

DONCASTER



Registered Charity No. 1074577



October - November 2019

From the Chair



August allows us a break - as far as committee meetings and General Meetings are concerned – but with email these days nothing stops for long! We have some exciting news on groups as we have an offer to start a U3A Brass Band. So all that hot air can be put to good use... Look further on in this newsletter for more details. Following fast on the heels of Walking Cricket we are seeing some wonderful diversity entering onto our list of groups.

The other side of the equation is that Peter Gospel has stopped delivering his extremely popular Applied Criminology due to ill health. Peter has run this group for many years and sparked people's imagination and curiosity with his research into the crimes and criminal mind, so thank you Peter, you have been a terrific asset to DU3A and we wish you well in your 'retirement'.

Group Leaders are the unsung heroes of U3A and we have, over the last few months, lost a number of stalwart Group Leaders for a variety of reasons but equally we have new people stepping forward to start new groups.

This year I have been to the National Conference together with Jane Page, your new Publicity Officer. There is a report further on in the Newsletter. It certainly helps to give you ideas and make you realise that Doncaster does well for its size.

Once again the Trades has closed. Who knows what will become of the building and whether we will ever have the convenience of meeting there again. However, I'm really pleased with the move to C-View. Removing the glass screen from the main hall gave us the space we needed for our General Meeting in July and we hope to see more of you there in September. I have booked all the General Meetings there for the remainder of this calendar year.

We have entered our 25th anniversary year and intend to mark the occasion with a celebration at a later date. We will let you know when we finalise the details. We would like to hear from founding and long standing members who may have photos and information dating from the early days of DU3A. Please do get in touch and let me know what you have. It would be lovely to be able to put on a display of DU3A through the ages.

The 'stall' that Jane Page organised in the Interchange in July was popular with passers-by and we hope you will all give a warm welcome to any new and prospective members that come to the September GM and then to group meetings.

Wendy Hattrell

Obituary

Shelagh Allen

Died 25th August, 2019

I first met Shelagh when she worked for the Youth Service in Doncaster. She ran the office. When I say 'ran' I mean ran. If your request was reasonable she would ensure that the 'youth officers' complied with that request.

She was not a lady to suffer fools gladly.

I next came across Shelagh when, some eight or nine years ago, I established the Criminology group at Doncaster U3A.

She was one of the original members.

Always present or, if unable to attend, she would let you know in advance. Shelagh had an enquiring mind; she appreciated a joke and a laugh and 'in group' was by no means a 'shrinking violet'.

When the group moved from exposition to discussion she would play a part showing that she had learned from the matters exposed.

She was a person on whom others, including the group leader, could rely.

I learned of Shelagh's illness and saw how stoically she bore that illness.

She was so brave about the future. She knew what would happen because her mother and aunt had suffered from the same complaint.

I know one thing, the world and Criminology group will be a sadder place for her loss. I will miss her regular attendance and cheerful demeanour.

Shelagh was always supported steadfastly by her husband David and her son John and daughter Lesley.

Goodbye dear friend, I will miss you a lot.

Peter Gospel

Future General Meetings:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 16th September 2019 | Speaker: Philip Caine
Topic: Barrow to Baghdad and back |
| 21st October 2019 | Speaker: David Templeman
Topic: 2 Queens and a Countess |
| 18th November 2019 | Speakers: A group from the Co-op as part of a Co-Op initiative
Title: Tax, Care and Toy Boys |

GROUPS - UPDATES / NOTICES

DINING OUT

The final meeting of the Dining Out group in 2019 will be held at La Rustica restaurant on Nether Hall Road on Tuesday 22nd October at 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.

Please let me have your order accompanied by a cheque made payable to DU3A by Saturday 12th October.

Joan Condron

GENERAL MEETINGS

C-View has been booked for all General Meetings up to Christmas.

TENPIN BOWLING

Next meetings: **17th September;** **19th November**

APPLIED CRIMINOLOGY

See page 6

ENJOYING POETRY

First meeting: Tuesday 17th September at Prego, 10.30 - 12.00. If there is enough interest, the following meeting will be at Prego on 15th October, same time.



