over the road, whilst I know others went off for fish and chips.

Having been to Brid many times, I just wanted a casual day out and after lunch wandered down past the harbour and onto the northern beach. I know it's a bit of a cliché but I had a beautiful stroll along the beach in bare feet with the warm sun on my back, my trousers rolled up and my feet splashing through the surf lapping at the shore. Absolutely wonderful!

I reluctantly left the beach when I got to the end steps and decided to walk back along the promenade with the sun on my face and my feet drying and losing their covering of sand. A ten minute sit down on one of the benches with a carton of fresh orange from my pack, quenching my thirst; I knew it would come in useful somewhere. On the way back, I even took time out for another cliché and waved at the land train making its way back from Sewerby Hall. I understand other members of the group had much enjoyed the little train, laughing that it made them feel like children again.



My day finished off with a welcome 'cuppa' back at the top of the harbour, followed by a chat with some other members of the group, while we waited for the 30 seater coach. It arrived promptly at 15.45, to take us back to Doncaster.

As I say, a really lovely sun filled Autumn day out, thanks to Wendy and the good company of my fellow travellers.

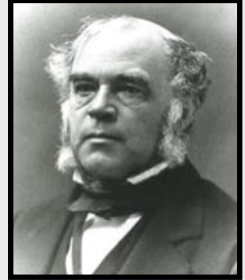
David Bryan



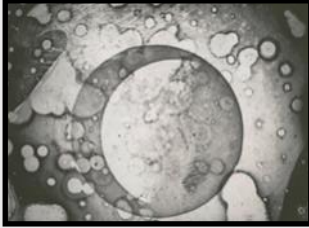
General Meeting: 19th October 2022

Roy Gunson's talk about the first astrophotographer John William Draper.

This was a fascinating and informative talk given by Roy Gunson in the impressive surroundings of Christchurch. I hadn't heard of John William Draper (1811-1882) before, despite a personal interest in astronomy and photography. He deserves to be better known. Roy made a very strong case.



John William Draper



Not only did Draper take the first daguerreotype photo of the moon but probably the first successful image of a person - his sister Dorothy: both unbelievably as early as 1840. We could see both photos clearly on the big screens. These greatly aided Roy's talk as he showed us many photos and illustrations.

Despite being more than a bit murky you could see many lunar details like the Lunar Maria. How far we have come in astrophotography from such humble beginnings. Now we have the James Webb telescope!

The photo of Dorothy was unbelievably clear - a formidable woman I think.

Roy described the highly complicated process by which a daguerreotype was produced and how Draper had achieved and refined this process. We were also told the detective story of how the Dorothy image was lost to science for years then, as if by magic, was recovered again. It's a pity there's a dispute about it being the first image of its type.



Dorothy Catherine Draper

"Did Draper go on to take photos of other astronomical objects like the Milky Way?" was one of the questions asked after the talk. Unfortunately not: Draper is considered to be the first astrophotographer but it was only one of his many scientific interests. He was a polymath having graduated in the UK and US in the fields of Chemistry and Medicine. His research eventually took him in other directions too complicated to describe here.

Thank you Roy. I learnt a lot from your illuminating talk as you can see.

Karen Williams



Roy Gunson talked about the Draper family, which through generations produced pioneering scientific advances. Notably, the chemicals used in photography, were identified by Sir John Herschel who collaborated with Frenchman, Louis Daguerre to 'develop' the first photographic process.

The title of Roy's talk was 'Astrophotography' and it led to an understanding of how images from space are produced.

Simon Hughes

LOVE OF NATURE

Humberhead Peatlands

A fine autumn morning found a party of 15 members of the Love of Nature group at this peat moor. Formerly, separately known as Hatfield Moors and Thorne Moors, it is now run under the title Humberhead Peatlands Nature Reserve.

The site is just south of Lindholme Prison. The walk was an easy one on level ground for about one and a half miles. The only (optional) climbing was up a steel viewing platform to an elevated position 20 feet above ground.

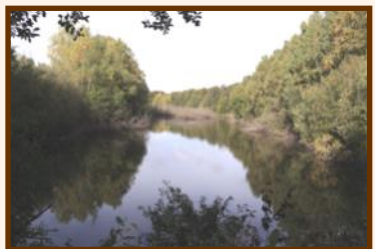
Adjacent to the viewing platform was a reproduction of a mediaeval lane built with tree trunks and branches laid upon the site of the actual line of the old lane.



