



Wishing You All A Very Merry Christmas

Message From the Chairman

Welcome to December's newsletter

Looking forward to our December meeting, which is our Christmas party and promises to be fun—see later in the newsletter for details. Thank you to the committee and additional volunteers helping out this year, it wouldn't happen without you all!

As the year winds down between the festivities we inevitably think about the coming year and what new challenges we might wish to take on and the changes we may make. Perhaps you might have ideas that you'd like to share with other members, an activity or interest you hope that others might enjoy sharing. Do let us know – a new group can soon get off the ground and bring people together in a shared interest, as with the new Tai Chi group and the Nature Group. There is plenty of support to help get started—just contact Teresa!

Whatever you will be doing, we wish you all the best for the festive season.



Maggie Bray

u3a Nature Group

An exploratory meeting of members interested in forming a u3a Bird Watching Group was held. After some discussion it was decided to call it the "u3a Nature Group" to predominantly look at birds but also all fauna and flora. A discussion took place on the future formation of the group and it was decided to have two more exploratory meetings in January.

On **Monday 15th January** we will have an outdoor meeting to North Cave Wetlands meeting at the Cricket Club at 9.30am to car share. There is plenty of car parking at the Wetlands plus toilets and a food wagon. Members can either use the wagon or take a packed lunch. They can spend a half day there or stay for the afternoon.

On **Monday 22nd January** we will have an indoor meeting at the Cricket Club from 2.00-4.00pm. There will be a guest speaker, Graham Thurlow, who will give an illustrated talk 'Wildlife of the East Riding'. Following this there will be a discussion as to the needs and formation of the group, regarding dates, times, etc.



Further details from Gerald Massey
Tel: 01377 257063



The Discussion Group

Group meets every Friday at 9:30 am in the Drifffield Community Centre
All u3a members are welcome to join us

Please note a change to our previously advertised programme

1st December—Sainthood

If you had the power, is there anybody you would nominate for Sainthood?
What do you think it means for somebody to be called a saint?

8th December—Planning Meeting

Come along and help us decide our topics for early 2024.
This will be our last meeting this year. We will resume on Friday 19 January 2024

For more details please contact **Chris Taylor— 07484 160660**





425 Milers Group

The 425 milers are changing the routine for *December!*
Our walk will take place on Tuesday, 5th December and we will be joining the longer walking group for a Christmas jaunt from Sewerby on the cliff top path and along the promenade.

This will be followed by lunch at the Marine Bar.

As timings will be different from usual, Jill Pick will be sending you all an email to give you more details and a menu. If you haven't received this please contact Jill at: jill_pick2001@yahoo.co.uk

For more information please contact the Group Leader Paul Grinstead by email on p.grinstead2@btinternet.com or call 07932 494357



Walking Group

Our next walk will be on Tuesday the 5th December from Sewerby.

This will be our last walk of the year and, as usual at this time of year, we will stop for our **Christmas Fish & Chip lunch in Bridlington.**

There will be some slight changes to our normal meeting times and contact information—therefore if you haven't been notified of meeting points and times please contact the walk leader Jill either by email jill_pick2001@yahoo.co.uk or phone/text 07415825270



Group Leader—Steve Whitaker—07952 981786 sp.whitaker@yahoo.co.uk

Christmas Crackers

The Christmas cracker was invented by London-based confectioner and baker Tom Smith (1823 – 1869) who set up shop in the 1840s. Smith initially produced wedding cakes and sweets but on a trip to Paris he discovered the French 'bon bon', a sugared almond wrapped in a twist of tissue paper. Bonbons proved a hit at Christmas time and to encourage year-round sales, Smith added a small love motto inside the wrapper. The inspiration to add the explosive 'pop' was supposedly sparked by the crackling sound of a log fire. Smith patented his first cracker device in 1847 and perfected the mechanism in the 1860s. Tom's son, Walter, added the elaborate hats, made of fancy paper, and novelties and gifts from Europe, America and Japan. The success of the cracker enabled the business to grow and move to larger premises in Finsbury Square, employing 2,000 people by the 1890s, including many female workers.



