

DONCASTER



Registered Charity No: 1074577



February - March 2019

From the Chair



I'm sure 2019 will bring new challenges for DU3A, but hopefully we won't be affected by Brexit! (Yes, aren't we all fed up with hearing about it regardless of how we voted). The main problem facing us at the moment is the uncertainty of a regular venue for our monthly General Meeting. The January meeting will be held at the Trades, which has reopened, although they haven't as yet agreed a pricing structure for the future so we can't be sure if that will once again become our 'home', but we are hopeful. I can't at the moment confirm a venue for the February meeting but I will contact members by email when I have confirmation – I hope they will pass the message on.

Perhaps the New Year is a good time to think about joining a new group. Over the dark cold days of winter it's good to have something to take you out and friends to meet – you should ring the group leader first to ensure the meeting is taking place as planned. If you have an interest in something that isn't listed you should speak to Diane Williams or John Wheeler about how a new group can be started – that doesn't mean you have to run it, and it would be good to get a few people to help. After all a U3A is a doing organisation and relies on lots of people contributing.

Once again the Christmas Event was a big success. People liked the Catholic Club, although it is not as central as the Trades. The staff were very welcoming and helpful which made our lives easier and thank-you to all those involved – Chris Woolven and his troop of thespians and Chris again for the quiz and the singing, also all the helpers who put out the tables and the food and cleared up afterwards. Who knows where next year's event will be held.....

Looking forward, we have a few people standing down from the committee at the AGM and one will be the Treasurer. As you will appreciate a key position, but a job we think needs to be split as it is getting busier, partly because of the requirements of the Charity Commission and partly because of increased activity such as trips. If you would like to learn more about this or any other committee position, please contact me. You are welcome to come along to a committee meeting and sit in – with no obligation to take it further. We now meet at the Garden Inn Hilton where there is ample parking. Jess Parkinson has completed 2 years as Speaker Finder and would now like someone else to take over this role. She has done an excellent job and we have had some very interesting and varied speakers. They are all organised up to April 2020, so it can be a gradual start for whoever takes over. If you would like to have a go please let me know – or if you have a name of a good speaker to pass on that is always welcome.

I hope we are not knee deep in snow when this reaches you. I wish you a Happy and Healthy 2019 and lots of fun with your U3A activities.

Wendy Hattrell

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members

Jennifer Mitchell and Irene Schofield

Future General Meetings:

21st January 2019	Speaker: Robert W Wood: Topic: Gemstones & Crystals
18th February 2019	Speaker: Keith Whatlin Topic: The History of English Architecture (local theme)
18th March 2019	Speaker: Pat Osborne Topic: Queen Victoria – some surprising facts
15th April 2019	Speaker: John Hoare Topic: Acorn to Oak (National Trust)

Sunday Lunch

GEORGIAN TEAROOMS: – 24th February at 1.00 p.m.

Prices are: £14.95 for 2 courses: £17.95 for 3 courses
Tea/Coffee included

Menu available from Monday 11th until Monday 18th February. Please contact me to choose from this menu or to let me know if you are unable to attend this lunch.

EARL OF DONCASTER: – 24th March at 1.00 p.m.

Prices are: £14.95 for 2 courses: £16.95 for 3 courses
Tea/Coffee extra

Menu available from Monday 11th until Monday 18th March. Contact me to choose from the menu. Please let me know if you cannot attend this lunch.

Eileen Dickson

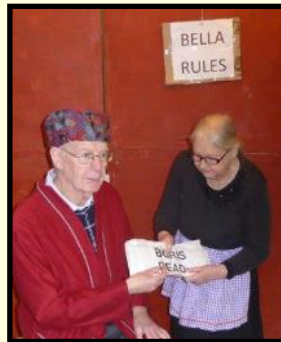


Christmas Event



At what stage and which stage?

The sudden closure of The Trades Club not only created problems for our Chairman and Committee but especially our Drama Impresario, Chris Woolven. He had been visualising the regular stage for his third pantomime when a rewrite was forced upon him by the change of venue. The Catholic Club is darker than the Trades, with different access points to the stage. The regular team of U3A thespians gave bravura performances involving their usual zany characters.



