DONCASTER



October - November 2020

From the Chair

It has been a few years since I wrote this piece for our newsletter and how things have changed! The main change for the committee has been the introduction of the Beacon database system which has made our record keeping so much easier and more reliable. Of course, the other change that is uppermost in everyone's mind at the moment is the enforced closing of our groups, with no real prospect of most of them restarting.



Thank-you to all of you who contributed to our recent exercise in democracy. This means that, unlike most U3As in the country, we have concluded our 2020 AGM business.

I must also thank our outgoing committee members George Kirk and David Smith. David is standing down after two years of service. He came in when we were finding it difficult to recruit committee members and has done sterling service ever since. George has been both our Treasurer and our Chairman in recent years. We are lucky that he has agreed to continue to be our newsletter distributor.

Wendy Hattrell has stood down as our Chairperson after two years. I say "Chairperson", but at one point she was part Chair, part Secretary, part Treasurer and part Beacon administrator. Like George Kirk before her she has been a very steady hand on our tiller, with an incredible dedication to duty. Thank-you, Wendy, for everything. Fortunately, she is going to remain as our Beacon administrator.

I welcome our new Treasurer Derek Marriot and Secretary Diane Woolven along with committee members Chris Curtis and Paula Harmer. Diane is an experienced U3A Secretary, having served in the role previously under two different Chairmen. Paula will eventually take on the role of Speaker Finder from Jess Parkinson and Chris that of Membership Secretary from Jill Laming.

I am pleased to say that Jill is continuing to serve on the committee to ensure a smooth handover. Jane Page has taken on the role of Vice Chair and will keep her role as our publicity officer.

I must also thank Bridget Thompson, our newsletter and web editor, for her service. The amazing job she does is much appreciated. She has been committed to the job for some years now and puts many hours in. Thank-you, Bridget.

I understand there have been rumours circulating recently about the possibility of restarting groups in the near future. We have had a subcommittee looking at this problem over recent weeks. It seems likely that some outdoor groups will go ahead, but the prospect of indoor groups restarting is less promising. Apart from the obvious difficulties presented by the Government rules on Covid-19 precautions, the majority of our group leaders are understandably reluctant to restart at present.

We are not a business, but a charity in our own right. We rely upon our membership to keep us going. Our assets are not great, and we are entirely run by volunteers. Like most organisations we are currently struggling to keep going. Nationally U3A memberships are falling as fewer members renew their annual membership. I hope that by the time our next membership renewal date comes around, the world will be healthy again and we can all go back to our groups and resume our "Normal" lives. I enjoy the few Zoom meetings I have attended but it just is not the same. I miss my groups.

Please remember that we have many members who have depended on their groups for human contact and fellowship. They may still feel isolated and alone. Many of our group leaders have been contacting members and generally making efforts to keep members engaged but you don't need to wait for them to contact you. Why not pick up the phone and call someone you know? The chances are they will be pleased to chat.

That's all for now. Please be assured that all of us, committee members, group leaders and all our other volunteers will continue to do our best to keep things ticking over until the day we can all meet again.

Chris Woolven

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members Ray Bicknell, Betty Moore and Julie Oxley

DU3A Virtual General Meeting - Speaker on 21st September.

Following the success of our previous General Meeting, we have decided to offer another event on **Monday 21st September at 2.00 p.m.**

The speaker will be **Dr Rupert Suckling** who is the Director of Public Health at Doncaster Council. He has kindly agreed to come online and chat to us on Zoom about Doncaster and the coronavirus pandemic. He is also happy to answer any questions you may have.

If there is time, we are also planning to have a general knowledge quiz, just for fun!

Details of access to the event will be published nearer the time.

October - November Newsletter

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

Wednesday 28th October.

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

Cover photo: Ingbirchworth Reservoir by Peter Chubb - Digital Photography Group

GROUPS - UPDATES / NOTICES

INTEREST GROUPS

Contact group leaders to find out if alternative arrangements have been made for meetings.

GENERAL MEETINGS

All face-to-face meetings are cancelled until further notice. The Chair of DU3A will be in touch with you when these meetings start again. Please check your emails as some Virtual General Meetings may be arranged via the web.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

All membership enquiries or renewals should be now be done through Chris Curtis who has taken over from Jill Laming . Her email address and phone number can be found at the back of the newsletter.