Tom Smith & Company, 1927, UK. Museum no. S.96-2007.
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Sociable Strollers Group

Meets on the first Friday of each month in the Eastgate Car Park, Driffield—Leaving at 1pm unless informed of a different time. Walks are usually between 2-3 miles ending with refreshments at a café.

Strong footwear is advised for the walk

1st December—Beverley

We are catching the 11am bus 121 to see the Christmas trees displayed in the Minster
Followed by Lunch!!

Please could Strollers only contact Sue if they are unable to take part

Group Leader—Sue Clarkson
01377 256857 / 07762 782082
clarksonsusan40@gmail.com





Independent Persons' Group

We meet on the second Friday of each month at the Cricket and Recreation Club, Kings Mill, Driffield 10.30am—12pm



Our Next Meeting will be held on

Friday 8th December

to discuss suggestions from members for future outings and activities

For more information please contact

Marian Carter—01377 821374

or Penelope Kinsley—07837 604166

(Members not on email are always phoned and updated)

Members enjoying a coffee and a chat at our November Meeting



In 1942 Irving Berlin wrote White Christmas.

The Bing Crosby version sold over 100 million copies, making it the best selling Christmas single of all time.

SANTA IS A YORKSHIREMAN

by Chris Burdon....

Santa is a Yorkshireman
Of this I'm fairly sure
I heard him tiptoe in my room
At roughly Ten to four
"I 'ope tha's fast asleep" he said
"Or tha'll get nowt my lad"
He smelled of Hi Karate
(Must av pinched it from my dad)
Just down stairs I'd left a treat
Santa loves a beer
He loves pork pies and single malt
That was Dad's idea
When I woke next morning
I ran down stairs to see
If Santa had been kind enough
To leave gifts under t'tree
He got our mam a Nightie
And a pair of china pigs
Our dad got socks and undies
And 200 park lane cigs
My sister got a Barbie
Sat on a plastic horse
A One Direction annual
Which she loved of course
When I unwrapped my parcels
My Yorkshire heart did sing
Each gift that Santa gave me
A truly wondrous thing
A flat cap for my noggin
A vest of finest string
The ferret keepers handbook
Each gift fit for a king
So thank you Santa thank you
You surely are a tyke
But can you please remember
Next year I'd like a bike!

Classical Music & Opera Group

Regrettably The Classical Music & Opera Group is taking a break from Monthly Meetings. We hope to be back in action very soon!

If anyone is interested in helping with the research and IT preparation for these meetings

please contact

Mary Wells

Tel: 07521 795688

Email: cs896@btinternet.com



Mince Pies



have been part of a traditional British Christmas since at least the 16th century. Originally, they were filled with meat, such as partridge, pheasant, rabbit, pigeon and hare, but over time, they became a sweet treat by replacing the filling with dried fruit. You should make a wish when you eat your first mince pie of the season and it is said to bring good luck if you eat one mince pie on each of the 12 days of Christmas.



National u3a—Online Learning



Live Cookery Demonstration – Christmas special

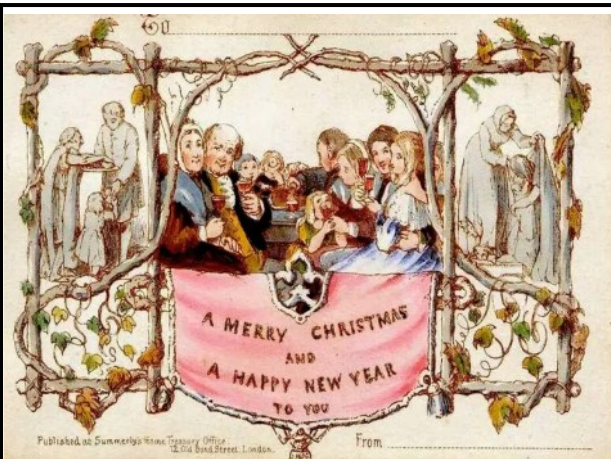
Chef Alex from 'Vegetarian for Life' demos his delicious festive recipes live from his kitchen.

