

A photograph of a winter landscape. A stream flows through a snowy field, with large rocks covered in snow. Bare trees and bushes are scattered throughout the scene, their branches dusted with snow. The overall atmosphere is cold and serene.

DONCASTER U3A

February - March 2023

Registered Charity No. 1074577

From the Chair



As we move swiftly and smoothly from one year to another steady progress is being made on several fronts.

First of all, complications associated with setting up accounts with Coop Bank have nearly been resolved. Bureaucratic detail, tight time scales and strict regulation served to make the whole process tiresome. The change to the Coop has been brought about because our former bank, HSBC, is beginning to make increasing charges for running an account with them. Further, all major banks do not view clubs and charities with good grace. Of course, Du3a is a registered charity. It seems banks recognise private account holders and businesses as legitimate customers, but have no interest in any organisation that does not fit those criteria. All thanks to our Treasurer, Peter Hermes, whose diligence is resulting in all being well set up for the future.

A few weeks ago we, along with other South Yorkshire u3as, were invited to Sheffield in order to meet Liz Thackray from the Third Age Trust (TAT). As your Chairman I attended along with representatives from Rotherham, Barnsley, Wakefield and Sheffield. This meeting was a response to the feeling that there is a disconnect between TAT and their membership. Did the meeting have a positive outcome? I have my reservations, as proposals regarding raising the profile of the u3a organisation on local, regional and national levels were somewhat lost.

Publicity Officer, Jane Bowser has had some success. She has a reliable contact at Doncaster's Wool Market and a couple of provisional dates have been pencilled in. The first of these is for the 10th of February at the Wool Market and the second, March 10th will be at the Transport Interchange. Stand by for more information to follow closer to those events.

Our Christmas Party went well with 'Fools Gold' entertaining us once again. Paula Harmer, who made all the arrangements had a COVID alert on the day, so was unable to join us. It was especially appreciated that Fools Gold did not have to set up all of their own sound system, thanks to Richard at Powerhouse Christ Church providing connection to the Christ Church in-house system. Additional thanks go to the ladies from Christchurch who volunteered to man the cafe on this occasion.

We need to recognise the sub-committee, headed up by Diane Woolven for arranging food and hot drinks, which helped with a good Christmassy feeling.

Peter Hermes had made his way round Doncaster's retail community to amass draw prizes. Thanks to him and fellow sub-committee members for their efforts.

Happy New Year, everybody.

Simon Hughes

Cover photo: French village called Valmeinier. It translates as 'Miller's Valley'
by Chris Woolven Digital Photography Group

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members

**John Atkin, Nicola Atkin, Trisha Flanagan,
Patricia Gilmore, Roy Harris**

GENERAL MEETINGS

Venue for the General Meetings:

Christ Church, Thorne Road, Doncaster, DN1 2HG

16th January 2023

1.30 p.m.

Speaker: Mike Storr

Topic: **Masters of Mirth**

There will also be a display of photographs from the Digital Photography group

20th February 2023

1.30 p.m.

Speaker: Gerry Kersey,

Topic: **Radio Encounters With Celebrities**

20th March 2023

1.30 p.m.

Speaker: Sue Clifton

Topic: **The Birds in Your Garden**

INTEREST GROUPS

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

NEW GROUP!

Buondi!

I would like to try to establish a new group to learn Italian. This would be for people with little or no previous experience of the language and would be held on Zoom. I am myself at intermediate level, just about, so would only be three steps in front of you. I suspect some of you will be a step ahead of me.

I am leaning towards meeting every week on Zoom, in the evening. This is by no means set in stone at the moment!

If you are interested in joining a Zoom meeting to learn to speak Italian, please email me so that we can determine whether this is a viable group. (See page 18).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Arrivaderci

Paula Harmer

April - May 2023 Newsletter

Articles for the April- May newsletter need to be received by

Wednesday 1st March.

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

bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com

In Memory of David Allen

14-03-1938 - 20-12-2022

It is with sadness that I have to report the sudden passing of David Allen. When I first joined u3a David was speaker finder and a committee member. David was one of life's 'doers'. If help was needed David would offer – oh that there were more like him! He embraced the principles of u3a of learning through doing and continued to enjoy challenges and being involved.