GERMAN

The German Group continues to meet weekly via zoom.

JAZZ APPRECIATION

The Jazz Appreciation group is in abeyance at the moment.

PLAYREADING *

This group is unlikely to restart in 2020, as no books are available via Cast.

PHILOSOPHY *

If a venue becomes available, we may have a trial meeting in October.

BASIC FRENCH *

Currently running every 2 weeks on Zoom. Members are happy to continue on Zoom until things settle down.

EASIER FRENCH *

Same as Basic French.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING *

We are hoping for a very careful restart soon. Measures are in place to ensure safe socially distanced dancing - waiting for suitable venue to become available.

CROWN GREEN BOWLS

This group has recommenced - see page 9.

NB: Please be aware of any new Government guidelines/rules. If any group leader is considering a restart they must contact the Groups Co-ordinator for advice before doing so.

* Geoff Tagg is happy to take names of any member interested in joining the groups when normality returns.

LIVING HISTORY

Although the **Living History Group** is not currently meeting, I do have some vacancies if anyone would like to join. The purpose of Living History is to capture and preserve memories so they don't get lost. A topic is given to write about and at our meetings we take it in turns to read them out. Long forgotten memories from childhood and early adulthood come tumbling back and I have often gone home and re-written my own piece to include something I had forgotten.

Some topics this year have been: The 2nd World War through your own eyes or someone else's; Your Dad's occupation; Memories of going to the Dentist; Shops and what do you remember?

So far we have produced two booklets of shared memories with a third in the planning. If it's something you would be interested in please don't hesitate to call me or email me for more information. Contact details are on page 18.

Jess Parkinson

FAMILY HISTORY

The **Family History Group** have been busy digging up ancestors and aspects of their lives. I also held a meeting within the group just for beginners/novices. A couple of our meetings have diversified away from 'subjects' as such, to doing an exercise where everyone did a half hour's research on someone else's ancestor in the group which was a great success. Another exercise was to find an event that happened within the community of an ancestor to discover how it would have affected their life.

Finally, if you are one of those people that, during lockdown, had a sort out of 'family stuff', why not turn those old certificates, photographs, letters etc. into something interesting......a family history, an heirloom. Whether you have a suitcase full of archives or just a story handed down through the generations, novice or experienced, we would love to have you join our friendly group which meets on Zoom fortnightly on Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m. Call, text or email me for more details and to introduce yourself.

Dawn Jarvis





Wentworth Woodhouse from Above

One recent Saturday morning we climbed 135 steps up the side of scaffolding surrounding central the part of Wentworth Woodhouse. the magnificent stately home iust outside Rotherham that has been undergoing renovation since it was acquired by a trust in 2017. We were booked on a roof tour.





For several months now the central part of the house has been shrouded in plastic as contractors work to completely strip and replace the roof over the state rooms. The house was built 300 years ago and the roof was no longer watertight. This had caused serious deterioration to internal structures and work was urgently needed to make sure it was good for another 300 years. £7 million has been provided by the Government for

this purpose. A huge amount of money for a huge roof! The area of the roof is 4 acres and it is surrounded by decorative sandstone statues, urns and balustrade.

The urns were only held in place by their own weight and some had toppled in the past so they were all removed while the work was carried out. Local stonemasons have been used to repair the stone work and to provide matching new pieces. The statues have been repaired in situ. We were shown the storage areas where the stone work – old and new – was assembled prior to being repositioned on the finished roof.

The old slates have been removed and, if they were good enough, have been reused on the wings of the house. All the slate on the main roof is new and from the same Welsh quarry as the original. Several changes have been



made to the construction – the lead rain gutters have been widened to cope with downpours and spouts have been added for 'overflow' when the downpipes can't cope. Climate change means changes to the intensity and duration of rain storms and this had to be catered for. One of the other changes has been to add insulation, something that wasn't considered by a house builder 300 years ago! Additional inspection hatches had been added



over the years but have now been removed and a replacement copper roof on a lower part changed back to lead and the roof restored to its original shape. Sadly all the chimneys have been capped because the cost of lining the chimney stacks is too great for the current budget.

