

DONCASTER

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Registered Charity No. 1074577

A large, leafless tree stands prominently in a grassy field. The tree has a thick trunk and a dense canopy of bare branches. In the background, there are several smaller trees, some evergreen and some deciduous, under a clear blue sky. The ground is a mix of green grass and brown patches, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting.

MARCH 2017

From the Chair



As I write these notes at the end of January my thoughts along with many of you will be with the families of those of our members who are no longer with us. To lose three members on the same day makes one realise that we are all in this world for only a short time, and that we should endeavour to make the most of our time here. Since that date yet another of our members has passed away. From our increased numbers over the past two years it is evident that the Doncaster U3A is successfully attracting new members who are making the most of their retirement by utilising all this “free time” we have, now we are no longer having to earn a crust.

We now have in excess of 350 members enjoying the provision of 40+ interest groups, although sadly two or three have folded. May I remind you that one of the philosophies behind the inauguration of the U3A movement was that groups of people could get together to share their knowledge and interests, and learn from each other. Our most recent additional groups have had more of a social bent, and since we are a self-help organisation, these groups are a welcome outlet especially for those living on their own. We are now looking for members who would like to see a greater variety of interests by sharing their own experiences for the benefit of their colleagues. Monica Dawson is always glad to help you to develop a new interest group.

Our monthly newsletter is very popular with members. We have, however, become a victim of our own success. In practical terms, producing a 16 page booklet for 10 months a year is very time consuming for those who volunteer to put it together, particularly the editor. With this in mind, and with additional printing costs in the offing, the committee has regrettably decided that the frequency after March 2017 should be one edition every two months. We have been most fortunate in persuading Bridget Thompson to take over the mantle as our new editor. Each of the six newsletters will be accompanied by calendar details of the following two months’ interest group meetings. Further information can be found later in this newsletter.

The AGM is not far away. Some committee members have reached the end of their statutory two year period and may or may not be offering their services for re-election. If you have an interest in being a member of our committee, please read the section later in this newsletter. The deadline for nominations is March 1st. Diane, our secretary, would be pleased to hear from you.

George Kirk

Notices

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Constitution requires us to give at least 21 days' notice of our AGM.

Doncaster U3A AGM will take place at the Trades Club in Frenchgate on Monday 24th April 2017 at 13.30. Nominations are required for positions to include Secretary, Treasurer and three other executive committee members. Nomination forms can be obtained from our secretary, Diane Harris, and must be returned to her no later than 1st March 2017. She can be contacted

by phone on: _____

by post at: _____

The April/May edition of this newsletter, printed in March, will include any proposals from members to fill vacancies on the executive committee.

DU3A General Meetings Change of Starting Time to 1.30pm

These meetings are currently held on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Trades Club in the Frenchgate Centre in the Concert Room on the 3rd Floor.

Before Christmas we provided a questionnaire asking members to let us know how we could improve our services. A number of people suggested that we start and finish a little earlier than at present in order to avoid a busy journey home on buses that were crowded in the after-school period.

From Monday 20th February and for the foreseeable future, we will endeavour to start at 1.30pm and finish at 2.45pm approx.

The room is hired until 3.30pm so if there are any members who like to stay and chat, please be aware that there is no need to leave in a hurry. It is also an ideal time to contact committee members if you feel we can be of service.

Annual Subscriptions

At the general meeting on 20th March 2017 the Treasurer will be taking subs which are due by 1st April. The cost is £15 per member, £25 joint membership (single address). An additional £4 will enable members to receive the 6 published newsletters by post. Cheques are preferable though not essential. New style Annual Membership Cards designed by Wendy Hattrell, our Vice Chair, will be issued. Your new number will be the same for as long as you maintain your membership. The colour of membership cards may change each year.

If you wish to pay your subscription by post, please remember to include a Stamped Addressed Envelope when you send it to:

DU3A Membership Secretary, _____

George Kirk

A SUMMER STORM

One hot July evening in the summer of 1945 a group of seven or eight of us, all boys, decided to go swimming. We chose a venue other than the River Don since swimming in the filthy water of our local river had, in many cases, been physically beaten out of us by our worried parents. We chose instead what we called 'the dug-outs'.



