



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I am writing this on the last weekend in November and I am sure that tomorrow I will be seeing a lot more Christmas lights. Mine won't be going up anytime soon but that's not because I don't like Christmas it's because I don't have youngsters full of the excitement that becomes infectious. I won't be going to school concerts and crying when they sing Away in a Manger or shouting "it's behind you" at the Pantomime. I don't envy those who will still be doing those things because I've done it and it was wonderful and I still have all the lovely memories. Christmas will be a quiet affair in my house, the tree will be up and there may be a few lights outside but I won't be up at 4am with "Mummy he's been", I won't be in the kitchen all morning cooking a huge dinner that no-one eats because they're too full of chocolate coins, I won't be turning out in the cold to visit relatives I never see all year with miserable kids that want to stay at home and play with their new toys and I can drink what I like because I won't be driving. I will get up when I'm ready, watch whatever I like on TV and when I'm sitting down to my favourite meal of Lasagne, (one I will have made earlier) I'll raise a glass of wine to Christmasses past and all the happy times we had and to Christmas present and times yet to come. Merry Christmas to you all.

*Margaret Sisson*

## ABERFOYLE HOLIDAY - 8/4/24 -12/4/24-£209 each

If you are interested in joining us on this coach trip to Scotland-Booked with Houghs Coach Tours-please contact Tim Cockerton (01472 429224).

We have thirty members already booked on this tour and there are still double and twin rooms available.

We have a female member who has extended an invitation to any other member, who would like to go on this trip, to share a twin room with her.

## CRUISE HOLIDAY

There are eleven members who have expressed an interest in a Discussion Group to see if common ground can be reached, on a suitable cruise which all parties would agree to. Please let Tim Cockerton (01472 429224) know if you would like to join this Group.

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVE LUNCH

The venue at the Grimsby Golf Club has again been booked for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The menu/booking form can be obtained from Tim Cockerton. The price is £18.95 for two courses and £22.95 for three courses, and includes a £1 gratuity.

A glass of white or red wine or soft drink will be served to the table paid for out of the raffle profits at our monthly meetings.

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR KITCHEN DUTIES IN THE KITCHEN

Help is required for washing up utensils after the tea and coffee break at the Members General Meeting held in the afternoons on the first Thursday in the month. Those who wish to offer their services please speak with Gill Clarke.

## MEDITATION

Please note there will be no further meetings for mediation until Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

*Barry Haden*

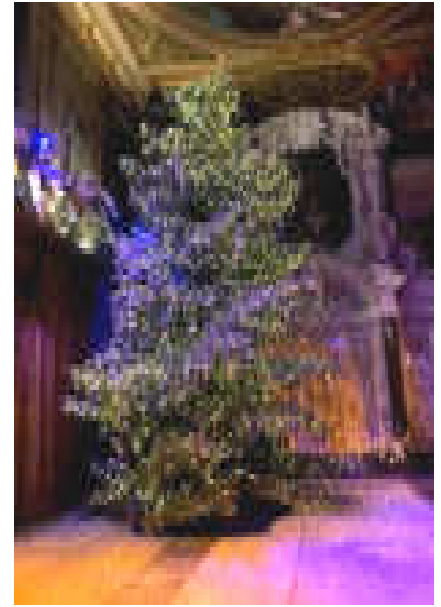
Last night my wife asked for peace and quiet whilst she was cooking - so I turned off the smoke alarm



## VISIT TO CHATSWORTH

Our final trip of the year organised by Tim was a visit to Chatsworth to see the Christmas decorations in the house and the Christmas market. The house was full of Christmas trees and I take my hat off to whoever decorated them. My little 6ft tree is enough for me and these were huge and beautiful. The market was one of the best I've been to in this country with a vast array of stalls and apart from food and cheese stalls no two were the same. Even the stalls selling alcohol varied and of course it would have been rude not to sample as many as possible – it is nearly Christmas. The only thing we found a bit strange was the flooring they had put down. Obviously, it was great for protecting the grass and excellent for wheelchairs and pushchairs but on the undulating ground it began to get a bit wobbly – or was that the drink?? Everyone seemed to have a lovely day so thank you Tim for yet another successful day out. We look forward to next year.

*Margaret, Pol and Irene*



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## 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](http://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes)

## Father Learns That His Daughter Can Predict The Future. What Follows Next Is Shocking.

A father put his three-year-old daughter to bed, told her a story, and listened to her say her prayers, which she ended by saying "God bless mommy, God bless daddy, God bless grandma, and good-bye grandpa." Father said, "Why did you say good-bye grandpa?" The little girl said, "I don't know, daddy. It just seemed like the thing to do."

The next day grandpa died. Father thought it was a strange coincidence. A few months later, the father put the girl to bed and listened to her prayers, which went like this: "God bless mommy, God bless daddy and good-bye grandma." The next day the grandmother died. "My gosh," thought the father, "this kid is in contact with the other side." Several weeks later when the girl was going to bed, the dad heard her say "God bless mommy and good-bye daddy."

He practically went into shock. He couldn't sleep all night and got up at the crack of dawn to go to his office. He was nervous as a cat all day, had lunch sent in, and watched the clock. He figured if he could get by until midnight he would be OK. He felt safe in the office, so instead of going home at the end of the day he stayed there, drinking coffee, looking at his watch, and jumping at every sound. Finally midnight arrived. He breathed a sigh of relief and went home.

