

Message from the (temporary) Editor

It's February, the shortest month, though this one is a day longer than usual. Teresa has stepped down as Newsletter editor, and we are really going to miss her. So we are looking for someone new to take over. This month I'm having a go, though I know I can't match Teresa's creativity. If anybody else fancies the challenge we would be delighted to hear from you. We can provide you with Microsoft Publisher. I have kept Teresa's farewell message below.

Being editor for this month, I have let the power go to my head and have decided to give Maggie a month off from producing a "Message from the Chairman". Instead you have a message from me.

All our groups have now emerged from their Christmas and New Year hibernation, and most are again in full swing. It feels like Spring is on the way. Apart from storms Isha and Jocelyn, that is. Apparently we still have Kathleen, Lilian and Minnie to come.

Membership renewal date is approaching and you will all be getting reminder letters in March. I hope you have enjoyed this year's membership and will choose to continue. That's all from me.

Have a happy February.

Chris Taylor

Wanted! Newsletter Editor

This will be my last Newsletter. I would like to thank you all for your help, support, contributions and kind words!

If you would be interested in taking on the task please let Maggie know as soon as possible.

I use Microsoft Publisher to produce the Newsletter and save it as a PDF document for distribution to Members. There are several other applications that could be used instead —it would depend on what you were most familiar with and which you preferred.

Wishing you all a Very Happy
and Healthy 2024!

Teresa



An encounter from our Scotland holiday

425 Milers Group

The 425 Walking Group (second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of the month) has changed its walking times. **There will be no afternoon walks this year.** All walks will be in the morning, meeting at Eastgate South car park (coach parking area) at 9.30am.

The February walks are:

Tuesday, 13th February, Brandesburton. For more details, contact walk leader Paul: 07932494357, p.grinstead2@btinternet.com;

Thursday, 22 February, Millington. More details, from walk leader Jim: 07443911750, jimstockwell@hotmail.co.uk.

For more information about the group please contact the Group Leader Paul Grinstead by email on p.grinstead2@btinternet.com or call 07932 494357 or 01377 255272



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



We will be meeting on Friday 2 February at 2pm for a planning meeting to arrange walks for the coming year. This will be at Ruth Pearson's house 29 Lowndes Park. Please come with ideas!

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

Walking Group

Meets at 9.30am on the 1st Tuesday and the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Coach Parking area of the Eastgate Car Park in Driffield. Walks are around 8 miles within a 30 mile radius of Driffield
Please bring a Picnic Lunch. Car sharing available if required.

Tuesday 6th February—BESWICK 8.5 miles. Easy

For further details contact walk leader Steve on 07952981786 or sp.whitaker@yahoo.co.uk

Thursday 15th February—TIBTHORPE 7.5 miles. Easy

For further details contact walk leader Godfrey on sikelike@yahoo.co.uk

Please let the Walk Leader know if you intend going straight to the walk location

For more details please contact the Group Leader

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



u3a Nature Group

Indoor meetings

Monday 19 February and Monday 18 March

2.00pm at the Cricket Club with guest speakers.

Outdoor meetings

Monday 4 March (morning): Filey Dams

Monday 1 April (afternoon): Wassand Woods

For further information please contact Gerald Massey on 01377/257063 or e-mail gdmassy28@yahoo.co.uk





The Discussion Group

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

The following is a provisional programme and may be subject to change

2nd February—County Boundaries Do we care whether we live in the East Riding or Humberside? Who benefits when boundaries or names are changed?

9th February—Has education destroyed our common sense? We have probably all heard of academic geniuses who are not safe to cross the road. Does education sometimes replace our innate common sense with something less useful for our day to day lives?

16 February—Do public enquiries serve a purpose? We currently have a public enquiry into the handling of the Covid outbreak. Do such enquiries achieve anything, or do they just cost a lot of money without achieving much at all?

23rd February—Should we mend things? When things break, it's often cheaper and more convenient to just buy a new one. Is this wasteful? Or would repairs take more time and trouble than they are worth? Do we need a "repair shop" in every town?

1st March—Challenging authority In the UK we can, to some extent, challenge authority. Does our right to do this go far enough, or would this be a road to anarchy? Are "Extinction Rebellion" and "Just Stop Oil" our benefactors or just a nuisance?

8th March—Childhood Older people remember a time when children had much more freedom to roam and play unsupervised. Was this freedom or neglect? Would we now regard what we used to do as children as trespassing?

15th March—New Age jobs People these days can make a living doing things we had never heard of until the last few years, for example "influencers" and "personal trainers". Do these jobs benefit society? Are they an inevitable result of the decline in more traditional jobs?

22 March—Were things better in "the old days"? 90 years ago, Cole Porter wrote: "The world has gone mad today, and good's bad today and black's white today and day's night today..." It's easy to look back with fondness to a time when things were simpler. There is evidence that older generations have always criticised the young people of their day. Are we still doing it?

