



# Gainsborough and District u3a

## Spring 2024 Newsletter



Lottery funded.

# Welcome to the Spring edition of the Gainsborough and District u3a Newsletter of 2024

## News from the committee

*The observant will notice that we have decided to discard the title of Convenor and make these, very important people, Group Leaders. I hope we all think this makes sense.*

*In April the committee will be inviting all these Group Leaders to an afternoon tea to thank them for keeping us going.*

*Following on the success of the January meeting we are talking to the Church about having all our meetings on the ground floor. This might still be a necessity in the near future, because of the lift situation, but we shall await developments.*

## News from some of our groups

### Art Appreciation

This once very popular group is struggling to attract new members. In the past not only have we taken it in turns (about once a year) to present something about different artists, but we have also visited many exhibitions. You would be most welcome to join us.

### Bowling (ten pin)

The monthly visits to Ashby Bowl, Scunthorpe have been very well attended. Our last, at the beginning of February, was attended by 14 of us and we ended up at the White Swan, Scotter for an evening meal and lots more chat.



## Bridge

Numbers have started to settle down and we regularly have 8 players. More would still be welcome, and we have stepped into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by having a WhatsApp group dedicated just to our select number. We meet each Wednesday morning at Morton Village Hall from 10.00 - 12.00.

## Buccaneers

Our visit to Wilderspin and the National School Museum was most enjoyable, and the group learnt a great deal. However, all three groups were hopeless at the following event, the Lincoln Escape Rooms, even though several of us had had success in the past. To make it worse the attached restaurant was closed: so we sulked.

The willow wreath making worked well.

We are now busy preparing new outings to: snowdrops at Brightwater, the Holocaust centre, a Beaver walk, white water rafting, a Treasure Trail round Retford, visiting a Lifeguard station and paintballing, as well as possible theatre visits.



## Kurling

We have an internal competition booked for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March followed by lunch at the Golf Club. Partners will be chosen on the morning and then the fun starts.



In order to cut costs the winners and runners up will be awarded small consumable prizes rather than the shields they may have become accustomed to. This is following a suggestion from competitors at the last event.

Our Monday meetings have been very well attended from the start of 2024 and this does give the opportunity for an occasional rest for those exhausted by the rigours of the game.

## Reading Group 3

We now have 9 members and we all seem to get on very well. We always discuss the month's book. The extent of the discussion depends entirely on the nature of the book and how much (or little) our views were similar.



We always find time for a general chat: occasionally quite an in depth one if we were sparked off by issues raised by a novel. We have a lot of time for laughter, eating biscuits or cakes and of course drinking tea and coffee. We have room for 1 more member.

## Singing for Fun

And what fun we have. We sometimes make our leader, Janet, feel as if she wants to pull out her hair, but most of the time she laughs with us.



We do try very hard but as not many of us are gifted singers, we often take quite a while before we succeed.

We did, bravely, sing in front of the u3a group at the Christmas party - and lived to tell the tale!

New members are more than welcome to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 10am at the Trinity Centre

## Sunday lunch

We now have one section who have been dining all through the winter. The idea is now to set up a second and, perhaps, a third group. We have decided that 8 is the optimum group size - for countless reasons - and so the first group is full (an alien concept to most in the u3a, but necessary in the circumstances). If we can start up 2 new groups with 6ish members in each we



can then have space for new members. I hope this makes sense - there will be a sign-up sheet at Thursday meetings.

### Visits Group:

It seems an age ago now, but we had a most successful visit to Castle Howard to see the house at Christmas. None of us had ever seen such a wonderful display. It was both very clever and extremely beautiful.



The theme was Peter Pan and each room was part of the story told with incredible Christmas decorations and light projections. The restaurants were very good too!

Carol did remarkably well to organise it all especially as the cost of coach travel has gone up considerably. It is getting very difficult to afford coach hire in these times. It is so expensive that it almost doubles the entry cost. That being the case, we had fewer "takers" making the whole undertaking rather a headache. It might be our last coach visit.

*If you would like your group to be included, please, please send a short account or just a photo to tell us what you do. Send it anytime before September 1<sup>st</sup> to [u3anewslettergains@gmail.com](mailto:u3anewslettergains@gmail.com)*

# To all our u3a members



The u3a is a vast organisation – there are over 1000 groups such as ours throughout the country, the total income from fees is over £1.3 million, and the Worcester group, for example, has over 900 members.