The whole of the central house has been covered by a temporary roof so the work undisturbed could proceed by the elements. The scaffolding is all selfsupporting and entirely independent of the house – it flexes in the wind! Our tour had been booked some time ago but was delayed by the pandemic and the tour group reduced from 20 to 6 to allow for 'social distancing'. There were extensive views from the top across the local countryside to the estate monuments -

Hoober Stand, the Rockingham Mausoleum and Kepple's Column. It was cloudy so not the best weather for taking photographs but inside the cover it was fascinating to see the beautiful brand new roof nearly complete. It didn't feel as vertiginous as I thought it might. The walkways were wide and the handrails well secured.

The scaffolding is already being taken down and the tours are finishing very soon so we feel very lucky to have finally been able to go and take a look. After walking back down to ground level we went round the gardens – accessed from the stable yard. We were impressed by how they have tried to engage

children in the garden by putting out activities and signs for them along with plenty of deckchairs and benches for those who like to sit. After a coffee in the gardens and a walk around we finished the morning with a visit to one of the pubs in Wentworth village for lunch. It was a treat that was all the more appreciated because of the restrictions of the previous months.



Wendy Hattrell

EARLY MEMORIES OF THE DENTIST

I was fortunate as a child to have good teeth so I had to have little dental treatment beyond the occasional inspection and filling, carried out by the West Riding County Council's dental service as it moved round from school to school. They would either bring their equipment with them and set up an empty classroom or arrive in a large lorry with the surgery installed in the back.

I have only two clear memories. One is the smell – which might be an imagined memory – for I am assured by various sources that the mixture of nitrous oxide and oxygen used as an anaesthetic for extractions and more substantial fillings was in fact odourless beyond a faint sweet smell. I'd be interested to see if other people remember an odour.

The other certainly wasn't imagined. This was the dentist's drill. Looking back, it reminds me of a large praying mantis lurking ready to strike, crouching there behind the dentist's chair, all belts and pulleys and wheels, worked by a treadle under the chair operated by his foot. It produced a high-pitched whine and was utterly terrifying.

The 'gas' as we called it was delivered through a rubber mask held over your nose and mouth by the nurse, which certainly did have a smell – a stale rubbery mixture of cold sweat and other people's mouths. Makes me shudder even now. I don't think it put you out completely but lifted you up so you could peer down – hopefully painlessly – at what was happening to you. Most peculiar!

I don't think I attended a dental surgery in Doncaster until I was an adult but I do remember my mother telling me that when I was a child before the war that there were two sorts of dental practices. One was similar to those we have today, where you went for treatment generally, and the other where you just went to have teeth extracted who my mother always referred to as 'pullers', some of whom had alarming reputations.

This, of course, was the time when it was common to have all your teeth out whilst still very young. I remember people not much older than me having all their teeth out as a twenty first birthday present, all of which had to be paid for in cash at the time.

My most painful, but in a way most hilarious, visit to a dentist occurred when I was in the army doing my National Service in Egypt. It was the Christmas of my first year so it would be 1954. A couple of weeks before Christmas I lost a large filling in a back tooth and it got worse and began to hurt, so much so that on the morning of Christmas Eve I went on sick parade and made my way to the medical unit. I thought it was deserted but eventually a corporal in the Medical Corps turned up and let me in. He told me that the duty dentist would be in shortly, and two hours later he turned up. He was a young guy, doing his national service like the rest of us, and I don't know when he had had his last drink, but he reeked of whiskey and was obviously still drunk. Whilst he identified the tooth, I could see his hands were shaking and I feared the worst. I shrieked in pain as he prodded the offending molar, and he then called the corporal medic in to give me an injection. I feared the worst. By this time, he was mumbling incoherently and just wanted to get the extraction over. He didn't give the anaesthetic long enough to work and grabbed the tooth with his pliers or whatever they use, and as he pulled down, I shot up and knocked him over. The pain was excruciating! He was sitting on the floor with his back against the wall as the medic dashed back in the room to see what all the noise was about.

Assessing the situation quickly he retrieved the dentist's tools from the floor and without more ado finished the extraction himself - which he certainly shouldn't have done, but my word was I grateful! As I was rinsing my mouth, he brought me a carton of painkillers, telling me to avoid alcohol, and off I trotted. As I was getting royally drunk that night in the Corporals' Mess I bumped into the medic. He grinned and I bought him a pint!!

