



**Issue No.20 Post Pandemic Newsletter January 2024**



**Our Christmas Social Entertainment - The Gedney Drove End Warblers**

Our thanks for some great festive entertainment go out to the Gedney Drove End Warblers under the direction of Ruth Carroll.

The Warblers, as you will expect, are all locals and include some of our very own members, Leslyn, Paul, John, Ron and Kevin to name but a few.



They presented their programme acappella style (without accompanying music) and the more festive inclined in the audience joined in, it was a great session!

If you fancy having a go with the Warblers, there is no audition, Ruth is adamant that everyone can sing! The Warblers meet on Monday evenings, 7.00pm until 9.00pm, at Gedney Drove End Village Hall and the

cost per session is £3.00. If you would like to know more please contact Ruth via email at [ruthpe317dy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ruthpe317dy@yahoo.co.uk)

This Edition of the u3a Sutton Bridge Newsletter is sponsored by Famous Grouse, the fine Scotch Whiskey, and when that ran out I turned to Gordons Gin.

All the staff here at Newsletter House would like to kick off this edition by wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

## Interest Group News

### **The Photography Group**

Led by Roger Jennings we agreed that we should tackle some night-time photography and what better time of year to do so.

Four of the group members accompanied by their wives headed off to Belton House near Grantham where their annual Christmas light show was in full swing.





The visit to Belton House ended in the converted stable with hot Chocolate and a Sausage roll, photo by Paul.



### The Dining Group

A few of us met for our last dining experience for 2023 at The Five Bells Tydd St Mary where we enjoyed the "seniors special" lunch. We put the world to rights over lunch and desert (I was walking, so I enjoyed a glass of wine as well).

Happy New Year

Maureen



### Book Club 2

Book Club 2 had a novel called Cathedral by Ben Hopkins as our read in December.

Before our meeting however we spent a very pleasant time in Gatsbys having a Christmas lunch. We all enjoyed this very much and everyone was in good spirits when we made our way to the Library for our meeting.

When settled in the Library discussion started about Cathedral and surprisingly no-one enjoyed the book or even managed to finish reading it. It took seven years to write but in all fairness it took a lot of concentration and all said another month and they might have finished it.

Then lo and behold one member arrived late and she had finished the book and was bombarded with questions about the ending.



This is the only time the group had been beaten by a book, all except one member, Mabel, who became the hit of the day and we showered her with congratulations and she is definitely our CHAMP! The January book reads much easier but I think it will be a long time before Cathedral is forgotten. Being beaten by a book hurts and perhaps if it had been another month of the year when people are not so busy the book might have heralded and been successfully completed by all. Book Club 2 wish each member of Sutton Bridge u3a a very healthy and Happy New Year.  
Wendy Livesey

### **The u3a Sutton Bridge Christmas Social 2023**

And now a photographic round up of the event of the year!

This event was held for the first time in my memory at The Curlew Centre and in my humble opinion I thought the our Committee under the leadership for this event the Social Secretary, Sheila Palmer, did an excellent job.

Arriving at the venue party goers were met and welcomed by Father Christmas, Maureen Cawthorn, heavily disguised!!





Once inside the hall we took our seats and admired the Christmas decorations, the place settings and the bottle of Bucks Fizz, complete with glasses, and readied ourselves for the entertainment and food.

At this point your Newsletter roving cameraman started roving!! I am grateful for other members armed with their cameras for their contribution to what follows.





Sorry Paul, I could not resist this one.....



“Monica said to me that I must not show her up this year by putting my elbows on the table”







Now the next sequence of photos are of my dear friend Maureen, our “Official Greeter” .

Maureen had spotted me making my way round the room with Camera in hand, but she had already taken off part of her costume , the beard, no , it isn't her own!! She saw me coming and decided that she should get back in to costume, what followed, well you had to be there!





Nothing would happen without your Committee putting in a lot of effort behind the scenes.

Eileen making sure that only Members get through the door to our event, counting them in and counting them out.

And below Frank accepts the first prize for his Christmas outfit from Social Secretary , Sheila Palmer.





## What funds the Christmas Social?

At each General Meeting raffle tickets are sold by Maureen and Marian. The proceeds from the sale of tickets are assigned to the Social Fund and it is from this that monies are used to support the cost of our Social events such as the Christmas Social.

Maureen and Marian work exceptionally hard at this, it's not just about selling the Raffle tickets; it involves actually acquiring the prizes as well and by the looks on their faces they seem to enjoy it!



Looking at the photo below I would say that at £1.00 per strip that is money well spent;)



"Happy New Year, everyone.

A big thank you to all of you who generously provided prizes for our u3a raffle and also bought raffle tickets. All the money we take goes into our social fund, which is used to provide our members with free or subsidised social events.

We hope you will continue to support us and look forward to seeing you at our general meeting in February.

Regards

Marian and Maureen"

Also there are generous donations made by Interest Groups and individuals. This year The Archery Group Leader, Ted Atkinson, donated £50.00 toward the Social Fund and announced that it was on behalf of the Archery Group Members. As an Archery Group member myself I can tell you that Ted donated this amount out of his own pocket. Ted was a very generous man, he was a friend of mine, and I shall miss him.



Sheila, organised and delivered the Christmas Quiz, here she is giving out the answers and the prizes to the winning table.

Sheila deserves a huge vote of thanks from us all for organising the event including the provision of all the food which was great and beautifully prepared by lots of contributing members, thanks to one and all. I think that this, below, was the only plate left at the end of the afternoon and I believe that the Cheese and Tomato sandwich at the front was actually prepared by Frank, I found his thumb print in the butter!





## From the Chair and Committee.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and remind you of the dates for our General Meetings in 2024.

The dates all occur on the first Tuesday of each month and alternate between the Curlew Centre and the Market House.

We hope the chart below will be helpful, don't forget to put the dates in your diary.

**Please note that our next General Meeting will at The Curlew Centre on 6th February, doors open at 1.30 pm.**

<u>General meeting location</u>	<u>General meeting date</u>	<u>Month</u>
<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>06/02/2024</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>05/03/2024</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>02/04/2024</u>	<u>APRIL</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>07/05/2024</u>	<u>MAY</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>04/06/2024</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>02/07/2024</u>	<u>JULY</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>06/08/2024</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>03/09/2024</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>01/10/2024</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>
<u>MARKET HOUSE</u>	<u>05/11/2024</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>
<u>CURLEW CENTRE</u>	<u>03/12/2024</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
<u>ALL MEETINGS START AT 2.00PM UNTIL 4.00PM</u>		

## From The Speaker Secretary

The next General meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 when our member Frank Heinrich-Tiller will give a follow on presentation about his work, travels and some of the people he met whilst working with Lloyds of London.

And finally from me I would like to wish all our members, your families and friends a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to our Newsletter and of course a big thank you to all who have read it!!

Chris Livesey

Reporter, Editor and Distributor of the u3a Sutton Bridge Newsletter.