We belong to the Lincolnshire Neighbourhood Group (about 12 groups) and meetings are held 2 or 3 times a year to share experiences.

There are changes afoot at the top of the organisation and it has been suggested we alter the Constitution to allow committee members to serve for 9 years.

However, time takes its toll and we desperately need volunteers to stand on the committee and general volunteers to help with Thursday tasks – help with refreshments, meeting and greeting, and with the production of this Newsletter. The committee meets just 4 times per year and we need new blood to provide different ideas and build on our success.

**PLEASE, PLEASE** step forward and help us maintain what we have and help us move into the future.

## Puzzle time

# House

All the words are hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally—in both directions. The letters that remain unused form a sentence from left to right.

S T U D I O L B A T H R O O M  
C A N H O L L O W W A L L A T  
P O T I E C L D A E T S D E B  
E A L W I N D O W S I L L B C  
T S N O I T A D N U O F D E H  
S D E R N G U T T E R I I D I  
R R O H C N A L L A W R S R M  
O F F I C E A R C A D E A O N  
O C R E T T I D A R A E S O E  
D O C T A E B L E G L S T M Y  
E R L A D R D E I R E C O T H  
A R T I S R I N S N T A V A K  
O I T A P U L L E D G P E C I  
N D S I T T I N G A R E A T O  
T O W O D N I W R E M R O D H  
D R A I N P I P E E T F L O O  
N E H C T I K R O A F A N A T  
T R O O L F I S H U T T E R C

DORMER WINDOW  
DRAINPIPE  
FIRE ESCAPE  
FLOOR  
FOUNDATIONS  
GARAGE  
GUTTER  
HAT RACK  
HOLLOW WALL  
KITCHEN  
OFFICE  
PATIO  
SHUTTER  
SITTING AREA  
STOVE  
STUDIO  
TURRET  
WALL ANCHOR  
WELL  
WINDOWSILL

ARCADE  
BATHROOM  
BEDROOM

BEDSTEAD  
CEILING  
CHIMNEY

COLONNADE  
CORRIDOR  
DOORSTEP





*I've tried to make the newsletter a little more logical by putting the Group Leaders' list and the List of speakers on the last page. I thought that if you wished, you could cut out and save this information, which you are likely to need.*

### Group Leaders' List

GROUP	GROUP LEADER		MEETING TIME
Art	Wendy Vick	07545964588	Alternate Tuesday am
Art Appreciation	Julie Tomkins		Third Thursday pm
Bowling 10pin	Pauline Jackson	07866571868	First Thursday pm
Bridge	Chris Wrench	01427 839689	Every Wednesday am
Buccaneers	Pam Chapman	01427616801	As arranged
Canasta	Wendy Vick	07545964588	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday pm
Craft	Margaret R Forster	07980 502581	Alternate Tuesdays am
Cycling	Hilary Harris	01427 628175	Wednesday mornings
Friday Lunch group	Joan Spencer	01427 718881	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday
Gardens visits/ gardening	Hilary Harris	01427 628175	First Friday am
Kurling	Anthony Chapman	01427 616801	Mondays am
Reading group 1	Margaret Forster	01427 718791	Second Tuesday pm
Reading group 2	Jane Rose		Fourth Thursday am
Reading group 3	Pam Chapman	01427616801	Third Friday am
Scrabble	Barbara Jervis	01427 612793	First Thursday am
Singing	Janet Simpson		2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 10 am
Strollers	Lyn & Graham Vlachos	01302 710864	Third Friday am
Sunday Lunch	Anthony Chapman	01427616801	Last Sunday in month
Visits	Carol Dutton	01427 613722	As arranged
Walking	Joan Spencer	01427 718881	Tuesday, every 4 weeks

### Speakers 14<sup>th</sup> March - 13<sup>th</sup> June

March 14 <sup>th</sup>	AGM	
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Small	Robin Hood and The English Yeomen Bowmen
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Hewiss	A pictorial road trip from Lincoln to Gainsborough
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Morning	– a variety of quizzes to keep you on your toes