



u3a
40th Anniversary



WSPU3A Newsletter

October/November
2022



The Petwood in October

Photo by Ced Shurben

The Committee's Briefs

Contact the Committee:

You can use this link to send a message to any of our Committee:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/contact>

Chairman's Chat

"Be inspired", they said.
"I have been walking the Yorkshire Wolds Way", she said.
The Yorkshire Wolds inspired David Hockney, who was living in Bridlington, to produce some of his finest work, to try new techniques in art and photography and to mount a major exhibition in the Royal Academy. - Continued



David Hockney working on his painting Woldgate Woods in east Yorkshire.
Photograph: © Jean-Pierre Goncalves/PA

Chairman's Chat – Continued

With memories of the Humber foreshore and dreams of Filey Bay, we plodded our way across the high windy Wolds and down secluded lonely Dales.

We had sausage rolls in Welton, Buddhist cake in Millington, and a farmer's blonde in Thixendale. We slept in grand hotels and on village hall floors. And at the end, we stood on the cliff top looking out over the Bay. We had been on more than a walk.

Just remember, you are not only inspired but you can also be inspiring.

Malcolm Capps – Chairman

Groups News

Unfortunately it sometimes happens that a group leader feels they have run their course with a group and asks for one of the other members to take over. This *can* result in the group folding. We currently have such a situation with [Lunch Group 2](#). This has been a successful group, and I know the members have enjoyed some good lunches with friendly conversation but the leader would like to step down and I am therefore asking the other members if one of you would consider taking on the role? Of course it could be shared between two of you, as is the case with [Lunch Group 1](#), and in that group a different member chooses a venue each month, passes the details to the two leaders who then email these out. So you see, some of

the onus can be shared. Please give this some consideration if you would like your meetings over lunch to continue.

Although I have referred to a specific group, this frequently applies to others. The more input our members have, the more enjoyment and benefits can be shared with others.

I have recently heard about a [MOTO Group](#) – no, this is nothing to do with motor bikes or motor homes, it is Members On Their Own. Single members can get together to arrange events such as theatre trips, meals out, days out, walks or even holidays. The list is endless. There will be a sheet on the table at the next monthly meeting. Please add your name if you're interested.

We recently had an Afternoon Tea for our Group Leaders as a way of thanking them for the time and effort they put into making Woodhall Spa u3a the success that it is. 30 Group Leaders and Committee Members attended, and I was told they enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with each other, which often isn't possible at the monthly meetings.

Val Shurben – Groups' Coordinator

**Groups List:**

You can use this link to find a current list of the groups we support, and how to join up:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/groups>

Online u3a

Find out more:

You can use these links to search for ways of furthering your interest in specific subjects, or even take part in some competitions:

Our own WSPU3A website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/welcome>

u3a – Online Learning Events

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

u3a Radio Podcast

The monthly podcast showcases the amazing things happening across the movement. Have a listen here.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-radio-podcast>



All Our Yesterdays

u3a would like to gather stories of the 1950s and 60s that stand out in your memory.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/all-our-yesterdays>

Cake Decorating

An online gallery of u3a members' best cake decorating skills and talents

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/cake-decorating>

Coming Soon

Upcoming Events list

You can use this link to find more details on all the events in our diary:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/events>

Thu Nov 3rd

Monthly Meeting
2:30pm – 4:00pm
Coronation Hall

L on Wheels

Steve Brown's reminiscences of being a driving instructor.

Thu Dec 1st

Monthly Meeting
2:30pm – 4:00pm
Coronation Hall

Scullery Maid Wanted

WSPu3a Play Reading Group pantomime

Panto



On 1st December at the u3a main meeting the Play Reading Group will perform a pantomime: **'Scully Maid Wanted'** was written by Harry Chaloner of Preston and District u3a and contains many favourite pantomime characters.