Thurs 7 Dec at 10.30am

Free - online via zoom

[u3a - Online Learning Events](#)

Christmas Trees are popular with families around the world and they have been a part of the Christmas celebration for centuries. The first recorded use of a Christmas tree was in 1533, when German theologian Martin Luther is said to have decorated a small evergreen tree with candles to celebrate Christmas and enjoy the beauty of nature. In the 18th century, trees were decorated with lights and the tradition quickly spread throughout Europe and by the 19th century, Christmas trees were being set up in homes and public squares in many countries around the world. In Britain, Christmas trees were also becoming increasingly popular, and they began to appear in public spaces in the Victorian era, with the first being in London's Trafalgar Square in 1841 and in 1848, a giant Christmas tree was put up in Leicester Square. The Christmas tree has continued its popularity with most homes having one – and for many, the trees remain a symbol of hope, joy and love.



Most Expensive Christmas Card

The most valuable Christmas card in the world was sold at auction in Devizes, Wiltshire, on 24th November 2001 for £20,000 to an anonymous bidder. The card, measuring 5" x 3", was sent by Sir Henry Cole to his grandmother in 1843. The initial print run was for 1000 cards. Designed by painter John Callcott Horsley, the cards were printed lithographically and then hand-coloured by the professional colourer Mason. Cole used as many of these cards as he required and sold the rest for one shilling each under the pseudonym Felix Summerly. There are only 12 of the original cards still in existence.

Tai Chi



Tai Chi

**We have two Groups—Feel free to turn up and have a go!!
Entry Fee—£1**

**It has been great to get so much feedback saying how the sessions are helping already and people are not afraid to ask questions.
It is also fantastic to see new members turning up.**



Meetings held in the Community Centre in the main hall on the first, third and fourth Thursday of the month.

Group 1—12.30pm for 1 hour

Group 2—1.45pm for 1 hour

Dates for December—7th, 21st and 28th

Both Groups are Beginners classes and will include warm up exercises, Qigong, Meditation and Lee style Tai Chi form. Tai Chi can help you improve your health by learning to breathe correctly, improve flexibility and balance and help calm the mind.

Group Leader: Maggie Bray

Tel: 07753 224793 Email: maggie.bray@hotmail.co.uk

圣诞快乐

**Do not dwell in the past
Do not dream of the future
Concentrate the mind on the
Present Moment
"Buddha"**

Scientists calculated that for Santa to deliver presents to every home in the world, he would have to travel at a speed of 4,921,200 miles per hour!



Articles for the Newsletter

If you have any articles or photos for inclusion in the next Newsletter please email them to teresahollins17@gmail.com
Tel: 07840 818983



Local History Group

Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Driffield Community Centre

ALL WELCOME!

20th December -"The Brontes in East Yorkshire"

An original film by Bickerdyke-Grinstead Productions

17th January—"The Origins of East Yorkshire Railways and The Railway King" David Walford, Railway Historian and Polymath

21st February—"The Driffield-Beverley Historical Axis"
Josh and Chris Rees

20th March—"The Wild Wolds—A Heathen Heartland?"
Rev Robert Amos

For more information please contact **Ross Weekes** - 01377 253832
Email: rossweekes@btinternet.com



Local History Group has had a few volunteers to help with refreshments (Thank You!) but not enough yet! We had

almost 70 people attend the last meeting and we urgently need help in the kitchen to serve teas and then wash up.



We are now trying to complete a refreshment rota but need more names!

If you can help please contact Ross by email

rossweekes@btinternet.com
or ring him on 01377 253832



We would like to wish all our Members a Very Nadolig Llawen

Geology Group

Indoor Geology Group meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in the Driffield Town Cricket and Recreation Club 10am-12noon

Our next meeting, the last one of the year, will be held on 14th December and we resume on 11th January 2024

For further details please contact the Group Leader
Kathy Chilver— 01377 255052

Archaeology/History Group

Meets on the first and third Tuesday morning of each month at the Driffield Community Centre—10am to 12 noon

Our last meeting of the year will be held on

5th December
"What's in a name?"
(A word fun game)

Margaret & Co. from Malton Museum

We resume after the holidays
On 16th January 2024

For more information, please contact
Susan Adamson - 01377 270429

The jockey was riding the favourite at York and was well ahead of the field. His horse rounded the final bend, when suddenly he was hit on the head by a turkey and a string of sausages. He managed to keep control and pulled back into the lead, only to be struck by a box of Christmas crackers and a dozen mince pies as he went over the last fence. With great skill he managed to steer the horse to the front of the field once more when, on the run in, he was struck on the head by a bottle of sherry and a Christmas pudding. Thus distracted, he only managed to come in second. He immediately went to the race stewards to complain that he had been seriously hampered.