David was a member of many organisations including the Masons, Rotary and Probus but his abiding passion was bee keeping. He once entertained us at a GM with a talk on the subject and was clearly an authority. Both he and his late wife Shelagh took the money on the door at the GMs for several years, so you may remember him from that time.

I have lost a friend and so has Doncaster u3a.

Wendy Hattrell



U3A National Programmes



Ongoing

These initiatives run over an ongoing period of time.

- ◆ Logic Puzzles
- ◆ Found in Nature
- ◆ u3a Eye
- ◆ Maths Challenge
- ◆ Paint or Draw
- ◆ u3a Radio Podcast
- ◆ Slow Ways
- ◆ Run for the World
- ◆ Creative Writing Competition 2022 Winners.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/ongoing>

Do take a look at the many **online talks & workshops** which are available via Zoom for all members. Go to:

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

Interest Groups Online (formerly Trust u3a) is an online u3a community that gives you the opportunity to join groups, talks and courses from the comfort of your home. Go to:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/groups>

For group leaders - see **Subject Networks**. Go to:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/subject-networks>

<https://www.u3a.org.uk>

STRETCHERS

We met late November for our early Stretchers Christmas walk at the Ship Inn at Newington near Austerfield. It was a cold morning but fortunately dry as we had had a lot of rain previously. This was an area I thought I knew well but Wendy managed to surprise me. After a short walk along the Misson Road we turned right to walk along the River Idle.

The ground was really good for walking although we were surrounded by lakes. For those amongst us who were able to recognise the water birds there were plenty to see. We entered Misson on the outskirts of the village where we passed lots of renovated older properties, passed the church and out into the countryside once again. Still the terrain was good for walking but on turning the corner we were faced by a field containing a large number of cows and mud! We managed to navigate the path along side the cows with no-one succumbing to the mud. We then turned back towards the village. Again the ground was good to walk on. By now the weather had brightened and spirits were high as we were walking back towards lunch.



The timing was spot on and as we finally turned back towards the pub for a short walk along the road we arrived back in time for a much needed meal. The walk was just what we needed to blow away the cobwebs, enjoy the countryside and share a Christmas meal. Looking forward to more of the same in 2023.

Jenny Burnett



UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

The situation in Ukraine is very serious. Your help is needed. If you're able to, please donate today.



Ukrainian Centre, Doncaster



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

Donations can also be made at the **DEC** (Disasters Emergency Committee)
<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

General Meeting 21st November 2022

Strolls past Structures

Josephine Gosling gave us an interesting presentation about her strolls around the UK and beyond. She divided her talk into sections:

Walks including structures that were: • tall • long • round • box shaped • linked to animals • linked to food • going across • linked to water.



Josephine not only showed us pictures of structures but also gave us a brief history of many of them. A few of the structures she described included:

- The AA box in Aysgarth (one of 19 surviving boxes that are grade 2 listed);
- The giant Meccano Bridge in Moses Gate, Bolton;
- The Boat Lift at Anderton, Cheshire;
- Peel Tower near Bury, Lancashire (named after Robert Peel, the founder of the Police Force);
- Little John's Grave, Hathersage, Derbyshire;



- The plaque on the pavement on Market Place in Wells, Somerset. It records the length of the world record long jump made by Mary Bignal Rand at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games;
- Longitude Zero meridian monument near Frampton, Lincolnshire. (You can stand with one foot in the eastern hemisphere and one foot in the western hemisphere);
- William Clarke's dog, Lincoln Castle. William Clarke was a poacher who murdered a game keeper and was sentenced to death. The ghost of William's dog, a lurcher, can still be seen

late at night in the castle grounds;

- Diggle portal - the entrance to the Standedge Tunnel from Diggle, Lancashire to Marsden, West Yorkshire. It is the longest, deepest and highest canal tunnel in the UK;
- Spike Milligan's grave in Winchelsea, E. Sussex. It includes the controversial epitaph (eventually allowed in Irish but not English) 'Dúirt mé leat go raibh mé breoite', translated as 'I told you I was ill'.