These were a series of rectangular man-made depressions along the northern banks of the Don where soil had been dug out to throw up earthworks to prevent flooding. They had gradually filled with water, had a sandy bottom, and were nowhere more than about chest deep, and made ideal open-air swimming pools. They lay about five miles distant out beyond Arksey along bumpy lanes and farm tracks, over which we rattled on our old bikes. Our ages probably ranged from ten to fourteen.

We had no use for swimming costumes or towels, since we were all accustomed to skinny-dipping and getting dressed whilst still damp concerned us not at all.

So involved were we in the cooling pleasures of our chosen dug-out that we failed to notice the skies darkening and thickening, presaging a summer storm.



A rumble of thunder, already near at hand, made us beat a hasty retreat and still dripping head for home. We had covered barely half the distance when, with the sky now as black as night, the heavens opened. We were passing a field where, just inside its wide open gate, stood an old stone built cow byre with an open front but a still intact,

though rusted and flapping, corrugated metal roof. It was shelter enough, and our unofficial leader, a boy called Billy Ord urged us all into it. The floor was thick with straw and dried cow muck, but we lined up along the rear wall to shelter and watch the proceedings. It was probably because we were all so young that the ensuing storm made the terrible impression it did, and there followed the most awe-inspiring and terrifying electric thunderstorm I have ever encountered. The centre of the storm must have been directly overhead and the boom and crashing of thunder made the tin roof of the byre rattle and shake deafeningly, frightening us out of our wits. But it was the monstrous forked-lightening, descending in great jagged leaps into the fields around us, that reduced all but one of us to

screaming panic. Only Billy kept his head, telling us stories to make us laugh and leading us through all the songs we could remember how to sing. He was the tower of strength that saw us through, but even he was reduced to an amazed silence when there was the loudest crash of thunder you could ever imagine, followed by a flash so bright we were all illuminated in a steely blue glow as a huge fork of lightening struck a large tree not fifty yards away and directly in front of us. Before our astonished eyes the great tree disappeared in a huge flash of flame and was reduced to a hissing smoking stump.

I involuntarily dropped to my knees, and was not surprised on looking round to find everyone else, including Bill, similarly prostrated. The possibility of lightening striking the metal roof of our shelter sent us crazy with thoughts of escape, but the lightening still forking down only yards away penned us in. Recovering quickly Bill roused us to our feet. "Come on yer dozey buggers, gerrup", he shouted, "let's sing under t'bloody chestnut tree, cos that bugger ovva theer's not gunna do any more spreadin'". And so in tremulously piping voices we sang our thin little songs into the teeth of the storm, whipped up by Bill whenever we began to flag or became tearful again.

It must have been well over an hour before the rain began to ease and the storm passed on and we were able to resume our journey home, laughing and shouting in hysterical release from the tensions of the previous couple of hours.



We splashed through so many muddy puddles as we rode home that by the time we entered the backs between New Street and Church Street we felt like the legion of the lost returning to a hero's welcome.

Alas, as you might imagine, that was far from the case. In those days our parent's way of showing relief that we had been spared was to bestow a good thrashing by way of reminding us not to do that again. The soundest thrashing was reserved for the one who deserved it least, Bill Ord, who was greeted at their back gate by his darkly scowling father, a taciturn bloke who no one had ever seen smile and who my dad called 'Black Jack'.

Poor old Bill, he was a smashing lad, and you can imagine the sadness I felt on returning home from National Service to hear that Bill had been killed whilst serving his apprenticeship when he fell from some scaffolding on a building site.

Colin Brown

Applied Criminology

New Year, new angle to Criminology. Peter our intrepid leader, has re-titled his course, "Applied Criminology" as he endeavours to 'marry' the knowledge we learnt in Basic Criminology with the Criminology sessions.



In Basic Criminology last year we studied the law itself. How the law of the land came to be, how it was devised and developed. The types of law, Statute and Common and how new laws are established to 'fit' society changes.