Jingle Bells

On 16th December 1965, Air Force pilot Thomas Stafford and Navy pilot Wally Schirra, played "Jingle Bells" on a harmonica and miniature sleigh bells just before re-entering the Earth's atmosphere aboard Gemini 6, making it the first song ever to be performed and transmitted from outer space.



QUIZ NIGHT

Quiz Night

Our Quiz Nights are held on the last Monday of the month starting at 7.00pm in The Lounge Bar of The Bell Hotel in Driffield



Paul Atkin
01377 241678

£2.00 per person
**ALL MONEY IS
RETURNED AS PRIZES**

Our next Quiz Night will be held on Monday 18th December
All u3a members are welcome to come along and join a team

Table Tennis Group

Meets 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of each month in the Driffield Community Centre 7.15pm-9.15pm



Our next Meetings will be on 6th and 20th December

We will be having a break over Christmas and will resume on 3rd January

For more details please call Melanie Campbell—01377 250235

French Conversation Group

Meets every other Wednesday morning 10am—12noon in Driffield



This is a small group so please contact Group Leader **Jenny Canning** regarding available places
Email—tinribs_fr@yahoo.co.uk
Mobile—07949799666

Reading Group

We usually meet on the last Thursday of the month in Members' homes but our next meeting, and the last of the year, will be on 7th December—we are going out to tea at the Sledmere cafe.

For more details please contact our Group Leader Julia Spencer-Jones
Tel: 07726 264712
Email: charles.juliasj@gmail.com



The Keld at Kings Mill, Driffield taken by Maggie Bray on 25th November



Your Photos

Many thanks to all those Members who have shared their photos to show us what you get up to at your Group meetings and activities.

Please keep them coming!



Scrabble

Gerald Massey - 01377 257063

Mah Jongg

Denise Massey - 01377 257063

Rummikub

Carole Salmon—07905 682103
Kay Maslen—07838 208025

The Games Group

The Games Group is an amalgamation of three separate groups (Mah Jongg, Rummikub and Scrabble) who meet together to defray costs. They all meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Cricket Club from 2pm—4 pm.

This is a friendly social occasion with tea, coffee and biscuits.

We would be pleased to see anyone who is interested in any of our three groups to drop into one of our meetings with no obligation. Patient help will be given to anyone interested in any of the games even if you have no experience.

Our next meeting, the last of the year, will be on 12th December
We look forward to seeing you!





Answers in January's Newsletter



CHRISTMAS SUDOKU

Fill the grids so that each row, column and sub-grid contain each letter of the words JOYFUL and ADVENT

JOYFUL

Y		O			
	J			O	Y
				U	F
	F			Y	L
U	Y			J	
L			T	F	

ADVENT

	T	D			
		A	T	N	
	E				N
A		N			T
		E		T	
V	N			A	

P
R
E
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S

CHRISTMAS BIG WORD CHALLENGE

What's the longest word you can find that starts with the letter on the left and ends with the letter on the right?

I'll start you off with a
15 letter word
—let me know if you beat it!

SPORTSWOMANSHIP

S
T
R
E
S
S
E
S

Answers to November's Puzzles

Which word or phrase is the odd one out?

- Catwoman
- Deus ex Machina
- Parishioner
- Pyromania
- Scuba

Answer: Parishioner

It starts with a capital city—the others end in a country

Which word is the odd one out?

- First
- Second
- Third
- Forth
- Fifth
- Sixth
- Seventh
- Eighth

Answer: Forth—because it is spelled incorrectly

Which word is the odd one out?

- Seventy
- Brawl
- Clover
- Proper
- Carrot
- Swing
- Change
- Travel
- Sacred
- Stone

Answer: Carrot—if you remove the first and last letters from all the other words they form another word

What number comes next in the sequence?