The party were particularly pleased to see the bounteous outcrops of fungi, especially Fly Agaric with its beautiful red domes before they were decimated by birds and insects.

Peat extraction ceased in 2004, but work has been going on ever since to block up the old drainage dykes in order to raise the water table and so let the slow growth and decay of sphagnum moss start to rebuild the 278 hectare reserve. Work to control the invasive species of tree such as silver birch, alder and willow is ongoing.

There is a purpose-built visitor centre with toilets and a great room with tables, chairs and beverage making equipment, available at modest rates for courses or group meetings. A series of seasonal visits would enable us to observe the changes in the flora and fauna throughout a year. *David Allen*



STROLLERS

On 27th October an intrepid group of 9 strollers set off from the Angel Inn at Blyth in pouring rain. The village of Blyth boasts a Norman church founded in 1088 as part of a monastery and the impressive set of entrance gates to the now demolished Blyth Hall.



Due to flooding of the river Ryton the group had to brave the spray from lorries on Sheffield Road but soon arrived at a small farm track which took them up to a wooded area. At this point the rain stopped and in the warm wind the walk became very pleasant.



After crossing an agricultural field the strollers arrived at Hodsock Priory, a country estate once visited by Henry VIII. Here they stopped for photographs and to admire a field of horses.

Setting off again they crossed Worksop Road and continued on a path across Moore's potato farm arriving back in Blyth, passing the ancient leper hospital. An excellent lunch was enjoyed at the Angel Inn and the strollers were full of praise for landlord Alan and his staff.

Thank you to all the strollers who braved the rain. It was well worth it.

Julia Toft



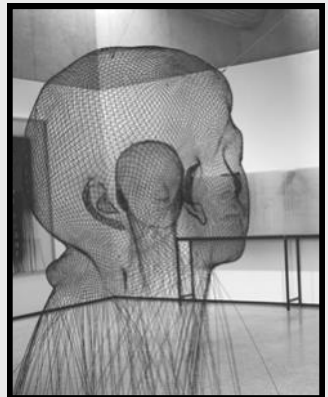
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



The Photography Group continued to hold meetings at different outdoor locations. We have visited Brodsworth Hall, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Wentworth Castle Gardens. We have also started evening zoom meetings when we will have talks about a variety of subjects including composition and still life.

Photographs from our trips have been shown on the groups Facebook page.

John Wheeldon



STRETCHERS

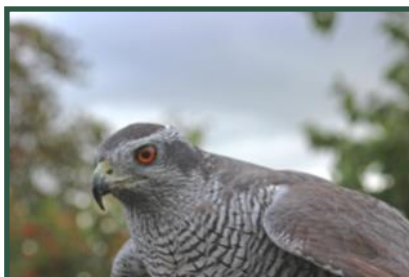


The Stretchers September's walk started from St. Mary's Church in Tickhill. St. Mary's is a Grade 1 listed building and has been described as one of the finest medieval churches in Yorkshire. The oldest parts of the building date back to the time of the castle (1109).

The weather was fine with high cloud and patches of blue sky. The group headed south towards Styrrup Golf Club for a walk on the approved paths. Several members of the club were playing and care was needed to avoid the wayward shots of the players. Leaving the golf course behind, we walked between

banks of blackberries and dried stems of cow parsley and teasels reaching to the sky.

It was shortly after this when we met the goshawk who was being taken on its daily walk. The goshawk wasn't actually walking. It was on the arm of its handler who was walking. The handler offered to show the bird in flight but the goshawk didn't want to fly so we watched it being fed. Close up they are big and menacing. They are capable of bringing down a goose hence the name. Goshawks are up to 27 inches long with a wingspan of up to 50 inches, and can weigh about 1.5 lb.



Photos of goshawk by John Wheeldon

After leaving the goshawk, we returned to Tickhill walking parallel to the A1 and a quick walk round the village completing a walk of 6 - 7 miles. Lunch was taken at the Styrrup Golf Club

John Wheeldon



8th December 2022: Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day is organised by Save The Children to raise money to help children around the world.

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>



STRETCHERS

October's Stretchers walk for ten of us was a 6.5 mile circuitous route of Branton, four miles east of Doncaster.

