

DONCASTER

u3a

Registered Charity No. 1074577

October - November 2021

From the Chair



Well, it has been over a year of stops and starts, but I have every hope that we will be able to start operating again in our usual manner. Group leaders are starting to organise meetings again, many of them in Prego, and by the time you read this I expect you will all be aware that we are planning our General meeting on the 20th September in Priory Place Methodist Church. The venue may only be available for September as its trustees are uncertain as to whether they will be able to continue, so our October meeting may well be somewhere else. We will obviously keep people informed of any changes.

I encourage all who can, to come along to the meeting at 1.00 p.m. on the 20th September. We are hoping to meet for a free celebratory coffee/tea before the meeting for any members who wish, so there is an opportunity to catch up with old friends. There will be a free prize draw based on your entrance ticket and a speaker.

We have quite a few new members who have joined us since the pandemic started and who are unfamiliar with our 'normal' way of operating. I just want to let them know a bit about us.

We are an entirely voluntary organisation. As a registered charity we must abide by certain rules and regulations as laid out by the Charity Commission. Our committee members are also trustees and serve for a nominal two-year term after being elected at the AGM. We have a constitution which is subject to occasional changes. Any such changes are required to be submitted to the Charity Commission to ensure compliance with current rules and regulations.

This year we have elected committee members by online voting and post and the results of the poll are published in this newsletter.

We welcome our two 'new' committee members, Diane Williams, our new Group Co-ordinator and David Bryan who was co-opted earlier in the year and is now a full committee member.

One point I need to make, particularly to newer members, is that the committee do not 'offer' the activities. Our job is to help members to set up and run any interest group that they wish to begin. All groups are run by members for members. They are not run or even started by the committee.

If there is a particular topic which is not offered as an interest group then by all means mention it to our group co-ordinator, who will advise you on how to get things moving.

We are always looking for people to join us on the committee. It is not a difficult task, and you will be welcomed. In addition to the elections at the AGM we are also able to co-opt people on to the committee.

If you want to know more about being a committee member, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I expect like us, many of you will have been looking after your grandchildren during the holidays. It is lovely to see them and play with them but my goodness don't they wear you out?

By the time you read this they will be back in the classroom and with any luck so will you! Don't forget our motto "Learn Laugh and Live!"

Chris Woolven

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members

**Jenny Burnett, Sonia Butler, Fred Harrison,
Pauline Harrison, Cynthia Morris, Elisabeth Mort,
David Newman, Nancy Raynsford, Carol Smeaton,
Paul Smeaton, Anne Marie Wilson**

DU3A 2021 AGM Poll Results

75 responses in total

Current membership: 271

Quorum requirement: 20% is 55 people. All were qualified by membership:

Results as follows:

	% FOR	% AGAINST	% ABSTAIN
Minutes from 2020/21	91.5	0	8.5
Trustees report	95.8	0	4.2
Treasurers report	94.4	1.4	4.2
Accounts	95.8	0	4.2
Examiner of Accounts, Les Hunt	95.8	0	4.2
Committee member, David Bryan	97.2	0	2.8
Committee member, Diane Williams	97.2	0	2.8

December 2021 - January 2022 Newsletter

Articles for the December - January newsletter need to be received by

Wednesday 27th October.

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

bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com

Cover photo: River Don at Sprotborough Lock by John Wheeldon
Digital Photography Group

Obituaries

Jim Ashe **1930 - 2021**

Jim was born in Surrey and spent his childhood in West Sussex. A degree in mining engineering led to a career with the National Coal Board. With the demise of the NCB he became a tutor for the Open University.

In the fifties and sixties he played guitar and banjo in a jazz band. His biggest claim to fame was playing at the Cavern in Liverpool with the Beatles as the supporting group. When he and his wife Sallie moved to Doncaster in 1985 he played the flute and piccolo in the Doncaster Concert Band.

Jim obtained two more degrees, one in script writing. He was always keen to learn and membership of several U3A groups gave him the opportunity to extend his knowledge and skills.

Jim was one of the most interesting and knowledgeable people I have ever met.

In our writers' group meetings he entertained us with stories ranging from his time on the road with the band to the time he was Father Christmas in Lapland. His dry, gentle humour was never far from the surface. As one group member put it, 'He was a raconteur with a lovely voice to rival any Radio 4 presenter'.

We will miss him.

Chris Short
Writers' Group



Barbara Steele

Barbara Steele (aged 86) died in hospital on 1st September 2021.

My friend Barbara; how I shall miss her. In her words, she has had "a good life", with her husband Ted.

Always a family person, who enjoyed many get-togethers with her two boys and their families and particularly her grandchildren.

Barbara had been a member of Doncaster U3A since 2000. She had been an active member of the Strollers, Move to Music, Travel and Theatre and attended many other meetings.

Barbara was a good friend and was always kind and attentive to all she met.

Christine Tasker



Heartfelt Thanks

To all members of the Doncaster U3A.

Recently a series of unforeseen events led to me being unexpectedly hospitalised. Two thousand and twenty had been a very sad year for so many people, as it was for my family and me, with several family deaths in a short period of time.

The year two thousand and twenty one was to be a year of promise. Promises made to visit old friends, and activities to do with U3A friends. However a long story short, that was not to be. Instead of the simple procedure that it should have been, it turned into a nightmare that found me depending on others for all my needs and well being.