GROUPS - UPDATES / NOTICES

DINING OUT

Just a reminder that the next meeting of the Dining Out group is on the 19th February at Cactus Jacks on Hallgate at 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. Menus are available online. Would you please let me have your menu choices with a cheque made payable to DU3A by Thursday 7th February at the latest.

Thank-you and a Happy New Year to all our members.

Joan Condron

CARD MAKING

From 28th January my Card Making Group will be meeting on the last Monday of the month at 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. in the main hall of Priory Place church.

Janet Evans

TENPIN BOWLING

Next meetings: 15th January, 19th March

GENERAL MEETING

Discussions are taking place regarding the venue for February's General Meeting. The committee will keep you informed via Beacon. If you know of anyone in your group/s who do not have email, would you please pass on any information to them.

SATURDAY DROP-IN

The members who regularly attend the Saturday Drop-In sessions are meeting again at The Trades, Frenchgate.

It is a pity that we have been unable to find a pianist among our members or associates when we could form a choir and music could be included into our Christmas Extravaganza, and possibly even a demonstration from our Scottish Country Dancing group.

Thanks should be expressed to those members who arranged the tables and supplied the food and crackers, and cleared up at the end.

David Allen



Crown Green Bowls

We finished our 2018 season in December and spent our final Thursday afternoon session before the Christmas break enjoying a meal at the Cheswold. We now have a group of up to eight who attend on a regular basis, if we are not on holiday or looking after grandchildren. We are still looking for new players to join us, male or female. No experience is necessary and bowls can be provided. We start again at 1.30 p.m. on January 17th at Haslam Park, weather permitting. See you there.

George Kirk



Tenpin Bowling

With Christmas and New Year behind us getting fit again is a target for many of us but with the weather against us what better way to get active than Ten Pin Bowling. Well done to Rod and Chris, top scorers at our November meeting. So why not come along and see if you can better them, have an enjoyable afternoon with the group and get those muscles working again. Dates for the next meetings are 15th January and 19th March., 3.00 p.m. start as usual and, if you fancy it, a bite in the Cheswold afterwards.

Mike Bowser



History

At our November meeting we looked at the increasingly turbulent reign of King Charles 1st. Charles, at the beginning of his reign, was fairly popular but, driven by his belief that he was 'elected by God to rule', he became increasingly at odds with his Parliament. For a long time he managed to rule without the aid of Parliament. However, because he needed more money to finance wars against his unruly subjects in Scotland, he had to recall Parliament and beg for more finance. The Scots had rejected his attempts to introduce an Anglican form of service in Scotland and formed a 'Solemn League and Covenant' to oppose Charles. Charles sent two armies to subdue the Scots but he was twice defeated and humiliated. Parliament became increasingly hostile. Charles, possibly urged on by his French Catholic wife Henrietta Maria, attempted to arrest five leading members of Parliament, but failed.



Charles I



Oliver Cromwell

This was to lead to increased hostility and eventually to a vicious Civil War. Charles, after numerous battles, was defeated and captured by Parliamentary forces. Now the Parliamentary Army had become the dominant force in the realm. Led by Oliver Cromwell, they put Charles on trial. Charles refused to accept the validity of the court, but was condemned to death and, on a January winter's morning in 1649, executed, the only English monarch ever to have a public execution.

Jack Chantry

Quiz

A great time was had by the Coffee Quiz group when we held our first Christmas 'Do' this year. We had a couple of light-hearted quizzes before 18 of us headed to 'TASTE' in Waterdale and had an excellent meal. Though not the usual turkey, there were all the usual festive trimmings and music.

Jane Page



Don't give Hedgehogs Milk!

In October the Love of Nature group organised an evening safari at Potteric Carr. Andy, the manager of the reserve, willingly headed up the group ready with all the answers to our questions.

Obviously, we were expecting to catch a glimpse of nocturnal behaviour. The reserve has a few very healthy badger setts, numerous deer, foxes, bats and owls but, sadly, nature was against us.

The weather had been particularly stormy and the wind continued to be a nuisance so all we managed to glimpse was a lonely seabird coming home and a distant flap of owls wings.