Starting at Boston Park farm on the Blaxton to Thorne road we walked along the banks of the river Torne for just over two miles to Auckley, coming out by the Eagle and Child; a pub dating back to 1492 with the present property dating back to 1820. It's home to a decent real ale and good food.



The river's source is in the grounds of Sandbeck Hall, private residence of Lord Scarborough. It joins the river Idle and empties into the river Trent with much of it being an engineered channel.

In spite of the recent heavy rain, we did not experience undue wet conditions underfoot and were even blessed with good weather.

Turning right over the bridge on the Doncaster road, we went through to Branton. It is thought that the Anglo-Saxon origins of this name were 'enclosure where broom grew' and the plant can still be seen by the roadside.

Turning right again we then walked the length of Gatewood Lane to the farm where literally 1000s of chicken were roaming freely outside.

From there it was but a short walk back to Boston Park farm and refreshments for some in the café.

Peter Chubb



16th December 2022: Wear A Christmas Hat Day

In aid of Brain Tumour Research. Dust off your Christmas hats and spread some cheer with festive fundraising events at home, school, work or in your community.

<https://www.braintumourresearch.org/fundraise/wear-a-hat-day-events>





'Move To Music' is back

Previously under the wing of u3a, it is now back. A lot of you will remember it as the group that has been going for about 20 years. For the last few years it has been run by me, Maria Shires as a private group, but will now be a u3a group again.

It is a fun way of exercising, giving you a full body workout, including your brain, which I think we all need in our advancing years.

We move around the hall to 60's and 70's music for the first ½ hour, followed by ½ hour's exercise with balls, resistance bands and other equipment. Ages are well into the 80's. We have a fully qualified trainer, which I believe is needed at our ages so as to prepare our bodies correctly, then to cool them down with stretching exercises so we do not injure ourselves.

The group is held weekly on a Thursday from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Baptist Church on Chequer Road. The first class is free and subsequently £4 weekly. You need to wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Please contact me if you are interested (numbers on page 23).

Maria Shires

4 Days at The Hawkhills



Spring 2022 arrived, and I decided that I must have a break. It was two and a half years since Shelagh died, Covid was passing, and life was returning to the new normal. I fancied going abroad for some sunshine and a change of food and mood. Then the chaos at airports hit the headlines, the thought of passing through an airport with the reported crowds took my mind off 'abroad'.



Then an email came through, announcing the Yorkshire and Humberside Summer School. I had heard of the event before but this time, being single, and the thought that no Customs barriers would be involved, I decided to book. Perusing the prospectus, I homed in on 'Archaeology from Roman Times until today'.



Hawkhills is formally known as the Emergency Planning College. The estate was acquired by the Home Office in 1939 and established as a centre to train members of the Civil Defence Services.



The College is situated within a forested area north of York and before Easingwold. The Old Hall is the focus of the site but many modern lecture rooms, bars and dining room have been developed along with a first class bedroom wing, 4-star accommodation.



The course consisted of two and a half days of lectures with a farewell presentation by each class on the Thursday morning. Attendees are very friendly and generally outgoing. A smile and a handshake gets the summer school rolling along. I hope to attend again in 2023 when I will take the Philosophy lectures. I decided on the course to learn new things rather than reprise 70 years of old subjects such as French in the time that I have left on this planet.



TRAVEL GROUP

Wentworth Woodhouse

When the Travel Group visited Wentworth Woodhouse in the spring we were all so impressed by the quality of the guided tour we agreed to come back in the autumn and do a different tour. Consequently



the booking for the Black Diamonds tour went ahead on 27th September with 41 members taking part - so I had to book a bigger bus!

The pre-arranged tea and coffee on arrival was very welcome while we waited for our guides - we had to split into two groups. Many of us had read the Black Diamonds book by Catherine Bailey which was published some years ago. We were told that, at the time of writing, Catherine had not been in the house as it was in private hands, so she wrote using written documents of the time for her research for the book. So there are discrepancies which were pointed out to us. It was a long, detailed tour going into parts of the house which are not visited on other tours.



Most of us enjoyed the pre-arranged sandwich lunch before exploring the gardens and the grounds on a lovely sunny day before catching the bus back to the interchange.