Colin Brown Living History Group - April 2020

CROWN GREEN BOWLS

Uniting 3rd Agers

At Haslam Park, Bessacarr Thursday afternoons Summertime: 2.00 p.m. Wintertime: 1.30 p.m.



Following National Government, Doncaster MBC, Doncaster District Bowling Association, and Haslam Park Bowling Club regulations, and using the mandatory Track and Trace system, after a delayed start to the season we have been able to enjoy Bowling again during the month of August.

The weather has been kind enough for us to be active for at least an hour each week before or between showers. Keeping our distance has not been a problem, and we have all enjoyed being out in the fresh air as a break from domestic chores. Not having the use of facilities in the locked (by DMBC) pavilion might be an inconvenience, but it certainly has not affected ambience or the competitive streak that is still evident in our games.

Newcomers are always welcome, but please note that when the clocks change in October, our starting time also changes, moving back to 1.30pm

George Kirk

**** Please check with George before turning up at Haslam Park ****

False Witness

To catch the September drizzle the Aspidistras were all out along Park Avenue.

When ours died a few weeks later my mam suspected Mr Hartsorn had peed in it on his way home from t' club. Eventually she became convinced of this and warned all our neighbours. But later chucking it into the bin my father discovered the roots were absolutely infested with vine weevil.

He took great enjoyment pointing this out to my mam suggesting she should do the right thing and inform all the neighbours. But no. Sticking to her guns she first claimed he could have put them there. Then she came up with the crackpot idea that because Mr Hartsorn was a big wine drinker the vine weevil could have somehow entered through his urine!

He'd once vomited his denture up into our front privet hedge, after that my mam never had a good word for him.

From that moment every time my mam came out with one of her opinions or some gossip we dismissed with - Oh, it's the Hartsorn theory all over again.

And of course we made sure she never, ever, lived it down.

Denis Marsden Writers Group

Third Age Trust - Annual General Meeting 2020

The 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Third Age Trust will be be held online on 29th September and all U3A members will be welcome to attend.

We are using a company called Lumiglobal to provide a secure platform for the meeting and associated voting. To access the meeting, either download the dedicated "Lumi AGM" app on your smartphone or tablet or go to the dedicated AGM website at <u>https://web.lumiagm.com</u> on the day. We will publish the meeting ID nearer the date.

If you are a registered voting delegate for your U3A you will be sent a unique password by email ahead of the meeting so you can log in with that to attend the AGM. You will then be able to cast your votes during the meeting.

Non-voting delegates are also very welcome to attend the AGM. You should also download the app or go to the web address as above on the day of the meeting. You will be prompted to complete fields including your name and U3A to access the meeting as a guest. You will be able to listen and watch the presentations and slides but non-voting members will not be able to ask questions or vote, as at our usual "in person" AGMs.

Weekly Maths Challenges https://www.u3a.org.uk/component/tags/tag/maths

Weekly Quizzes https://www.u3a.org.uk/component/tags/tag/quizzes



More than cauliflower cheese!



Ok, this one wasn't ordinary, made with sheep's curd and creme fraiche, but normally it's this

Cook the cauliflower in about two cm of salted boiling water, lid on so it steams.

Finely chop a small onion and sauté gently in butter (I know, I know!) to cook. When it is translucent add a tablespoon of flour, stir and cook gently for a couple of minutes, then add about 250ml of milk, stirring all the time. It needs to be thick but if it's really claggy add a bit more milk. Add salt and a twist or two of pepper. Drain the cauli and transfer to an ovenproof bowl.

Now, the traditional recipe would be to pour over the sauce, bung on some grated Cheddar cheese and stick in the oven at

180° for about twenty five minutes but we can do better than that! Much better!

So the things that really give it a zap any or all of these -

- Instead of a white sauce, warm marscapone, ricotta or curds. And thin out with creme fraiche.
- Omit the onion and make a cheese sauce instead.
- Sit the cauli on a bed of cooked macaroni and make the sauce thinner and more sauce as the macaroni drinks it up.
- Stir in blue cheese or goats cheese, with or without the onion.

And the topping - the very best bit! It has to be cheese - but vary it or mix it up. My favourite is grated blue mixed with grated Gran Padano or Parmesan. And top it off with sesame seeds!