BBC LOOK NORTH

In July Doncaster U3A Walking Cricket group played in a match against Barnsley U3A. BBC Look North attended this match.

For those who missed the Look North programme you can watch the videoed interview with Doncaster U3A's Eric Styring Wood. Go to

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-south-yorkshire-48993401/walking-cricket-player-92-on-his-love-for-the-sport>

BBC Look North wrote: **Walking cricket player, 92, on his love for the sport.**

A 92-year-old walking cricket player has spoken out about his love for the game.

Eric Styring Wood started playing cricket in the Army in Egypt and said he was "always the last man to bat".

He said "I get a lot of fun [playing cricket], it's a great laugh".

"What would you do without a laugh in life? It would be horrible, wouldn't it?"

.....

Wendy Hattrell said 'We all had fun and eventually agreed the rules! We ran



A warm welcome to our new members

Linda Barber, Dot Barlow, Dawn Jarvis, Carol Peters

Sunday Lunch

REGENT HOTEL: – 27th October at 1.00 p.m.

Prices are: £14.50 for 2 courses: £16.50 for 3 courses
Tea / Coffee extra

Menu available Monday 14th until Monday 21st October to choose your dishes. Let me know if you are not able to attend this lunch

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Prices are: £17.95 for 2 courses: £19.95 for 3 courses

The menu will be available at the beginning of November.

Eileen Dickson

Thank-you

A big thank you to everyone for the cards, phone calls and good wishes during Allen's illness and operation. It was a great help and comfort to know so many people were thinking about us. Allen is progressing well and already back at some of the groups.

Thank-you all again.

Allen and Brenda Whittaker

Articles for the December 2019/January 2020 newsletter need to be received by

Friday 1st November

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

A farewell to Criminology

Hello everyone,

As you will be aware my physical health has been in a downwards spiral for some time. I have therefore reluctantly come to the following decision.



With **immediate effect** I am retiring from U3A and the Criminology Programme.

As I approach my 77th birthday I have to prioritise events in my life. After my health, my family come first. Pat, the kids and grandkids must take pride of place. Pat has been 'my rock' for nearly 48 years. I want to spend more time with her and get out and about and do the things that we haven't had time to do.

Criminology is not just a matter of presenting a case or criminal to the group. There are the matters of selecting a subject; researching and preparing notes and locating pictures; prioritising points that arise and getting things in order; taking the finalised notes and making them into a PowerPoint presentation; and only then can I deliver the subject.

I had hoped to carry on until November but feel the time is now right for me to go.

I began the group 8-9 years ago with seven or eight members and it has grown to what it is now with 45+ members and a regular attendance of more than 30 at each meeting, there being two meetings per month. That is a lot of work and to be quite honest I am physically and mentally 'knackered'.

Thank you all for your support and company. I have made some good friends and met some good people. I am grateful for your support.

Should you find a replacement for me, I hope the group will continue, and I would be happy to attend any social event you may plan.

I would, in particular, like to thank the cabinet, Vanessa, Joyce, Maureen and Barry who have helped me make things run smoothly.

I wish you all the best for the future.

Goodbye

Pete Gospel



Peter at the National Justice Museum

In addition to thanking Peter for running the Criminology group and all that it entailed, I would like to thank him for his many and varied contributions to the newsletter over the years. He has kept us laughing.

B Thompson

History



On August 23rd the History Group travelled to the National Civil War Museum in Newark. We saw, and marvelled at, many displays of militaria from the civil war period. Some highlights included a very realistic simulation of a cannon bombarding Newark Castle. We also found out what a 'sconce' was. Not an edible item, but an elaborate earthwork, which was dug up and situated in front of castle walls. It was intended to effectively absorb the impact of cannon balls.

We also visited the 'Fake News' exhibition. Apparently 'Fake News' was all the rage in the time of the Civil War. It was very hard to work out which item was true and which false!

A further 'delight' was an encounter with a deranged 'Lady Witch'. She had prophesied the demise of certain important people. Also, that King Charles 1st would lose his head! For her rashness she found herself incarcerated in Bedlam Asylum. She was obviously 'mad as an hatter' but very entertaining.

Many members also found time to visit the historic town centre and had lunch at various eateries.

All in all a very memorable day!

