

OUR MISSION

The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full-time work by all means, including associated activities, conducive to learning and personal development.



North Cliffe Woods - Simon Tull

Thank you ...

...to everyone who has contributed to this Spring 2024 edition of our Beverley & District u3a newsletter. The newsletter is a great way to share u3a-related news, so please write to me with any ideas for inclusion in future issues. My email is simontull@ymail.com¹.

Simon Tull

Chair's Message

Welcome to a new membership year. The majority of members have now renewed but if you haven't there is still time to do so. Details are given below. Happily we continue to attract new members, many by word of mouth, so please continue to spread the word.

A reminder that there is no age restriction on u3a membership. Continuing changes in working practices, mean that people are leaving full time work either permanently or temporarily at different ages. We need people from a broad age range to keep the organisation running and vibrant.

u3a is a self-help organisation, run by the members for the members. Successful u3a's need people willing to help run the organisation. This could be by coordinating a group, taking entry fees at group meetings, helping prepare refreshments at monthly meetings, as a committee member, or as a supporter to the committee. These are all excellent ways of making new friends and contributing to the organisation.

¹ Clicking on text formatted like [this](#) will take you to your default email program / web browser

There are currently a number of vacancies on the committee and in support roles. In particular we need people to arrange speakers and to organise the monthly meetings, and to support the development and running of our interest groups.

Please think about what you can offer our u3a. If you would like to learn more about how the organisation is run you are most welcome to attend a committee meeting. Just contact me or another member of the team. **Pam Buckton**, pamelabuckton@outlook.com.

Membership Secretary's Message

You will by now have received details of how to renew your membership. If you have not already done so, your 2024 subscription can be paid by cheque or by BACS transfer. Our bank account details are given below. **Please quote your membership number as a reference when sending your bank transfer.**

Sort Code 53-50-57
Account Name Beverley and District u3a
Account No. 58655980

Alternatively, you can pay in cash when attending our monthly meetings.

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday monthly, 2:00 pm at Beverley Memorial Hall. Meetings consist of a talk, with tea/coffee and biscuits to follow. We very much look forward to seeing as many members as possible at these events.

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

18th April - **Dazzle**. Camouflage and how stripes won a World War - **Graham Buckton**

16th May - **Anyone For Seconds?** Dressing for a sustainable future - **Dr Charlotte Garbutt**

20th June (AGM) - **Oh What A Lovely War!** Thinking about Remembrance - **David Barton**

18th July - **Flight Of Disaster**. The R38/ZR2 Airship which crashed into the Humber in 1921

- **Michelle Beadle**



The April talk is all about camouflage

Group News

Please note that all of our active groups are listed in the Groups List mailed along with this newsletter.

We are pleased to announce two exciting proposals for new groups for our u3a.

Photography Group

Do you love taking photographs and would you like to meet like-minded people? Whether you use film, DSLR, mirrorless or simply your mobile phone, come and join our new photography group. Dates/time/venue are yet to be decided but will probably meet once a month, with topics to focus on in between. Please contact **Val Williamson** at val-williamson@live.co.uk or call 07531 476661 for more information.

Meet and Make Music Group

The **Meet and Make Music Group** is an opportunity for all instrumentalists of any standard or genre to get together and perform something. Have you just started to learn an instrument or played in the past? Have you got an instrument gathering dust in your cupboard, or are you an old pro? Whatever your musical background or skill level, it is a chance to meet other musicians, get some friendly feedback on a piece you have just learnt or maybe get together and play duets and ensembles. All wrong notes accepted! No performance pressures! Think of the health benefits too:



Making music

"A major study by UK researchers reveals that playing a musical instrument or singing sustains good memory and brain health in older age." Music Teacher Magazine

Anyone interested please contact **Sue Newton** at snewtonsue@gmail.com or call 01964 551502. Time and place will be decided if there is sufficient interest.

Local History Group

Are you interested in helping to run a local history group? One of our three groups has recently closed as the coordinator has stepped down, and we would like to be able to restart it to meet the high level of interest in this subject. There's lots of support available should you wish to, so please contact me on pamelabuckton@outlook.com if you can help. **Pam Buckton**

Music Appreciation Group

We recently changed our meetings, so now seems a good time to tell you about the **Music Appreciation Group**. We meet on the second Friday in the month at 2.30 at the C Club. The purpose of our meetings is to enjoy a wide variety of music as chosen by members. We decide on a topic for the next session at the end of each meeting. Each member then chooses a CD track (up to about 5 minutes) or an item to stream from the internet. We have a smart TV at our new venue, and so it is quite easy to stream music.



The Danish Lur (Yes, as in "Lurpack")

Everyone is invited to say a few words about the piece they have selected, such as information about the composer or musician, and then we can make comments after we have listened to the music, if we

wish. We play a wide range of music, including classical and operatic, musicals, jazz, folk and popular music. We cater for all tastes! Our members sometimes find that they are introduced to music which they haven't heard before, or don't normally listen to at home, which is both interesting and educational. We also have time for a chat, a tea or coffee or a drink from the bar. Since we now have more space, we are able to invite a few others to join us. If you are interested, please contact **Pam Jolly** at pam.jolly44@gmail.com.

Italian Improvers Group

The group is working hard on improving both grammar and conversation at intermediate level. We could do with a fluent speaker to keep us on our toes, so if there is anyone out there who would be willing to come along from time to time or perhaps meet up in smaller numbers for a coffee and conversation, please let **Judith Finn** know at judithdfinn@gmail.com, or by telephone on 01482 847959.



Alla Nostra!