7 8 5 5 3 4 4

Answer: 6

They are the number of letters in the months of the year - August has 6 letters



Twas the Night Before Christmas





Card Making and Craft Group

Meetings are held in the Community Centre on the last Friday of the month from 10.45am - 12.30pm
£3 per person to cover refreshments, rent and materials

There will be no meeting in December
Our next meeting will be held on Friday 26th January



If you are interested in joining this Group or would like more details please contact

Maureen Blackwell—01377 253183—maureenblackwellu3a@gmail.com

Adrienne Bailey—07530 714186—Adrienne.bailey@outlook.com

or **Debbie Ireland-O'Neill—07917 447974—D.Ireland-ONEILL@hotmail.com**



Bridge Group

For Beginners to the more Advanced

We meet on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 2pm in The Committee Room of the Community Centre

Our next meetings will be held on 6th, 13th and 20th December and then on 3rd January 2024

For more information please contact Group Leader - **George Ansell** - 07929 299362



Our Bridge Group Members are delighted with their new tables!





U3a Holidays—2024

Scotland—6th January 2024



Details of our pick up/drop off times (Driffield) and our final itinerary (subject to weather conditions) will hopefully be with us all shortly. Please keep an eye out for an email either from me or the coach company.



In the meantime, Ann Sue & Liz wish all our Member Travellers a Very Happy Christmas and All the Very Best for 2024



For all enquiries please contact Ann Wilkinson—wilkynaff@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07747 102635



Away Days

Outings will take place approximately every six weeks starting in March through the summer months with a Christmas outing to include a Christmas Market and a meal.

Coach departs from Driffield Rugby Club Car Park at 9.00am and approximately 4pm from venue arriving back in Driffield at approximately 6pm

Food may be available at or near the Venue or you can take a picnic lunch with you

Details of Away Days for 2024 will be announced in the New Year!

For more details please contact maureenblackwellu3a@gmail.com or phone 01377 253183



Digital Photography Group

We meet in the Community Centre on the third Monday of each month
10am—12noon

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 18th December

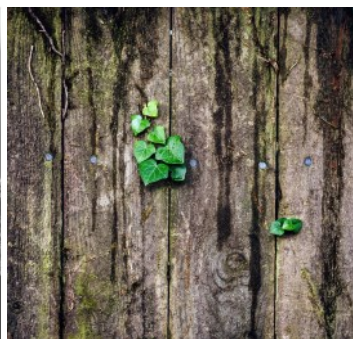
Once a month we have a Photo Walk where we meet at a pre-arranged place, weather permitting. Our November walk was in Millenium Park in Driffield.

At our November meeting we discussed group ideas and business, showed members' images from our two monthly Themes, which were AUTUMN and STILL LIFE, then a presentation on the development of cameras in the 1930s with two fine old examples to look at.

We have a varied membership, all with experience to share.
Tea, coffee and treats are included! Why not join us?

For more information please contact **Penelope Kinsley on 07837 604166**

A selection of photos taken by one of our Members on the Monthly Theme



Monthly Meetings

Drifffield Community Centre - Second Thursday of each month—2pm-4pm
All Members Welcome * £1.50 admission

14th December - Christmas Party

2pm-4pm in the Community Centre

Join us for a Christmas Buffet
followed by entertainment from the Talented Sven
and his assistant Chloe!

MEMBERS ONLY



Raffle
Christmas
Buffet

NB There will be no Book Swap at the
Christmas Party but it will be back at our
Meeting in January



PROGRAMME—2024

11th January—Tony Hawkrige—“An Afternoon on the Road”

Having learnt to drive at the age of eight and being able to manoeuvre an articulated lorry by the age of nine, Tony knows a thing or two about lorries! A light hearted illustrated account of the funny side of his life as a lorry driver.



