



## NEWS

Registered Charity No. 1026617

[www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk](http://www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk)



Wednesday Cycling Group on the British Heart Foundation  
25 mile Peterborough Bike Ride

**U3A Address: Peterborough U3A, P O Box 1341  
Peterborough, PE2 2QD**

*OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS*

Chairman	Brian Keegan	01733 265769
Vice Chairman	Jacqueline Casson	01733 332061
Secretary	Brenda Fearon	01733 239848
Treasurer	Derek Lea	01733 572245
Accommodation Manager	Joy Green	01733 233713
Day Visit Organiser	Paul Parker	01780 782976
Groups' Coordinator	Hilary Keegan	01733 265769
Membership Secretary	Mary McCarthy	01733 232518
Speakers Secretary	Jan Bearman-Brown	01733 572201
Other Committee Members	Alan Locke	01733 370279
	Hilary Lewis	01733 265877
	Gill Parsons	01733 263211
	Chris Wareham	01733 263006
	Conny Yarwood	01733 394669

*SOME TELEPHONE NUMBERS YOU MIGHT NEED*

Day Visits Organisers	Paul Parker	01780 782976
	Gina Bates	01733 579317
	Sandi Osborne	01733 233840
	Doreen Dare	01733 260994
Theatre Group Organiser	Graham Woods	01733 234892
Travel Club Organisers	Arthur Hunt	01733 756883
	Ann Pollack	01733 269108
U3A News Editor	Conny Yarwood	01733 394669
Website Coordinator	Alan Locke	01733 370279

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES 2016 - 2017**

Current subscriptions (blue card) expire on 31 August 2016. Renewals for **after** that date, and **new** subscriptions from 1 June 2016, are at the rates given below.

**Single: £12      Joint (2 people at same address): £21.50**

Members of other U3As may be members of Peterborough U3A at reduced rates, as the capitation fee to the national organisation is only paid once per household. Membership number(s) of the other U3A must always be given on the renewal/application form. Those rates are:

**Single: £8.50      Joint (2 people at same address): £14.50**

Any concerns? Please contact Mary McCarthy (Membership Secretary) at pu3amembership@gmail.com, or via the telephone number at the top of this page.

## **Help us Celebrate our first 25 years!**

We are going to produce a book to capture the history of our first 25 years so we need:

- Volunteers to interview and capture the stories of some of the key group leaders, committee etc
- Pictures of group activities, particularly early ones
- Volunteers to sieve through our records and abstract a potted history of how we grew from 100 members at the first meeting to over 2,800 today
- Volunteers to produce and get the book printed and published

If you can help with any of the above please contact Brian Keegan on 265769 or one of the committee

### **A Tribute to John Knight**

I joined Peterborough U3A in its early days when the membership was still in the early hundreds in number. Very soon I became a committee member with a responsibility for Publicity. This brought me into close contact with a number of Chairpersons over the next ten years or so, before I gave up being a Committee member. One of these was John Knight.

As stated in the tribute for Wallace Giddings published in the April 2016 NEWS John and Wallace were the two founder members who got together to propose that a branch of the U3A be formed in Peterborough, and one was formed in the early 1990s, based at Bretton Woods Community School (now demolished).

John was one of the Chairpersons with whom I, as Publicity Officer, arranged talks and exhibitions to promote Peterborough U3A to organisations and groups such as the John Lewis Pre-Retirement Group, with a view to increasing our membership.



I remember when he and I were invited by the City Council to a meeting where various City groups were invited to bid for money made available through the City Council. We were hoping to spread the word about Peterborough U3A more widely throughout Peterborough, and were also looking to set up a website, but were reluctant to spend too much money at the time because there was a belief that we might be able in the future to acquire our own office space. The Council also wished to inform residents in a number of wards in Peterborough about the chances of getting involved in community activities, and John saw this as our opportunity to tap into the fund available. I had a day and a half to obtain quotes for the printing and solo distribution (ie with no other publication) of 13,000 leaflets to households in the Council-nominated wards. Our bid was granted, but we were then told the fund was no longer available, so John persuaded the Council that us winning the bid was in the Council's own interests, and European money was somehow obtained and the leaflet distribution went ahead, 13,000 households had the opportunity of reading our publicity leaflet, a number of new members resulted, and we got the money for the website.

