

WSPU3A Newsletter

November/December
2022



Horncastle Road

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

Being a member of the u3a certainly boosts your social calendar. I have an invitation to the [Five Mile Walker's Christmas Lunch](#); at [Country Dancing](#) we will be dancing to carols, and no doubt the [Family History](#) will mark the season with some seasonal refreshments. Fortunately, the lunch is early in Advent so it will not

spoil my Christmas Dinner. No doubt other groups celebrate in their own way. In the meantime, I have the onerous job of sampling mince pies to decide which ones to buy for the December meeting. See you there and enjoy the pantomime. [A Happy and Merry Christmas to you all!](#)

Malcolm Capps – Chairman

Groups News

I am pleased to report that we have two new groups. Following a meeting with members the **POETRY GROUP** has now formed and will be having their first meeting in January. Watch this space for some original poems!

A **SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS** group has also been started following a meeting with interested members, and they were so keen that the Spanish lesson started before we'd finished coffee!

You may remember that I mentioned in the last Newsletter, and also at the monthly meeting, that we were starting a **MOTO GROUP** (Members On Their Own). This does not necessarily apply to singles, but

there are sometimes members who, although they are part of a couple, find themselves going out by themselves and they too would be welcome. We already have several members who have signed up, and so if you would like company to go to the Kinema, theatre, days out, meals – the list is endless – then add your name to the sheet and we can soon have the group out and about and enjoying themselves. Several groups will be having their Christmas lunches very soon and I hope you all have a great time, and may I wish you all a **Wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023**.

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>

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>

January 5th

2:30pm to 4pm
Coronation Hall

Silver Lions Ukelele Band

The band will perform songs and give us a presentation on the history of the instrument.

Panto


On 1st December at the u3a main meeting the Play Reading Group will perform a pantomime: 'Scullery 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 30 days

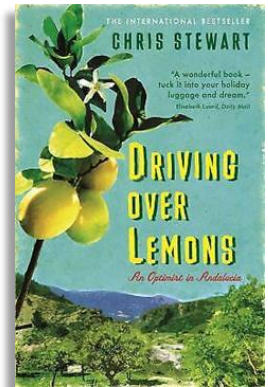
Reading

Three Great Books for our Autumn Reading

Driving Over Lemons by Chris Stewart is about the purchase and renovation, by the author and his wife, of a dilapidated stone farmhouse in the Spanish Alpujarra mountains.



The farm is called El Valero; it is run down and on the wrong side of the river with only a flimsy bridge to anywhere. There's no access road, no running water and no electricity, but there are abundant olive, almond and lemon groves.



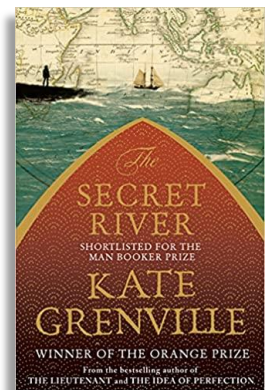
Despite problem after problem, the new owners end up loving everyone and everything around them and still own the place today.

The book was written to raise the money for a second-hand tractor, but it exceeded all expectations by becoming a best seller with humour and realism, revealing some extraordinary characters and customs.

The Secret River, by Kate Grenville is basically about the colonisation of Australia by British convicts who, to make their homes there, took the land by force from the Aboriginals who came before them. It is told through the eyes and feelings of William Thornhill, an illiterate English bargeman, quick tempered, strong and resourceful, who is transported to New South Wales in the early 1800s.



William's story begins in London where after a series of disasters he and his wife Sal fall into poverty. He is sentenced to death for stealing a load of wood, later commuted to 'transportation for the term of his natural life'.



His family goes with him, the journey takes a year and the rest of the book is about their struggle to make a life in a new very different land.

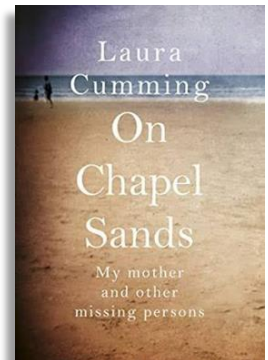
[Continued](#)

Three Great Books – Continued

The setting for [On Chapel Sands: My Mother and Other Missing Persons](#), by [Laura Cumming](#) is Chapel St Leonards, on the Lincolnshire Coast, and its nearby villages. It is a true story, researched by the author in the time after she discovered that her mother had been kidnapped off Chapel beach in 1929, at the age of 3 years. The book is a mixture of mystery and memoir with two narratives running through – the mother's childhood tale and Laura Cumming's own pursuit of the truth. Following the clues from old photographs and accounts, the author pieces together the



motivations and events surrounding the incident. She discovers the reasons why her mother, originally christened Grace and renamed Betty, was taken and how her life was affected by her emerging consciousness of her origins and family relationships.