The outcome of the above is that I have lost the sight of one eye, as well as having problems that many of we elder folk are susceptible, i.e. in my case, rheumatoid arthritis. Throughout all the above, I have been helped and sustained by the kindness of many friends made in the U3A.

THANK YOU ALL.

I am making efforts to continue to attend the face-to-face meetings as they resume in the autumn when I can personally thank you all.

Betty Alexander.

Farewell from Jess

I would like to take the opportunity to say goodbye to members of Doncaster U3A and a very big thank you to all those hard working people who make it possible to enjoy the groups and meetings etc. It was a decision I have thought long and hard about over the last weeks and months but I feel the time is right for me to leave now. A very big thank you to the Living History group and Betty Alexander for her inspiration. A lovely group with some truly lovely people, who I will miss enormously.

Jess Parkinson

Sunday Lunch

Since December 2009 I have been the Sunday Lunch group leader. Now I consider it is time for me to step down and someone else to take over. If anyone is interested they are welcome to get in touch.

Next lunch will be at the Earl of Doncaster on the 26th of September at 1.00 p.m.

October is still to be arranged.

November, also, is still to be arranged.

Eileen Dickson



GROUPS - UPDATES / NOTICES

GENERAL MEETINGS

- 20th September 'Inn and Out' Speaker: Neil Hanson 1.30 p.m.
Priory Place Methodist Church
Tea/coffee available - doors open 12.45 p.m.
- 18th October Music and stories by Fool's Gold - venue: tba
- 15th November 'Great Houses and Halls of South Yorkshire' by Pat McLaughlin
- venue: tba

INTEREST GROUPS

Please contact group leaders **before** attending a meeting for the first time. Most groups have now resumed face-to-face meetings but may have a different day, time or venue and may have changed the way in which they operate. There may also be limits on the group size. Refer, also, to the Activity Calendars.

ART: Meetings postponed until a suitable venue is found.

BASIC FRENCH: See calendar

BRASS BAND: At present no decision has been made regarding a restart date. Staffing issues need to be resolved.

BRIDGE: At present no decision has been made regarding a restart date.

CANASTA: We have started up again on the 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of each month and we have a new venue - the Flying Childers, Nostell Place, Bessacarr DN4 7JA on the proviso that everyone buys a drink. There is plenty of space for car parking.

The type of canasta we play is called Samba. New players are always welcome.

Next meetings: 2.00 p.m. September 15th, October 13th & 20th.

CARD MAKING: Meetings postponed until a suitable venue is found.

COFFEE QUIZ: I am resuming the Coffee Quiz from Friday 1st October, start time 10.15 a.m. If anybody is thinking about coming along please let me know as I am limited to numbers. My number is at the back of the newsletter.

Jane Page

CROWN GREEN BOWLS: We are the victims of our own success. After starting with a very small group three years ago we have nearly 20 players who have registered an interest to play at 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoons at Haslam Park. With an optimum number of 12 playing at any one time, there is a need to be kept aware of who is intending to arrive each week, so that no-one who comes will be disappointed. Thankfully some of us are part-timers because family commitments and holidays will always rightly take preference over the enjoyment of turning up to play 'marbles for pensioners'. Whilst we never wish to turn anyone away, there does come a time when even flexibility has its problems. We have even had to temporarily initiate a second overspill group.

When British Summer Time ends, our starting time from November will change to 1.30 p.m. Whether or not we need to operate two groups during the winter months really depends on demand, but we are always optimistic that only the weather (or perhaps health) will keep us away.

We welcome all U3A members who wish to exercise their bodies in the outdoors, be it hot, warm, cold, wet, or just dismal. We are improving our bowls skills as a group, and we aim to demonstrate how competitive we can be as we hope to take on other teams in the local area.

Please ring me if you wish to know more. Oh, and please bring with you a sense of humour. You'll need it.

George Kirk.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY: The digital photography group continues to meet using Zoom and at various locations for photo shoots. We have recently visited Cusworth Park, Sprotbrough Lock and Nostell Priory. It is planned to continue in this mode. Group members are finding it easier to show photos when they can access their own computer. Meeting outside gives members chance to catch up and socialise.

John Wheeldon

DINING OUT: The next meeting of the Dining Out group will take place on **Tuesday 12th October** at **La Rustica Italian restaurant** on Nether Hall Road at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. The menu is available online or I will be in attendance on Wednesdays at Wetherspoons Gatehouse 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. where a menu will be able to be seen. Please let me have a cheque made out to DU3A with your menu choices by Saturday 2nd October at the latest. Thank-you.

Joan Condron

DISCUSSION: At present no decision has been made regarding a restart date and venue.

EASIER FRENCH: See calendar

ENJOYING POETRY: We will be meeting at Cafe Prego on the 19th October from 10.30 to 12.00 and continue on the third Tuesday of the month from then onwards.

David Harmer

FAMILY HISTORY: See calendar

FILM GROUP: Meetings will be at the Savoy Cinema, Sir Nigel Gresley Square on the first Wednesday of each month. We shall buy our tickets for the 'Silverscreen' which shows films on Wednesdays specially selected for our age group. Tickets are £4.15 and this includes a cup of tea or coffee.