Jack Chantry.

Family History

The Family History Group had its August meeting with the subject being about birth, marriage and death certificates. With a variety of certificates being brought to the meeting, including Gretna Green, military and still-birth, it proved to be very fruitful with both beginner's and experienced learning what information can be gleaned from these pieces of paper that we all possess. Our next meeting is about the Census Returns and the 1939 Register and we look forward to it being as lively as the last one.

Dawn Jarvis



Travel group

A Sea-Side Trip



The weather is always an important factor when contemplating a trip to the coast, and in the spring, when I saw a trip to Scarborough was being organised for July, by the Travel group, I immediately put my name down. I then spent the intervening spring months in pleasant contemplation of

the fun I would have when revisiting this, as I remembered, a lovely seaside town.

The day of our trip came, and off we went, sun glasses and straw hat on. No raincoat needed, as the weather forecast was excellent.

Then came the journey to get there. It seemed to me to be going on forever, as we hit one hold up after another as traffic streamed towards the coast, all, it seemed were heading for Scarborough.

It was the first day of the school holidays, the weather was glorious. So the rush to the sea side was to be expected. Because of this we did not arrive till 1.15 p.m. The time of the return trip was extended by our driver, giving us a nice long afternoon to wander where we wished.

The bus dropped us off on Foreshore Road, at the South Bay. We were offered the choice of going further on the bus to Peasholm Park on the North shore, but after such a long time on the bus I opted to get off at the first opportunity which was in the South Bay.

I was thirsty and hungry, so the first thing I did was to investigate the many restaurants and cafes on the Foreshore Road, that provided fish and chips. What else would one have at a British sea-side? There were plenty of cafes and restaurants and I could not believe the queues snaking outside a couple of fish and chip shops, especially when there were so many to choose from. Perhaps they were known by the cognoscenti of the town for the quality, or perhaps the price, or even the quantity of the chips, as being better than those with no queues.

However, I chose a nice cool table indoors away from the heat of the sun to eat my traditional sea-side meal of fish and chips. Was seven pounds fifty expensive? As it is such a long time since I had fish and chips, I had no idea.

After a pleasant hour at lunch and enjoying people watching in the restaurant, I felt refreshed and ready for a slow amble towards the bridge that takes one over to the North Bay. As I had not been in Scarborough since the sixties, nothing was now familiar to me. And, I had no idea how far it was to the North Bay, when I saw a bus going in the right direction I did my old person version of hopping on. One

pound fifty and my pass got me over the bridge, and an easy sight seeing way to view the beautiful and extensive coast that makes Scarborough one of the most spectacular sea fronts in Britain.

A refreshing pot of tea and a slice of home made cake in the cafe when I alighted from the bus in the South Bay. A gossip with the lady at the next table, where I got her life story, which was interesting, in that she had been born inland but chance had led her, as a nurse, to live in three East coast cities and towns, Aberdeen, Brighton, and Scarborough. When I asked her why she had retired to Scarborough, she replied that it was simply financial as the south eastern coast towns were too expensive for her means.

Then a short walk into Peasholm park, and the remaining sea-side necessity, an ice cream cornet eaten, and it was time to find a bus to take me back to the South Bay and the appointed place to get the bus back to land locked Doncaster.

A good trip back without hold ups got us back to Doncaster in good time, sans the sea-side rock. Apologies to friends and family.

Betty Alexander



Anyone got an urge to play in a Brass Band?



Markham Main Colliery Band are looking to develop a DU3A brass instrument group. (It may develop into a Band). They have the instruments and the experience and are eager to share both.

Initially you must be able to read music. Tuition on how to play the instruments will be given.

It is expected to be a weekly run group.

If you want more information please speak with Stephen Follows who will be at the General Meeting on 16th September, or contact Vanessa (group co-ordinator).



Strollers

July

On what was forecast to be the hottest day of the year so far, fifteen intrepid strollers met to walk through Sandall Beat Woods and Cantley Park. Everyone arrived suitably dressed with a varied display of sunhats, worn by both the ladies and the lads, and all carrying bottles of what appeared to be water, could have been G&T, who knows?