8th February—A Murder Mystery by Colin Bickerdyke

“Murder at the Manor House” is an entirely new fictional presentation. The clues/scenes are shown as a slide show with music as presented at movie theatres in the early 1920s. The action takes place in the Manor House of the Colonel and his wife in the late summer of 1922. Canapes and Bucks Fizz/Juice will be served in the short musical interval. **Admission by Ticket Only**

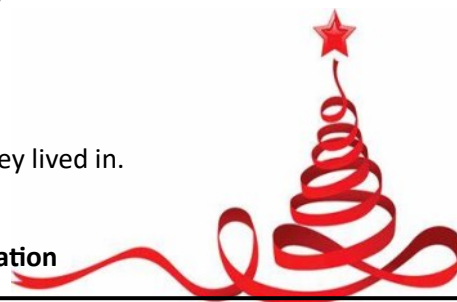
14th March—Ray Clarke—“North Yorkshire Moors Geology and Wildlife”

13th April—Pauline Waslin—“Burton Agnes Hall”

The 400 year+ history of Burton Agnes Hall through the families and times they lived in.

9th May—Lis Hallett MBE—“Life and Times of a District Nurse”

13th June—Tony Collinson—the Lad from Leodis—An Audio Visual presentation



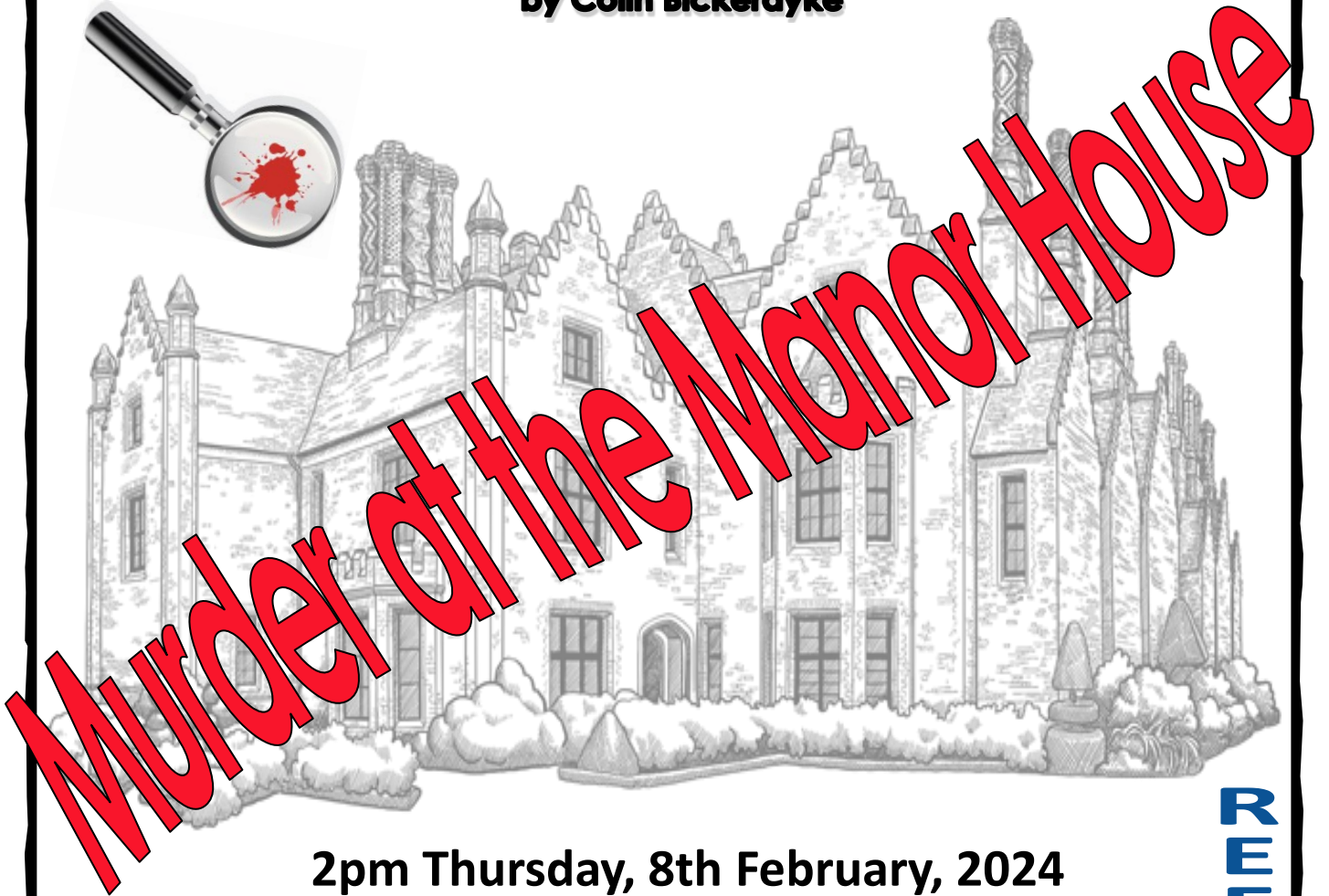
VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