Films are usually finished between 1.30 and 2.00 p.m. Those members who wish to discuss the film afterwards can meet in the foyer and arrange to meet in a nearby cafe in order to do this. There are several cafes along Waterdale.

For more information, go to the website: savoydoncaster.uk and find 'What's on' and 'Silverscreen'. There is also information about parking at the Civic Quarter multi storey car park for £1 for up to 4 hours when visiting the Savoy.

continued →

Some of you may have friends who would like to come to watch the Silverscreen films with you. This is a welcome idea as Silverscreen is open to all people over 50 whether U3A members or not. Let's use it to add to our experience of our community!

Sue Levan

GARDENING: See calendar

GERMAN: See calendar

HISTORY: See calendar

IMPROVERS FRENCH: See calendar (French 2) For the present we have been provisionally meeting at the Java Lounge cafe where we can sit outside but obviously this may not be for much longer.

JAZZ APPRECIATION: This group is no longer running. Thanks to Colin for running the group for so many years.

LITERATURE: See calendar

LIVING HISTORY: At present no decision has been made regarding a restart date.

LOCAL HISTORY: See calendar

LOVE OF NATURE: See calendar

PHILOSOPHY: See calendar

PINS & NEEDLES: See calendar

PLAYREADING: See calendar

SCATTERGORIES: See calendar

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING: See calendar

STRETCHERS: See calendar

STROLLERS: See calendar

SUNDAY LUNCH: See notice on page 5

TENPIN BOWLING: By the time this issue of the newsletter is published we will have held our first bowling session of the Post Covid era. Hopefully, all will have gone well. The bowling alley has a reasonable safety regime in place as the pandemic does not seem to be going away. The date for that first session was 14th September so on our two-monthly cycle our next will be 16th November. We are also resuming our post bowl dining at the Cheswold.

I'm hoping that I will have met many of the old gang and maybe some new faces at that first session but if not whether you are one of the old group or someone who is new then come along in November. Can I suggest that you join as soon as you can as there will be a limit to the numbers in our new group. See you soon.

Mike Bowser

TRAVEL: Venue currently being sought.

TRIPS: 22nd September: Trip to **York**. Contact Wendy Hattrell if you are interested.

WALKING CRICKET: See calendar

WRITERS: See calendar

DROP-IN: We now meet at Wetherspoons every Wednesday 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. We have not started it as a U3A group but everyone is welcome. We just meet for a chat and also have lunch but this is optional.

Joan Condron

Strollers

I joined U3A in March 2019 the week before Lockdown. All activities moved to Zoom only, meeting other members virtually online when I joined their groups.

On Thursday 26th August I attended my first face to face meeting with Doncaster Strollers at Highfield Country Park. We met at 10.00 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start. The group was led by Jim who had walked this route previously. There were a few new people who hadn't been before, and we were all welcomed warmly and introduced to the others. I think we had about 26 people. I was surprised at how large the group was. Orders were taken for those who would be staying for lunch on our return to ensure we would be suitably refreshed afterwards. I was concerned that I would hold up the group as I use a rollator to get about but needn't have worried. There were a few rough patches but nothing I couldn't handle. We ambled along at a steady pace getting to know each other as we walked. Mike, Jane, and a couple of others stayed as rear guard to ensure we didn't lose anyone along the way and to offer support if needed.

The weather was kind. It was a good day for a stroll. Meeting like minded people in a group setting especially when communing with nature certainly lifts your spirits. You focus on what you're doing rather than what you can't do if you're mobility impaired. Lunch was lovely, giving everyone the opportunity to chat and share a variety of other interests they had. It was a lovely morning, well planned and organised and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Yvonne McGowan



Love of Nature

July Walk - Idle Valley Nature Reserve, Retford

Just over half an hour's drive from Doncaster, Idle Valley Nature Reserve is one of the largest sites for nature conservation in the East Midlands. It's a place of two halves, and both are worth visiting.



Froglet

To the north, the landscape is largely grassland and wetland scrapes, and is home to many species of birds, and a stopping off point for migrants. There are a number of hides and viewing screens from which to see them, but no other facilities.

But our destination was the southern end of the reserve, which has the benefit of a café, shop, toilets and picnic area. It's also the start of four waymarked walks, and we decided to follow two of them, firstly through the woodlands and then around Belmoor Lake.

The forecast for the morning was for heavy rain, but were our spirits dampened? Not a bit of it. After all, the saying goes that there's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing. So, we put on brave faces and waterproofs, and headed off to find some nature.

Our path took us between a rich variety of trees and shrubs, and the hedgerows were full of flowers such as the wild rose, honeysuckle, bird's-foot trefoil and marsh orchids.

The woods were alive with birdsong, and we identified several warblers including the chiffchaff, blackcap, whitethroat and the startlingly loud Cetti's warbler. Sedge warblers were in full, scratchy song along the banks of the River Idle and, of course, there were the usual suspects, robins, blackbirds, tits, finches and wrens.

We weren't so lucky with the native fauna, though. We came across the sorry sight of a dead grass snake in the car park, but it did give us the rare chance to study its intricate skin pattern. On the footpath, I nearly consigned a tiny, well-camouflaged froglet to the same fate, but managed a nifty side-step in time. On the far side of the lake, where the reserve farm operates, there were some seriously intimidating long-horn cattle, and a small flock of rare sheep that were considerably less alarming.