We were given a taste of many, many more 'strolls' and 'structures'. By adding context to each of her pictures, Josephine brought the places to life. An enjoyable, illuminating talk.

Bridget Thompson

ENJOYING POETRY

Our group meets at Cafe Prégio at 10.30 on the third Tuesday of each month. We have a great time, sharing and enjoying a wide range of poems old and new. It is a small, vibrant group which provides a perfect opportunity for discussion, chat, laughs and the exchange of ideas. All for the price of a coffee. Fantastic.

David Harmer



General Meeting: December 2022

We were, once again, entertained by acoustic musicians Carol and Steve Robson, also known as 'Fool's Gold'. They sang and played instruments, including various recorders, various guitars, flute, ukulele, and whistle, whilst projecting visuals on screens to accompany stories about songs. We watched various seasonal cartoons alongside photographs of historical events and beautiful landscapes.

We learnt about 'Tomte', a mythological creature from Scandinavian folklore. These creatures cause mischief if their 'treat' of risengrod (rice pudding) is not left out for them on Christmas Eve. If Tomte receives his pudding or porridge, he might reward you with gifts. This may be one of the origins of leaving food and drink for Santa.



We were shown photographs of the WW1 Christmas truce, with British and German soldiers playing a football match in No Man's Land on 25th December 1914.



We sang along with Carol and Steve when they sang 'Only you' by the Flying Pickets, the Christmas number 1 in 1983.



We were told about the disappearance of tea towels in homes around the country when the 'Nativity' was being performed. This was accompanied by a delightful movie clip of 'The Star - The Nativity'.

We joined in with many songs, the final one being, of course, 'White Christmas'.

The spectacular lighting and video setup in Christ Church was thanks to Richard (Powerhouse, Christ Church). Diane Woolven and her sub-committee decorated the hall beautifully and provided festive food and drinks and, thanks to Peter Hermes, many members went home happy with raffle prizes.



A very big thank-you to everyone concerned with creating this most congenial meeting that raised the spirits.

Bridget Thompson



LOVE OF NATURE

For thousands of years the grey seals of the North Atlantic have gathered in large numbers at various coastal locations around the UK. One of those locations is a long stretch of beach on the coast of Lincolnshire known as Donna Nook.

For slightly less than a thousand years Doncaster u3a's Nature group have made the journey to see this impressive gathering. The reason for this event, which takes place annually, is firstly for the females (cows) to give birth to their young (pups) and secondly a few weeks after the births for the male seals (bulls) to start the whole process over again.

The attraction of this event to our group is the huge number of seals taking part in this event. This year well over two thousand pups were born on this stretch of beach and on this occasion we were privileged to witness a birth taking place. It was an amazing experience to see a new life beginning. This event was the highlight of our visit.

Sixteen of us made the trip which was enjoyed by all despite the cold. We had a bright sunny day and there were no icy North Sea winds as there can be in December.

The welcoming fire in the nearby `Bay Horse` and the hot meal topped the day as we told our tales of the seals visit.

Mike Bowser



Newborn



2 minutes old



52 minutes old



STRIKE - STRIKE - STRIKE

No, I'm not talking about the railways or nurses. It's the Ten Pin Bowling Group.

Just before Christmas we held our end of the year session. It was not part of our competition but a 'friendly' game when we had our trophy and prize giving. The awards went to David Bryant, Peter Hermes and Christine Wright. Peter had a runaway single game score of 170 and Christine a high of 128.

Our opening session of 2023 will be before the issue of this newsletter but if you think you can give Peter and Christine a run for their money why not join us on the 21st February and give it a go. By the way, if you are not up to those levels (like most of us) come anyway for a great social occasion - new friends and a good laugh.

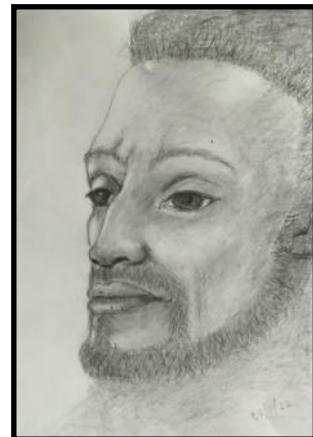
Mike Bowser

ART GROUP

We have three new members who have added to the group already and are most welcome.