As it was so hot Dave sensibly decided to omit the Cantley Park section of the walk as there was no shade. So we set off into the woods. It was lovely. The trees gave us shade and the sun filtered through the overhead branches highlighting all the different shades of green. We even saw three squirrels. As we were walking in the far side of the wood we practically had it to ourselves. It was very tranquil but with a noticeable lack of birdsong, perhaps they too were resting in the heat.



When we reached the Information centre and playpark we were delighted to see an ice-cream van and I wish to stress no children were harmed in the rush to purchase ice-creams which provided a welcome break and were very much enjoyed. With more of a stride in our steps we then continued our walk and returned to The Sportsman for an enjoyable lunch and more cool drinks.

August

WE DIDN'T TAKE MACHETES

On another pleasant day we met up in Arksey and were pleased to see three new "strollers". Off we set on a new walk. All went well and the directions were clear, along well defined bridleways and paths. That is, until we came to what should have been the prettiest part of the walk, and it was when we checked it earlier this year! Oh dear me, we really did need machetes. It was like a jungle but without the animals. The path was completely overgrown with brambles, nettles and overhanging branches but we bravely pushed through and as one stroller said, "If we get stranded the blackberries are plentiful and delicious".

Fortunately a local guy who was crow shooting for the farmer came to our rescue and said the farmer would not mind if we walked along the edge of the field which would take us back to the bridle path. This we did and so we were able to complete our "stroll" and make it back



to 'The Tea Pot' in time for our lunch. It was decided it was to be treated as an adventure, and it was certainly an eye opener for our new companions who we hope will join us next time for a less dramatic walk.

Pat and Dave Burton

Stretchers

9th July— Conisbrough to Doncaster

We met at Doncaster Railway station at 9.20 a.m. and caught the train to Conisbrough. A very nice walk through the woods to the rail viaduct then down by the river Don, with a coffee break at the Boat Inn, Sprotbrough, then on our way along the Don to North bridge. It turned out to be a very pleasant walk and warm day, with lunch in town.

Tony Hodge

REPORTS FROM GENERAL MEETINGS

July

Our speaker for July was Dr Ann Featherstone who had given us a talk the previous year. I received such good feedback that I thought it would be worth having her visit us again. We weren't disappointed. Her talk on 'When Music Hall became Variety' was both interesting and fun. Memories were stirred with a monologue and songs and everyone had a chance to join in the singalongs. We also discovered that some of the popular songs that we still sing today are a lot older than we realised.

Jess Parkinson

Dining Out



The August meeting of the Dining Out group took place at La Boca, the Argentinian steak restaurant on Nether Hall Road. In spite of it being a midweek evening, the restaurant was very busy but after a slow start the staff coped well. The food was delicious, well cooked and succulent and the decor was very attractive. If you have not tried it yet it is well worth a visit.

Joan Condon

THIRD AGE TRUST: National Educational Events

For more information go to:

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

Gardening

WINTHROP GARDENS

The Gardening group held their August monthly meeting at Winthrop Gardens in Wickersley. We were met by Martin who is the group leader of the Rotherham U3A gardening group. He gave us a brief history of the gardens before taking us on a tour.

Winthrop is a one acre community garden developed over the last 15 years on the site of a derelict sewage works. It was founded by David Bowser as a garden offering nature therapy to everyone. Since 2016 it has been owned by Wickersley Parish Council and maintained by over 50 volunteers (including Martin). The garden was designed for peace and tranquillity with the emphasis on colour and scent. There is a bee and butterfly garden and beds of highly scented roses donated by David Austin, the well-known rose breeder. There are different styles ranging from colourful herbaceous borders to the rocky peaceful Japanese garden.

After the tour there was time to peruse the curiosity corner charity shop and some of us couldn't leave without buying books and plants!

Our visit was well rounded off by a visit to the tea rooms and a chat over coffee and cake.



SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW

Southport Flower Show is the largest independent flower show in the country. Renowned for its spectacular show gardens and grand floral marquee, it also features the largest amateur growers and floral art competitions. We all thought the flower arrangements were particularly good.



We were entertained by a bird of prey display in the arena followed by some dogs showing off their agility over an obstacle course.

