



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Despite having a winter birthday I hate the season. Maybe we are more in tune with the time of our conception because Spring is definitely my favourite time. It doesn't guarantee better weather, I can remember many a snowy Easter but whatever the weather the snowdrops appear, followed by the daffodils and the blossom on the trees. I love that no matter what is thrown at Mother Nature she still manages to produce that time of new beginnings, new life, new hope. The years of Covid took so much from us at a time of our lives when each day is precious and it has taken some time for us to come back. Here in u3a we lost that sense of belonging and we struggled initially with loss of members and loss of group venues causing groups to fold. In 2023 I felt the hope return again, membership is growing, new group leaders are starting new groups and our trips and holidays are proving very popular (thanks Tim). I feel very positive about 2024, we have several day trips and a holiday booked and a date agreed for the u3a picnic and we have several potential new groups in the pipeline. So, let's make this a good year for our u3a and don't forget if you have any ideas just let the committee know or better still, join us, we have three vacancies.

Margaret Sisson

The Editor -

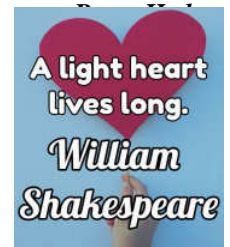
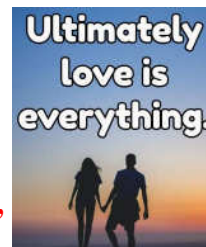
I trust you all had a very happy Christmas and I wish you all a progressive NEW YEAR. It seems such a long time since we had our last Members and New Year's Meeting. Christmas and New Years Day takes out a large chunk in the diary of the u3a and it takes until the 1st February for all activities to return to normal.

Over Christmas for myself was a quiet time and due to this I watched TV more than usual. It does seem to me the advertisements on channels other than the BBC appear to be as long as the programme being shown. One can always record and watch later and delete the advertisements as they appear I wonder if you like me rush to mute button when certain advertisements appear.

Like everyone I am looking forward to Spring and summer. Whist the weather has not been good I do feel that Grimsby and Cleethorpes do not suffer as much as does the rest of the country.

Do send me articles for the Newsletter - grand children can create moments of amusement and fond memories and if their are any instances you can share please send them in.

On the spur of the moment I decided to look into the medicine and tablets I have. It surprised me to know over two thirds were out of date and going back to 2019. I am hoping the chemist can destroy them. Just a suggestion, to look at what you have. Look for the expiry date.





Thursford Christmas Spectacular 9/12/24

Cost £199 plus a single supplement of £80

The trip includes entrance to the matinee performance on the 9th December 24 and then onwards to Norwich for a night at the Mercure Hotel, including dinner and breakfast.

There will be free time in Norwich the following day before the coach returns home.

This trip is very popular so please book your place as soon as you can with a fifty pound non returnable deposit.

Day coach trips for 2024

16/4/24 Princess River Cruise Nottingham. Includes a two hour river cruise and a two course meal. £40

16/7/24 Beverly and Burton Constable £31

15/9/24 Harrogate Autumn Flower Show (Including entrance fee) £39

24/11/24 Stamford Christmas Market £21

Could you please let Tim Cockerton know if you would like to go on any of these trips. Payment for the trip to Nottingham will be required at the latest at the memorial hall meeting in March 24.

Tim Cockerton contact -phone 01472 429224

email-timothycockerton@gmail.com

AVIATION GROUP

The next meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Tuesday 6th February at the Jubilee Inn, Wybers Wood and Paul Hare will give an illustrated talk about Britain's first ever Multi-Role Combat Aeroplane, the 1914 F.E.2b, which continued in active service longer than any other WW1 design.

All are welcome, no need to book, just turn up.

Paul Hare

NOTICE

We are looking for two volunteers to take over the running of the Book and Jigsaw Stall at the monthly Members Meetings starting in March this year.

Our grateful thanks go out to Barrie and Janet Porta who ran this stall who have decided to stand down.

Do let Margaret Sisson know if you can help in this matter.

Walking Boots on offer!

A virtually new pair of size 9 gents strong walking boots are available free of charge.

Interested, appreciative, would be new owners, phone George on 01472-601 941 or email. leswatchorn42@gmail.com.

UKULELE GROUP



On the 12th of Dec. The Ukulele Group played for the Cromwell Ladies Club. We played a selection of tunes, from Lonnie Donegan "Putting on the style. Roger Miller "King of the Road" The Wild Rover" ,Diana by Paul Anka. A few Xmas Carols in between. Cliff Richard " Travelling Light" and many more, Finishing with Auld Lang Zyne. Sid the leader of the group did a solo entitled "The Rose" This was sung by Bette Midler in the 1979 Film based on the life of "Janis Joplin. After we was treated to mince pies ,cake and tea or coffee by the Ladies of the club..

Barrie Portas.

BRITISH HISTORY GROUP

Has newly surfaced in Tesco Community Room once a month. The January meeting was most interesting, covering many aspects of the History of Lincoln including the world war involvement Lincoln based companies held in the manufacture of aircraft and also accounts of ' The Battle of Lincoln ' in the 12th century, which accounted for our not being a French Colony to this day!!!!