We spent some time looking at portraits and I encouraged the group to be adventurous and work larger Here are a few of our results. (Our studies are now focusing on industrial landscapes.)

Paula Harmer



CULTURE PAGE



It's time for snowdrops! Snowdrops are really old! There are now over two and a half thousand varieties and they stretch back for centuries, with a Greek botanist and philosopher writing about them as early as the 4th century. As one of the first flowers of spring, they symbolise new beginnings, hope, rebirth and the ability to overcome challenges. This makes it a very positive flower to give someone who might be going through a bad time and needs some extra support and encouragement.

Because the snowdrop flower has been in the UK for centuries, many believe it's native to Britain but it was actually discovered in Europe and the Middle East and brought over to us by the Romans.

In 1753, Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist, reclassified the snowdrop and declared that it wasn't a violet at all, as had previously been assumed, but instead part of the Amaryllidaceae family. He officially named it the *Galanthus nivalis*, which means 'milk flower of the snow', but many across Europe were already calling it the snowdrop by that point.

In the 19th century, snowdrops experienced a big boost in popularity, mainly thanks to the Victorians becoming interested in botany and florigraphy. They have remained popular ever since, although for a little while in the 19th and 20th centuries, they were associated with a dark superstition, as people would usually plant snowdrops in and around cemeteries. This led to a belief that if you brought a snowdrop into your home, it would bring doom upon you. Luckily this superstition passed, and now we can all enjoy having little white snowdrops at home without worrying about them causing bad luck.

As snowdrops are only available in white, they have meanings of purity, innocence, spirituality and sympathy attached to them.

Snowdrops make the perfect addition to any bouquets for celebrations! Since they have connotations of hope and innocence, they're great to give as new baby flowers, and their fresh, sweet fragrance is bound to uplift sleep deprived parents.

As January's birth month flower, they can be given as birthday flowers too, as an extra thoughtful gift.

Since snowdrops are also associated with sympathy, because of them being prolific in graveyards, they're appropriate to send as sympathy flowers to express your condolences and let loved ones know you're thinking of them during a difficult time.

Snowdrops are endangered, so collecting them in the wild is illegal in many countries, including the UK, and you need a special license to transport them over borders. Rare snowdrop bulbs can cost hundreds of pounds.

In Greek mythology the snowdrop flower links to the story of Persephone. When she was taken into the underworld the earth turned into winter. When she came back from the underworld, snowdrops were one of the plants she brought back with her, to give the barren winter landscape a breath of spring. One of the common names of the snowdrop is 'Eve's Comforters'. The story tells that Eve was crying in the garden of Eden because no flowers would grow there in winter. An angel heard her and

caught a snowflake that was passing. He breathed on it and the snowflake fell on earth as the first snowdrop. A variation of this legend is that an angel caught a passing snowflake, breathed on it and handed it to Eve. When the angel's feet touched the ground, snowdrops began to spring from everywhere, which Eve said were the most beautiful flowers in Eden.

Victorians developed a mania for the snowdrop flower and 'Snowdrop Walks'. They used it often to symbolise hope and comfort. A friend encountering a loss would be presented with a snowdrop shaped brooch or a vase of snowdrops. They were also a popular motif on New Year cards. Not all the beliefs surrounding snowdrops are associated with death and sadness. In Wales when the Christmas decorations were being removed at Candlemas, a bowl of snowdrops was thought to drive out evil. This also marked the beginning of the Spring season and gave the house a purification.

In the lowland of Scotland it was believed that the person who found a snowdrop before the first of January would be lucky the whole year.