The fact that members of the Reading Group know the area well and had even met some of the characters made our discussion of this book even more interesting than normal. All agreed that it is a beautifully written slowly unravelling story, well worth a second read. Often linked with discussions about art and imagery, the prose is outstanding and the characters and places well described.

[Barbara Michaelides](#) – Group Co-ordinator

Movies

The Movie Group's last meeting of the year was to see [Ticket to Paradise](#) with Julia Roberts and George Clooney. 17 members went to see the film which was very well received, being given an average score of 9 out of 10. The highest score we've had; the closest being Belfast some months ago which scored 8.

After the film we all headed to The Inn for a celebration lunch and more friendly discussion about the film.

If you enjoy films then you might like to join the Movie Group. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month to visit The Kinema in the Woods when they are having their Senior Screen, and have seen a wide variety of films during the year, usually followed by a coffee and (maybe) lunch.



[Val Shurben](#) – Group Leader

Poetry

Christmas at Melrose

*Leslie Pinckney Hill**The Book of American Negro Poetry. 1922, James Weldon Johnson, ed. (1871–1938).*

*Come home with me a little space
And browse about our ancient place,
Lay by your wonted troubles here
And have a turn of Christmas cheer.*

*Sometimes the north wind searches through,
But he shall not be rude to you.
We'll light a log of generous girth
For winter comfort, and the mirth*

*Elaine with comprehending eyes,
And two more yet of coddling size,
Natalie pondering all that's said,
And Mary with the cherub head—*

*Where father loves to muse aside
And grandma sits in silent pride.
And you may chafe the wasting oak,
Or freely pass the kindly joke*

*Or hear great Milton's organ verse
Or Plato's dialogue rehearse
What Socrates with his last breath
Sublimely said of life and death.*

*These sober walls of weathered stone
Can tell a romance of their own,
And these wide rooms of devious line
Are kindly meant in their design.*

*Of healthy children you shall see
About a sparkling Christmas tree.
Eleanor, leader of the fold,
Hermione with heart of gold,*

*All these shall give you sweet content
And care-destroying merriment,
While one with true madonna grace
Moves round the glowing fire-place*

*To mix with nuts and home-made cake
And apples set on coals to bake.
Or some fine carol we will sing
In honor of the Manger King*

*These dear delights we fain would share
With friend and kinsman everywhere,
And from our door see them depart
Each with a little lighter heart.*

Selected by Tom Sefton

Country Dancing



Our Country Dancing Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at St Peter's Church Hall from 2pm to 4pm. We have an afternoon of enjoyable, funny exercise and memory training (well, you have to remember all the steps and put them together in the right order). Why not join us? We may not be great dancers, we make a lot of mistakes but we laugh so much during those two hours!



Les Wylde – Photos and Text

Outings

The Outings Group committee would like to thank *all who have supported them* on their trips this year.

Our aim is to organise six outings in 2022 and we have some ideas and suggestions already. We will announce our programme in the New Year. The first outing in 2022 is to Nottingham to see the new musical [Fisherman's Friends](#) in February. This has proved popular and is already booked up, but we are taking a reserve list.

A big thank you to Elaine who has decided to step down from the committee after six years.
[Sue Pollitt](#) – Group Co-Leader

Sew and Sew



Beginner



Ready to be Pieced Together

This month some of us have been working, at various stages from beginner to completion, on a method of quilting known as [Foundation Piecing](#).

Other members worked on cross stitch, dress making and quilting.



All Complete

[Joan Willard](#) – Group Leader



The Sew and Sews –
 Barbara, Carmel, Val, and Judy

Visiting Churches

Our November Visit to Two Lovely Local Churches



Fifteen members of the Visiting Churches group had a really great Tuesday afternoon out visiting two local Churches in the Carr Dyke Group. Pictured here are members at Holy Trinity Church in Martin, where the Church Warden, Michael Houseman, told us something of the Church's history and of many of the local characters and events connected with it. The blue domed roof over the altar is the first thing that takes your eye on entering. Close inspection will show it is studded with stars and the modern fits surprisingly well with the more traditional style of the rest of the building.

[Continued](#)



Visiting Churches – Continued



After exploring Holy Trinity for an hour, the group moved on to St Andrew's Church in Timberland, where the Church Warden, Diane Byard, was waiting for us with an introduction to this lovely building, which dates all the way back to Saxon times. We spent the rest of our time there exploring. One very interesting item in St Andrew's is a very rare Harrison and Harrison organ, which is played at each service.

