



Newsletter

1st January

2024

Happy New Year

Message From the Chairman

Happy New Year!

New year is a time to think about doing something new, and we are no different at our u3a. We are always looking for new members for the committee. The time allowed to serve on the committee is limited and therefore we need to constantly refresh with new members, who can also bring their ideas and expertise to running our u3a. The u3a would not exist at all without a full team of committee members, so we do need you!

Teresa has decided to step down from the committee and from producing the newsletter. This is therefore her last newsletter. I am sure you are as sad as I am to see her go. Many thanks to you Teresa for the engaging newsletters we have become accustomed to – you have spoiled us! Please do contact me if you are interested in helping to produce future newsletters, particularly if you have any experience of this kind of thing.

If you think you might be interested in helping to run our u3a perhaps you'd like to come along to view a meeting, just to see what goes on. So, if you'd like to find out more about the committee please do contact any committee member.

Our monthly meeting this month will hear from Tony Hawkridge, the lighter side of life as a lorry driver. February's monthly meeting promises to be rather special - a Murder Mystery! Entry by ticket only, £3 each, available at the January meeting, limited number available. Further information on Page 11 of this Newsletter.

Wishing you all the best for 2024, and hoping that the world can become safer for all.

Maggie Bray

Wanted! Newsletter Editor

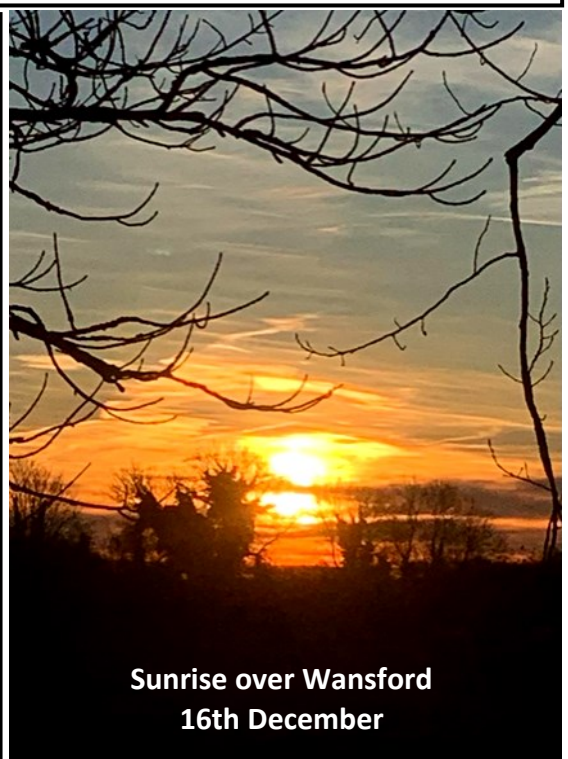
This will be my last Newsletter. I would like to thank you all for your help, support, contributions and kind words!

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



**Sunrise over Wansford
16th December**

U3a Christmas Party 2023

A big Thank You to everyone who came to our Christmas Party!

Thanks to all our Committee Members and volunteers who organised the event and helped on the day. Thanks to Carole for making the table decorations, and to her and her team for making the room look so festive. Thanks to the Caterers, Ann and her kitchen helpers for putting on such a lovely spread. Thanks to Ann for doing the quizzes. Thanks to the lovely Sven and Chloe for the entertainment. Thanks to George for taking the photos!





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

We are having a break over Christmas and New Year and resume on 19th January

19th January—Genius and Inspiration Gershwin says the whole of his “Rhapsody in Blue” came to him during one short rail journey. Mozart’s manuscripts seem to have been written straight on to the page with no corrections needed. What kind of abilities are needed to achieve these kind of feats? Is genius something you are born with? Or was Edison correct when he said that genius was 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration?

26th January—Words and phrases We all use words without much thought as to their origins, and the same goes for phrases. Why should we “go to the foot of our stairs” or be “a monkey’s uncle”? No doubt we will find out.

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 to-day, 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**

425 Milers Group

The 425 milers are meeting on 9 January 10am-11am,
Driffield Community Centre Meeting Room
to plan the walking programme for 2024.

For more information 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 are not meeting in January.
We are hoping to arrange a venue for a planning
meeting (instead of a walk) in February.

Group Leader—Sue Clarkson
01377 256857 / 07762 782082



find us on
facebook



Walking Group

Meets each month throughout the year except December on the
2nd Tuesday at 10am and the **4th Thursday at 1pm** in the Eastgate Car Park, Driffield.