However, time is never wasted. Potteric Carr in darkness is something few people get to experience and Andy regaled us with recent developments and interesting research that's ongoing and perhaps, just perhaps, all our chatter kept nature safely undercover until we had departed.

For our November meeting we decided to invite someone along that could answer some of our questions on the apparent decline of one of our favourite small mammals, the hedgehog. (No hedgehogs at Potteric Carr because badgers are a fierce predator of them).

Alan and Anita Broadhead run a volunteer hedgehog rescue centre in Barnsley and are deeply passionate about these lovable creatures and willingly part with anything up to two thousand pounds of their pension every year to care for poorly hedgehogs that are brought or sent to them from all over England.



They provide clean, safe, warm habitats for their recovery, plus all food and medicine. Their knowledge and experience is well known in the area and the vets trust their diagnosis and help with the provision of medicines.

The couple believe there are numerous reasons for the decline in numbers, such as walled gardens, less hedgerows, chemical slug pellets, loss of habitat, more cars, but they also feel there is a raised awareness that is slightly improving the chances for the hogs.

Alan and Anita had lots of tips, tales and information, all of which you can find published by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. This society is a charity which often requests Alan and Anita to take in needy hedgehogs but never give any funds.

The tip I thought most astonishing was the fact that we should never offer hedgehogs milk. From being very young I thought we should put milk out. Even when my children were growing up and we had many hedgehogs in our garden we put out milk. Maybe that's why I haven't any hedgehogs anymore despite

cutting hedgehog holes in my fences.

Evidently, milk makes the hedgehogs very constipated and the resulting management of the problem is not very pleasant. A big thank-you to Alan and Anita.

December saw us preparing for Christmas, making our very own natural decorations. From personalised messages on wooden medallions to felt wreaths and sparkly trees. We did try extremely hard to keep within our conservation message but you cant have Christmas without a little bit of glitter or a red pompom for Rudolph's' nose.

For those of us that aren't very 'crafty' it's a great way to 'have a go'. It's really surprising how therapeutic creating a messaged bauble to your grandchildren can be.

There were some laughs, 'serious spillages' and lots of festive fun followed by turkey and trimmings in a bread bun. What more could you ask for.

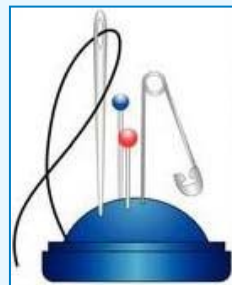
Happy New Year
Vanessa Whaley



Pins And Needles Group

We meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesday, at the Prego café. We are a small group of ladies with many skills within the group. We have knitted for the Premature unit at Doncaster. We have also done some Teddies for Tragedies. Some of our ladies crochet, and some sew or embroider. We are willing to impart our knowledge. Do come along and give us a try.

Anne Windle



A few thoughts about Old Age?

- I'm not old! I just need some WD-40.
- My mind says I'm in my twenties.... My body says 'You wish!'
- My body knows how old I am but my mind refuses to believe it.

Applied Criminology

On 3rd December 2018 nearly 40 members of the above named group met at The Regent Hotel to hear our guest speaker.

There are few detectives in the country that have a higher esteem amongst their colleagues than Mick Burdis QPM (Queens Police Medal). Mick is an ex colleague of mine who joined the Doncaster Borough Force in 1962. He rose through the ranks because of his diligence, patience and thorough attitude to his work. He eventually became the head of South Yorkshire CID having been the Senior Investigating Officer in well over 100 murders. His rank, on retirement, was that of Detective Chief Superintendent.

Following the problems with the '**Yorkshire Ripper Case**', which involved examining and linking 13 homicides and several attempted homicides, a team was established, following the **Byford Report**, to devise a set of working methods to be adopted by **ALL** police forces in the cases of serious crime where an incident room is established. Under the direction of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Mick was one of those selected to be part of the team that produced a manual known as **MIRSAP** (Major Incident Room Standardisation of Procedures Manual). He was also involved in the development of a computer software programme called **HOLMES** (Home Office Large and Major Enquiry Systems).

Because of his knowledge and expertise in this field, Mick is regularly called to '**Review**' the work of other police forces following a major enquiry. He travels extensively in this field of work which did not stop on his retirement.