As well as being Chairman, John was a Group Leader, and his talks on Antiques were popular and well received. In addition to meeting John at Committee Meetings, on New Members days, and our annual Activities Days, I was pleased to have been welcomed in their house in Welland Road by John and Eileen.

Sadly, in his latter days, John was forced to give up his many activities because of advancing Alzheimers. He died in February 2016 and his funeral was held at Peterborough Crematorium on Wednesday 9 March 2016.

I said in the tribute to Wallace that we owe him a lot. This also applies to John Knight. Thanks a lot, John. Rest in Peace.

*Bill Collin*

**The 24th Annual General Meeting of  
Peterborough U3A  
will take place at  
Peterborough Town Hall on  
Thursday 27 October 2016 at 10.15am**

Tea/coffee will be served from 9.45am  
before the start of the AGM

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

In 2017 it will be 25 years since our U3A was founded by John Knight at Bretton Woods School. John was a Community Education Tutor and as part of a further degree course, he learnt of the U3A concept, which had already been in operation for some time in France. As John was still working he was not eligible to join until he retired, hence Paul Parker, a fellow teacher at Bretton Woods School, became the first Chairman. John died earlier this year. All of us must be grateful to him for his efforts in starting our U3A and, of course, all the other people since involved as Group Leaders, on the committee and the very many helpers who keep the wheels lubricated by making tea etc.

The committee has decided to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by producing a book capturing the key events and people, who have enabled us to become a successful organisation and the second largest U3A in the country. So we need volunteers to interview and capture the stories of some of the key people over the 25 years and photographs to give a pictorial record. Please

contact me if you have any suitable pictures of activities or if you would like to help in the preparation of this book.

My three years as Chairman will finish at the AGM in October. The Committee will be proposing Jacqueline Casson as the new Chairman. I know you will give her the same support that you have given me.

I have very much enjoyed being your Chairman and visiting the art exhibitions, concerts by the Rhythmaires, the Singing for Pleasure Group and most of all the energy and the vibrancy of Activities Day. Each time I have taken the different Mayors around on Activities Day they have been visibly impressed at the sheer range and breadth of our activities.

So a big thanks to all of you for your support over the last three years; I have very much enjoyed meeting so many of you, in the groups I attend, on day visits, at the Town Hall and holiday group meetings. Lastly I must record my thanks to all the committee who have worked so hard to ensure our continuing success

*Brian Keegan*

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS AT THE TOWN HALL**

The monthly meetings are normally held at Peterborough Town Hall on the last Thursday of each month and coffees and teas are available from 10.00am. Notices and updates are followed by a speaker at approximately 10.30am.

Occasionally there is a change of venue, although not of our choosing. Every attempt is made to inform members, on our website, through Group Leaders and by announcement/reminders made at earlier meetings.

Please try to ensure at least one member **from each group** attends the monthly meetings so that any changes in venue/speaker and/or other updates can also be passed on.

Members of the Committee are available and happy to help with any queries.

**25 August**

**No Town Hall Meeting - Activities Day at The Fleet**

## **29 September**

### **Speaker: Ian Keable - The Vanishing Maidservant**

Ian is an excellent speaker who is able to relate facts in a very interesting manner. In 1753 Maidservant Elizabeth Canning claimed she was kidnapped by a Gypsy and held captive for 28 days. Would an 'innocent' woman hang? Was a crime committed or was it a hoax? Famous men of the day, including Henry Fielding (author of *Tom Jones*) became embroiled in the controversy. Through the medium of graphic prints her allegations are unravelled.