But to really lift it above and beyond, finely slice plenty of cloves of garlic - I use FOUR big ones. Fry them in a little pan in about a teaspoon of butter then when they are brown and the top of the dish in the oven is also well browned, pour the butter and garlic over the top and give it a couple of minutes more in the oven to soak in.

Have it with salad so you don't feel bad about the butter! Or have it with chips if you don't care! Or have slices of good bread or even boiled potatoes.

Just don't stint on the cheese!

Paula Harmer Group leader of 'Cooking without Meat'

Box Making - Revisited

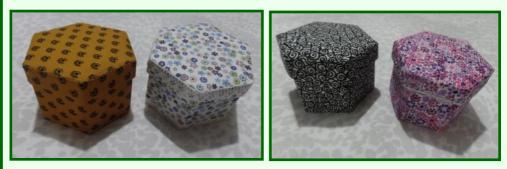
Having had to shield for weeks that turned into over four months towards the end, one runs out of things that need to be done or things that are just done for pleasure.

I thought I would try making little boxes covered with material. I did these some years ago and had much enjoyment with them. I looked out my templates and started cutting up cardboard and going through some boxes of pretty material. Where did all this come from? Such a lot to choose from.

I did get in a mess with the glue which always seems to pour out way too fast when you're not paying attention. But working in my kitchen close to the sink, I was able to quickly rinse my hands under the tap.

The first box took me ages to complete, but the others went quite smoothly. There was some sewing involved too, once the glue had dried. So quite a slow process. All in all, I was pleased with the end result.

Anne Windle



Finished boxes



Some of the equipment used



Jack and Claire Chantry celebrating their 47th wedding anniversary during lockdown!

Wishing them all the best from their many DU3A friends.

47



AGM Polling Data as of 12th August 2020. Closing date - 16th August 2020

Number of responses = 78. All have been confirmed as eligible. Quorum requirements have been met.

%For	% Against	% Abstain
50.6	1.2	48.2
95.2	2.4	2.4
97.6	0	2.4
98.8	0	1.2
100	0	0
97.6	0	2.4
97.6	0	2.4
100	0	0
98.8	0	1.2
98.8	0	1.2
98.8	0	1.2
97.6	1.2	1.2
98.8	0	1.2
	50.6 95.2 97.6 98.8 100 97.6 97.6 100 98.8 98.8 98.8 98.8 98.8	50.6 1.2 95.2 2.4 97.6 0 98.8 0 100 0 97.6 0 97.6 0 97.6 0 98.8 0 98.8 0 98.8 0 98.8 0 98.8 0 98.8 0 97.6 1.2

Out and about with my camera























B Thompson

WALKING CRICKET

The Walking Cricket group started meeting again in September under strict Covid-19 rules. It took quite a lot of effort to set it up but everyone agreed that it was great to meet again. We do qualify as an "Organised Team Sport" so we are expecting to continue to play on a weekly basis.

The weather was good and although we were all a little rusty, balls were bowled, runs (walks?) were scored and wickets were taken. Nobody



cared who won and we all went away happy. We intend to keep playing as long as we can into the autumn.

Current ECB rules do not allow us to transfer to an indoor venue with more than 6 people so we will not be returning to the Dome until they are changed.



If you would like to come along - whether or not you have ever played before – Please let me know. Send an email or give me a ring. We usually have roughly equal numbers of ladies and gents playing so even if you didn't play at school please feel free to join us. Contact details back this at the of are newsletter

Chris Woolven



The **Captain Cook event** this summer is cancelled. The organisers Whitby U3A are proposing to hold the event next summer, on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th June 2021.

Summer Learning Break: The Hawkhills venue has been retained from 26th to 29th July 2021, details will be published later in the year.