The Food Festival had live cooking demonstrations in the cookery theatre. The day we were there Dave Myers from the Hairy Bikers was giving a demonstration. We were then

inspired to check out the food stands to sample various cheeses and chutneys.

Shopping was also on offer with over 350 trade exhibitors selling everything for the home and garden. Most of us could not resist a few bulbs or plants bought at bargain prices.

The show gardens which are one of the biggest features of the Southport Flower Show were my favourite. I picked up a few tips to transform my own garden!!

Diane Woolven

DU3A Membership Promotion



As new Publicity Officer I thought it was an important part of my position to get the name of U3A as widely known as possible so the retired people of Doncaster will know of us and that there is an alternative to sitting in front of the TV all day.

With that in mind we held our first membership promotion with a stand set up in the Interchange at Doncaster Bus Station. I had great support from the members with 14 helping through the day. Everyone joined in and enjoyed talking to possible new members. We had a lot of information on the stand and also our new leaflets, of which we gave out approximately 250.

Our next promotion will be on the 12th October 2019 at the Family History Fair held at the Deaf College. We will have our stand and will welcome volunteers to help through the day. If you would like more information please contact me (details on page 22)

Jane Page

YHR Regional Study Visit



Visit to Drax Power Station 11.00 a.m. – approx. 1.30 p.m. Wednesday 20th November 2019

Maximum numbers of attendees = 30. If there is sufficient interest, a second visit may be arranged in 2020.

For more information go to:

<https://yahr3a.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Drax-Flyer-V2.pdf>



Welcome to the

October / November culture page

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

Cast

Wednesday 23rd October – Private Peaceful – Play/Drama (WW1)

Tuesday 1st to Saturday 5th October – Two Trains Running –
Play/Drama (1969 USA)

Saturday 12th October – Crooners – Music & Comedy

Thursday 17th October – HMS Pinafore (Gilbert & Sullivan)

Friday 18th October – Pam Ayres – Up in the attic

Sunday 3rd November – An audience with Neil Oliver –

The story of the British Isles in 100 places

Wednesday 6th November – The Body Snatcher (Scary drama)

Saturday 9th November – Carol – The music of Carol King

Call 01302 303959 or visit

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

Rotherham Civic Theatre

Thursday 3rd October – One Night in Dublin – Music with The Wild Murphy's

Saturday 5th October – Beyond the Barricade – 20th Anniversary of Les Miserables

Sunday 6th October – The Two Pianos – Rock N Roll experience

Saturday 2nd November – Lets Hang On – Frankie Valli tribute

Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd November – The Importance of Being Earnest –
Comedy drama

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

Doncaster Little Theatre

Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th November – Allo Allo – Comedy

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

Sheffield Theatres – Lyceum

Monday 7th to Saturday 12th October – The Woman in Black

Tuesday 29th October to Saturday 2nd November – Curtains – A musical whodunit

Tuesday 5th to Saturday 9th November – Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor
Dreamcoat

Tuesday 19th to Saturday 30th November – Mowtown the Musical

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


Bawtry Phoenix Theatre

Saturday 12th October – Dracula (One bloody fang after another) Comedy
Thursday 14th to Thursday 21st November – Prescription for Murder - Drama
Call 01302 710825 or visit <http://www.bawtrytheatre.co.uk>


The Dome

Friday 18th October – Hormonal Housewives – Comedy
Thursday 14th November – The Drifters Tour
Call 01302 370777 or visit <https://www.dclt.co.uk/whats-on>

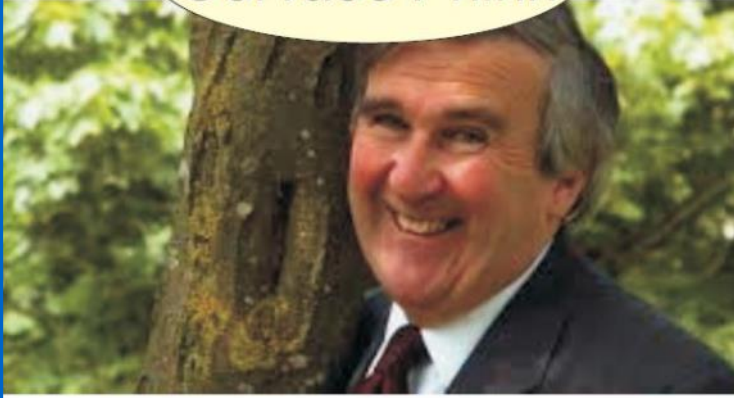
*Hope you find something to enjoy.
Jess Parkinson*



