



## **Stray Bits – October 2023**



This month is when the days suddenly appear shorter, the weather becomes wintrier – and already we have had our first frost. There will be celebrations for November 5<sup>th</sup> and families will be going away over the half term break. After that, everyone will be thinking of Christmas. For some that will mean making the Mince pies and a cake. For others it will be planning family visits. Meanwhile after last month's well attended Open Meeting, there are just two more at the Odeon. **For me, there is just one more Stray Bits this year.** So, tell me all! **Val Cooke, Ed.**

### **Visit to Beverley – September**



Fifty members of the **Discovering Yorkshire's Heritage** group visited Beverley recently and enjoyed a guided tour by an English Heritage guide around this delightful and historical town which boasted 39 different guilds ranging from shoemakers and glovers to weavers, tanners and ropemakers.

There was time to visit St Mary's Church and the Minster where the group was delighted to see Gaia suspended over the main aisle. The group then travelled to Hornsea where many members enjoyed fish and chips whilst others wandered the prom and a few brave souls paddled in the North Sea.

Future visits planned include Harewood House, the Hepworth Gallery and Rhubarb Festival and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



### **Poetry Group**

*'Come, share your love of poetry in all its forms'*

We meet monthly from 2.00 pm on the last Thursday of the month in one another's homes. We are currently discussing the life and work of individual poets. Our next meetings and themes are:

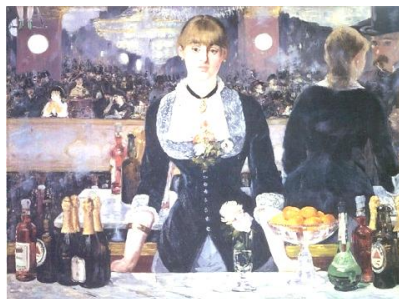
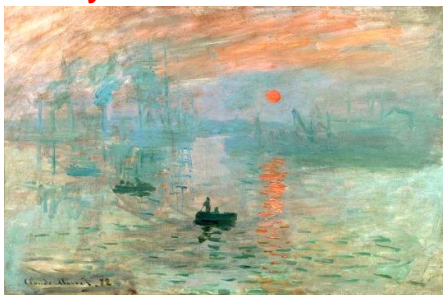
**Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Byron. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Thomas Hardy.** No meeting in December. **January 25<sup>th</sup> Robbie Burns** (This is Burns Night so there may be haggis!)

Each meeting is led by a member of the Group.

Further details from: **Richard Cyster**

*Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance - Carl Sandburg*

### **History of Art**



'Once more we are lucky to be meeting fortnightly in the Gracious Street Methodist Church Hall, Knaresborough, to listen to Brian Souter's excellent illustrated lectures on art, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 2pm. This time the subject is 'Impressionism', and the first three talks covered the art of Monet, Manet, and Renoir.

Monet's 'Impression Sunrise' (1872), a misty Autumnal view of the harbour at Le Havre, was picked out for derision at the first exhibition in 1874, also Manet's 'Bar at the Folies-Begere' (1881-2), the artists thus becoming known as 'Impressionists'. Renoir's 'The Luncheon of the Boating Party' (1881) (Washington) was shown at the 1882 Impressionist Exhibition. Scenes of 'modern life and the newfound leisure time' replaced history paintings of great deeds and the ancient world.

Talks continue through to April next year, for instance on Pissarro this month, and Degas and Sisley in November.



### **LOOKING AT CHURCHES**

The group will appeal to members of any or no religious persuasion, with an interest in art, architecture or history. Our speakers may well open a door to reveal the history of people long past, magnificent carvings and stained-glass windows.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at St Paul's Church Hall in Belford Road, opposite the Harrogate library. **Rob Tipler.**



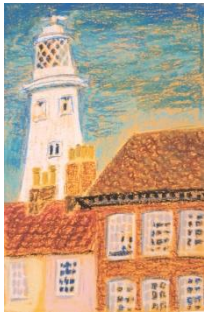
### **Photographic Group**

The Photography Group held their annual exhibition at St Peter's Church from the 14th to 19th August 2023, which was well received with many visitors submitting their votes for which images to include in our annual calendar. We are currently preparing our programme for 2024, which will include presentations of topics of interest, submission of images on a monthly theme and practical workshops.

Photographs by **Pauline Coburn** and **Gary Gudgin**



### **Painting and Drawing Group**



We have got off to a very good start with five new members, taking us up to our new maximum of 12 altogether, mainly thanks to a successful recruitment session at September's Showcase, where Margaret and Tim Houghton set up our stall and answered questions about the group. Some of us are currently working towards having paintings or drawings to exhibit in November's exhibition in the central library, organised by our Pannal Painting group. One of the themes for our group for this term is Holiday Memories, with example of oil pastel drawing on painted paper shown. We will continue to meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons at Community House, East Parade, until Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. **Sue Huskins**. Group Leader.

### **Science and Technology Group.** Group Leader, **Val Michie**

Our speakers for upcoming months are:

**November 13th - Tony Wren on 'seXY curves'** - the mind boggles in these days of watching our Ps and Qs but it promises to be gender-neutral!

**December 11th- Ady Dawson on 'Flight'**, appealing to all you high-fliers.

**January 8th - Roland Caulcutt**, our very own would-be (but far superior!) presenter for Radio 4's More or Less - on interpreting data!

We had a very enjoyable and informative visit to Yorkshire Water's Treatment Plant last month, where those of us who were still working on the premise that drinking water was filtered through sand had our eyes opened!

Prospective members are very welcome to join us – please let me know if you're interested,  
**Val Michie**,



### **Painting at Pannal. - Brian Graham**

Although we don't take a summer break, there is a feeling of a new start in September with new plans and themes. Peter (Kearney) continues to give us guidance. Recent themes have been waterfalls, portraits and autumn. It's not obligatory but most members choose to follow. At the beginning of the month, we hold a mutual critique of our endeavours.

**Our Exhibition of Paintings at the Carnegie Library will open on 7 November.**

We will be joined by the **Painting for Pleasure** and **Painting & Drawing** groups. Paintings will be framed and For Sale – solve your Christmas gift quandary.



- *Frida Kahlo by Tina*

### **- COMMUNICATION NETWORK**

**Website address** – <https://u3asites.org.uk/harrogate/home>

**Group Leaders** - please give updates to Website Editor, Ian Munday.

**Bits** for your immediate notices and information. **Copy by 15th November 2023** please to  
Val Cooke, Editor

**Stray News** Harrogate U3A Magazine. Editor, Catherine Sauzier