And the weather? Defying predictions, it was completely dry and mild for the two hours we were walking. Our timing turned out to be spot-on, because just as we were getting into our cars to head home, the heavens opened, and the threatened deluge came to pass. We felt justifiably smug, as we'd had a very pleasant walk and our sou'westers weren't needed after all.

August Walk – RSPB Old Moor, Bolton upon Dearne

We gathered on a pleasant summer morning in the courtyard of this fine reserve in the Dearne Valley, before setting off on our exploration. It's hard to believe that this was once a derelict post-industrial area, and that it was the removal of soil to cover an adjacent polluted site that enabled the creation of these thriving wetlands, and the development of a significant wildlife habitat.

I'd read the report of a previous Love of Nature group visit to Old Moor, during which they had identified 27 species of birds. So, could we do better? We were certainly going to try! Before we'd even left the visitor centre's sensory garden, we had our

first sightings, a humble wood pigeon and a house sparrow. Well, they all count! At the Reedbed Hide, the first stop on our circuit, we noted a grey heron, gadwall, tufted ducks, mallards, a mute swan, little grebe and cormorant. This hide is in bittern territory, but we weren't lucky enough to see or hear one this time.

We paused at a small pond to watch numerous dragonflies and damselflies criss-crossing the lily pads, hunting for insects. They ranged in size from slender damselflies to huge hawk dragonflies, which look like miniature helicopters hovering and darting above the water. What beautiful, jewel-like creatures!

A brief visit to the Bittern Hide added a further 3 species, but the panoramic view from the newest hide 'The Lookout', proved much better value, and we spent some time here watching the hundreds of birds on the various islands and in the water. From this hide, we added a further 9 species to our list, and David Bryan took some stunning photos of little egrets!



Little egrets

Those of us who were staying a bit longer took a break for lunch, agreeing to continue our quest to record 28 or more different bird sightings after we'd eaten.

The Tree Sparrow Hide was our final viewpoint for the day. Here, it was mostly garden birds visiting strategically placed bird feeders, with a few assorted others picking up the scraps from the ground. Here, we noted 9 more species, making a grand total of 30. We had completed our challenge!

To celebrate, we treated ourselves to ice creams back in the courtyard, before packing up our binoculars and field guides and heading home. We all agreed that it had been a thoroughly enjoyable day. Here's the full list of our sightings:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Wood pigeon | House sparrow |
| Grey heron | Gadwall |
| Tufted ducks | Mallard |
| Mute swan | Cormorant |
| Little grebe | Great crested grebe |
| Moorhen | Coot |
| Lapwing | Black headed gull |
| Lesser black backed gull | Herring gull |
| Canada goose | Greylag goose |
| Little egret | Blackbird |
| Robin | Blue tit |
| Great tit | Dunnock |
| Greenfinch | Goldfinch |
| Chaffinch | Pheasant |

Lesley Bassett

Photos by David Bryan



Warbler snacking



Small white butterfly

AGEING WELL !!!!!

Recently I was tickled by an advert in the Third Age Magazine. Evidently the magazine had been approached by Age U.K. asking for members of U3A to join with them in a project they were developing regards helping to improve the image of 'Ageing'. They wanted to promote 'Ageing Well'.

Mmmmm I thought..... sounds like my idea of a project. They are recruiting - young at heart, actively seeking adventure, passionate about learning and living U3A members to change the perspective younger people have about retirement.

Not quite... they wanted funny stories regards walking frames. (not quite sure how that could improve the image of ageing or how it could promote 'Ageing Well'.

Anyway it spurred me on to share with you, our, (Rob and I), latest attempt at Ageing Well.

Urged by our love of the Lake District and the near fever pitch of interest in wild swimming due to lockdown and social distancing (was just swimming in the lake when we were younger) we decided to re-visit our youthful swimming ways.



Our son bought us a book on 'Safe Wild Swimming in the Lakes' and our daughter-in-law suggested a venue to have lessons on how to wild swim safely which I dutifully attended.

This is where it gets all very serious. Wild swimming is so popular - since lockdown, there was only one space available on the swimming 'course'. Rob gallantly offered me the space, but he would come along to support me and I was to share the information.

Pooley Bridge, Ullswater

Wet suit hired, swimsuit under jeans ready, I gingerly headed off to the venue. Unfortunately, but not unsurprisingly, social distancing regulations meant there were no changing rooms which meant I was the one attempting to manoeuvre myself into a wetsuit out there, in the open, with all the young fit bodies around me. Not a pretty sight. It's some time since I had to get into such an outfit and somehow my body isn't as flexible as it used to be and doesn't quite fit the same. Needless to say, engineering myself into said wetsuit was a workout in itself.

Unfazed, safety introduction listened to, neon orange hat upon head, I dutifully followed instructor towards the water. All safety precautions followed: 1. step into lake and feel temperature; 2. dangle hands and acclimatise upper body with gentle splashes; 3. walk into water up to knees to allow further acclimatisation of temperature; 4. walk into water up to thighs; 5. bend slightly forward, open top of wetsuit and allow small amount of water into suit!!!!!! Not sure I understood that but something to do with keeping you warm, and there you have it, swim away.