The cast comprises nine WSPu3a members (see poster)

Jean Ellis – Group Leader

**The Woodhall Spa U3A
Panto Group Present
SCULLERY
MAID WANTED**



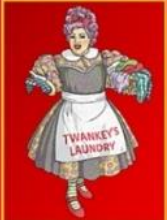

© Harry Chaloner (Preston & District U3A) with additional
dialogue by Jean Ellis & Barbara Michaelides

Cast

Lady Amelia Grouch - Val Shurben
Lord Spencer Grouch - Ced Shurben
Theodore (The Butler) - Tony Duggins
Cinderella - Barbara Michaelides
Snow White - Jean Ellis
Goldilocks - Lynn Duggins
Dorothy Gale - Barbara Michaelides
Cissie (an ugly sister) - Sue Lonsdale
Ada (an ugly sister) - Rosemary Brown
Widow Twankey - Lynn Noel
Little Red Riding Hood - Jean Ellis

Props :- Lynn Duggins, Peter Ellis

Around the Groups in 60 days

Dog Walking

On the first of October we met at Stixwould Station. We walked along the side of the river to Southrey and back. Some of us hadn't walked along that part of the path before so it was good to discover something new. The sun was shining, in fact a perfect day to walk with our dogs and chat with friends.

The photo features a Beddlington Cross, a Cocker Spaniel and a Miniature Schnauzer.

Judy Binks – Group Leader



Gardening



The Gardens were still blooming with bright colourful plants, autumn tinged trees and unusual species.

The afternoon was completed by a delicious cuppa, home made cakes and plenty of conversation. A very enjoyable afternoon in the Autumn sunshine.

Heather Colebrook – Group Leader

The Gardening Group met on Friday 14th October to visit the [Baumber Walled Gardens](#) near Horncastle.

It was a glorious afternoon weather-wise and a very successful visit.

We were taken on a guided tour of the gardens and the Head Gardener gave us a brief history of the set up of the Walled Gardens, which was both interesting and informative. She pointed out that it was a double walled garden and this was a rare feature.

Science

There was a pause in our activities over the summer period but we recommenced our meetings on Monday 17 October. At this meeting we had a very informed presentation from Roger Bradbury who works for [Bayer Crop Science](#).

His presentation was on Developments in Crop Science and after introducing Bayer and his role with the company he took us through a range of technological developments from seed development to the use of digital mapping and information systems to aid crop growth. This included drone mapping to identify areas of low yield in fields along with areas of problematic weed growth. The information is converted into a precision seed drilling plan and a precision targeted weed killer application plan, which minimises weedkiller use using sophisticated sprayers.

We were left in no doubt that farming is becoming a very sophisticated technology aided industry.

[Les Wylde – Group Leader](#)

Five Mile Walking

Donington-on-Bain to Biscathorpe

Our walk leaders were Steve and Pat Parry, who chose a classic walk from Donington-on-Bain to Biscathorpe and back.

We climbed out of the valley on to the ridge. The weather was wonderful with clear views across Lincolnshire.



[Continued](#)

Donington-on-Bain to Biscathorpe - Continued

Then we walked down to the River Bain and Biscathorpe Church. The village has disappeared, but this beautiful Victorian church remains. Sadly, it is gradually becoming a ruin and is on the Victorian Society's 2021 Top Ten Endangered Buildings List.



Photo by Ben Abel, [Victorian Society](#)

The River Bain runs down the backbone of the Lincolnshire Wolds before wandering from Horncastle to the River Witham. Lincolnshire's chalk streams are a characteristic and attractive feature of the Wolds and have shaped the landscape over the past 10,000 years. They are a rare and valuable habitat, often referred to as England's equivalent of rainforests. It is estimated that 85% of the world's chalk streams are in England and around 10% of these are in Lincolnshire.



After strolling by the Bain, we ended up basking in the sunshine of the garden of the Post Office, enjoying our sandwiches, ginger beer and good conversation.

Malcolm Capps – Group Leader
Photos by Les Wylde, except where shown.

Home Computing for Fun

Landlines Vs VoIP Telephones

With the offer of Full Fibre Broadband in the area and new providers popping up, the question of losing your 'Landline phone' might be something you are made to consider.

What actually is the difference?



What is a Landline?

Landlines work via circuit switching. Whenever a call is made, your telephone carrier routes it through a switch to the number you're calling. A connection is made between both parties through several switches along the way. When the phone is answered at the other end of the call, the connection opens the circuit. Up until the sixties, every phone call had to have a dedicated wire stretching from one end of the call to the other, like two tin cans and a bit of string!