Doncaster Deaf Trust
presents



A Celebratory Evening with
Gervase Phinn



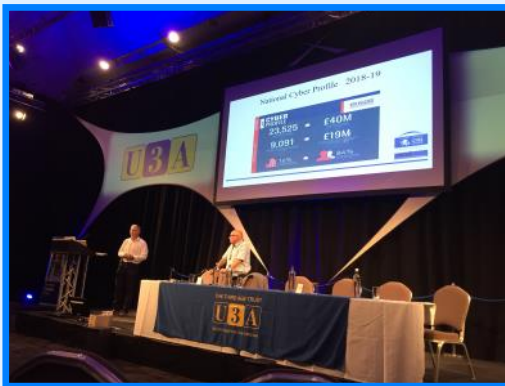
Featuring hilarious tales from one of Yorkshire's most popular storyteller, a best selling author, radio and TV personality

Warde Aldam Centre
Doncaster Deaf Trust, Leger Way, Doncaster DN2 6AY
Tuesday 26th November 2019 6pm for 6.30pm

Tickets £12 each includes 2 course supper
on sale at: Doncaster Deaf Trust Reception 01302 386700
or from John Weston 07708 165100
or email enquiries@ddt-deaf.org.uk

"He tells a cracking good tale"
The Times

Report on the U3A National Conference



One again the National Conference was held in the East Midlands Conference Centre at Nottingham University. We are lucky that it is so near to Doncaster – others come from Cornwall, Scotland, Northern Ireland and all places in between. I was accompanied by Jane Page who was soon making friends all over the place!!

Both Jane and I attended a number of workshops and Jane will report separately on those she attended. I felt duty bound to go to Trustees, Treasurers and U3A Finance. This reinforced the message that Trustees are responsible for all finance and assets, including Group finance and assets – so no change there. One of the things the Committee are grappling with at the moment is whether we should ask the bank if we can have a bank card and/or online banking. I took a straw poll of those attending the workshop and roughly half those attending use both already.

My second workshop was on Cyber Crime – it is amazing how ingenious criminals are when trying to part you from your money.... The presenters included an ex policeman who now works as a civilian for the police on raising awareness of all aspects of cyber crime. I will report on some of the scams in other editions of the newsletter.

The eighty four year old presenter of the Memory Workshop was loud and clear in his message that how well your brain works depends largely on you. To sum up, he was saying use it or lose it! He advocated what he called gentle stimulus – this could be something as simple as always making an effort to remember someone's name when you meet for the first time and he demonstrated tricks to help with this. He ended by memorising the order of 26 playing cards. An impressive feat.

We attended a variety of presentations in the main auditorium including the Key Note Speaker, Ernie Rea, who broadcasts regularly on Radio 4. He spoke on the Medici, Florence and the Golden age of Art – it made you want to rush out and buy a ticket to Florence. He was followed by the AGM which included the financial report. If you are interested in knowing more about the Third Age Trust, our national organisation, and how it operates, you should look on the National U3A Website.

There are two main activities being carried forward by the National Executive at the moment – one is the implementation of the Development Plan and the other is the development/replacement of the Beacon System. Collectively we are a large organisation but we have a very small staff of 14 in the London Office. Only kept this small by the many volunteers who help by answering phones etc. Your committee

asked me to write to the National Chairman, Chief Executive and Beacon Lead to express our concerns at the approach they are taking with Beacon – our much loved membership system. This I have duly done and I await their reply with interest. They are proposing replacing Beacon completely with an off the shelf system whereas we would like them to update it.

One change that is being implemented immediately is the removal of the phrase 'University of the Third Age' from the logo. We are now asked to use the logo with the 'Learn, Laugh and Live' strap line on any publicity materials. The word University confuses people and therefore we are being asked not to use it.