Hilariously though, I couldn't swim away. Try as I might I just bobbed along like an inflatable Michelin X man. My legs just couldn't seem to stay under the water, my arms had a mind of their own and if I wasn't careful I just spun around onto my back

which were not supposed to do as this is the sign you are in trouble and an instructor comes to rescue you.

My whole predicament was comedic. I was trying not to laugh because I was afraid I would wet myself and that's another thing you can't do in a wetsuit.

Help was fortunately by my side as the instructor (I think) thought I was of an age that I shouldn't be left. I don't think she believed me when I said I was a strong swimmer and I certainly didn't look like one initially. She diagnosed, quite rightly, that my wetsuit was too buoyant for me (never heard this before) and explained I would have to remove it (evidently some wetsuits are more buoyant than others, all depends on what you are using them for). Every day is a learning day.

Don't worry she explained, she would help me and, if I cared to, I could swim in my swimsuit.

So, there I was, unceremoniously being peeled out of my wetsuit, on the beach, at Hatfield marina, not just in front of the other course members but all the wild swimmers of the evening.

'Ageing Well' must have a codicil - never mind what you look like - just get on with it and I did. I happily swam around Hatfield Marina thoroughly enjoying the freedom, calm and quiet of swimming outdoors.

Rob and I now happily brave the early morning waters of Lake Ullswater, safely dressed in proper fitting swimming wetsuits and neon hats duly following all safety precautions. Highly recommended for the heart and the mind.

Next project. Master the paddle board. One lesson at a time!

Vanessa Whaley



U3A Beacon Membership System



Many of you will have heard that sometime ago a company was contracted to write a new version of Beacon. This came to a halt a short while ago when, after many months of work, the company pulled out.

The decision has now been made to enhance the existing system - a much better option in my humble opinion!

So that users are aware, planned maintenance is to be carried out on Tuesdays at 10.30 a.m. This may not mean you cannot use Beacon at this time but it could mean any changes made may not be saved. So if, for example, you are sending emails to a group and therefore not making changes to data it shouldn't affect you. If you are adding someone to your group then that change might not take effect and you would need to do it again.

We are told the time involved varies but is short -15 or 20 minutes. So by 11.00 a.m. you should be ok.

Personally I have made a diary note and will try and avoid using Beacon at that time.

Wendy Hattrell

The Culture Page

What is culture?

Culture has been called 'the way of life for an entire group or society'. It is what we pass on from generation to generation, from group to group. It is a set of patterns of human activity within a community or social group and the symbolic structures that give significance to such activity. As such, it includes codes of manners, standards, customs, dress, language, religion, rituals, art, laws, architectural style, traditions. With improved learning and health, increased tolerance, and opportunities to come together with others, culture enhances our quality of life and increases overall well-being for both individuals and communities.

Here are some examples of culture....

- ◆ Language is one of the most important parts of any culture. It is the way by which people communicate with one another, build relationships, and create a sense of community.
- ◆ Norms are informal, unwritten rules that govern social behaviours.
- ◆ Festivals. Your cultural traditions can be shared through storytelling, music, song, dance, or art. You can also help bridge the gap by sharing aspects of your social influences. As you meet new people you start to form connections and friendships and you may take part in their celebrations or significant life events.
- ◆ Rituals & Ceremony
- ◆ Holidays
- ◆ Pastimes
- ◆ Food
- ◆ Architecture

Let's look at language People sometimes tell you you're misusing a word and cite the Latin origin as proof. Don't fall for the etymological fallacy. What a word means depends not on its origin, but on how speakers of a language understand and use it. Over time, words have a way of wandering, and meanings mutate. If you stuck with older meanings of the following eleven words, you could end up in a strange land where "naughty" is the same as "nice" and "awesome" means "terrible."

1. AWFUL

Ever wonder why 'awesome' means excellent but 'awful' means really bad when they both derive from 'awe'? In Old English, awe meant 'fear, terror or dread'. From its use in reference to God the word came to mean 'reverential or respectful fear'. By the mid-1700s, awe came to mean solemn and reverential wonder, tinged with fear, inspired by the sublime in nature - such as thunder or a storm at sea. Originally, awful and awesome were synonymous, but by the early 19th century, awful absorbed the negative aspects of the emotion and the word was used to mean frightful or exceedingly bad. The earliest citation in the Oxford English Dictionary for awesome meaning 'marvellous, great; stunning or mind-boggling' is from the Official Preppy Handbook, 1980.

2. CHEATER

A cheater was originally an officer appointed to look after the king's escheats - the land lapsing to the Crown on the death of the owner intestate without heirs. As William Gurnall wrote in 1662, '[A] Cheater may pick the purses of ignorant people, by shewing them something like the Kings Broad Seal, which was indeed his own forgery'. Mistrust of the king's cheaters led the word into its current sense.

3. EGREGIOUS

Egregious now describes something outstandingly bad or shocking, but it originally meant remarkably good. It comes from the Latin *egregius*, meaning 'illustrious, select', literally, 'standing out from the flock'. Apparently the current meaning arose from ironic use of the original.

4. FURNITURE

Furniture originally meant equipment, supplies or provisions, in the literal or figurative sense. For example, in a 1570 translation of Euclid's *Elements of Geometry*, there is mention of 'Great increase and furniture of knowledge'. Gradually, the meaning narrowed to the current sense.