If you are not familiar with Wentworth Woodhouse I would recommend a visit. You can use the cafe without paying an entrance fee but the gems are the tours, so interesting and well presented.

Wendy Hattrell



ENJOYING POETRY

The Enjoying Poetry group continues to do just that, as members bring along a huge variety of poems and read them out for us all to relish. Some of the poems are famous, some anonymous, some rhyme, quite a lot don't, some are very old, others brand new. Above all, we all have a really great chat and a lot of laughs. Some new members have arrived, bringing a welcome new energy to the group. We are always very surprised that there aren't hundreds of U3A members waiting to join us, they are really missing out.

David Harmer



CULTURE PAGE

Are you uncouth?



Well, certainly not! But what does it mean? And can you be couth?

My computer does not think you can be couth, because it keeps changing the word to south, but yes, it is a real word, though rarely used nowadays. Interestingly, uncouth came into language before couth.

Uncouth is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as lacking in good manners, refinement, grace, uncivilised, uncultured, uncultivated, unrefined, unpolished - which covers almost everyone I know!

Its archaic meaning relates to place not person. It related to place, being wild, remote or spartan (for instance 'his uncouth cell in Fleet Prison'). In Old English uncuth meant unknown (un = not, cuth = past participle of to know or to be able).

The word 'uncouth' was used far more in common speech in the 1800s but its use has steadily declined to the present day, where it is used only to refer to person, not place. It is defined in some dictionaries as a person who is awkward and uncultivated in appearance, manner, or behaviour, rude, lacking in polish and grace, strange or clumsy in shape or appearance outlandish.... Referring not only to manners but also to appearance. Again, this defines almost everyone I know.

An interesting - and annoying - fact is that when used to refer to women there are three additional words added, which are vulgar, noisy and unpleasant. I have nothing to say here for fear of being considered uncouth.

Long, long ago, the word 'couth' was used to describe a person (or group of people) who was familiar. The opposite of that word, 'uncouth' was used to describe a foreign or unknown person, usually with habits that were unfamiliar to the couth or kith. But today it is a word used to describe a person of good manners and sophistication, the opposite in fact of uncouth.

Don't go using the phrase 'no couth' though - or it will render you uncouth!

But to bring it bang up to date, the question has to be 'is couth a Wordle word?' And the answer? Yes it is.

P.S. I have discovered a far better word for those you may consider to be uncouth, dating from the sixteenth century when it was common parlance. A clinchpoop is a wholly uncouth, uncultured, or unfashionable man.

Please do feel free to use it often or shall you indeed be a clinchpoop yourself?

Paula Harmer



DINING OUT

The final meeting of 2022 was held at Guesthouse in Lazarus Court on October 18th. 13 members attended and it was lovely to see Eric again following his recent illness. The food was well cooked and delicious and the desserts were huge. The staff were very attentive and it was altogether a very pleasant evening. I would like to wish everyone Best Wishes for Christmas and 2023.

Joan Condron

WRITERS' GROUP

Based on: The notion of 'Dancing'

Title: I danced with Vettriano

I danced with Vettriano, the soles of my fine silk shoes ruined in the sand and the wind whipping at my hair, caught in a stiff sea breeze. I danced as if it was the last tilt at life, there being no sign of the storm that would approach, that should approach - to tear out the roots of this stagnant existence. The man who held the parasol avoided eye contact. The eyes of my partner were circling the cliffs along with the gulls as we kicked aside shells, shale and seaweed.

I danced with Vettriano, where all is primary colours and lines are not blurred and the impossible is made possible. And the place, the time, the people and the tides are all intertwined. Where the natural order of things is turned on its head and the screeching and feathers invades all aspects of our souls.

I danced with Vettriano, blocking out ice creams, pleasure parks, deckchairs, flotsam and jetsam, charabancs, car park rendezvous, empty crates of men-only trips, public toilets used as changing rooms, children skidding along the shoreline, sodden donkeys caught in showers and old couples, safe in their years, gazing out at tankers on the far distant horizon.

I danced with Vettriano, knowing that this moment in time would end in a dim-lit bar. Knowing that all the cacophony would mute across the baize of a pool table – just me and the man on the stool, lighting up in the gloom, one of many whiskies picking up the headlights of a low slung black car, picking its way down the rain washed street.