Thursday 18th January—our first walk for 2024—NORTH CAVE—7.5 miles. Easy
For further details contact the walk leader Paul on 07932494357 or p.grinstead2@btinternet.com

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



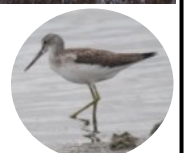
This Group is still in the planning stage and we have
arranged two exploratory meetings in January

Monday 15th January—Visit to North Cave Wetlands—Meet 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.
www.northcavewetlands.com

Monday 22nd January—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
01377 257063





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 12th January
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 first meeting of the year will be on
Wednesday, 3rd January 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

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 January—4th, 18th and 25th

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

Water is fluid, soft, and yielding.
But water will wear away rock, which is rigid and cannot yield.
As a rule, whatever is fluid, soft and yielding will overcome whatever is rigid and hard.
This is another paradox: "What is soft is strong"
"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!

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

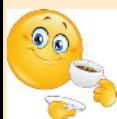
17th April—“York Minster—an Illustrated Guided Tour” - Paul Medford—official guide (and local lad!)

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 Weeks

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 first meetings of the year will be held
on 11th and 25th 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 first Meeting of the year will be on
Tuesday 16th January**

For more information, please contact
Susan Adamson - 01377 270429

find us on facebook

January Birth Flowers

The birth flowers of January are the carnation and the snowdrop. The carnation, also called dianthus, grena-dines, Sweet William, gillyflower, and clove pinks, is a fringe-petaled flower with a spicy fragrance that originated in the Mediterranean area and has been cultivated for 2,000 years. It is known as "The Flowers of God" and "Flower of Love".



The snowdrop is one of the earliest flowers to bloom in the year and symbolises rebirth.



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**

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JANUARY
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 3rd, 17th and 24th 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 meet on the last Thursday of the month in Members' homes. Our next meeting will be on 25th January

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



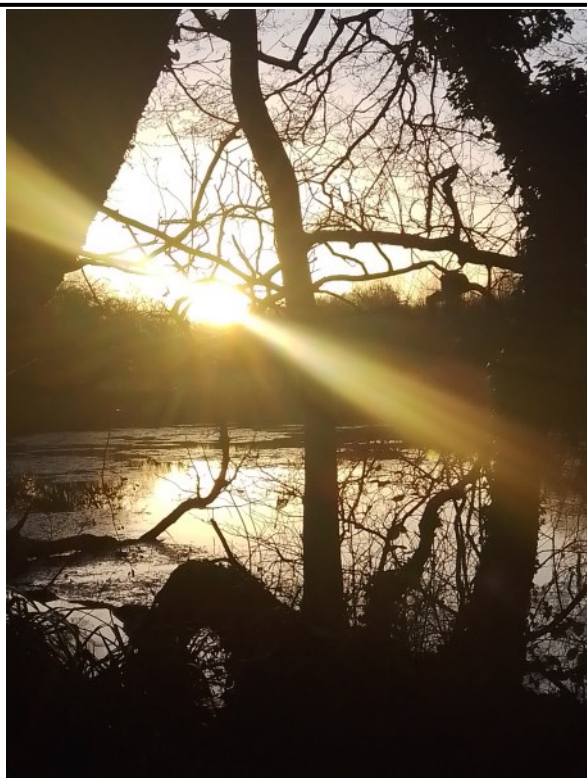
Your Photos



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



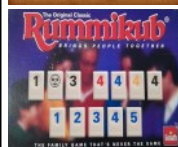
Mah Jongg

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 9th and 23rd January
We look forward to seeing you!



Answers to December's Puzzles

CHRISTMAS BIG WORD CHALLENGE

There are no right or wrong answers—these are the longest words I could find—maybe you did better!?

- PROPORTIONATENESS (17)
- REAPPORTIONMENT (15)
- EQUIDISTRIBUTION (16)
- SPAGHETTIBOLOGNESE (18)
- ENCEPHALOMENINGITIS (19)
- NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (15)
- THERMOHYDROMETER (16)
- SPORTSWOMANSHIP (15)