5. GIRL

Girl once meant a child or young person of either sex. In 'The Canterbury Tales', Chaucer says of the summoner, 'In daunger hadde he at his owene gise/ The yonge girles of the diocese'. In modern English, that's, 'In his own power had he, and at ease/ Young people of the entire diocese'.

6. MEAT

Beginning in Old English, meat meant solid food (as opposed to drink) or fodder for animals. In 'A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland' (1775), Samuel Johnson noted, 'Our guides told us, that the horses could not travel all day without rest or meat'. Generally, the word's meaning has narrowed to refer only to the flesh of mammals, and in some regions, only pork or beef, but some Scottish dialects retain the older meaning of any kind of food.

7. NAUGHTY

In the 1300s, naughty people had naught (nothing); they were poor or needy. By the 1400s, the meaning shifted from having nothing to being worth nothing, being morally bad or wicked. It could refer to a licentious, promiscuous or sexually provocative person, or someone guilty of other improper behaviour. In *Sermons preached upon Several Occasions* (1678), Isaac Barrow speaks of 'a most vile, flagitious man, a sorry and naughty Governour as could be'. But in the same century, 'naughty' also had a gentler meaning, especially as applied to children: mischievous, disobedient, badly behaved.

8. NICE

A few centuries ago if a gentleman called a lady "nice," she might not know whether to flutter her fan or slap his face. Nice entered English via Anglo-Norman from classical Latin *nescius*, meaning ignorant. Then it wandered off every which way. From the 1300s through 1600s it meant silly, foolish, or ignorant. During that same time period, though, it was also used with these unrelated or even contradictory meanings,

Showy and ostentatious, or elegant and refined.

Particular in matters of reputation or conduct; or wanton, dissolute, lascivious

Cowardly, unmanly, effeminate

Slothful, lazy, sluggish

Not obvious, difficult to decide, intricate.

By the 1500s, "nice" came to mean meticulous, attentive, sharp, making precise distinctions. By the 18th century, it acquired its current (and rather bland) meaning of agreeable and pleasant, but other meanings hung on, just to keep things interesting.

9. PRETTY

In Old English, 'pretty' meant crafty and cunning. Later, it took on a more positive connotation: clever, skilful, or able. It could describe something (for example, a speech) cleverly or elegantly made. Perhaps that is how, by the 1400s, the meaning diverted to its present sense: good-looking, especially in a delicate or diminutive way.

10. SLY

If you call someone sly now, you mean they're sneaky and deceitful - not a good thing. But when the word entered English from Old Norse in the 13th century, it also had a positive meaning: skilful, clever, knowing, and wise. It's related to 'sleight', as in 'sleight of hand', the magician's skill at trickery.

11. TERRIBLE

When terrible entered Middle English from Anglo-Norman and Middle French, it meant causing or fit to cause terror, inspiring great fear or dread. It also meant awe-inspiring or awesome, which - as we saw in the discussion of awful - could be terrifying as well as wonderful. By the 1500s, terrible (like awful, dreadful, frightful, and horrible) came to mean very harsh, severe, formidable, and hence, excessive or extreme - in a bad way.

In language, like everything else, change can be hard to accept. Don't worry. If you're an originalist when it comes to semantics and someone calls you egregiously awful, you can take it as high praise or you can give them a clip round the ear with your fan!

Speaking of fans, in the next issue I will address the subject of the language of fans.

Paula Harmer

Tango

I can feel myself becoming vague and slipping away. So what happened to the old me the go getter full of competitive ambition. Well to be honest I'm glad to see the back of him, what a pain he was.

The benefits of lapsing into this state is I now get to choose what to remember and what forget. For instance, I can remember asking for a nice cup of tea but conveniently forget I'd offered to wash up.

I also seem to have out lived my vices, you know, alcohol, women and my old friend nicotine. Mind you If I'm honest I still maintain a lingering interest in women. My latest interest is that brazen hussy Ivy Parker, her that serves on the cold meat counter up at the Co-Op, anyway, that's just wishful thinking, a dream: it's going nowhere.

The upshot is, I won't be 'fighting against the dying of the light' there's just no point; but I might have a walk up later for some ham, let's face it Ivy could be my last chance, my 'Last Tango in Donny'.

Denis Marsden
Writers Group

WALKING CRICKET

A Close Walk Thing!

Having won against Rotherham U3A Walking Cricket team at the U3A Day Tournament in Doncaster, our team was invited over to play them at a friendly return match on 29th June.

The match took place in the lovely surrounds of Clifton Park in an area that had once served as a Bowling Green. The bumpy pitch left much to be desired but with our true U3A spirit we got on with the game. We fielded the best team we could get for the day and after much ado finding suitable parking spaces the match began.

Rotherham were determined to get their own back for the tournament earlier in the month.

We won the toss and batted first and managed a score of 101 runs after some excellent batting from our team, with a good number of fours and sixes. After a short break Rotherham came into bat and started very well. Rotherham replied to our inning and batted equally well.

It was touch and go right to the end and in the final over we were fearful of defeat by 1 run. The day was saved however by the skilful underarm bowling of Lillian Smith who took a wicket right at the end and pushed Rotherham's score back by five runs, giving Doncaster U3A the win by four runs.

A great time was had by all and we look forward to a return match.

Chris Woolven

Third time unlucky!