When he got home, his wife said, "I've never seen you work so late. What's the matter?" He said, "I don't want to talk about it. I've just spent the worst day of my life." She said, "You think you had a bad day. You'll never believe what happened to me. This morning the mailman dropped dead on our porch."

## HOUSEHOLD TIPS

**White vinegar** is an excellent substitute for many household cleaners (so-called 'General Purpose Cleaners'). Buy a cheap spray bottle and fill it with vinegar undiluted. It is perfect for quick clean-ups around the kitchen and bathroom as it is both a disinfectant AND completely volatile (it will smell for a while but evaporate to leave no residues)

**WD-40** removes crayon from ANYTHING, as well as scuffs from ceramic and wood floors

**WD40** dissolves glues. So, if you buy a fridge or something that has those irritating stickers on them, spray WD40 where you ripped the sticker off and wipe.

**If your microwave is really dirty**, put a damp cloth in there for about 30-45 seconds, let it sit (to cool down) then use it to wipe it down. The steam releases all the stuck-on food, like the dried-up stuff you would end up scraping off. You can also microwave a cup full of vinegar-water solution.

**Clean windows with damp newspaper.** It doesn't leave any streaks or little bits of paper like paper towels.

**Hairspray** removes ink from fabric.

**Used tea bags** sprinkled on rose plants will make them blossom faster with more vibrant colours.

**Removing Mould** - Mix one part bleach to four parts water. Wipe gently the mould until it is gone. Finish by wiping away the bleach mixture and dry the area well with a soft cloth. It is advisable to wear a face mask and disposable gloves.

Cleaning mould is not a permanent solution. Unless you tackle the cause of the mould it will grow back quickly.

**Throw a dry towel in your dryer** to speed up drying (which can take forever), try our hack and throw a thick (already dry) bath towel in the dryer with all your wet clothes. Just watch it cut your drying time.



What did the horse say after it tripped?  
Help! I've fallen and I can't giddyup!

Why did the bicycle fall over?  
Because it was two tired.

What has more lives than a cat?  
A frog, because it croaks every day

## SINGING GROUP

The singing group meet every second and fourth week of the month at the Tesco Community Room Cleethorpes at 2 pm.

All are welcome to come along for a sing a long. Singing is purely for pleasure. You are not asked to do solos, be part of a duet or part of a quartet. You remain seated. You don't even have to have a good voice.. There is nothing to pay and you even get a free cup of tea or coffee. What more could you ask for.

"I had my first date last night! Such an underrated fruit."

I got a letter from Screw Fix Direct thanking me for my interest but explaining they were not a dating agency.

What do you call a pig that practices karate? - A pork chop.



# CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1 What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?  
**Answer:**

2 Where was baby Jesus born?  
**Answer:**

3 What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?  
**Answer:**

4 What words follow "Silent Night" in the song?  
**Answer:**

5 In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, what was the first name of Scrooge?  
**Answer:**

6 Which Christmas song contains the lyric "Everyone dancing merrily in the new old-fashioned way?"  
**Answer:**

7 What are you supposed to do when you find yourself under the mistletoe?  
**Answer:**

8 In the song "Winter Wonderland," what do we call the snowman?  
**Answer:**

9 According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas?  
**Answer:**

10 What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?  
**Answer:**

11 Three of Santa's reindeer's names begin with the letter "D." What are those names?  
**Answer:**

12 "The Christmas Song," who did the narrator see kissing Santa Claus under the mistletoe?  
**Answer:**

13 Complete the song lyrics from "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"  
Peace on \_\_\_\_\_ and mercy mild,  
God and \_\_\_\_\_ reconcile.

14 In the song "We Wish You A Merry Christmas", what else do we wish for?  
**Answer:**

15 "All I Want for Christmas is My Two  
**Answer:**

16 What is put into the stocking of a naughty child?  
**Answer:**

17 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a  
**Answer:**

18 Where does Santa Claus live?  
**Answer:**

19 What is the traditional English name for Santa?  
**Answer:**

20 Silver is also a Christmas colour associated with what holiday decoration  
**Answer**

21 What did the wise men follow to find baby Jesus?  
**Answer**

22 What food is considered good luck to eat on each of the 12 days of Christmas?  
**Answer**

## ANSWERS

- 1 Join in any reindeer games
- 2 In Bethlehem
- 3 An Angel
- 4 Holy Night
- 5 Ebenezer
- 6 Rocking Around the Christmas Tree
- 7 Kiss
- 8 Passon Brown
- 9 Eight Maids A Milking
- 10 White Christmas
- 11 Dancer, Dasher, and Donner
- 12 Mommy
- 13 Earth / sinners
- 14 A Happy New Year
- 15 Front Teeth
- 16 Coal
- 17 Mouse
- 18 The North Pole
- 19 Father Christmas
- 20 Tinsel
- 21 The Star of Bethlehem
- 22 Mince Pies

## COMMITTEE u3a GRIMSBY & CLEETHORPES

<b>Chair Person</b>	Margaret Sisson
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Sue Copley
<b>Secretary</b>	Janet Parratt
<b>Website Co-ordinator</b>	Fergus M Campbell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tim Cockerton
<b>Speaker Finder</b>	Janet Parratt
<b>Catering Official</b>	Gill Clarke
<b>Catering</b>	Pat Goose
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Barry Haden
<b>Group Co-coordinator</b>	Les Watchorn
<b>Visitors</b>	Sue Copley
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Fergus M Campbell
<b>Meeters &amp; Greeters</b>	Marion Piggott
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Pauline Campbell