After the Yorkshire Ripper Case, Mick was called to 'review' the case of **The Murder of Stephen Lawrence** in London. It was about this case that he spoke to the group on 3rd December. Few people have greater knowledge of this case than Mick. His expertise was acknowledged by him having to give evidence to the Macpherson Enquiry after the case. This enquiry examined the whole of the enquiry following complaints and allegations from the Lawrence family. He took us through all the evidence. He explained the mistakes that had been made in the enquiry and the alterations in procedures that followed.

I can say without favour that the whole of the group was spellbound by his oration which was accompanied by a PowerPoint Presentation. As a speaker you know that you have done a good job by the questions that follow the presentation. The Applied Criminologists did not disappoint. They always want to know the contents of the last chapter before they get half way through the book!!

Aided by a change in the law the finale finally came when the Acourt Brothers, Dobson and Norris and Knight were convicted of offences arising from this and other matters.

Peter Gospel



Applied Criminology 2019



The above named group meet at the Regent Hotel on the first and second Monday of each month from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Like **Topsy** the group has grown in size over the 7 or 8 years that it has been going and now numbers around 40. There are however always spaces for new members.

In 2019 we look forward to an interesting and varied programme.

Subjects lined up for presentation and discussion include the murders of police officers in the UK, from the Siege of Sidney Street, Yvonne Fletcher, the Harrods Bombings to Keith Palmer killed outside the House of Commons, and many others.

We will also look at the Criminal Gangs such as The Kray's, The Richardson's and the Clerkenwell Crime Syndicate (AKA The Adams Family).

We will look at the White House Farm Murders by Jeremy Bamber, Arson and Arsonists in the UK and Mary Elizabeth Wilson the 'Merry Widow of Windy Nook' who 'lost' four husbands in as many years!!

Last year we visited the National Justice Museum in Nottingham and the premises of 'Think Forensic' at Huddersfield. 'Think Forensic' also visited us and talked and demonstrated forensic techniques.

We are looking to visit the TV Studios where the Judge Rinder series is filmed and also the Black Museum in Birmingham.

Contact details of the group leader are at the back of the newsletter. If you think you may be interested please contact me in any of the various forms available.

THIRD AGE TRUST: **National Educational Events**

Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts & Book Art:

Monday 4th February 10.30 – 16.00 £24.00
The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB

Satire to Sublime: British Art from Hogarth to Turner:

Thursday 21st March 11.00 – 16.00 £25.00
The Sainsbury Wing Theatre, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square,
London, WC2N 5DN

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

Little Dresses



Over recent years a number of our members have been making dresses for a charity called 'Little Dresses for Africa'.

About 18 months ago we packed off about 50 dresses to an address in Devon. The Charity sends containers out to various parts of Africa and it can take a long time before they are distributed to the many orphans around that continent.

I sent them off and expected not to have sight of them again!

Imagine my surprise and delight when I received an email from them with photos attached of some dresses, some of which I recognised as having been made by myself and Diane. The dresses arrived at an orphanage in Malawi and, as you can see, they were very well received. If you were one of those who helped with the project, please have a look and see if you recognise your handiwork and let me know. It may be time to get the sewing machines out again!

Chris Woolven



Photos sent from Malawi

A few more thoughts about Old Age?

- I will never be over the hill. I'm too tired to climb it!
- To be old and wise you must first have to be young and stupid.
 - Life is short - Smile while you still have teeth.
- I've decided I'm not old! I'm 25 plus shipping and handling.
- I look back on my life and I'm extremely impressed that I'm still alive.

Tracing World War 1 Family History

The Great War 1914-1918

If you are researching your family history you may discover that one of your ancestors was a soldier, sailor or airman who served with the military forces in the Great War of 1914-1918. You may have a photograph, medals, diaries or letters belonging to your relative. Often there may just be a story passed down through the family about a family member having been in the First World War.

Even with a small amount of information to start with it can be possible to at least find out a general overview of a person's 1914-1918 military service. Sometimes the luck of finding an unexpected piece in the puzzle can lead to being able to follow in their footsteps and find oneself within a few metres of where they were in action.