5th April—What should we spend our money on? Our government spends our money, hopefully for our benefit. There isn't an infinite amount of the stuff. What should our priorities be? Education? Defence? Health? Research? Social care? Foreign aid? Law and order? Transport? Energy? Should we keep more of our own money or do governments know what's best?

12th April—Do we need a monarchy? Is our system of a constitutional monarchy the reason for our relative stability as a nation, with no violent revolution? Or is it just a system that keeps a privileged few in unmerited luxury?

19th April—Are charities now having to do things that the state should be doing? We have food banks and charities that try to care for the homeless, the terminally ill, the lonely etc.? Should such charities be needed in a properly run society, or is their existence evidence that our society does actually care?

26th April—Our scariest or most embarrassing experiences Unfortunate experiences can be educational. They can be funny when they happen to somebody else. Will any of our members have the courage to tell us about events that filled them with horror or embarrassment?

3rd May—Do we need to reclaim the streets? Are our towns and cities so choked with traffic that we can't enjoy them? Or do we need to control these pesky pedestrians and cyclists who impede our motorised progress?

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



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 9th February

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)

Taken in Driffield — 18th December



Bridge Group For Beginners to the more Advanced



**For 2024 we will be meeting weekly,
every Wednesday
at 2pm in The Committee Room
of the Community Centre**

**Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday, 7th February 2024**

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



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

Tai Chi



Tai Chi

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



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 February—1st, 15th and 22nd

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**

**If you want to awaken all of humanity,
then awaken all of yourself.
If you want to eliminate the suffering in the world,
then eliminate all that is dark and negative in yourself.
Truly, the greatest gift you have to give
is that of your own self transformation.
'Lao Tzu'**

National u3a—Online Learning

u3a members can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free with their membership! Most of these opportunities are presented by members themselves; sharing their knowledge or skills with others across the movement. We also have a wide range of talks on offer from well-known speakers and organisations, plus in-person events at venues like the Royal Institution.

[u3a - Online Learning Events](#)

Local History Group

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

ALL WELCOME!

21st February - The chairman of Pocklington History Society, **Phil Gilbank**, will give us a presentation on the brothers who created the world's best selling sauce as well as Yorkshire's largest department store.

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

17th April—"York Minster—an Illustrated Guided Tour" - Paul Medford—official guide (and local lad!)

15th May—"The Cathedrals of England (By Bike)" - Derek Megginson

19th June—"The Horrible History of Driffield" - Phil Gilbank

10th July—**Summer Outing to Stamford Bridge**—Meet a Viking—view The tapestry, watch its making—guided tour

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



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

If you can help with teas for this Group please contact Ross Weekes

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 February meetings will be held
on 8th and 22nd February 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

6 February

"Old Bones"

**What can we learn from archaeological animal bones?
Dr Clare Rainsford.**

20th February

**"The conservation work of York Archaeological Trust"
Ian Panter, Senior Conservator**

For more information, please contact
Susan Adamson - 01377 270429

find us on

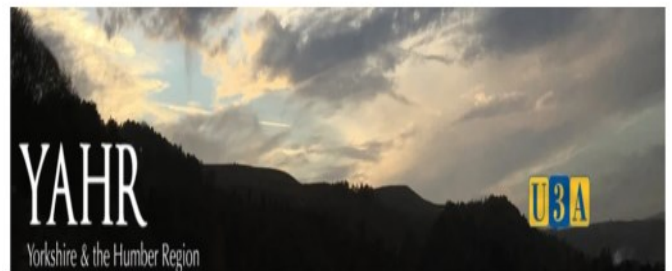
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National u3a

Details of the National u3a Online Learning Events
can be found on their website—
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning>

Learn Online

Our online learning programme can connect you
with other learners wherever you are. We offer
lessons, resources and an exciting schedule of
online events to get you learning at your pace.



YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER REGION U3A

Details of regional activities for u3as in the
Yorkshire and Humber Region
can be found on their website <https://yahru3a.uk>



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 26th February
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 7th, 21st and 28th February

For more details please call Melanie Campbell—01377 250235

French Conversation Group



Meets every other Wednesday morning 10am—12 noon 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 meet on the last Thursday of the month in Members' homes. Our next meeting will be on 29th February