Author: Anne Aitchison 27.10.22

This poem is a homage to the artist, Jack Vettriano and his painting 'The Singing Butler' (right)



What's on in Doncaster

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

u3a in the Wider World

Doncaster u3a is a charity in its own right, but also part of the Third Age Trust – the national body for u3as in the UK. There is plenty of information about the national organisation on its website www.u3a.org.uk There are always pieces in our newsletter about things happening both Nationally and Regionally but sometimes I think we are guilty of thinking that doesn't apply to us.

To encourage members, particularly newer members, to take a look, I have put a few details here which hopefully you will find helpful. To access all of the national website you need to sign up with your name and create a password. They will also ask for the name of your u3a.

One aspect I would urge you to follow up is the newsletter which is emailed monthly from Sam Mauger the Chief Exec. From the headings across the top of the screen click on News and then Newsletter – this is where you can sign up to receive this newsletter. This is a good place to see what other u3as are doing and perhaps get a few new ideas.

Below is a brief outline of other things you can find on the website, from the following headings:-

- News** - apart from the newsletter there is a podcast.
- Learn** - National Programmes, includes a range of learning initiatives.
 - Subject Advice, there are 70 national subject advisers who are happy to help with ideas for your groups.
 - Subject Networks, like minded group leaders who share ideas.
- Our Impact** - Often Universities will ask for help with research, that would appear here.
- Support for u3as** - A very familiar section to those who have been in officer positions!
- Events** - Just what it says on the tin, e.g. the 40th anniversary celebrations.

There is more than I have listed here. I hope you will take a look for yourself and be inspired to get involved.

Wendy Hattrell



Your Life Doncaster

Cost of Living: • Help with the cost of living • Let's talk money • Managing bills • Advice on managing bills • Managing debt • Council tax • Affordable credit • Food banks • Personal budgets • Benefits • Energy saving, advice & grants • Healthy homes • Citizen's advice

Support for Adults: • Dealing with loneliness • Mental health • Dementia • Help living at home • Finding things to do • Wellbeing • Caring for somebody • Armed Forces community • Employment, Education and Volunteering

Local Groups: • A list of local groups - around 214 groups were shown at the time of going to press - from arts to yoga. (There will be many more groups in the Doncaster area that are not shown on this website).

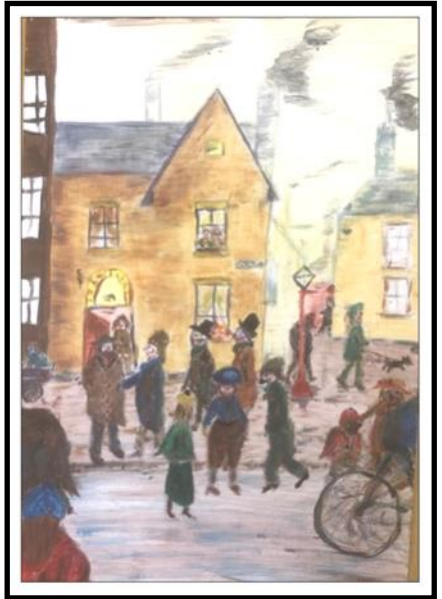
Your Community: Here you'll find the community pages for each of the four locality areas in Doncaster. On your dedicated community page you will see a range of local information including latest news and updates, key contacts for support and advice, community venues, local facilities, groups and activities in your area, your dedicated Locality Plan and much more.



For further information go to: yourlifedoncaster.co.uk

ART GROUP NEWS

Sadly, we are unable to produce cards this year as we had hoped, because costs have risen substantially and it would mean that we would have to charge too much to pay for Christmas cards. Perhaps next year?



We have two new members, taking us to seven what on earth has happened to the aspiring artists of Doncaster! Our members began very hesitantly, with a lot less confidence than they have now, but have grown as artists over this year and you could too! All our group agree that it is two or three hours when they concentrate only on the art they are producing, allowing them to forget everything else and immerse themselves in the task - YOU could do that too! Part taught and part exploration, people choose and bring their preferred medium and we share a common theme.

We meet twice monthly at Prego, on the first and fourth Monday of the month. On the first Monday we meet at 12 'til 1.45 and on the fourth Monday we meet at 11 'til 1.45. We would like to add a few more members but we will limit the numbers to make it comfortable Please do get in touch with me if you would like to join this very pleasant group of people. Meanwhile enjoy some of the art that our group have produced this year.