Over the last few years a wealth of resource material has been made available for tracing individuals and the military units with which they served in World War One. Some records are now available online to download free, for a fee or by subscription. Military museums and libraries, national archive collections, newspaper and photograph libraries, census records, town archives, village memorials, memorials in churches are sources which possibly will help point you in the right direction.

If you have a name for your ancestor and nothing more, it is still likely that you will be able to find some information although, of course, the more details you have the better. Sadly, sometimes it can be easier to trace a relative in the war of 1914-1918 if he was a casualty as his death will be recorded with the details of his military unit, date of death and location of burial or commemoration.

With regard to starting from scratch for a serviceman and his military service in the First World War, the first question to find an answer to is whether he died in the war. If this can be confirmed, then it will usually provide enough detail to tell you which unit he was serving with and should provide a regimental number, helping you to confirm his identification when you look at other military records such as:

Records of First World War Military Dead
Medal Records for the First World War
Military Service Records
WW1 Research & Sources of Information



Peter Gospel

Are you interested in finding out more about one or more of your ancestors? If there is sufficient response, I would look at setting up a group to pursue this.

Why Are There Only 28 Days in February?

Each month in the modern Gregorian calendar consists of at least 28 days. That number would be a nicely rounded 30 were it not for February. Whilst every month besides the second in the calendar contains at least 30 days, February falls short with 28 (and 29 on a leap year). So why is the most widely used calendar in the world so inconsistent in the lengths of its months? And why is February stuck with the fewest number of days? Blame it on Roman superstition.

The Gregorian calendar's oldest ancestor, the first Roman calendar, had a glaring difference in structure from its later variants: it consisted of 10 months rather than 12, starting in March and ending in December. Originally, the year started on 1 March and consisted of only 304 days or 10 months (Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Junius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, and December). These 304 days were followed by an unnamed and unnumbered winter period. To the Romans, who made their lot by planting and harvesting, winter was a nameless, dateless slog. For part of the year, there was literally no system for keeping track of the days.

By the time the second king of Rome, Numa Pompilius, took the throne around 750 BC (although his historicity is disputed), he allegedly introduced February and January (in that order) between December and March, increasing the length of the year to 354 or 355 days. These two extra months were added to their year in order to sync their calendar more accurately with the twelve lunar cycles. When he reorganized the calendar's dates to fit the new format, Numa tried to avoid having months that consisted of an even number of days as Roman superstition held that even numbers were unlucky.

In order to reach the 355 days of the lunar year (354.367 to be exact, but he rounded up to keep it odd), one month out of the twelve needed to contain an even number of days. This is because of simple mathematical fact - the sum of any even amount of odd numbers will always equal an even number. So Numa chose February, a month that would be host to Roman rituals honouring the dead, as the unlucky month to consist of 28 days. In 450 BC February was moved to its current position between January and March.

The calendar still had its flaws. Following the lunar cycle worked well for a few years, but soon the seasons became out of sync with their typical months. In order to make up for the lack of days in a year, an extra month, Intercalaris or Mercedonius, (allegedly with 22 or 23 days, though some authorities dispute this) was introduced in some years. In an 8 year period the length of the years may have been as follows:

- 1: 12 months or 355 days
- 2: 13 months or 377 days
- 3: 12 months or 355 days
- 4: 13 months or 378 days
- 5: 12 months or 355 days
- 6: 13 months or 377 days
- 7: 12 months or 355 days
- 8: 13 months or 378 days

The total of 2930 days corresponded to an average of $366\frac{1}{4}$ days per year. This year was discovered to be too long, and therefore 7 days were later dropped from the 8th year, yielding 365.375 days per year.

This was the theory. In practice it was the duty of the priesthood to keep track of the calendars, but they failed miserably, partly due to ignorance and partly because they were bribed to make certain years long and other years short. As you might have guessed, this was a nightmare. Furthermore, leap years were considered unlucky and were therefore avoided in time of crisis, such as the Second Punic War.

In 45 BC Julius Caesar introduced the so-called Julian calendar, but before the reformed calendar could be used, drastic measures were required to make up for the many omitted leap months. Therefore, 46 BC became a year with 15 months and 445 days. That year has been aptly termed “the last year of confusion”.