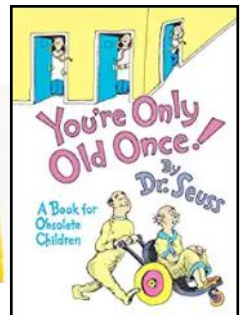
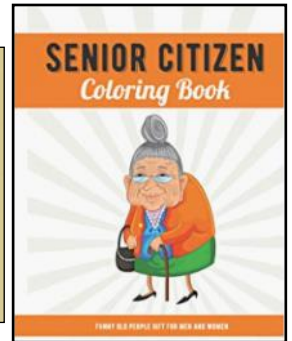
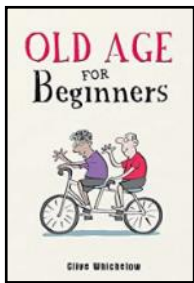
They are known in our times to contain a substance used to treat Alzheimers..... perhaps we need to all become Galanthophiles. That means, of course, lovers of snowdrops!

Paula Harmer



Wallington, Northumberland

What did YOU get for Christmas?



MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2023/24, A NEW BANK ACCOUNT AND GIFT AID

The membership year for Doncaster u3a runs from April to March so annual subscriptions for 2023/24 are due by 1st April 2023.

Annual membership provides access to eleven monthly meetings, unlimited interest groups, special events, six newsletters compiled by our own members and five issues of the national 'Third Age Matters' magazine delivered to members' homes.

We are happy to confirm that costs remain unchanged at £14 per member or £24 for joint membership (two people sharing a single address). An additional £6 is payable if you have elected to receive the six Doncaster u3a newsletters by post rather than email.

Payment by bank transfer is preferable though not essential. **For bank transfers or standing orders please note that we have a new bank account.** (Details on page 18).

If you wish to pay your subscription by cheque, please send your payment (plus a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE for the return of your receipt) to the membership secretary (address on page 18).

If you are a taxpayer we are able to reclaim tax from the Government on your subscription, at no cost to you, as a Gift Aid donation. This is a significant source of income for us. If you have not already done so via your original membership application form please contact Christine Curtis to advise that you are a UK taxpayer so that we can update our records and claim Gift Aid on your subscription.

Thank-you for your ongoing support and enjoy your 2023/24 membership.

Peter Hermes - Treasurer

GIFT AID:

If you have **ceased** to be a UK tax payer, and therefore are no longer eligible to claim Gift Aid, please let Christine Curtis know so she can adjust our records accordingly.

BEETLE DRIVE!

On Monday 30th January we are holding a Beetle Drive, which is great fun! You need never have even heard of a Beetle Drive to come along and try to win the prize for highest score. All paper and pencils will be provided, as will a hot drink. It is a very simple idea... You roll a die to win the bits of a beetle (legs, body, head and so on) and the winner is the first to complete a beetle.

Simple!

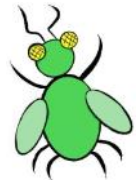
We do hope you will join us to make this a success.

The drive will be at the usual venue for meetings - Powerhouse at Christ Church, starting at 1.00 p.m. sharp. Doors will open at 12.45 p.m.

So that we know how many places to set, please note that we are selling tickets to the event, which will be three pounds per person. You can buy your tickets from Diane Woolven or at the next General Meeting.

Do join us it won't be possible without you!

Paula Harmer



AN OPEN INVITATION – to see how our Du3a committee works...

Yes, our next Du3a Committee Meeting is set for 1.00 pm, on the 14th February, 2023. We meet at the Doncaster Care Centre on Bennetthorpe where tea/coffee and biscuits help the business along.

Any member who has sufficient curiosity to come along will hear how decisions are reached and see how all points of view are considered in a friendly inclusive environment.

Let me give you some background information. In accordance with our formal constitution there needs to be between seven and twelve committee members. Four of these are executive members – namely Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

If in any year executive positions are vacant, or we don't achieve seven members, we are considered unconstitutional and at worst, must be disbanded and possibly merged with another geographically close u3a.

It is therefore important that some sort of succession plan is in place so as to provide a steady flow of potential committee members. Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for May 2023 and it would be really good to see some new faces, along with the old ones. In order to avoid stagnation and slow membership growth fresh ideas from new committee members are valuable.

