

FILEY & DISTRICT U3A

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Hello to all our members. With the winter months on the doorstep and the persistent rain making the days so much gloomier, I do hope our U3A can provide you with some interest and occupation to brighten you up your days.

With the shorter days and poorer weather, it is harder to motivate ourselves to get out and about, so I thought it would be a good idea to highlight some of the indoor activities that we can offer our members. We have several groups running games which might appeal to you – bridge, backgammon, canasta, chess, Mah Jong, Rummikub, Scrabble. I suspect backgammon, chess and Scrabble are familiar to most of you but the others may not be. The Scrabble groups are full currently, but should anyone want to start another group, just let a committee member know and we can help you to canvas interest and get started. Backgammon and chess both have plenty of room for new players, so just get in touch with the organisers and come along.

Bridge (organisers are now Chris Place and Howard Mitton)

This is a card game which has the same objective as Whist, in that you need to collect the most 'tricks' (the highest card of each round wins the 'trick'). However, in bridge the key strategy revolves around the bidding. This is done at the start of the game. Once the cards are dealt, each player bids depending on the contents of their hand. Bridge is played with partners, so in announcing your bid, you are indicating to your partner (as well as to your opponents) whether you have a good hand or not. You are declaring how many tricks you think you can win. The bidding is a skilled strategy which can only be learned as you play. There is also skill in collecting the tricks, as you need to learn when to lay a high or a low card. Remembering which cards have already been laid in a hand, also helps to determine how to play the next round. So bridge can be a very good way of exercising those little grey cells! Points are awarded according to the final tally of tricks. Our bridge group don't play for money, they just like to enjoy the challenge of the game, so the winners are the pair with the most points.



Canasta, Mah Jong and Rummikub

These games have their roots in Rummey – a game that most people have played sometime in their lives. There are many versions of Rummey, each with its own set of rules and its

own name, but is basically the same game. Sets of numbered cards (e.g. 3 or more aces) called 'melds' or runs of cards (e.g. 3,4,5 of one suit) are collected to remove cards from the hand. Being able to lay down all your cards, wins the game.

Canasta – this game only collects melds but is played with two packs of cards. It is most interestingly played with partners (as in bridge) but can be played individually. In common with Bridge, the aim is to work towards melds which will give the best points to achieve the highest score.

Mah Jong and Rummikub – these games are played with 'tiles' rather than cards but work on similar principles. Mah Jong is the most complicated, in that there are 144 tiles to start with and many different ways to collect melds and runs or sets. There are 4 basic suits as in cards, but there are several sets of additional tiles that make the game more complex and can win a greater number of points. I have played Mah Jong and found it challenging but not



nearly as daunting as I first expected. Rummikub tiles are coloured numbers which substitute for card suits. It is played in a similar way to the card game, but has its own rules for laying and discarding tiles, which I think makes for a refreshing change.

I sat in on the games where I had no experience and found all of them very absorbing. All our groups are friendly and welcoming and are happy to teach beginners as well as improvers. Just contact the organisers or any committee member (refer to your members' booklet). Perhaps you have a favourite game that is not on our list – so why not start a group of your own?

Eleanor Harris

New Groups

Film club: A new group has started showing films on a Wednesday afternoon (2pm) at the Methodist Church room (where we have our monthly meetings). These are fortnightly, having started on 6th November. Roy Foster is the organiser (01723 516075) and will be advertising what film is to be shown by email. Suggestions are always welcome, so get in touch.

Afternoon tea group: This group will be starting up in March. The organisers are Elizabeth Gilmore and Victoria Mazzuchin. They can be contacted on 01723 518228 and 01723 447382 respectively. Further details will be sent out nearer the time but speak to Elizabeth or Victoria if you are interested and to find out more about it.

Creative Writing group: Tony Dawson has resurrected the Creative Writing group which has already begun and will meet on a flexible monthly basis. Please contact him for more details and date of the next meeting on 01723 563173.

Theatre group (now closed)

Laraine, Gill and Alison have been organising the Theatre trips for our U3A for a number of years now and have decided that it is time to take a break. We would like to thank them for all their hard work in organising so many memorable trips; however their final trip certainly finished off on a high!

The trip to Oxford and Bletchley Park, Thursday 3rd October

We left Filey with a prompt start at 9.30am. Our trip was arranged in conjunction with Aklams Coaches, who supplied us with a very personable and capable young driver. Heading to the M1 on our way to Oxford, we stopped off for a break at Woodhall Services and arrived at our hotel 'Jury's Inn' mid-afternoon. We had a very acceptable buffet meal and spent the evening relaxing together.

Friday morning we were picked up at 9.30am and taken into Oxford. A number of us had never been to the city before and were completely awed by the architecture. Our party chose various options to enjoy the day, some on an open-top bus, others taking guided tours or just making personal discoveries. When the guide on our tour was asked how Oxford had survived being bombed in the war, we were astonished to learn that the War Office had come to an agreement with Hitler, in that, if we didn't bomb Hamburg, they would not bomb Oxford! The reason for this was because the Germans wanted to make Oxford their capitol city (if they won the war, of course!) Back at our hotel for an early tea, we were then whisked off to the theatre for the stage version of 'Grease'. We were royally entertained by some very talented young performers and were treated to a guest appearance by Peter Andre as the angel.



Saturday morning, after breakfast, we checked out of our hotel and made our way to Bletchley Park. This is an absolutely fascinating place to visit and it is impossible to describe just how the code breakers worked to solve the codes. The mansion at Bletchley is a beautiful building set in scenic grounds and we were in for a surprise - afternoon tea had been booked for us! What a lovely location to enjoy our tea; eat your heart out 'Betty's'! Then it was back on the road to come home, but we were buzzing and happy – and ready for our own beds. What a fantastic trip organised by fantastic people. Thank you Laraine, Gill and Alison, you will be a hard act to follow.



Howard Mitton

Group changes

Ukelele group: Please note that the beginners group has **ceased** due to them progressing to the Tuesday group, thus the Tuesday group is now **full**.

Walking group 4 (12km+): This group no longer meets on a Sunday. Instead, by popular request, the group are now walking on the **4th Friday of the month**. Please contact Richard Leek (07714739122) for more details.



19th December Monthly meeting

(10am Methodist Church room)

Join us to enjoy

YULETIDE MUSIC AND LYRICS

with

Bill Scott, Lesley Machen and Tim Tubbs

A varied and fun Christmas concert from our favourite entertainer and his colleagues

We will serve tea and coffee together with seasonal snacks in the Church room

Natural History Group

The group have been expanding their knowledge this quarter, into geology and arachnid morphology / anatomy. Graham Tillotson explained the formation of Filey Brigg to everyone as they explored this famous structure in September. The hard layer of rock which underlies Filey beach and forms the jutting arm of the Brigg, is calcareous sandstone, laid down about 170 million years ago. This supports a 100-foot thick layer of softer boulder clay, about 10-100 thousand years old. Between the two, lies a thin layer of oolitic limestone which would have been deposited in a warm, tropical sea when Britain was nearer the equator.

The October outing was sadly washed out due to very heavy rain, but November saw the group at RSPB Bempton to listen to a fascinating and informative talk by RSPB spider expert, Sarah Mitchell. The group were treated to an excellent presentation, and were even able (via the medium of the microscope) to watch the movement of a live spider's heart beat beneath the pattern of its upper abdomen. Yes! A spider's heart is in its abdomen, not its thorax.

Janet and David Pickersgill