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



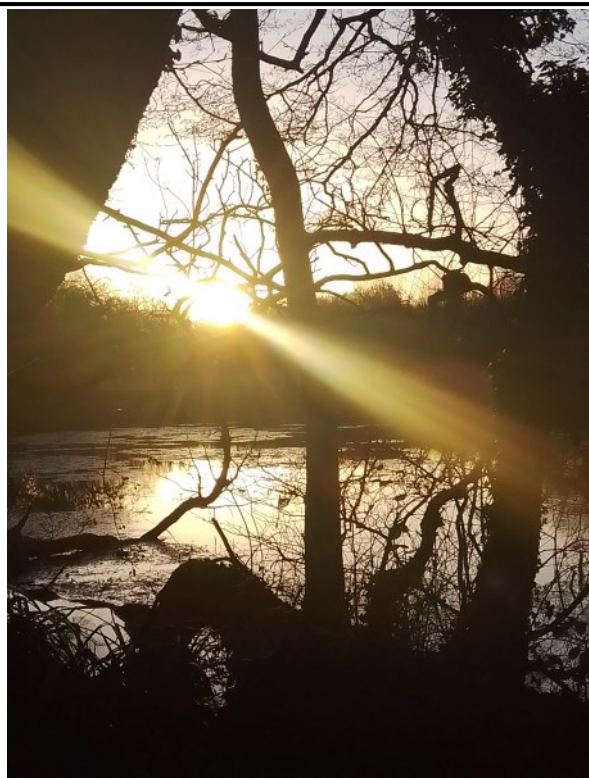
Your Photos



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!

A Stunning photo taken by George Ansell in Kingsmill Park, Driffield, at approximately 2.45pm on Tuesday 19th December



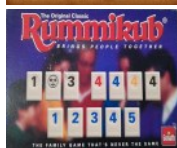
Scrabble

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 meetings will be on 13th and 27th February
We look forward to seeing you!

U3a Holidays—2024

Scotland—6th to 10th January 2024

We are back after 5 days up in cold, frosty, picturesque Scotland. Our U3A members enjoyed a busy itinerary and a warm cosy hotel. We learnt and enjoyed Scottish dancing and had some fun while doing it.

We are already looking for a destination for 2025 as we have an Ireland holiday in September (fully booked), so don't forget to email us with your suggestions please?

The winners of the Scotland Holiday Quiz are Tina & Gareth Shelton and congratulations to them ! Your prize will be winging its way to you shortly !

Thanks and well done to everyone who took part in the quiz - there are some brainy members amongst us!

Ann, Sue and Liz

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



Digital Photography Group

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

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 19th February

No photo Walk is scheduled for January due to the seasonal holidays.

At our December meeting we showed members' images submitted for our monthly Theme and Technique, which were RED and REPETITION, A couple of instructional videos to help with ideas for next month's submissions followed by a Christmas buffet completed an enjoyable meeting and ended a great year of photography!

The Monthly Photo Walk went to the Garden Centre in Hutton Cranswick for a photography walk round and coffee.

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**



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

We are awaiting confirmation of re-opening dates of venues

Details of Away Days for 2024 will be announced soon

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

Monthly Meetings

Driffield Community Centre - Second Thursday of each month—2pm-4pm

All Members Welcome



***** FREE BOOK SWAP *****

More books are always needed—bring along your old books and help yourself to new ones!

FREE REFRESHMENTS



PROGRAMME—2024

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 £3 by Ticket Only**

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

Ray lived in Richmond, North Yorkshire when he became a volunteer Ranger at the North York Moors National Park Authority. After a spell down south, he and his family returned north to Scarborough, where Ray resumed his relationship with the North York Moors, this time as a conservation volunteer with the North Yorkshire Moors Association (NYMA). Ray travels North Yorkshire and beyond, sharing his passion for the North York Moors.

11th April—Pauline Waslin—“Burton Agnes Hall”

The life and work of a tour guide through a whole year at Burton Agnes Hall

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

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

All members Welcome * £1.50 admission

If any of our members have a suggestion or a request for a particular or favourite speaker for a Monthly Meeting could they please contact

Ann Wilkinson our Speaker Finder—wilkynaff@yahoo.co.uk—07747 102635

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

by **Colin Bickerdyke**



Murder at the Manor House

**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	To be appointed	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	To be appointed	
COMMITTEE	Anne Firth	

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 £15 for a membership lasting until 31 March 2025.

If you have any queries please contact Carole Salmon on

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

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



Leap Year

The earth takes 365 and a quarter days (approximately) to go around the sun. This is inconvenient for our calendar — the seasons would gradually get later and later in the year if we stuck with a 365 day year. So every 4 years we add a whole day to the year to allow the world to catch up. This year is a leap year and the extra day falls on the 29th of this month.

It turns out that 25 extra days in a century is a bit of an overcorrection, so when the leap year would fall on the turn of a century we only add that extra day one time in 4. Therefore there are 97 leap years in 400 years.

The first time that a day was added to the year is thought to be in 46BC, though of course it wasn't called 46BC then.

Traditionally, women may propose marriage to their chosen man on 29th February.

If you were born on 29 February and you live in Taiwan, your birthday in a non-leap year is on 28 February.

In Hong Kong it would be on 1 March.

Here in the UK, I think we get to choose