## **27 October**

### **Annual General Meeting**

#### **Speaker: Stuart Orme - Medieval Peterborough**

Now fully settled in his new post as Head of Operations at Peterborough Cathedral, the ever-popular Stuart is able to return to us with tales of a bygone era, this time on Medieval Peterborough. Peterborough was developed as a 'New Town' but not the one everyone thinks of. The first New Town was laid out in the 12th Century. Discover the lives of Monks and citizens, through plague, fire, flood, riot and war, and how even today Peterborough is still essentially a Medieval town

## **24 November**

### **Speaker: Ian Addis - Charles Wicksteed & Wicksteed Park**

#### **An illustrated talk**

Wicksteed Park is the lasting legacy of its creator. This is the story of Charles Wicksteed and the park, which bears his name. Wicksteed arrived in Kettering in 1871 as a 24 year old engineer. In 1913 he purchased a piece of Northamptonshire Meadow land. A simple act that would give pleasure to young and old for decades to come.

## **14 December (Wednesday)**

### **Our Christmas Gathering at The Fleet**

Please join us for a glass of sherry, a mince pie and festive entertainment from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

*Jan Bearman-Brown*



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

An amended renewal form was included in the June mailing this year. It included a section to be filled in by those paying subscriptions by standing order or direct debit. In the past those paying in this way did not always complete a renewal form, which led to some members' records being out of date.

It is important members' details are correct and up-to-date so that the newsletter and Third Age Matters are received and we ask **all** members to complete and return these forms. They can be given in at Activities Day as well as being sent back to the **new** PO box address and Postcode.

In an effort to reduce costs and keep subscription rates as low as possible we also request members include a stamped addressed envelope with the form for the new membership card to be sent out. Cards can also be collected at Activities Day if subscriptions have been received.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the Annual General Meeting last October a resolution to increase subscription rates was passed. The new rates are £12 for a single person and £21.50 for two people living at the same address; associate member subscriptions will be £8.50 and £14.50.

People paying with the GoCardless direct debit system will be notified of the increase prior to the subscription being paid. Those members paying by cheque or cash please note the new rates so you have the correct amount when paying. However, for members paying by standing order – **you must let your bank know that the amount has changed**. This is **not** something that can be done by anyone else. If you currently pay by standing order and wish to change to direct debit **please cancel the standing order instruction with your bank, only you can do this**. Incorrect and duplicated payments are problematic and time consuming to resolve.

## GIFT AID

While renewing and updating members' records, it has come to my notice that some people who previously allowed the U3A to collect Gift Aid on their subscription have not ticked the box for us to continue to do so. This could be because the declaration was on the bottom of the second side of the form and might have been missed – this will be addressed in a new form next year.

In the meantime, if you are eligible for us to collect Gift Aid on your subscription please contact me so that I can check and/or amend the details (pu3amembership@gmail.com or 01733 232518). These donations form a valuable addition to our funds and we would like to maximise the amount we can collect.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

*Mary McCarthy, Membership Secretary*

## GROUPS COORDINATOR'S REPORT

August again and time flies when you are having fun!!

### **New Groups Started**

(details in the accompanying Meeting of Groups booklet)

- 1 Short Walks around the Ferry Meadows area.
- 2 Canoeing courses – see magazine entry by Les Ranford.
- 3 Museum group running in collaboration with the Peterborough Museum Society - see magazine entry by Janice Almond.

### **Groups Finishing**

New groups start but unfortunately others finish for various reasons and since the last magazine we have lost the following groups:

Radio and Raynet - through lack of sufficient interest.

Rummikub 2 - lack of a willing new group leader.

Cross Stitch - Following the death of the leader, Sue Oliver, a new leader could not be found amongst the remaining members.

## **Proposed Groups**

I am trying to facilitate new groups by keeping interest sheets on the following:

- Darts
- Whist
- New Sing Something Simple group as the very popular Singing for Pleasure is full.

If anyone wishes to consider any of these please contact me on 01733 265769

There is no limit to the number of groups that Peterborough U3A can offer and, unlike other U3As, our membership is always open, our policy being that anyone who wishes to can join and we will never run a waiting list for membership. However, a large membership requires a large number of groups so if anyone reading this feels their interest is not being catered for then please consider finding out about starting a group. Having the idea doesn't mean that you will end up being the leader! Often what happens is that a few people meet to mull an idea over and then a leader emerges.