Late afternoon found us supping a variety of hot and cold drinks, and eating brownies, at the nearby Penny Farthing public house.

Many thanks to the Rev Steve Holt, Vicar of the Carr Dyke group of Churches. Special thanks to Church Wardens, Michael and Diane for showing us round and for being so welcoming, interesting and knowledgeable.

The [Visiting Churches Group](#) meets on the second Tuesday afternoon in the month and our next meeting, in December, is our planning meeting. Here we will get together to decide which Churches we will explore in 2023 and which members would be able to organise a visit for us. The list of places we'd like to go is growing rapidly.

[Barbara Michaelides](#)

Croquet

Our Woodhall Spa u3a Croquet had a good season in 2022, although not a large group we all enjoyed the Tuesday morning sessions.

The weekly attendance was usually only six or seven players.

There are three half size lawns in Jubilee Park, which gives us the opportunity to have more players attending.

Although my registration list has some twenty u3a members, quite a number have never shown up to play.

A new list will be available during February/March 2023 for the new season starting in April. Should members still be considering joining the Croquet Group please talk to

some of the established members for some feedback.

Any new member will be most welcome and if necessary they would be coached on a one-to-one basis. Croquet is a most enjoyable game with some gentle exercise thrown in.

It costs you nothing to come and try your hand, but you may enjoy the experience enough to have a second visit.

A big thank you to my regular members, with a hope that you will return again next season for some more friendly and enjoyable Tuesday mornings' entertainment.

Regards to all.

[Bob Potter – Group Leader \(Coach\)](#)

Home Computing for Fun

The Great Christmas and Technology Quiz

1. How many ghosts appear in A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens?
2. Where does the word Winter come from?
3. In which decade was the Sony Walkman launched?
4. How do you say Merry Christmas in Spanish?
5. What does CPU stand for?
6. What is the name of Google's browser?
7. Most of our devices connect to our router via WiFi, but what is the cable called that we can use instead?
8. How many Christmas trees are grown each year in Europe?
9. What are the ingredients in a Snowball drink?
10. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
11. What is the name of the British computer scientist who invented the World Wide Web in 1989?
12. An extension of .MP4 refers to what type of digital file?
13. Which technology was named after Harald Blatonn, a Danish-Norwegian king?
14. If you're born on Christmas day, what's your star sign?
15. What was the first Christmas song to be played in space?
16. What was the last US State to declare Christmas a legal holiday?
17. What was the first item sold on eBay?
18. Which Microsoft product replaced Lotus 1-2-3 as the industry standard for spreadsheets?
19. What is the latest iPhone called?
20. What is the highest selling single of all time?



Answers on page 13

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>

Five Mile Walking

Southrey is one of those places that you must deliberately decide to visit. It is on the way to nowhere. Once it was on the railway line to Boston and had a station, once it had a ferry to Metheringham. Today it is a dead end. There is no medieval church, only a Victorian wooden one, built as a temporary measure in 1898 for £130. Even the pub was closed.

We started out along the Water Rail towards Bardney before turning towards Southrey Wood. Why the Water Rail does not continue straight to Bardney is a conundrum that has never been satisfactorily solved. The weather matched the scenery with a strong wind blowing across the fenlands around the Witham. The 22-acre Southrey Wood provided some shelter. It is a coppiced woodland and part of the extensive and historically important Bardney Limewoods.

We re-entered Bardney by Westfield Road, passing a rare survival of two listed 17th century mud and stud cottages. Crossing the road, we walked northeast to Campney Lane and back on the Water Rail. On the way across we met another walking group from Witham u3a.

Shh... Don't mention the apple tree, but we know where it is for next year.

Malcolm Capps – Group Leader
Photos by Les Wylde



Home Computing for Fun

The Great Christmas and Technology Quiz – Answers

1. Four
2. Winter comes from the Germanic wintar which in turn is derived from the root 'wed' meaning 'wet' or 'water'
3. 1970s
4. Feliz Navidad
5. Central Processing Unit



6. Chrome
7. Ethernet
8. Around 60 million
9. Advocaat, lemonade and lime juice
10. Japan

11. Tim Berners-Lee
12. Video file
13. Bluetooth
14. Capricorn
15. Jingle Bells. In December 1965 by the crew of NASA's Gemini 6 space flight.



16. Oklahoma in 1907
17. A broken laser pointer
18. Excel
19. iPhone 14
20. White Christmas by Bing Crosby

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>

I'd like to take this moment to wish you all a **very peaceful Christmas**, and to thank you for your comments and feedback over the last year.

I am indebted, as always, to those who have taken time to contribute to this edition of the Newsletter.

Many thanks.

Tom Sefton – Editor