	<u>47 BC</u>	<u>46 BC</u>
Januarius	29	29
Februarius	28	24
Intercalaris		27
Martius	31	31
Aprilis	29	29
Maius	31	31
Junius	29	29
Quintilis	31	31
Sextilis	29	29
September	29	29
October	31	31
November	29	29
*		33
*		34
December	<u>29</u>	<u>29</u>
Total	355	445

Julius Caesar reconfigured the entire thing again and aligned the length of the year with the sun, so that each year would add up to 365 days. For some reason, he left February at 28 days. The length of the months from 45 BC onward were the same as the ones we know today.

A common year has 365 days and a leap year 366 days, with the extra, or intercalary day designated as February 29th. A leap year occurs every four years to help synchronize the calendar year with the solar year, or the length of time it takes the earth to complete its orbit around the sun, which is about $365\frac{1}{4}$ days.

The length of the solar year, however, is slightly less than $365\frac{1}{4}$ days by about 11 minutes. To compensate for this discrepancy, the leap year is omitted three times every four hundred years.

In other words, a century year cannot be a leap year unless it is divisible by 400. Thus 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not leap years, but 1600, 2000, and 2400 are leap years.



PUZZLE PAGE

SEQUENCES

What comes next?

1. 1 1 2 3 5 8 13 21

2. 3 5 7 11 13 17 19

3. 28 38 49 62

4. 64 81 100 121

5. Y Y H L Y E Y T R R R

6. A P A T G C L V L S S

SOLUTIONS TO DECEMBER - JANUARY PUZZLES

Word Ladders:

1: CHASE → CEASE → LEASE → LEASH → LEACH → PEACH → PERCH → PARCH → PATCH → CATCH

2: GREAT → TREAT → TREAD → TRIAD → TRIAL → TRILL → TWILL → SWILL → STILL → STALL → SMALL

3: GAMES → GAPES → CAPES → COPES → CORES → CORPS → COOPS → CROPS → CROSS → CRESS → CHESS

4: GROWL → GROWS → GLOWS → SLOWS → SLOTS → SLATS → SLATE → STATE → STARE → SNARE → SNARL

5: TIGER → TIMER → TIMES → TIRER → SIREN → SORES → SORTS → FORTS → FORTE → FORGE → GORGE → GORSE → HORSE

6: TRAIN → TRAIT → TRACT → TRACE → TRICE → TRITE → WRITE → WRITS → WAITS → WANTS → WANES → WINES → LINES → LIKES → BIKES

Word Squares: Possible squares. (You may have found something different)

S	T	A	R
T	I	R	E
A	R	I	A
R	E	A	D

W	O	R	D	S
O	P	E	R	A
R	E	B	E	L
D	R	E	S	S
S	A	L	S	A

C	R	U	S	T
R	A	N	C	H
U	N	D	E	R
S	C	E	N	E
T	H	R	E	W

SUDOKU

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

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

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).

SPECIAL DAYS

JANUARY

- 21st National Hug Day (Int) / Squirrel Appreciation Day (Int)
 27th World Leprosy Day (Int) / Holocaust Memorial Day (Int)

FEBRUARY

- 1st Wear Red Day (UK)
 2nd World Wetlands Day (UK)
 4th National Sickie Day (UK)
 5th Chinese New Year (Year of the Pig) (UK)
 7th Send a Card to a Friend Day (Int)
 9th Toothache Day (Int)
 13th Get a Different Name Day (US)
 17th Random Acts of Kindness Day (Int)
 20th National Love your Pet Day (UK)
 28th Floral Design Day (US)

MARCH

- 1st The Great British Spring Clean Day (UK)
 11th Commonwealth Day (Int)
 15th World Sleep Day (Int)
 20th Spring Equinox (Int)
 21st International Day of Forests (Int)
 22nd World Water Day (Int)
 29th Wear a Hat Day (UK)

Int = International UK = United Kingdom US = USA



Welcome to the February - March culture page

Just a few ideas for up and coming things you may like to do.