Paula Harmer, Group leader

PUZZLE PAGE

Solve these cryptic clues to find words related to Christmas. Numbers in brackets show the number of letters in each answer.

1. Sinatra at home, unusual scene for kingly gift (12)
2. Stole time arranging this plant (9)
3. Archangel disposed of a gerbil (7)
4. Carl had no song (5)
5. Light part of music and learning (6)
6. Imagine including three wise men (4)
7. Miser ordered "Go score" (7)
8. Now a gift (7)
9. Useful for washing dishes on top of the tree (5)
10. Vanity? It is terrible on a birthday (8)
11. Silent, confused and glittery (6)
12. Grip tread slipped up in tree (9)
13. Girl on the French border in little town (9)
14. Publicity opening on various dates in countdown to the big day (6,8)
15. Gifted chaps (4,3)
16. Sounds like you'll record a cake (4,3)
17. Hot water poured into garland (6)
18. Yuletide mother is in army disarranged (4)
19. Wise man scrambled up elm next to confused choir (8)
20. Christmas, otherwise, without the 12th letter (4)
21. Eat French style, but fill up with hay (6)
22. Ornamental art form shares (11)
23. Beneficial monarch sews clean when confused (4,4,9)
24. Wise man scrambled sounds like a friendly ghost (6)



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).

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

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

Solutions to October—November puzzles

6	7	6	2		5	0	8	9		1	4	4	0	
5	0	5	3	1	9	7	2	4	5		3	4	3	2
6	7	6	2	5	0	8	9	8	1		3	4	3	5
	5	2	7	6	5		7	6	9	0		5	4	4
			3	1	5	2		1	5	5	5	8	1	
6	7	4	5	6		1	0	5		6	1	6		
6	1	3	4		3	6	7		5	5	6	8	9	6
5	5	8		3	7	3	3	1	8	2		6	2	9
5	1	8	3	9	0		1	5	8		6	5	9	2
		1	7	8		6	4	3		5	7	3	4	5
	5	5	7	6	7	5		2	3	7	5			
4	4	6		3	5	6	8		4	9	4	0	4	
6	3	5	1		6	0	3	7	2	2	1	2	8	2
1	2	5	8		1	6	8	8	0	9	4	3	7	9
7	3	4	6			1	3	4	6		7	1	6	9



Anagrams

- 1 **eastern** (3) eastern, earnest, nearest
- 2 **capitol** (3) capitol, optical, topical
- 3 **realist** (3) realist, saltier, retails
- 4 **potters** (3) potters, protest, spotter
- 5 **claimed** (4) claimed, decimal, declaim, medical
- 6 **parties** (4) parties, pasties, pirates, traipse
- 7 **diapers** (4) diapers aspired, despair, praised
- 8 **players** (5) players, parsley, parleys, replays, sparely
- 9 **arrogant** (2) arrogant, tarragon
- 10 **replicas** (3) replicas, calipers, spiracle
- 11 **cratered** (3) cratered, retraced, terraced
- 12 **lameness** (3) lameness, nameless, salesman
- 13 **pertness** (3) pertness, presents, serpents
- 14 **construe** (4) construe, counters, recounts, trounces
- 15 **prorated** (4) prorated, parroted, predator, teardrop
- 16 **auctioned** (3) auctioned, cautioned, education
- 17 **streaming** (3) streaming, emigrants, mastering
- 18 **deductions** (2) deductions, discounted
- 19 **harmonicas** (2) harmonicas, maraschino
- 20 **percussion** (2) percussion, supersonic
- 21 **discounter** (3) discounter, introduces, reductions

SENIOR TEXTING CODE

WAITT

Who am I talking to

BFF

Best Friend's Funeral

GHA

Got Heartburn again

IMHO

Is my hearing-aid on

TTML

Talk to me Louder

BTW

Bring the Wheelchair

ROTFLCGU

Rolling on the floor
laughing, can't get up



LOVE OF NATURE



The Love of Nature Group visited Old Moor RSPB in the Dearne Valley for its November outing. The group were fortunate that the weather remained clear with good visibility across the various lakes, reed beds and wetlands where a variety of birds were identified, including the spoonbill and pintail duck.