What is VoIP?

Voice over Internet Protocol telephony (VoIP) encodes the analogue signals of a caller's voice into digital form, then transmits them over the internet. On the receiving end, the encoded signal is decoded for the recipient to hear the caller's voice.

Instead of traditional circuit switching, VoIP uses the internet's packet-switching capacity to provide phone service more effectively. It assumes that during any given phone call, when one person is talking, the other one is listening, which

[Continued](#)

Long-distance telephony meant that there were switches from point A to point B, connecting pieces of copper wire all across the distance between them.

Today, landline telephony is much more efficient and cost-effective. The voice soundwaves of the person making the call are digitized, and sent through fibre-optic cables for the majority of their distance, although there's still copper wire going into direct phone lines.

means that the data file carrying the digitized sound waves can be cut in half. If the "quiet time" of conversations are also cut out, this reduces the file size even more.

Data networks operate by only transmitting the packets of noisy bytes, opening brief connections instead of maintaining the steady open connection of circuit switching, used by landlines. This offers the additional advantage of allowing a network to route data packets along the least congested and cheapest lines.

Landlines Vs VoIP – Continued

Landlines Pros and Cons

Pros

- Can be more dependable for emergency calls. If you don't have a mobile or your battery is flat.
- Backup during natural disasters – Landlines are better emergency backup communication systems, as they generally still work during power outages.
- Reliability and Sound Quality – Since VoIP works over your internet connection, the sound quality and reliability depends on your connection.
- Security – It's much easier for hackers to gain access through VoIP or mobile phones than through landlines.

Cons

- Cost – VoIP telephony can offer much more competitive pricing than traditional landlines.
- Sales calls – Landlines are particularly susceptible to spam and telesales calls.
- Telephony, internet and cable packages – Often, these services are bundled together by companies, which may make dropping your landline less cost-effective than it could be.

VoIP Pros and Cons

Pros

- Inexpensive and user-friendly – VoIP services are generally less expensive than traditional landlines, depending on your service provider and on your existing contract.
- Increased portability – VoIP phone calls can be made from any place with good internet access.
- Extra features – VoIP can provide call routing, automated attendants, call recording, and filtering, as well as other benefits. It can also integrate with other, cloud-based software to increase collaboration and efficiency.
- Versatility – It's quite usual for VoIP services to provide high levels of integration across different platforms, permitting video transmission as well as voice communication.

Cons

- Sound quality and reliability – With sufficient bandwidth and good equipment, poor sound quality and reliability aren't an issue, but the fact of the matter is that VoIP relies on your internet. Any dropping out or poor connection can cause transmission errors.
- Susceptibility – Though quite rare, VoIP can be more prone to hacking or viruses
- Reliance on computers – Depending on the processing power of your computer, VoIP calls can be affected by what else is running on your computer whilst making a call.

Continued

Landlines Vs VoIP – Continued

What is due to happen in the future?

Landlines are due to be phased out by December 2025. Providers are committed to provide an alternative to customers who depend on a landline and either don't have a computer, mobile or a mobile signal at their home.

Links to further information

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/consumer-issues/changes-to-landline-telephones>
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/future-of-landline-calls>



Your monthly guide to what it means....

ISP

ISP stands for Internet Service Provider.

This is the company that provides your Home Broadband/ Internet.

You would normally enter into a contract with your provider. This contract can be of varying lengths and be covered by various conditions.

Your provider would supply you with a router that you can connect to either wirelessly or using a cable. Some providers can supply a telephone and email address service as well, normally as part of a package deal.

There are many companies to choose from who provide this service.

Snip and Sketch

This is an option on Windows computers that allows you to copy anything from your screen into an email, document or presentation. This is useful for copying part of your screen (there is still the option of using the keyboard function keys to copy a whole screen)

You can use this to copy and paste anything from your screen.

This could be a picture, part of a web page, instructions or an error message.