PRIORY METHODIST CHURCH

Lunch-Hour Concerts: The Doncaster Arts & Museum Society
(previously held at Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery)

Wednesdays: 23 Jan - 24 April: All concerts being at 1:00pm
<http://www.visitdoncaster.com/whats-on/lunch-hour-concerts>

THE CAST

FanCASTic: Saturday 26th January 7.00 p.m.

A thrilling Gala concert of non-stop entertainment with the best of Doncaster's local talent scene.

Call 01302 303959 or visit <http://www.visitdoncaster.com/whats-on/fancastic>

DONCASTER MANSION HOUSE

Tea Dance & Open Days: 5th Feb / 5 March / 2 April

The Open Day session runs from 10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. *(The doors open to visitors for FREE and visitors are invited to wander the rooms, take in the stunning decor and hear the history of the building from the experts on hand from the Friends of Doncaster Mansion House).*

From 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. the ballroom plays host to a traditional tea dance *(with a programme of popular sequence and ballroom dancing with a live musician. Pay just £3.50 on the door, and this includes hot refreshments and biscuits).*

<http://www.visitdoncaster.com/whats-on/tea-dance-open-day-february>

DONCASTER DOME

Circus of Horrors: *The spectacular features an amazing amalgamation of bizarre & fantastic circus acts all woven into a sensational shock / horror story and the darkest of magic – taking the show to a whole new level, a Rock 'n Roll roller coaster of a show with a mainly original soundscape & performed with a forked tongue firmly in each cheek, you'll certainly Die Laughing.*

Thursday 28th February 2019 7.00 p.m.

Call 01302 370777 or visit <http://www.visitdoncaster.com/whats-on/circus-of-horrors>

Menopause the Musical: 7.00 p.m.

Sunday 28 April 2019 From £30

Call 01302 370777 or visit <https://www.dclt.co.uk/whats-on/menopause-the-musical>

DONCASTER MINSTER

Black Dyke Band: performing an 'In tribute' to Haydn Griffiths MBE concert
Saturday 23rd February 2019, 6.00 p.m.

The late Haydn Griffiths was the great musical director and founder of Armthorpe Elmfield Band.

Tickets £21 (VIP) & £14 available from:

<http://www.visitdoncaster.com/whats-on/black-dyke-band>

LYCEUM THEATRE, SHEFFIELD

Blood Brothers: Musical: 5 - 9 February
<https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/whats-on/blood-brothers>

Agatha Christie's **The Mousetrap** 11 - 16 February
<https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/whats-on/the-mousetrap>

Cats Musical (Croft House Theatre Company) 12 - 16 March
<https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/whats-on/croft-house-cats>

Victoria: a ballet by Cathy Marston: 19 - 23 March
<https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/whats-on/victoria>

Phone Sheffield Theatres: 0114 249 6000

DONCASTER LITTLE THEATRE

Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn 14 - 16 February
Call 01302 340422 or visit <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/doncasterlittletheatre>

BAWTRY PHOENIX THEATRE

Relatively Speaking by Alan Ayckbourn. 9 - 16 May
Call 01302 710825 or visit <http://www.bawtrytheatre.co.uk>

DONCASTER ART GALLERY

Connections: Exhibition 12 January - 7 April

The range of artwork on display will feature the first work to enter our Fine Art collection; Sir Frank Lockwood's portrait of Sir Lewis Cave Day. "Connections" will show the quirky and unusual links between some of the most important works held by Heritage Doncaster
<https://www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/whats-on/?event=EVENT590533>

Hope you find something to enjoy.

B Thompson

And for the hobbyists amongst our members: Dates for your diaries:

THE FESTIVAL OF BRITISH RAILWAY MODELLING

9 – 10 February: Doncaster Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse
9th February: 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (pre-booked ticket holders 9:30 a.m.)
10th February: 10.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. (pre-booked ticket holders 9:30 a.m.)
Ticket Prices: Advanced- Adult: £8 On the door - £9
<http://www.visitdoncaster.com/whats-on/festival-of-british-railway-modelling>

CRAFTING LIVE

12 - 14 July: Doncaster Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse
<https://www.craftinglive.co.uk/shows/doncaster>

DONCASTER & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY FAIR & CRAFT STALLS

Saturday 12 October: Doncaster Deaf Trust: 10.00 - 16.00
<https://doncasterfhs.co.uk/event/ddfhs-family-local-history-fair-with-craft-stalls-2019>

Barnsley and District U3A Spring School

Thursday and Friday, May 2nd and May 3rd
at the Ibis Hotel, Barnsley



Hey, if you do nothing else in 2019, it will be a good year if you include this.