On Sunday 5th September our brave team of walking cricketers travelled to Clifton Park in Rotherham to take on the Rotherham U3A team for the third time this year. After two wins in the previous games hopes were high that we would complete the hat-trick.

Following a week of indifferent weather we were blessed with a bright, sunny afternoon and given a warm welcome by the hosts.

Rotherham won the toss and decided to bat first. We bowled and fielded well and restricted Rotherham to a total of 85 which appeared to be a gettable target. Sadly, after a flurry of wickets at the start of our innings we were always chasing the game and came up short with a total of 64.

Despite the result we enjoyed the weather, the hospitality and the camaraderie so I would like to thank Jenny, Barrie, Alan, Sushil, Lillian, John and Eric for giving up their time to represent Doncaster and for giving their all to the cause.

We'll be back to winning ways next time!

Peter Hermes



Dining Out

A group of 15 members attended our first meeting for 18 months at Lalezar restaurant on August 17th. We were situated in the upstairs room and served a complimentary selection of dips and bread prior to receiving our varied main courses which were well cooked and delicious. The staff were very friendly and efficient and everyone agreed it was a very pleasant evening in a restaurant with a lovely ambience. We will certainly visit again.

Joan Condron



Zoom History

A Zoom History group was started last Autumn while away the long hours of lockdown. We began with Julius Caesar and the invasion of Britain. The following weeks we looked at various emperors and the Roman way of life. By Spring the Anglo Saxons were replacing the Romans.

This Autumn the group will continue with Anglo Saxon England and the arrival of the Vikings.

Contact Diane Woolven if you would like to join this group.

OCTOBER

The name October is derived from octo, which means eight in Latin. It dates back more than 2000 years to the ancient Roman calendar. The Roman calendar was replaced by the Julian calendar in 45 BC and October became the tenth month.

Middle English - octobre

Latin name - October mensis - eighth month

Anglo Saxons - Winterfylleth - winter full moon

October always had 31 days, and it became the tenth month of the year when the months of January and February were added, pushing October towards the end of the solar year, which is around 365.24 days long.

The Julian was substituted for the Gregorian calendar because it did not reflect the length of a year on Earth accurately enough. Today's Gregorian calendar does a much better job at keeping up with our planet's revolutions around the Sun, but even this calendar is not perfect.



The month of October starts on the same day of the week as January in common years, but during leap years, October does not start on the same day of the week as any other month. It ends on the same day of the week as February every year and January in common years only.

October's birth flower is the calendula. The birthstone for October is the opal and it is said that the opal will crack if worn by someone who is not born in October.

October's Full Moon is the Hunter's Moon. It is also called Travel Moon, Dying Grass Moon, and sometimes Blood Moon or Sanguine Moon.



Historical Events in October

October 4, 1582: The start of our modern Gregorian calendar. Pope Gregory XIII ordered the calendar to “jump” from October 4, 1582, to October 15, 1582. This corrected the 10-day gap the old Julian calendar had accumulated.

October 4, 1957: The start of the Space Age. The Soviet Union launched the first satellite into orbit: Sputnik, meaning ‘fellow traveller’ or simply ‘satellite’ in Russian. Sputnik 1 sent a beeping radio signal for only 21 days; this was enough to start the ‘Space Race’ between the USA and the Soviet Union.

Ref: <https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/months/october.html>

NOVEMBER

November was originally the 9th month of early versions of the Roman calendar (until 153 BC) and consisted of 30 days. It became the 11th month of the year with a length of 29 days when the months of January and February were added. During the Julian calendar reform, a day was added to November making it 30 days long again.

November was named during a time when the calendar year began with March, which is why its name no longer corresponds with its placement in the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

Middle English - novembre

Latin name - novembris mensis - 9th month

Old English - Blotmanad - Blood month



It is the seasonal equivalent of May in the opposite hemisphere.

November starts on the same day of the week as February in common years and March every year. November ends on the same day of the week as August every year.

November's birth flower is the chrysanthemum. The birthstone for November is the topaz.

The Full Moon in November is named after beavers who build their winter dams at this time of year. It is also called Frost Moon and Mourning Moon, depending on the winter solstice.

Historical Events in November

November 3, 1957: The Soviet Union sent the first living creature into orbit: the dog Laika (Russian for ‘yapper’). Laika was aboard the Sputnik II, the second Soviet satellite to go into orbit around the Earth - almost exactly one month after the Sputnik I on October 4, 1957.

November 5, 1605: The British soldier Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the English House of Lords in London to overthrow King James I and restore the Catholic Monarchy. He failed. November 5th is Guy Fawkes Day and observed all over the United Kingdom to remember the Gunpowder Treason.

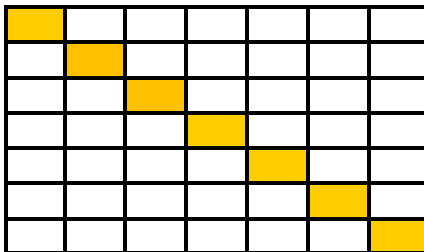
Ref: <https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/months/november.html>

B Thompson

PUZZLE PAGE

Place the names in the correct order. The letters running diagonally from top left will then spell out another girl's name. Re-order to find yet another girl's name.