Those who use the U3A diary should note that we are not intending selling them this year. The price has gone up to £3.25 and it is normally the Treasurer who sells them – being without a Treasurer at the moment we will not be offering them for sale.

The conference is useful to keep Doncaster U3A up-to-date with national developments and to meet and discuss with others the way their U3A runs. It is very true that no two U3As are the same and each try their best to meet the needs of their members in their own way.

Wendy Hattrell

Developing the Movement was the first course I was on and it gave me lots of ideas for spreading the word of DU3A and attracting new members. I also gave out suggestions on publicity and some of our leaflets, and they were well received.

Raising the Profile was another course I attended and we were split into 3 groups, the intention was to share suggestions from each group on how to attract new members to U3A.

I found the courses very helpful and will be implemented in my future plans. One highlight was the ukulele jam in the evening. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole National Conference.

Jane Page

Tenpin Bowling

Rod and Linda are considering an extension to their trophy cabinet after taking both the men's and women's matches at our last bowling meet. In fact, along with Guy and Carol, couples have had the monopoly of the last few meetings.

So, have we got some energetic couples out there wanting a challenge? Autumn is just around the corner and what better way to keep active and get some new names on the trophies. The next meeting at the Doncaster Bowl is at 3.00 p.m. on the 17th September and we'll meet again on the 19th November.

We still follow our game with a bite across at the Cheswold, so come along if you can. We'll be glad to see you.

Mike Bowser & Linda Hitchman



Digital Photography

The group has now settled in at Prego at the slightly earlier time of 12.00 until 13.45, on the third Thursday of each month.

July saw the group showing pictures of flowers. This is always a popular topic and a wide variety of styles and flowers were shown from close-up to distance. There was then a discussion to show how to improve holiday photos which is the topic for the next meeting in September. Also, at the next meeting, there will be a talk and DVD about macro photography.

October's meeting will include photos taken using macro photography and a talk and discussion about taking pictures of the same subject using different styles.

November's meeting will allow group members to show pictures inspired by the previous month's talk.

John Wheeldon



Love of Nature

July saw the members of the group at Potteric Carr looking for bees. In August they were out again looking for damselflies and dragonflies. Many other creatures were also seen.



Photographs by Anne Windle, Norah Boyle and B Thompson

Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019

David and I are just back from the fringe again. This is our sixth fringe in a row and I cannot imagine a time when we don't go!

David's show, The Glummer Twins, theglummertwins.com was again on at the Fringe for week 3. His time slot was 2.00 p.m., so we had lovely lazy mornings with friends. Seven of us go and we share a very beautiful Victorian apartment that stretches over two floors - very expensive but shared between us it becomes reasonable.

My role is simple - taking tickets and getting people in and out. Should there be an emergency I'm responsible for flicking the house lights on and asking everyone to leave it's never happened thank goodness!

So, after about 4.00 p.m. we go to see other shows, carefully chosen and booked by one of our group who has 30 years experience in that department.

There are shows of every kind, the majority costing around eight pounds per person, to make you laugh, cry, marvel, wonder and delight and we saw some utterly wonderful shows.

We also saw a smattering of famous people in the crowds, including Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, but the absolute pinnacle for me was Sir Ian McKellen! Not only did I stare at him quite a lot, but I also engineered following him out in the crush, breathing in the same air and I also managed to touch him lightly with a surreptitious index finger..... sad, I know, but I'm unrepentant!

There are also lots of very interesting shops and noteworthy galleries to experience. The Edinburgh Hat Shop is a keen favourite of ours. There is no shortage of places to eat during the day and at night and there are many very good pubs and bars.

But above all we are there to put on and to see other shows. We were in sell out shows and shows of small audiences in spaces holding twenty at most. (Try to always sit at the end of a row for leg room!) Someone told me this year that he was at an early Fringe many years ago where a show was put on in a men's toilet! Things have moved on since then, thank goodness!

It is essential to plan well ahead and start booking accommodation before Christmas for 2020. Shows need to be booked by July, chosen from the enormous programme after reviews start appearing. The Glummer Twins began taking bookings as early as January this year, so its best to book in advance.

I fancy litter from fliers was not as bad this year, which is a good thing. We certainly don't add to that mess!