Nearly all committee members have a specific role and are asked to give an update on their activity at monthly meetings. For instance we have officers with responsibility for Membership, Publicity, Speaker-Finding, Welfare, Group Coordination and Beacon Administration.

It's not all work and no play – from time to time we have a committee meal-out and of course we socialise by being members of individual Du3a interest groups.

Would you like to find out more?

My contact details are on page 18, or just speak to one of our committee members.

Simon Hughes

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

Overheard:

I'm as good as I ever was but only in short bursts!

STROLLERS

On a cloudy day in December the Strollers set out from the Newton Arms, walked up Sprotbrough Road and turned right onto the Transpennine Trail. Turning left we made our way alongside Newlands Park and then past the Lower and Middle Fish Ponds at Cusworth Park. After going around the Upper Fish Pond we retraced our steps back to the Newton Arms for a welcome Christmas lunch.

Strollers walks usually take place on the fourth Thursday of each month but members agreed to defer the November meeting until the beginning of December so as to be able to choose a meal from the new Christmas menu. With crackers pulled and party hats on, the atmosphere was congenial and the food delicious. A good time was had by all. Thanks Wendy, for suggesting the change of date.

B Thompson



What will you be doing on February 14th?

The legend of St. Valentine is a mystery. The Catholic Church recognizes at least three saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend says Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided single men made better soldiers than those with families, he outlawed marriage. Valentine continued to perform marriages in secret, so Claudius ordered that Valentine be put to death. Other stories suggest Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape Roman prisons.

It is also told that Valentine sent the first Valentine's Day greeting. Yet another legend says Valentine fell in love while imprisoned, perhaps with the jailor's daughter who visited him. Before his death, he is said to have written her a letter and signed it 'From your Valentine'.

England

On Valentine's day women used to place five bay leaves on their pillows. This was done with the aim to bring dreams of their future husbands.

Japan

Women make the first move on Valentine's Day. They give men gifts instead of the other way around, a popular gift being honmei-choco, a homemade chocolate. Men return the gesture on 14 March (known as White Day), by giving women white chocolate and other white gifts as a sign of their affection.

South Korea

As in Japan, women give gifts to men on Valentine's Day while men celebrate White Day. However, on 14 April, South Korea has a third holiday known as Black Day when single

friends gather to eat noodles and celebrate being single. The name comes from the noodle dish, which includes white noodles in a black sauce.

Slovenia

St Valentine is one of the patron saints of Spring. It is believed that on 14 February, plants start to regenerate and this day is considered a prime day for working in the fields. There is another popular belief that birds 'propose' to each other on this day. In order to witness this occasion, one must walk barefoot through fields that are often still frozen. Slovenians typically celebrate romance a month later, on St. Gregory's Day, which falls on 12 March.

Finland and Estonia

Finland and Estonia celebrate Friend's Day on 14 February, a day for honouring both friends and significant others. Cards and gifts are still given out, and can be for anyone from a best friend to a neighbour. February 14 is also a popular day to get engaged in both countries. Additionally, Estonia has an interesting tradition for single people - they can take a ride on the Love Bus in hopes of meeting someone special.

Denmark

Rather than roses, friends and sweethearts exchange pressed white flowers (snowdrops). Lover's cards were originally transparent cards which showed a picture of the card giver presenting a gift to his sweetheart. Men also give women gækkebrev, a 'joking letter' consisting of a funny poem or rhyme written on intricately cut paper and signed only with anonymous dots. If a woman who receives the gækkebrev can correctly guess the sender, she earns herself an Easter egg later that year.

Philippines

Thousands of couples share a wedding day on 14 February. Mass wedding ceremonies have gained popularity in the Philippines in recent years, leading hundreds of couples to gather at malls or other public areas around the country to get married or renew their vows en masse.

Italy

Italians celebrate with gift exchanges between lovers and romantic dinners. One of the most popular Valentine's Day gifts are Baci Perugina, which are small, chocolate-covered hazelnuts wrapped with a romantic quote printed in four languages.