The viewing hides visited by the group were excellent in that they were all large enough to accommodate the group of nearly twenty, plus any additional visitors, without being overcrowded. They also provided excellent vantage points for those using binoculars and for those without, to enjoy the spectacular scenery and of course the birds. The group closed the morning by enjoying the delights of the café, however the much anticipated and acclaimed Yorkshire pudding speciality was not on the menu but would return as from next week. Another visit beckons.



Diane Williams



21st December: National Robin Day

An annual nationwide event raising awareness of small birds and other wildlife in winter and how you can help them through this tough time of year.



4th January 2023: World Braille Day

A day to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.



18th January 2023: Winnie the Pooh Day

Winnie the Pooh Day was created to celebrate the birth of A.A .Milne in 1882.

21st January 2023: Red Squirrel Appreciation Day

Also called Squirrel Appreciation Day. For facts about squirrels go to:

<https://www.acerecology.co.uk/squirrel-appreciation-day>
<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/squirrel-appreciation-day>





Power to your elbow



When the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries announced on the 6th of October that they were going to cut oil production, that was the end of hope for any major reduction in oil prices. The surge in oil prices has put all the world economies under severe strain as the cost of production and distribution of our basic needs has triggered severe inflation. We must take all measures possible to cut our domestic use of petrol, gas and electricity.

I have started to wear Tee shirts as vests and kept my outdoor fleece jacket on indoors. As advised by the Government, I have turned my central heating thermostat down a couple of degrees. The boiler programmer has been adjusted to cut down the hours of operation, and its hot water temperature set at 57 degrees. Unused rooms have had their thermostats turned down, not off. My house, built in 1984 has an insulated ground floor, fibreglass cavity wall insulation and now 15" of roof space insulation and, apart from one external door, is double glazed throughout.

Many people do not realise that if an appliance is not turned off at the socket, electricity seeps through and is measured by the meter. To stop this leak of power it is important to switch all appliances off at the socket. Where I have sockets difficult to access, my house guest, who is very tech savvy, has installed smart plugs which are controlled by talking to Alexa. It is queer to call Alexa to "turn on or off the lounge tv or hall light".

Often people cooking by gas have the flame on full, i.e., coming up the sides of a pan, try boiling with the tap on at three quarters. The kettle may take another minute to boil but less gas has been wasted.

Incandescent bulbs have been off the market for a good number of years and all lights should have modern L.E.D bulbs. When the Council changed our street lighting over to L.E.D panels the power consumption cost was cut by 80%.

It may seem to be a fag switching lights on and off as you enter and leave a room but once you get used to it you are saving money.

Closing blinds and curtains, helps in cutting down the cold air which cascades down windows and doors, thus chilling a room.

Power Companies, be it for petrol, gas or electricity do not want to sell us less units each year. Their profitability and especially unit costs will go down. (It will affect your pension funds).

So, for the next 6 months, it's wear more layers, head coverings, gloves and scarves and don't feel daft wearing them in the house.

I feel sure that some enterprising clothing manufacturer will bring back the Liberty Bodice. That item will be a test of your age!

I will be happy to keep this subject running if you will send me your own tips.

David Allen

More information about **Energy Saving Advice and Grants** can be found on the 'Your Life Doncaster' website (page 16). yourlifedoncaster.co.uk

Group Leaders can be contacted by telephone (see below) or by clicking on the blue bird on their group page on the DU3A website. Go to: <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster> then click on the 'GROUP' tab. Go to the bottom of the group page to select the group that you require. Click on the blue bird in the top right-hand corner and a form will open for you to write your message.

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



Contact Numbers

DU3A Committee Members

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



Activity Groups & Other: Contacts

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

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

Prego Café

We would like to thank our friends at the Prego Café for their help over the past years. Not only is the tea, coffee and food excellent, but the free use of the upstairs room for meetings has been a great help to many of our groups. If you haven't been there yet, give it a try!

DU3A Website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster>

Visit the DU3A website for information about all the current interest groups, latest news/notices, membership information, meetings, social events, monthly calendars and newsletters, help/advice links, links to regional and national u3a and more.....

Monks Printers

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

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

*Wishing all Du3a members
and their families
a very Merry Christmas
and*



Deadline

Thank-you to all the members who have sent articles for this issue. Articles for the February - March 2023 newsletter* need to be received by

Wednesday 28th December 2022

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