We learnt about the 'parts' of a crime, the 'Actus Rea' and the 'Mens Rea' and about the Burden of Proof. We learnt about the different professionals within our 'law' and how they connect with the progression from crime to sentence and how understanding the English language is sometimes more useful than a law degree.

Throughout last year we developed our knowledge of the 'psyche' of criminals and how mental capacity plays heavy on our judicial law systems. Nature versus Nurture was debated, and how personality, education, society, culture, religion all interact within the criminal mind. As each twisted criminal was introduced to us we deliberated over these many factors to 'get' into his/her mind

This year I look forward again, to lively and heated debates and discussions as more of us 'apply' our newly acquired knowledge to the crimes and criminals Peter introduces to us. Some will be new characters, some will be ones we have met previously but Peter has supplied us with some sound underpinning knowledge for us to perhaps seriously 'put them on trial and sentence them'

I, for one look forward to it. Thank you Peter

Vanessa Whaley

Scam Warning



We elderly folk are targeted by scammers. In fact I feel that it is getting increasingly difficult to find honest trades people. Energy consumption has been a target for home owners for some time. The



latest that I have found is an offer to spray a coating of insulation to the exterior of your home. This is a microns thick layer of clear product which it is claimed can seriously improve the thermal efficiency of your walls. Insulation requires thickness and is usually achieved by creating still air between the inside and outside of a house. Many of you will have hot-water cylinders covered in a foam insulation and you will have over 15" of insulation in your roof void. A spray outside, cannot have more than a minimal effect on your energy costs.

Energy consumption bill payers - **BEWARE** of any such promotions.

David Allen



Easier French

The French used in this group is easier than in Groups 1 and 2 but to enjoy this group you will still need a basic knowledge of spoken French vocabulary and grammar. We practise these skills with a variety of topically-themed activities. We meet fortnightly on Friday afternoons at Prego Coffee Bar, Hallgate.

Victoria Kilner

Striding in the Sun

Only four members of the Striders Group faced the chill but sunny weather and enjoyed a 7 mile walk around Hooton Pagnell on January 24th. Parking up in the sun kissed village, the buildings showed their golden stone walls and red tile roofs in great beauty. Although the land was slippery in parts and there were some puddles, the gradients of the walk were not testing. As we walked past a line of wind generators, we were taken by the silence of the new installations and we agreed that they were more aesthetically pleasing than a power station with its distribution pylons.



Lunch was taken at the Pickburn Arms, half way through the walk.



Whilst the Striders Group was formed to extend the physical challenge offered by The Strollers, we have continued during this winter close to the town rather than travel into true hiking territory. We would welcome more walkers to the group, and would ask you to convey your interest either to Diane Harris or Wendy Hattrell.

David Allen

German

The German group now meets only once a month—the third Wednesday in every month at the Prego coffee bar at the top of Hallgate. The group meets to explore the German language (GCSE level) and culture.

Monica Dawson





Fill in the answers to the clues by selecting the correct syllables from the list below. Each syllable can only be used once. The number of syllables to be used is shown in brackets. When the correct words are filled in, the first and last letters reading down will reveal a proverb.

AD, BA, BE, BER, CI, DEL, HI, IN, KA, LA, LAI, LI, MID, MO, NATE, NE, NISH, O, PHI, RA, ROUS, SOR, TED, TI.

e.g. Burdensome will be O NE ROUS

1. Burdensome _____ (3)
2. Freed _____ (4)
3. Site of the Temple of Apollo _____ (2)
4. Sleep during winter _____ (3)
5. Reprove _____ (3)
6. Stringed instrument _____ (4)
7. Tooth _____ (3)
8. Shy and cautious _____ (2)

Answers to February's puzzle

	A 4	B 3	C 2	
D 7	5	6	E 2	F 3
G 2	7		H 1	2
I 9	J 9	K 8	L 6	4
	M 6	9	9	



A warm welcome to the following new members:

**Mary Bates, Joyce Bissett,
June Bolter, Christine Bradley
Simon Bradley, Terry Gunnill,
Eileen Johnston, Pat Medlock
and Sandra Salmon**

General Meeting - January 2017

In a planned series of talks about Doncaster, Hugh Parkin related the history of The Plant Works from its establishment here rather than Peterborough, the great Locomotive designers who delivered so many advanced steam driven engines, through the two world wars into the demise of steam. Many in the audience had memories of the highlighted events especially during their younger days. Employing 3,000 people at its zenith, it generated a living for quite a proportion of the workers in the town. Towards the end of his talk Hugh showed us photographs of prototype coaches and engines especially Nigel Gresley's pre-war electric locomotive. One has to ask, where did things go wrong?

David Allen

Future General Meetings

The distribution of the newsletter will take place around our February meeting where we welcome Maureen Taylor, whose talk 'Elizabethan Times' is about the way of life.

In March we welcome Astronomer Dennis Anderson, who will take us to the Stars and Planets. Dennis has access to the latest reports from NASA in the United States and uses their remarkable images throughout his talk.

April 24th		AGM
May 15th	Steve Drinkall	Images of Wildlife and Wild Places
June 19th	Pat McGoughlin	Historic Houses of South Yorkshire
July 17th	Geoff Tagg	The Prince's Trust

David Allen

Sunday Lunch

DANUM HOTEL— **26th February** at 1 pm
Please meet in the lounge area before 12.45 pm

EARL OF DONCASTER— **19th March** at 1 pm

Prices are £13.95 for 2 courses; £15.95 for 3 courses

Coffee or tea extra

Menus will be available from Monday 6th until Sunday 12th March.

Contact me to make your choice from the menu or to let me know if you are unable to make this lunch.

Eileen Dickson

Obituaries

Mary Shuttleworth

Mary was born in Wales but spent most of her early life in the Lake District where she loved climbing and walking. She was a keen swimmer and golfer and only stopped skiing about four years ago. A religious, gentle lady, Mary lived a full life. Although only a member of the DU3A for a relatively short time, Mary attended all the General Meetings and enjoyed listening to the speakers. She was a member of the Supper Club. Although quite shy at times, Mary was a friendly and quietly reserved lady who will be missed by all of those who knew her.

Anne Firth

Harry Stacey

Harry was a great athlete in his youth. He was a talented footballer, cricketer and tennis player. He was a very friendly man, who was one of the stalwarts of the Travel and Theatre group which he attended with his wife Lavinia. Harry was a long-standing member of the DU3A and regularly attended General meetings. He particularly enjoyed the Supper Club, the Travel and Theatre group and the Christmas lunches. He loved his food. Despite not being very agile in his later years, Harry always took a real interest in group meetings. A perfect gentleman who will be missed.

Jean Jones & Anne Firth

Bill Speedie

I got to know Bill on DU3A bus trips, the most memorable trip for me being the one to Calais. I was allocated the seat next to Bill and he was a person who loved to talk. What Bill spoke about was generally amusing and was interesting to listen to. Although he said he had never lived in Scotland, but was brought up in London, he spoke with a very broad Scottish accent, courtesy of his Scottish father. He spoke of his, sometimes nefarious, activities at the time of the London Blitz. Until the middle of last year he would be seen at all the Choral concerts at the Priory Church. It was noticeable at the last bus trip that Bill was struggling to walk. A familiar face to the old timers of the Doncaster U3A who is missed.

Betty Alexander

Rita Ouarts

30.4.1951 – 3.1.2017

I first met Rita in 2002. We had both graduated in Occupational Therapy as mature students and were beginning our careers in Doncaster. Rita worked mainly at Tickhill Road Hospital and also at St Mary's nursing home. She loved working with older people and was always interested in their individual life histories.

Rita was active in the Doncaster NHS branch of Unison. She gained a Diploma in Trade Union Studies from the Northern College and attended numerous union conferences. She was a member of the Labour Party for some years.

