

Stray Bits - November - 2021

I hope everyone has enjoyed their visit to the Caim Hotel last Friday, and spent time feasting their eyes on the table displays. It was encouraging to see new groups like 'Craft' and 'Scrabble' among the established favourites.



The AGM formalities reviewed our year past, and set the scene for the new normal ahead. Then we had a most entertaining talk by Sir Thomas Ingleby. You missed a treat if you didn't attend! Thank you to the member who was moved to write in:

"Excellent Meeting and highly amusing lecture by Sir Thomas - such a decent good man with a wry sense of humour and fun, all of which is so necessary to retain the Ingilby family and importantly, their beautiful unique estate on our doorstep. I feel the attendees all left feeling a lot better."

Of course, it was all still a bit late again this year due to the pandemic, but perhaps next year things will be more or less back to normal. Any minute now I'm sure there will be Christmas parties around and we shall all be busy shopping for presents and wrapping them up. No time for thinking about other things when turkey buying and food preparations are on the cards! But when that is all over and we have sung Auld Lang Syne, January will be round the corner waiting for us all to get together again and rebuild our connections. The first Open Meeting is on 28th January 2022.



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas. Val Cooke - Editor



The Country Dance Group is thriving with many dancers who have been with the group since it began and some newcomers who are making fantastic progress.

In order to avoid any over-crowding the group is closed to beginners for the time being, but there is still room for two or three dancers who have some knowledge of the basic figures of country dancing.

If you are a beginner and would like to give it a try let me know and if there is sufficient demand, I will organise a beginners' taster session.

Keep Dancing! - Don Mason donsmason11@gmail.com

Christmas Party, December 3rd - 12 - 3pm at the Wesley Chapel

"Come and join us for a finger buffet with tea/coffee. There will be entertainment and a quiz, so do come along to a festive afternoon."

Bring your plates and glass and enjoy! ! Cost £8 each. (£8.50 for cheques).

Congratulations to Cheryl for continuing to organise entertainment, trips and food!!!

Please contact her on committee.three@harrogateu3a.org.uk if you would like to book a place.



A Doggie's Christmas Wish

The days are getting shorter, winter is here
The sky turns to red, the sun will disappear
If you are in town in the fading light
You may well be in for a wonderful sight
The Christmas lights will begin to appear
And on a cold night they bring good cheer
Lights that twinkle and change their colour
Shop windows try to outshine one another



These, the trappings of Christmas, we enjoy
Fill us with hope for a season of love and joy
Families will get together from far and near
To enjoy good times with those that are dear
Children, of course, like the presents they get
But please think carefully before giving a pet
Too often the novelty becomes a bit of a chore
And they don't want that kitten or pup any more

We doggies know if we are no longer wanted
Too many are neglected and often abandoned
An animal will give a lifetime of loyalty and love
And doesn't deserve to be put out with a shove
So, before giving a pet, be sure it will be cherished
And your own responsibility will not be blemished
Like all people, animals like to be loved and to love
Let Christmas bring happiness to all that we love

Wishing you a very happy and loving Christmas

- Doggerel Dog

Gainsborough Exhibition at York Art gallery – Brian Souter - History of Art

Young Gainsborough. Twenty-five newly attributed Thomas Gainsborough drawings, lent by Her Majesty the Queen from the Royal Collection, are on public display for the first time in a major exhibition at York Art Gallery.



Presented alongside paintings and works on paper from regional, national and international collections, including The National Gallery's recently conserved masterpiece Cornard Wood (1748) of which Gainsborough said, "begun before I left school.it was the means of my father sending me to London". In 1740, aged 14, he travelled to London to study at the Academy in St Martin's Lane.

Presented over three galleries, with more than 40 works on show, the exhibition sheds new light on Gainsborough's early landscape practice and the techniques which made him one of

the country's most significant and influential artists.

Also illustrated is Gainsborough's admiration for 17th-century Dutch landscapes, in particular works by Jacob van Ruisdael (1629 – 1682), Jan Wijnants (1632 – 1684) and Meindert Hobbema (1638 – 1709). The exhibition includes loans borrowed, including Gainsborough's 'Landscape with a Pool' (c.1746-47, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge) and Wijnants's 'The Dunes near Haarlem' (1667, National Gallery of Ireland), as well as Gainsborough's 'Wooded Landscape with Country Waggon, Milkmaid and Drover' (1766, private collection).

Open Wednesday to Sunday 11am – 4pm, 1 October 2021 – 13 February 2022 Adults £10. Visitors are advised to book in advance at www.yorkartgallery.org.uk



The Painting for Pleasure group is managing to keep going despite some difficulties during this restricted time. The group displayed their art work at the U3A Showcase. Despite the restrictions, members produced brilliant work. The oil group members have improved and their paintings are excellent, many thanks to the guidance and assistance from Juliette. The mixed media group also have produced drawings and paintings of high quality. We have booked 2022 at the Bilton Community Centre and are hoping we have a full year without any issues. **LizFredriksen.**

Moonlight Sonata by candlelight on Thursday 9th December at 7.30pm, performed by Warren Mailley-Smith in aid of Artizan International, Harrogate. It will also feature other classical favourites. Performed at the **Wesley Centre, Oxford Street**. Tickets £12, students £5, to **include mulled wine and mince pies.**

Tickets available from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/cm/t-pjaqnn Also available at the door on the night, but please text to 07957 282857 in advance to give name and numbers.



Tuesday Painting Group

The paintings exhibited at the Showcase were a selection from the 150+ produced during our lockdown with zoom. Peter has produced a programme of themes, each taking three weeks, and these have helped us to return to our pre-pandemic activity level. We are now aiming for a membership of 20 in both morning and afternoon meetings at Apley Grange. This allows us to maintain social distance and feel comfortable.

We have 3 vacancies in the afternoon meeting. If you would like to join us, email Brian Graham for further details. brigram@yahoo.co.uk

COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Website address - www.harrogateu3a.org.uk

Group Leaders - please give updates to Website Editor, Ian Munday at: website.editor@harrogateu3a.org.uk

Stray Bits for your immediate notices and information. Copy by 14th January 2022 please to: Val Cooke, Editor, Stray Bits – Tel. 506837 or: valerie@cooke989.plus.com

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