The Fringe is a very good experience that I thoroughly recommend. A reasonable fitness level is necessary because there's lots of walking, though taxis are plentiful when needed. You also need lots of stamina to tackle the huge programme, but planning is vital - one of our experienced members double booked himself this year!

Paula Harmer

PUZZLE PAGE

For each different set find the value for each shape

$$\triangle + \blacksquare = 13$$

$$\blacklozenge = \frac{\blacksquare}{2}$$

$$\triangle - \blacklozenge = 4$$

$$\blacktriangle = \blacksquare = \blacklozenge =$$

$$\blacksquare - \triangle = 7$$

$$\frac{\blacksquare}{2} = \frac{\blacklozenge}{3}$$

$$\blacklozenge + \triangle = 23$$

$$\blacktriangle = \blacksquare = \blacklozenge =$$

$$\frac{\blacklozenge}{3} + \frac{\blacksquare}{4} = 14$$

$$\blacklozenge - \blacksquare = \triangle$$

$$\frac{\triangle}{4} = \star$$

$$\blacktriangle = \blacksquare = \blacklozenge = \star =$$

$$\blacksquare + \blacklozenge = 32$$

$$\frac{\blacksquare}{3} = \frac{\triangle}{4}$$

$$\triangle - \blacklozenge = 31$$

$$\blacktriangle = \blacksquare = \blacklozenge =$$

Picture puzzle: solution

London from St James' Park
towards Whitehall -

taken by John Wheeldon,
Digital Photography group.



Solution for August/September puzzle page:

Compound words

1. daybed / bedlam
2. before / forecastle
3. jackpot / potable
4. hereafter / afterthought
5. hammerhead / headache
6. bedroll / rollmop
7. nearby / byword
8. before / foreword
9. headdress / dressage
10. wholesome / somebody
11. snakeskin / skinsuit
12. anymore / moreover
13. tailpiece / piecemeal
14. uproot / rootlet
15. carefree / freeway
16. stagehand / handshake
17. courtyard / yardarm
18. moonscape / scapegoat
19. cornmeal / mealworm
20. takeover / overarm
21. turnkey / keystone
22. buttercup / cupcake
23. herein / inside
24. therefore / forearm
25. bodyguard / guardroom



RIVIERA TRAVEL supporting U3A

This is not a sales pitch, just an important notice.

I was reading in a recent communication from Head Office that all U3As nationwide may benefit from members who plan to holiday with Riviera Travel. Carol and I will be doing just that next year, but this news came too late for us to help DU3A, because we have already booked. I phoned Riviera Travel for some information. This is what I was told.

If a U3A member books a holiday with Riviera Travel, at the point of ordering when you are being asked for your personal details, you should mention and give the name of your U3A, the Registered Charity Number (DU3A number is on the front page of every Newsletter, and is 1074577) and possibly your membership number. On your return to the UK, Riviera may contribute up to 10% of your holiday booking costs direct to the U3A concerned.

We at DU3A are always looking for ways to keep our annual membership numbers up, but keep our fees down, and yet publicise our organisation and the activities that we self-organise in our busy lives of retirement. It would be great if our members could take advantage of Riviera's generous gesture towards U3As, and I would urge any of you who intend to travel with Riviera, to mention this offer at your time of booking, and find out if you can help to keep our finances in a healthy state, for the benefit of our members.

George Kirk.

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>

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

Acting Vice Chair Chris Woolven

Business Chris Woolven

Treasurer to be arranged

Membership Jill Laming

Secretary

Group Co-ordinator Vanessa Whaley

Minutes Secretary Nora Boyle

Publicity Jane Page

Committee George Kirk

Committee David Smith

Committee Diane Williams

Committee John Wheeler

Activity Groups & Other: Contacts

Group Leaders see printed Newsletter for telephone numbers or DU3A Website

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

Move to Music is no longer a U3A group but many DU3A members still attend. It is now open to the general public. It is NOT covered by U3A insurance. If you are still interested contact Barbara Steele.

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 and distributing this newsletter.

Deadline

Thank-you to all the members who have sent articles for this issue. Articles for the December/January newsletter need to be received by

Friday 1st November

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.