After she retired, Rita took up patchwork and quilting. She produced many colourful and complex pieces. She was also a great reader, downloading hundreds of novels onto her Kindle. She began to find retirement rather quiet, but joining the U3A changed that! She attended the textile group and the discussion group, then found herself on the committee and in the Christmas pantomime. Rita felt she was amongst kindred spirits. Her sudden death was an enormous shock for her sons, as it was for all of us.

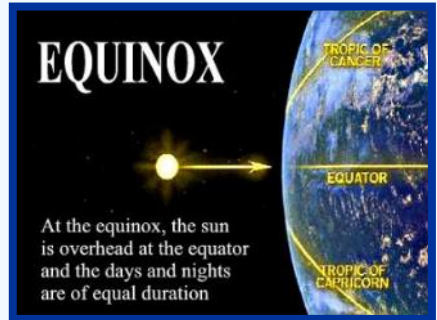
Linda Simpson

Vernal (spring) equinox-

in the Northern Hemisphere

Did you know?.....

Astronomers and scientists use the March Equinox as the start of spring, which ends on the June Solstice, when astronomical summer begins. For meteorologists spring begins three weeks before the March Equinox on March 1 and ends on May 31.



Cultures around the world celebrate the whole day as the March Equinox. However, in reality, the equinox occurs at a specific moment in time when the Sun crosses the celestial equator, the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's Equator, from south to north. At this moment, Earth's axis is tilted neither away from nor towards the Sun, but is rather perpendicular to the Sun's rays.

In 2017, this Vernal equinox will happen on March 20, at 10:29 **UTC***. For locations that are at more than 10 hours behind UTC, this event will occur on March 19. This is because of the **time zone** difference.

Do you remember when the Spring Equinox was celebrated on March 21? Well, remember again, because the last time that happened was in 2007. Contrary to popular wisdom, the March Equinox can take place on March 19, 20 or 21. In the 21st century, the March Equinox has only occurred twice on March 21 – 2003 and 2007 and the next time that it will happen will be in 2101! A March 19 equinox will be more frequent during the last decades of the century.

The name **equinox** is derived from the Latin words *aequus*, meaning equal, and *nox*, meaning night. Conventional wisdom suggests that on the equinox everybody on Earth gets to experience a day and night of equal lengths. In reality though, most places on Earth get to see more daylight than night time on the equinoxes. This is because of two reasons: how sunrise and sunset is defined and atmospheric refraction of sunlight. Most locations of the Earth, except those on the Equator, do have almost equal day and night twice a year. The dates for this event, which is also known as **equilux**, depend on the location's latitude and can be a few days before or after the equinoxes.

* *Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is the basis for civil time today. This 24-hour time standard is kept using highly precise atomic clocks combined with the Earth's rotation.*

News from Yorkshire and the Humber Region

Summer Break with Learning.

The regional summer school this year will take place at Hawkhills Conference Centre in Easingwold From August 10th – 17th. Cost will be £380 for residents and £190 for day attenders.

Subjects to be studied are:

Botanical Art; Cosmology; Influential thinkers in Psychology; Introduction to Archaeology; Jane Austen, her world and her books; Philosophy; Plantagenets; Post War History of Britain.

To book your place contact Denise West on _____, or email -----

More information can be found at <http://yahru3a.co.uk>

Swanland U3A Event Day

On Thursday 20th April Swanland U3A will be hosting an event called UniverCity of Culture at the Willerby Manor Hotel, Well Lane, HU10 6ER from 9.30 (for 10) until 3pm. Speakers will be Rosie Millard, journalist; Dave Windass, playwright and Rob Bell of The History Troupe, Australian poet.

Further details available from John Peck _____.

Annual General Meeting

The YAHR AGM will be held at the Doncaster Trades Club, Frenchgate Centre on 27 April 2017. Nominations are requested for members to join the Regional Management Committee. Any member may be nominated and there is no requirement to have your nomination approved by your committee. Nomination forms will be available to download from the YAHR website and completed nomination forms must be returned to the secretary of YAHR, Hazel Ward by Friday 7th April.