I think I have got these insights right but I certainly would encourage members that presented coverage at our meeting to write an article for this magazine on the topics they covered since they were most interesting and informative.

The next meeting will be on February 16th from 3.45pm and will cover King Henry VII.

No doubt contributions will be varied, interesting and informative again. If you would like to join us with a short coverage relating to Henry in any way, or just soak in the presentations, please feel free to come along.

Les Watchorn

MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP

Now meet every fortnight in Tesco Community Room, Hewitt Circus from 1.30 - 3.30pm

We will select our choice of music by working alphabetically through composers names, January was 'A', Feb.2nd 'B' and Feb 16th.will be 'C'....Corelli, Chopin, Cloeridge-Taylor, Coates, Cage...etc.


This way we get a variety of musical taste. Items are short works or extracts from longer pieces, enabling maximum interest to be sustained.

Come and give it a try. A free tea/coffee is also available and no entrance fee is required.

Leslie Watchorn



I told my wife
she should
embrace her
mistakes...
She hugged me.



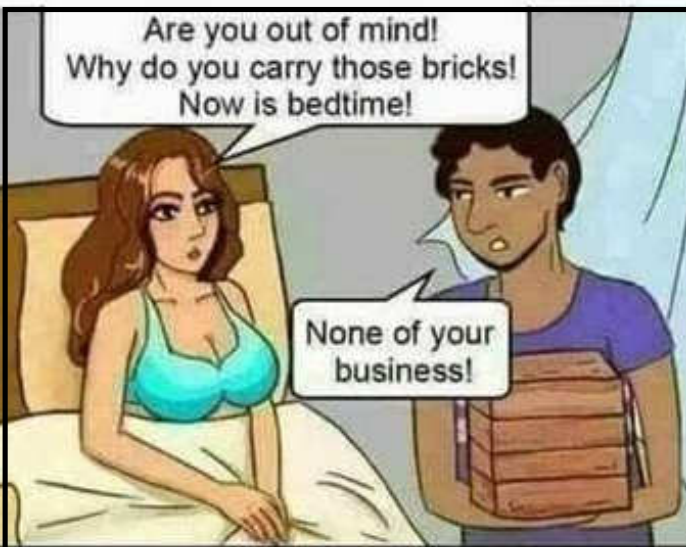
Do you remember these two posters?



My wife says I'm getting fatter,
but in my defence, I've had a
lot on my plate recently.



Why do they call it the "mother tongue"?
Because the man never gets to put a word in.



Enter the u3a 2023-4 Poetry Competition

The u3a national poetry competition is back for its fourth year, and the judges are looking forward to seeing what talents members have to offer. The theme for this year's competition is: **'What If'**.

The competition opened on Wednesday 8 November 2023 and the deadline for submission is 12pm on Friday 26 January 2024. You must read the competition rules before submitting your poem. [Enter the u3a national poetry competition](#)

We hope you will discuss your ideas and stories in your u3a poetry writing groups, or that this might inspire you to set up a poetry or creative writing group. You can find advice on how to do this from our [creative writing Subject Adviser](#), Marcia Humphries.

How it works:

- In summary, your story must be your own, individual, original work, in English, a maximum of 16 lines, and not submitted anywhere else.
- Your submission must be on the theme of: **What If**.
- You must read the rules of the competition before entering. The link for these can be found at the bottom of this webpage.
- Any submission which does not meet these rules will not be considered.
- All submissions will be judged by group judging panels and the best story from each group will be compared to decide on an overall winner.

The deadline for submission is 12pm on Friday 26 January 2024.

For rules and submission form visit:

www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes

A young boys reflections on "what if"

I sit upon the stone sea wall looking out to sea
and wondering to myself,

'What If'

there's something there for me

I see the ships both large and small,
with sail and steam they go,
and wonder to myself

'What If'

with them I should bestow.

A cabin boy, a sailor, a captain or a mate
then, think again,

is that for me, would that be my fate.

What if that ship should strike a rock
and sink below the wave

and no one there would hear my cry '
will someone me to save.

'What If'

I now forget my yearn for a distant foreign land,
and eat my melting ice cream, and play upon the sand.

Sid Petchey.

SPEAKER 1st FEBRUARY 2024

**Dr Julie E Bounford, Social historian and author
The curious history of labyrinths & mazes**

The curious history of mazes does not run in a "steady straight" line, but, instead, begins with the labyrinth: a simple motif that is no doubt familiar to us all. With its true origins still shrouded in mystery, the chronicle of the labyrinth, and more recently of the maze, spans the past four thousand years, taking many twists and turns. It is a truly fascinating social history.

WELFARE OFFICER

If you know of any u3a member who is ill, will you please inform Pauline Campbell who is the Welfare Office.

Telephone No. 01472 813 010

E.mail pdcampbell171@outlook.com

COMMITTEE u3a GRIMSBY & CLEETHORPES

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