We ended 2023 with an Italian meal, each member of the group contributing an Italian dish - and of course it had to be washed down with Prosecco! On the menu was *bruschetta*, *caponata*, *frittata di prosciutto*, *insalata*, *formaggio*, and *biscotti fiorentini*.

Current Affairs Group

Bill Jones writes "after a year's treatment for prostate cancer it was so good to get back to leading Current Affairs discussion sessions last autumn. The group started with a look at the Ukrainian War which was then at a stalemate - the Gaza War and Republicans in the House of Representatives have very regrettably handed the current advantage to the Russian side. We then looked at US politics and it was concluded that, Biden's frailty notwithstanding, Trump wouldn't win in November. Since then - world affairs are not enjoying any harmony right now - his popularity has grown but I am still marginally backing him to lose. At our next session we looked at the forthcoming UK General Election and - no surprises - the group reckoned Labour should win handsomely". Contact for the Current Affairs Group is **Christine Benson**, christine@abenson.karoo.co.uk.

Guitar Group



I can play the blues, I can play some jazz...

The Guitar Group has been on the go now for five years. Our standards vary from accomplished players to basic strummers. We welcome new people joining, so whether your aim is to headline at Glastonbury or just play a few songs at the family barbecue, why not come along and see if it's for you. We meet every Wednesday at Molescroft Pavilion, 1pm-3pm. More details are available via our [webpage](#) or by contacting **Dave Campbell** on email at honcolt8138@gmail.com.

Garden Interest Group

It's hard to believe as I write that meteorological spring has just started. Hopefully by the time you read this the rain might have stopped! If not, then perhaps one of our garden interest talks should be "how to build an ark"! We were very disappointed that it was necessary to cancel the planned social event in January because of circumstances beyond our control, but in February we were very lucky to be given a talk at Thwaite Hall



Some spring colour

gardens entitled "How Trees Grow". We also had the opportunity to walk around the gardens admiring the wonderful variety of plants and trees. A programme of the next few events has been circulated to members. Our March meeting was on the work of the Sheffield Botanical Gardens which were created in the mid 1800s and are a Grade II site of special historic interest. The group has a full membership and unfortunately because of the huge interest, we have had to close the waiting list. If you feel that you no longer wish to remain a member of the group please would you let me know by email at susan99@susan99.karoo.co.uk. **Sue Symmons**.

French Beginners become French Improvers

Joan Hoddinott reports that the group has now been going for 18 months. Such is progress, that in January the group changed names from "French Beginners" to "French Improvers". They have greatly enjoyed their tuition with **Mark Thompson** and the name change feels justified! Please note that the group is currently fully subscribed and that there is a waiting list to join. French is a particularly popular subject amongst our u3a members. See the **French Conversation** page on our website for other learning opportunities.



Les étudiants

Wild Things

We've been to some wild and windswept places as a group, but Paull Holme Strays which we visited in early March must be one of the loveliest and loneliest. It can be bleak indeed out there where the Humber meets saltmarsh and sky, with just birdcalls for company, but on the day, we were blessed with perfect March weather. Sixteen of us headed along the embankment, past the saltmarsh creeks to the mudflats and Thorngumbald High and Low working lighthouses. Here we watched the shoreline waders and dabbling ducks and marvelled at the views. Our upcoming field trips will take us birdwatching, orchid-spotting, and to an award-winning arable farm. Should any of this appeal, then please contact me on hkitson@gmail.com. **Helen Kitson**.



Thorngumbald lighthouses



Wild things, wild places

Yorkshire and Humber Region u3a Summer School

The Yorkshire and Humber Region (YAHR) u3a Summer School is from 22nd-25th July 2024 and will be held at The Hawkhill conference centre, Easingwold. The event will provide members with new learning opportunities, and will enable attendees to meet other u3a members from across the region.

A wide range of courses will be on offer covering such subjects as archaeology, art, current affairs, drama, history, languages and science. Further details are available via the

YAHR [website](#). Alternatively you can contact the summer school organiser **Jean Blackburn** at j.blackburn21@hotmail.co.uk/ Tel: 01274 591581.

General u3a News

The Third Age Trust website includes a wide range of resources of potential interest to members. The website includes a learning zone which has a whole range of [online groups](#) that you can join for an annual fee of £12, and there is a subject interest network for pretty much any subject you can imagine. See [here](#) for more information.

There are also numerous online learning events. The best way to find out what learning events are coming up is to subscribe to the learning zone mailing list [here](#).

The [TAT news page](#) is another useful source of information. One very good way to keep in touch with all things u3a is to sign up for the [national newsletter](#) which you can receive via email.



York Minster

The **u3a National Festival** will be in York this year. The festival will run 18th-20th July at the University of York, based around their exhibition centre. See the dedicated [website](#) for more details and to sign up for regular updates, or write to the organisers at festival@u3a.org.uk.

Community Announcements

FraudWatch, an initiative run by East Yorkshire Voluntary Action Services with backing from Humberside Police, has a wide range of resources available on its [website](#) (fraudwatch.org.uk) aimed at helping us protect ourselves against fraud in all its various forms. Simply put, their advice includes for us to "Take 5" and ask "Could this be a scam?" **FraudWatch** has offices in Beverley and can be reached by telephone on 01482 772125 and by email at help@fraudwatch.org.uk.

Membership of East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) leisure centres is available with your u3a membership at a discounted rate of £27. An application form may be accessed via the [membership page](#) of our website. For full details contact leisure@eastriding.gov.co.uk or call 01482 395223.

Credits

All images included in this newsletter were all taken by members of Beverley & District u3a. Photo credits: David Campbell, Judith Finn, Joan Hoddinott, Helen Kitson, Simon Tull