Chris Woolven

Equity Release

Many of you will have seen or read advertising from reputable financial firms on the wonders of taking some of the value (EQUITY) of your house as cash to Cruise the World, help your grandchildren and pay off your mortgage!!!

Equity Release is a Life Time Mortgage upon which compound interest is charged. If allowed to run for its full term, usually 15 years, the full value of the house, at the time of establishing the Equity release, will be taken in payment, so your beneficiaries stand to only get an amount equal to the rise in house prices over the 15 year period.

There is an economic case for a small amount of Equity Release where a property requires expenditure on maintenance and the home owner does not have other means to carry them out, but world cruises or other holidays can prove to be very expensive.

David Allen



March Culture Page



A few suggestions for March

Cast, Doncaster

<u>Run</u>	2 Faced Dance Company	Tues 14 March
<u>The Good Old Days of Variety:</u>	Billy Pearce	Tues 21 March
E M Forster's <u>The Machine Stops</u>		Tues 21 March - Wed 22 March
<u>The Manfreds Makin' Tracks Tour 2017</u>		Fri 24 March
<u>An Evening with Pam Ayres 2017</u>		Sat 25 March
<u>Messiah:</u>	Doncaster Choral Society https://castindoncaster.com/whats-on	Sat 1 April

Crucible, Sheffield

<u>Dr Frankenstein</u> (Victoria Frankenstein)	https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/whats-on/dr-frankenstein	15 – 25 March
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Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery

'A is for Art' Current Exhibition (an alphabetical selection of art and artists from the collections held by Doncaster Heritage Services) until 26 March

Page to Painting – Art History Lecture by Rachel Holland-Hargreaves (taking a look at the world of book illustrations and images inspired by literary sources). Friday 3 March
<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/culture-leisure-tourism/what-s-on-at-doncaster-museum-and-art-gallery>

Sheffield Lyceum

<u>Casanova</u>	Northern Ballet	Tues 28 March – Sat 1 April
	https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/whats-on/casanova	

Tickhill Music Society

<u>Coull Quartet</u>	at St Mary's Primary School	Fri 10 March
	http://tickhillmusicsociety.org/concert-calendar	

Millennium Gallery, Sheffield

<u>Craft Market</u> and <u>Exhibitions</u>		Sat 18 March
	http://www.museums-sheffield.org.uk/whats-on/events/2017/3/craft-market1	

Phoenix Theatre, Bawtry

<u>'If I were you'</u> by Alan Ayckbourn	http://www.bawtrytheatre.co.uk/plays.html	Sat 4 – 11 March
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Newsletter

There will be some changes in the compilation, distribution and frequency of the Newsletter in the coming year. It will be produced every two months and will be compiled by our new editor, Bridget Thompson.

There are to be 6 publications next year. Each publication will be accompanied by calendars for interest groups.

Newsletters and their accompanying calendars will be available as follows:

April/May 2017	It will be printed in March for the 20 th March GM
June/July 2017	It will be printed in May for the 15 th May GM
August/September 2017	It will be printed in July for the 17 th July GM
October/November 2017	It will be printed in September for the 18 th Sept. GM
December 2017/January 2018	It will be printed in November for the 20 th Nov. GM
February/March 2018	It will be printed in January for the 15 th January GM

Increased overheads in the printing of the newsletter has meant that posting out 6 newsletters to individuals will be £4 per household this year.

Where possible we would ask that those who have access to the internet receive their copies by email. This will help to reduce our overheads.

George Kirk

Contact Numbers

DU3A Committee Members	
Chair:	George Kirk
Vice Chair:	Wendy Hattrell
Secretary :	Diane Harris
Treasurer :	Beryl Kellett
Membership Secretary:	Jill Laming
Group Co-ordinator:	Monica Dawson
Welfare:	Carole Lewis
Newsletter Editor :	Bridget Thompson
Website Manager :	Bridget Thompson
	Chris Woolven
	Mike Bowser:
	John Parkinson:

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

Prego Café

We would like to thank our friends at the Prego Café for their help over the past year. 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
Tuesday 28th February.

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

DU3A Website

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

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



QR Code for DU3A website