Many of the groups have now been running for a long time and leaders sometimes find, as they get older, that they need to hand over the reins to another. There is often a willing replacement but other groups have had to close due to a lack of someone to take over. I need, therefore, to remind people the success of our U3A depends on the willingness of the members to take a full part in the organisation. Being a group leader does not mean having to do it all. Jobs can be divvied up between several group members, thus sharing the load. If you want Peterborough U3A to continue to be a vibrant, inclusive and successful organization, we all need to contribute, therefore please all think what you might be able to do.

A reminder that any member wishing to join a group must contact the Group Leader beforehand to gain details of the activity and whether it is OK to attend. Please please do not just turn up. Also remember to take your current membership card with you (cream for the coming year) when attending a first meeting.

The Third Age Trust has a resource library containing many films, CDs, DVDs, books and course material for a variety of

subjects etc. Items can be borrowed free of charge, except for the cost of return postage after use. The library can be accessed via website, email or telephone Monday to Thursday and items may be reserved up to nine months in advance. Contact details in the TAT magazine.

## **ACTIVITIES DAY**

All members and interested persons are invited to attend Activities Day on Thursday August 25th 11.00am-4.00pm at The Fleet. Many groups will have a stand and a representative present to answer queries and give information. Parking was a bit of a problem last year but more spaces will be available this time. The afternoon is likely to be a bit quieter. Membership can be renewed for those preferring this method to standing orders and direct debits.

## **WANTED**

- 1 Someone willing to form an Italian Group.
- 2 A conductor for Margaret Smith's Harmony Group.
- 3 A group leader to take over the Birdwatching group.  
Please contact me if you may be willing to do any of these on 01733 265769
- 4 We now have a very vibrant website but would like more groups to enter pictures featuring their activities. Group Leaders can do this themselves, but Alan Locke, the Website Coordinator, is very happy to do it for anyone who may struggle.

Comments have been made that the committee is remote and inaccessible to the members. I would like to remind everyone that our contact numbers are in the front of this magazine. Also the committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and if a member wishes for a point to be raised to the committee then please feel free to let me know and I will make sure it is raised. Members of the committee are available at the Town Hall meetings every last Thursday of the month. We have also started the 'roving reporter' initiative and by the time you are reading this NEWS some of you will have become familiar with this idea.

*Hilary Keegan*

## FROM THE GROUPS

### **A tribute to Janet Whitehead**

Janet was a longstanding member of All Matters Welsh before her tragic death on 1 April this year.

Janet, known as Sioned within the group, and her friend Charlie were involved in a road accident in which they were both killed. This was a huge shock to our members who knew both very well. Janet was very well thought of, very happy and bubbly and always the life and soul of the party. She did tend to hide her light under a bushel, however. Although we thought very highly of her, it was only after her death that we found out just how very involved she was in support of the community.

She was a voluntary driver, homeless support volunteer and very active as a member of All Saint's Church.

Janet would not have wanted us to be miserable. The best way to remember her is to be as she was, always looking to the future and making the best of every situation.

She will be sadly missed by her friends in All Matters Welsh, especially as she was a very active member, enthusiastic and thought the best of everybody.

*Meirion Griffiths*

### **In Memory of Sue Oliver**

It was with great sadness we remembered Sue at our Monday Meeting of The Rhythmaires, playing one of her favourite pieces. Sue was a founder member of the Music Group, and played recorder brilliantly, especially as she only learnt to play with Audrey Creed originally teaching the Basics of Music to the Group.

Sue was a good friend with a quiet sense of humour, never complaining about the amount of photocopying we gave her to do!!

She bravely fought her illness and will be remembered not only for her music, but above all for being our Tea Lady, keeping us all going by regularly bringing in the tea/coffee/sugar/milk etc needed to sustain us all.