SHANNON JASMINE SUZANNE DELANEY
BERNICE MEAGHAN CAITLIN



The solutions are all six-letter words. Reading down the first column should spell out the name of a person.

Puzzle 1: all end in T

An actor

Pet					T
Thing					T
Pail					T
Accompany					T
Rue					T
Despot					T
Proper					T
Await					T
Chewy sweet					T
Invertebrate					T
Account					T
Most peculiar					T

Puzzle 2: all end in N

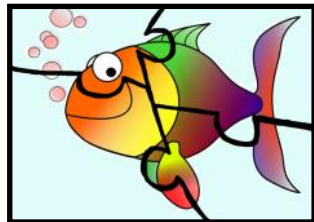
A singer/songwriter

Fish					N
Inn					N
Soccer team					N
Instrument					N
Congenital					N
Command					N
Caretaker					N
Parentless child					N
Idea					N
Fruit tree					N
Flag					N
Dried grape					N

Four children completed a jigsaw. Each child put one piece in place. From the clues, work out which piece each child put in **AND** the order in which they inserted them.

- The boys put in the bottom pieces. Neither of them put in the last piece.
- Jenny's piece touches all the other pieces.
- Simon's piece is not directly below Jenny's piece.
- Helen put her piece in place before Andrew.
- The bottom left corner piece was the first to go in place.

JIGSAW



GOING TO THE SEASIDE.

You are in Townland, which is 50 miles from Seaport. You must get to Seaport in 1 hour. You drive the first half of the distance at 25 mph. How fast must you drive the second half of the distance to get to Seaport on time?

50 mph

75mph

112 mph

It's not possible

Solutions for August - September Puzzle page

Answers:

1. Iceland
2. Ronald Reagan
3. Homer Simpson
4. Sirius
5. Sonnet 18
6. December
7. Mungo Jerry
8. Robin Goodfellow
9. 1908, 1948, and 1912
10. (a)Helsinki, (b)Rome,
(c)Munich, and (d)Seoul
11. Estate
12. Beijing
13. Some tarts
14. Cancer, Leo and Virgo
15. Saint Swithin's Day
16. Indian Summer
17. Norman
18. Open University
19. Helsinki (Finland)
20. George & Ira Gershwin
21. Ullapool
22. The smell of freshly cut grass.
23. Peridot.
24. Argan trees.
25. Eiffel tower.
26. 1896
27. May 5th, 6th or 7th

This photograph (right) is of a painting I was inspired to draw/ watercolour paint, by my cousin who plays classical guitar and loves to visit Granada in Spain. That's my interpretation of him in the painting. I am particularly fond of the architecture and terracotta roof tiles in this painting and the majestic church in the background. The lantern provides perspective, atmosphere and illuminates the street at night. Granada is known for its festivals of music and dance and is a beautiful city to visit.

Anona Hermes

WHAT'S ON IN DONCASTER

<https://www.visitdoncaster.com/whats-on>

<https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/whats-on>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--doncaster/events>

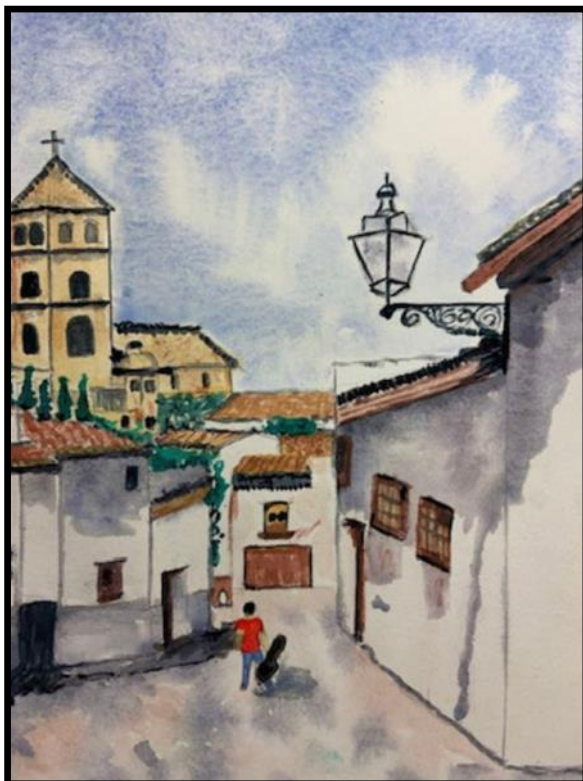
<https://www.dclt.co.uk/whats-on>

<https://library.doncaster.gov.uk/web/arena/library-events>

<https://doncasterlittletheatre.co.uk/whats-on/>

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/culture-leisure-tourism/museums-and-galleries>

Anona had this watercolour painting published in the National U3A newsletter .



'Granada' by Anona Hermes.

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

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

Contact Numbers

DU3A Committee Members

Chair	Chris Woolven
Vice Chair	Jane Page
Secretary	Diane Woolven
Treasurer	Derek Marriott
Membership Secretary	Christine Curtis
Group Co-ordinator	Diane Williams
Publicity	Jane Page
Beacon Administrator	Wendy Hattrell
Welfare	Jill Laming
Committee	Paula Harmer
Committee	David Bryan

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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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 December 2021 / January 2022 newsletter need to be received by

Wednesday 27th October

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

Monks Printers

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

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.....