Last year it was terrific. The hotel couldn't do enough for us, and the study rooms that we used were perfect, with everything we needed. The subjects on offer this year are almost all different from last year, with the exception of Mixed Media Art, which is coming back by popular demand.

The price will be £60 for the two days, or £30 for one day. For subjects marked with an *, there will be an extra charge for materials. Most subjects are one-day courses, though they may happen on both days. Just a few are two-day courses, so I advise you to check these out carefully.

To apply, please contact Beth Rudkin (contact details in the back pages) and include a £10 deposit. (The balance will be due by the end of March).

Give your name, email address, telephone number and subjects of your choice.

- **Create a portrait of your pet in pastels:** Paula Harmer (two days) *
- **DNA:** Chris and Diane Woolven (two days)
- **Mixed Media Art:** Christine Palmer and Vanda Outram *
- **Electronics for the Beginner:** Chris Green * (2 day course)
- **Truth or Fiction?:** Andrew and Sue Green
- **The Shifting Planet:** Beth Rudkin
- **The World of Jane Austen:** Denise West (two day course)
- **What have the Greeks/Romans ever done for us?
Life of Brian but much wider!:** Jeremy Dinsdale
- **Writing for Children:** David Harmer

For full details go to the 'Events' page on the Doncaster U3A website:

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

Beth Rudkin

Summer School

5th – 8th August 2019

The Hawkhills, Easingwold

Literature: Empire to Hell Fire
 Summer Painting in the Landscape
 Magic is not just an Illusion
 The Philosophers
 Art History: Understanding Paintings
 Global Climate Change
 Festivals and Creative Tourism
 Jewellery Making

See www.thehawkhills.com for venue details, and <https://yahru3a.co.uk/> to register your interest. This will ensure you receive the latest summer school news as it becomes available.

Programme of Events on the Environment

To meet the rising interest amongst our members in this subject we are arranging a series of related events in 2019.

We expect to advertise each event 2 or 3 months ahead so keep an eye out for more information on the website, and for flyers.

Places will be limited and offered on a first come first served basis.

Spring: Recycling - a site visit study day to a major recycling plant.

Summer: Climate Change - a course at our Summer School in August. Flyer available now (see above).

Autumn: Renewable Energy Systems - a study day on Wind Power.

Texting Abbreviations for the Elderly

FWIW: Forgot Where I Was	BTW: Bring The Wheelchair
BYOT: Bring Your Own Teeth	FWB: Friend With Betablockers
LMDO: Laughing My Dentures Out	SUS: Speak Up, Sonny
WIWYA: When I Was Your Age	ATD: At The Doctor's
BFF: Best Friend's Funeral	CGU: Can't Get Up
CR: Can't Remember	GGLKI: Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking In
HGBM: Had Good Bowel Movement	IMHO: Is My Hearing-Aid On?
WTP: Where's The Prunes?	DWI: Driving While Incontinent
BIMD: Back in my day	WWNO: Walker Wheels Need Oil
MBH: My back hurts	GGPBL: Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low!
DTAF: Don't Trust A Fart	RULKM: Are You Leaving Kids Money?

CONTACTING GROUP LEADERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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	Wendy Hattrell
Vice Chair	to be arranged
Business Secretary	Chris Woolven
Treasurer	John Parkinson
Membership Secretary	Jill Laming
Group Co-ordinators	Diane Williams John Wheeler
Minutes Secretary	Mark Frost
Welfare	Carole Lewis
Publicity	Mark Frost George Kirk Vanessa Whaley David Smith

Activity Groups & Other: Contacts

For groups: see the back pages of the emailed newsletter or website

Newsletter Editor & Website Manager	Bridget Thompson	bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com
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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 April - May newsletter need to be received by

Friday 1st March.

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.