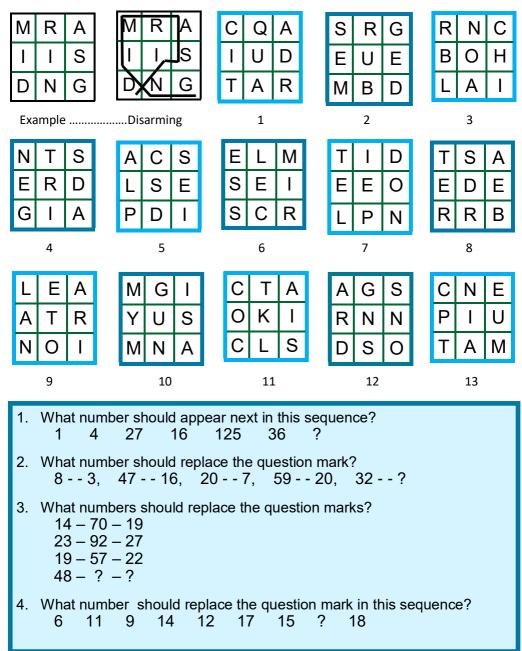
U3A Life in Lockdown

yahru3a.co.uk A national film has been produced. It celebrates the wonderful things U3A members up and down the country have been doing in these difficult times, duration is approximately 7 minutes.

Go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBSfUGiszz0taht



Find the nine-letter words by tracking from one square to the next, going up, down, sideways or diagonally, IN ORDER. You must use all letters once. (No proper nouns).



Solutions for August - September puzzles

3	4	27	28	29	32	33	1	15	14	13	6	5	4	1														
2	5	26	49	30	31	34		16	17	12	7	8	3	2	[35	36	31	30	29	28	1	17	18	23	24	27	28
1	6	25	48	47	46	35		19	18	11	10	9	46	47	Ì	34	33	32	23	24	27	1	16	19	22	25	26	29
8	7	24	23	44	45	36		20	29	30	33	34	45	48	Ì	17	18	21	22	25	26	1	15	20	21	32	31	30
9	20	21	22	43	42	37		21	28	31	32	35	44	49	Ī	16	19	20	1	2	3	1	14	13	36	33	4	3
10	19	18	17	16	41	38		22	27	26	37	36	43	42		15	12	11	8	7	4		11	12	35	34	5	2
11	12	13	14	15	40	39		23	24	25	38	39	40	41		14	13	10	9	6	5		10	9	8	7	6	1
		5 4	6 3	7 20	8 19	9 16	10 15	11 14	12 13		10				18	-			9									
	ī		-	1020		1220		1		1	2					_		3	_						4			
		4	3	20	19 18	16	15 26	14	13		9	12		0.000					50	1	00	07		00	40	47		
		56	2 55	21	23	24	25	30	20		8	7	24						51		28 29	27 26	24 25	23 22	18 19	17 16		
		57	54	51	50	43	42	31	32		5	6	25 28			-		-	33		30	1	20	22	20	15		
		58	53	52	49	44	41	34	33		3	2	29		-		-		4		31	32	3	8	9	14		
		59	60	61	48	45	40	35	36		34		1.57.128	1000		-			15		36	33	4	7	10	13		
		64	63	62	47	46	39	38	37		35		1000		1.000				4		35	34	5	6	11	12		
					5	5				6							7											

Solution to Riddle: How much will it cost?

The most straightforward approach would be to break a link on the end of each of the five chains, and then reattach the link to the back of the next chain in the loop. This would cost you $\pounds 50$ for the five links that were broken and resealed.

But you can actually do it for £40! Instead of breaking a link in each chain, break all four links in one of the chains and then use those four links to attach the remaining four chains together. Now you've saved £10. Use it on something nice.



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.

Page 5: Living History:

Jess Parkinson: see 'Living History' page on the DU3A website and click on the Blue Bird to send a message.

Contact Numbers

	DU3A Committee Mem	bers					
Chair	Chris Woolven						
Vice Chair	Jane Page						
Secretary	Diane Woolven						
Treasurer	Derek Marriott						
Membership Secretary	Christine Curtis						
Group Co-ordinator	Vanessa Whaley						
Minutes Secretary	Nora Boyle						
Publicity	Jane Page						
Beacon Administrator	Wendy Hattrell						
Committee	Jill Laming						
Committee	Diane Williams						
Committee	John Wheeler						
Committee	Paula Harmer						
Activity Groups & Other: Contacts							
Group leaders - see printed Newsletter for telephone numbers, or DU3A Website							
Newsletter Editor & Website Manager	B Thompson	bthompsonu3a@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......

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!

We wish them the best during this difficult time and look forward to having our meetings there again in the future.

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/January newsletter need to be received by <u>Wednesday 28th October</u>

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

Newsletter edited by Bridget Thompson



QR Code for DU3A website