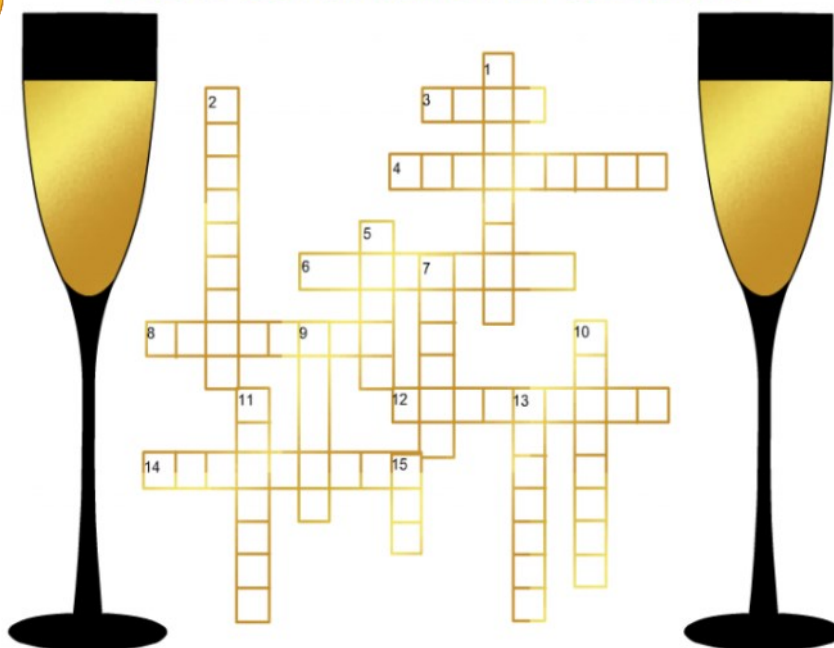
ADVENT

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

JOYFUL

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

New Year Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. a chart with days weeks and months
2. a white sparkling wine
5. beautiful vocal instrumental or combined sound
7. a drinking glass with a foot and a stem
9. a man's dinner jacket.
10. a handheld firework that emits sparks.
11. the first month of the year
13. round rubber bag that is inflated with the air
12. observe and used as decoration or a toy.
14. an act of counting numerals in reverse order
15. opposite of old to zero

Across:

3. the period of 365 days
4. a device containing gunpowder and other combustible chemicals which causes spectacular effects and explosions when ignited
6. a timing device with two connected glass bulbs containing sand
8. small bits of paper usually colored
12. observe
14. an act of counting numerals in reverse order

Answers in February's Newsletter

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.



U3a Holidays—2024

Scotland—6th January 2024



All Holidaymakers should have received an email but please keep a look out for an email/letter either from Cairngorm or from us with final details. It will be a 7am pick up for the coach on Saturday 6th January at the Middle Street South car wash bus stop.

We are looking forward to meeting you all and enjoying our holiday in Bonnie Scotland!
Ann, Sue and Liz

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

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



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, 15th January

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**



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

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

Important Reminder to Group Leaders!

If you hire a venue to hold your meetings and have to cancel for whatever reason, please ensure that you inform them—otherwise you may be charged!

Monthly Meetings

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

All Member



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

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

FREE REFRESHMENTS



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”

11th 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

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



New Year's Day - The most celebrated holiday around the world.

January 1, 1660 - Samuel Pepys began his famous diary in which he chronicled life in London including the Great Plague of 1664-65 and the Great Fire of 1666.

January 1, 1801 - Ireland was added to Great Britain by an Act of Union thus creating the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

January 1, 1901 - The Commonwealth of Australia was founded as six former British colonies became six states with Edmund Barton as the first prime minister.

January 1, 1958 - The EEC (European Economic Community) known as the Common Market was formed by Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands in order to remove trade barriers and coordinate trade policies.

January 1, 1973 - Britain, Ireland and Denmark became members of the Common Market (EEC).

January 1, 1999 - Eleven European nations began using a new single European currency, the Euro, for electronic financial and business transactions. Participating countries included; Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

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	07752 154506

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

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



Driffield Penny Scrambling

The **Driffield Penny Scramble** is a centuries-old tradition in which the children of Driffield are treated to a barrage of sweets from the shopkeepers of the town. The tradition has been going for centuries, though in the old days the pennies were real currency rather than the chocolate coins and other confectionary which are thrown today, and they used to heat the coins up hot on shovels to make it more challenging for the children picking them up! It was formerly held on 1st January but with the introduction of Bank Holidays the date was moved so that the custom would continue to occur when the businesses are open.

The 2024 Penny Scrambling will be held on Tuesday 2nd January. The tour of the town begins at the Railway Station at 9am, and the whole event lasts around an hour and a half with a rolling road closure scheme to ensure the safety of the party as it weaves its way around the streets. All are welcome to join the event.