We are still looking for volunteers to help serve refreshments at our Monthly Meetings for 2024. The kitchen is always set up in advance - duties are serving refreshments with a smile and washing up. If you would like to help us please contact Ann on 07747 102635 or email wilkynaff@yahoo.co.uk (or in person at a Monthly Meeting—usually in the kitchen!).



Driffield & Wolds u3a Presents **A Murder Mystery**

by **Colin Bickerdyke**



**2pm Thursday, 8th February, 2024
in the Driffield Community Centre**

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY—£3

**On sale at the u3a Christmas Party on 14th December,
and at the Monthly Meeting in January**

**Optional 1920s Dress
(Prize for the Best Costume)**

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Your u3a Committee

CHAIRMAN / BEACON ADMINISTRATOR	Maggie Bray	07753 224793
SECRETARY	Amanda Evans	07932 759262
TREASURER	Paul Davies	haven4angels@hotmail.co.uk
VICE CHAIRMAN	Chris Taylor	07484 160660
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Carole Salmon	07905 682103
MEMBERSHIP TEAM	Kay Maslen	07838 208025
ACCORD ADMINISTRATOR	Denise Massey	01377 257063
SPEAKER FINDER	Ann Wilkinson	07747 102635
GROUPS LIAISON / NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Teresa Hollins	07840 818983
COMMITTEE	Anne Firth	07752 154506

Groups and Group Leaders

425 Milers	Paul Grinstead	07932 494357
Archaeology/History	Susan Adamson	01377 270429
Away Days	Maureen Blackwell	01377 253183
Bridge	George Ansell	07929 299362
Card Making and Crafts	Maureen Blackwell	01377 253198
	Debbie Ireland-O'Neill	07917 447974
	Adrienne Bailey	07530 714186
Classical Music and Opera	Mary Wells	07521 795688
Digital Photography	Penelope Kinsley	07837 604166
Discussion Group	Chris Taylor	07484 160660
French Conversation	Jenny Canning	07949 799666
Geology	Kathy Chilver	01377 255052
Independent Persons	Marian Carter	01377 821374
	Penelope Kinsley	07837 604166
Local History	Ross Weekes	01377 253832
Mah Jongg	Denise Massey	01377 257063
Nature Group	To be decided	
Quiz Night	Paul Atkins	01377 241678
Reading Group	Julia Spencer-Jones	07726 264712
Rummikub	Carole Salmon	07905 682103
	Kay Maslen	07838 208025
Scrabble Group	Gerald Massey	01377 257063
Sociable Strollers	Sue Clarkson	01377 256857
Table Tennis	Melanie Campbell	01377 250235
Tai Chi	Maggie Bray	07753 224793
Walking Group	Steve Whitaker	01377 271447

Important Reminder to Group Leaders!

If you hire a venue to hold your meetings and are having a Christmas / New Year break please ensure that you inform them—otherwise you may be charged!

Your Membership

This year's membership will extend to 31st March 2024. If your current membership ran out on 30th September you will get six months free.

New Members will pay £7.50 for the half year.

If you have any queries please contact Carole Salmon on 07905 682103



Christmas Tree Festival

Many thanks to Maggie and Carole for doing a great job of the u3a Christmas Tree—on display at All Saints Church, Driffield

Our Website Our u3a website contains information about the Driffield & Wolds u3a and full details of our events. www.u3asites.org.uk/driffieldwolds

What? When? Where? Details of all our events can be found in this Newsletter, on our Website, in Chris's weekly email and in the Driffield & Wolds Weekly

Gift Aid Donating through Gift Aid means The Driffield & Wolds u3a can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It is completely free and the form is available on our website or at our monthly meetings. www.u3asites.org.uk/driffieldwolds