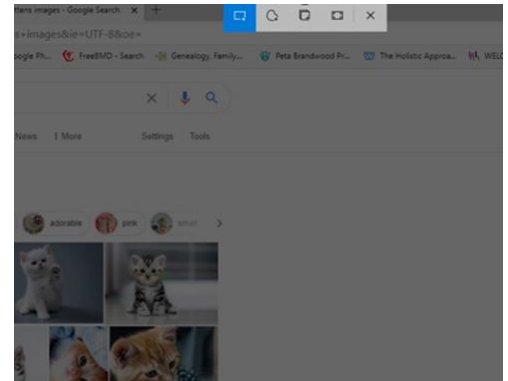
To use this you just need to press the Shift, Windows and S key at the same time as shown (please note that your keys may be in a slightly different position).

[Continued](#)

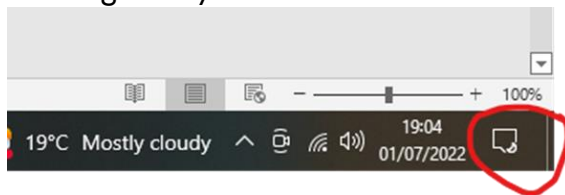
Snip and Sketch – Continued

When you do this the screen will go darker and there will be a small menu option bar (blue and grey) at the top of the screen.

You will also notice that your curser has turned to a cross (this is not showing up on my screenshot). You can then use your curser to draw around the thing that you would like to copy.

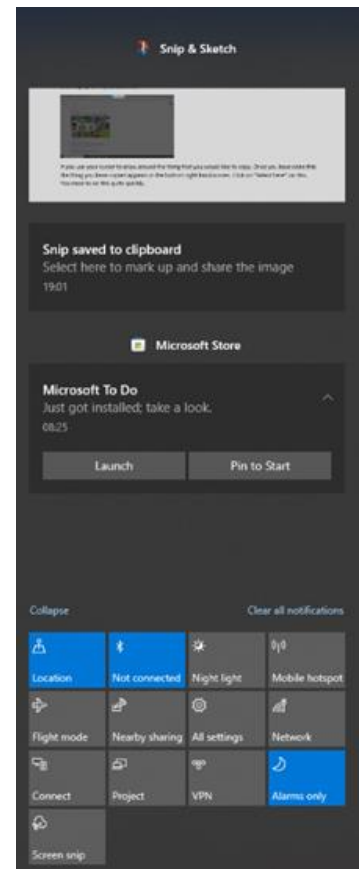
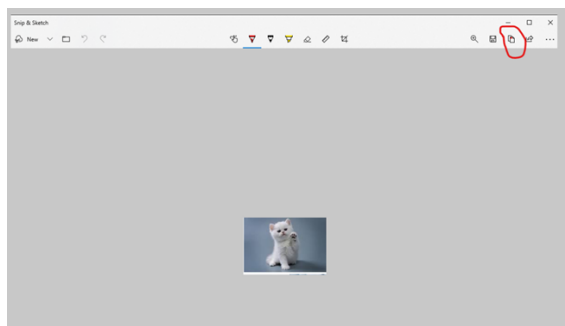


Once you have done this the thing you have copied appears in the notification screen that you can access by clicking on the screen icon on the bottom right of your screen.



The image will be at the top of this screen and you can click on it to access the next screen.

This screen will then get larger. You will see there are lots of options at the top. For now the only one you need is the 'Copy' option circled in red. If you click on this the thing is copied to the clipboard.



You can then go to a Word document or email, Right Click where you want it, select Paste and voila! There it is.

Please note – this feature may not be installed on your PC. It can be downloaded for free from the Microsoft store



Heather Maslen – Group Leader

Find out more:

If you have any questions about these articles, follow this link and click on the bird on the Home Computing for Fun page on the Woodhall Spa U3A website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/page/115109>

The Final Word

Feedback:

You can use this link to view past issues of the Newsletter, or to send a note to the Editor:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodhall-spa/page/113917>

Feedback, please

I would very much like to hear from you about what you like and don't like about the Newsletter. All constructive feedback is always worth listening to, so feel free to tell me your opinions. Please use the link above to get in touch.

Many thanks to all the contributors to this edition of the Newsletter.

If you'd like to see your group represented with an article of its own, have a word with your Group Leader and see if you can compose something between you.

Take care out there,

Tom Sefton – Editor