South Africa

South Africa celebrates with festivals, flowers and other tokens of love. It's also customary for women in South Africa to wear their hearts on their sleeves on 14 February. Women pin the names of their love interest on their shirtsleeves, an ancient Roman tradition known as Lupercalia. In some cases, this is how South African men learn of their secret admirers.

Bulgaria

San Trifon Zartan is celebrated in Bulgaria, which means 'day of winemakers'. Young and old couples celebrate their love with a glass of wonderful local wine.

France

A traditional Valentine's Day event WAS the loterie d'amour, or 'drawing for love'. Men and women would fill houses that faced one another, and then take turns calling out to one another and pairing off. Men who weren't satisfied with their match could simply leave a woman for another, and the women left unmatched gathered afterward for a bonfire. During the bonfire, women burned pictures of the men who wronged them and hurled swear words and insults at the opposite sex. The event became so uncontrollable that the French government eventually banned the tradition altogether.

France, is home to a hidden gem. Tucked away in the Loire Valley is the quaint French village of St. Valentin, which has declared itself the 'Village of Love'. There are three

continued on page 17

PUZZLE PAGE

The letter groups below make up all the answers. You just have to work out the order in which they go. When every answer is solved, you will have three letter groups left over which will spell out an new word.

1. Chastise
2. Bias
3. Terrifying Dream
4. Abundant
5. Wealth, Prosperity
6. Remember
7. Lavish

1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								

Word from remaining letters

N	T	I	R	A	C	A	T	E	N	C	E	E	C	T	C	A	S
H	T	M	T	I	G	C	H	A	A	F	F	S	U	M	I	C	E
R	E	C	F	U	L	T	E	R	O	L	L	J	U	D	N	I	G
L	U	E	P	R	E	A	R	E	O	U	S	P	L	E	P	T	U



1. Engulf, crush
2. Apparently right, probable
3. Quiet, silent
4. Hair on the upper lip
5. Initiate
6. Wicked, infamous
7. Reduce to powder

1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								

Word from remaining letters

O	R	I	U	S	I	T	A	R	N	O	I	V	E	R	C	H	E
S	E	L	G	I	N	M	O	U	N	E	F	O	V	E	N	E	C
R	W	H	A	R	I	P	L	A	A	T	E	S	T	A	P	U	L
E	S	S	I	S	E	O	U	S	E	L	M	I	N	E	B	L	E

Solutions to December - January puzzles

Cryptic Puzzle - answers

- 1 Frankincense
- 2 Mistletoe
- 3 Gabriel
- 4 Carol
- 5 Candle
- 6 Magi
- 7 Scrooge
- 8 Present
- 9 Fairy
- 10 Nativity
- 11 Tinsel
- 12 Partridge
- 13 Bethlehem
- 14 Advent calendar
- 15 Wise men
- 16 Yule log
- 17 Wreath
- 18 Mary
- 19 Melchior
- 20 Noel
- 21 Manger
- 22 Decorations
- 23 Good King Wenceslas
- 24 Caspar



Medium

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

Hard

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

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days dedicated to the festival from 12th to 14th February, with romantic attractions all around. During the celebrations, the village is decked out with more red roses than you could imagine, making even the hardest of hearts melt. The Lovers' Garden (Jardin des Amoureux) is the most romantic place in the village. If you sit beneath the Willow of Hearts (le Saule aux Coeurs), you'll be weeping only tears of joy. Some couples choose this spot to propose. If you visit St. Valentin, make sure to marvel at the 'Tree of Vows' which is adorned with endless heartfelt confessions. You can then even hang a heart up yourself.

If you miss Saint Valentine's Day in St. Valentin you can come back on 9th August when it's the turn of Saint Amour.

B Thompson

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/10-valentines-day-traditi_b_9190888

<https://traveltriangle.com/blog/valentines-day-traditions-around-the-world>

<https://worldstrides.com/blog/2017/02/6-valentines-day-traditions-around-the-world>

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.

For:

Page 3: Paula Harmer;

Page 12: Membership renewal;

Page 13: Simon Hughes;

.....please go to the 'Contact' page on the website, select the appropriate committee member, and send your enquiry.

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
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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.

Deadline

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

Wednesday 1st March 2023

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