Rest in Peace Sue

*Barbarbera Lovell*

## **All Matters Welsh - A new member's viewpoint**

My husband Alun and I moved to Warmington, where our daughter and family live, in July 2015, as his health was not 100%. Coming from a very Welsh background, where Alun had been a member of 'Côr Meibion Ardudwy' for 25 years, I felt that a Welsh connection was required. After some internet research I found the Peterborough U3A branch and 'All Matters Welsh' and got in touch with Meirion. As they say 'the rest is history'!

We have been very warmly welcomed by everyone at the monthly meetings as well as at the Welsh language discussion group gang on Fridays at Thorpe Hall. It wasn't until we had attended a few of these that I realised just how much Welsh I recall.

The language at my mother's knee was English and having lived and worked in Birmingham for over 30 years I was happier speaking English. However, St David's Day found us joining a group of members at The Admiral Wells in Holme for a tasty lunch with a Welsh flavour. After the feast the staff served tea and coffee and surprised us with complimentary plates of very good 'Bara Brith'. All this with the accompaniment of a CD playing 'Gwlad y Delyn' 'The Land of the Harp' quietly in the background.

We are both looking forward to the events to come this year.

*Maggie and Alun Evans*

## **Alphabet of Art Visit to New Walk Gallery, Leicester**

On Thursday 14 April the art appreciation group, An Alphabet of Art, led by John Shearman, went on their annual outing. This year it was to the New Walk Museum in Leicester. The principal attraction was the recently re-hung largest collection of German expressionist art in the United Kingdom. An hour long lecture tour was arranged for the morning and afternoon group, given by Simon Lake, the present Curator, whose enthusiasm and expertise held us spellbound.

German Expressionism, a modernist movement of the twentieth century reflected the history of those turbulent times. Two groups of artists were at the heart of the early days. The Bridge was founded in 1905 and the Blue Rider in 1911. Some of the key artists involved include Nolde, Marc, Kandinsky and Klee. These sought to express the inner, emotional and spiritual dimensions of life in contrast to the objectivist traditions they inherited. But the First World War and its aftermath turned their attention to criticism of the

harshness of modern industrial society and the need for a new social vision. Under Nazism Expressionism was condemned as 'degenerate art'. It was this, fortuitously, that saw the beginning of this significant collection. The then Curator, Trevor Thomas, met Alfred Hess, the wealthy patron of the movement. As a result, when the original collection had to be dispersed, members of the family came to Britain with part of their collection, bringing it to Leicester.

There was also opportunity to visit, at leisure, other galleries in this interesting museum, including a considerable collection of nineteenth century and later art, Sir Richard Attenborough's collection of Picasso's ceramics, and the vibrant annual exhibition of local art. Some also found their way down New Walk to the Cathedral and Richard III's new resting place. All in all Leicester provides a pleasant and worthwhile day out. Try it!

*Paul Ballard*

### **Bird Watching Group**

After nearly 20 years as Group Leader, the time is approaching for me to hang up my 'bins' and hand over to a more able bodied person. With dodgy eyesight and the need to wear hearing aids, I am no longer the best advert for bird watcher of the year, although it does give rise to some ribald comments from the group.

I see this as an opportunity for someone with an interest in bird watching to step forward and create something that encompasses the best of bird watching. There are many sites around the Peterborough area that I did not cover, so this is an opportunity for a new leader to produce their own programme of visits. I will carry on with the group until the end of the year but in the meantime, I hope that someone will come forward to take over the helm.

For general information, my programme covered Ferry Meadows, Little Paxton, Eyebrook Reservoir, Deeping Lakes, Egleton Reserve at Rutland Water, Old Sulehay, Hills & Hollows at Barnack, Crown Lakes at Farcet, Woodwalton Fen and Welney for the winter wild swans. Some we visited twice to cover Spring and Autumn bird movements. Over the years this has shown just how much change there has been and someone starting out today will no longer be surprised to encounter Spoonbills or Great White Egrets. Perhaps this is part of the effect of global warming, but that's another subject altogether. It has been most enjoyable starting from

the early days of helping identify birds when out with the Tuesday Walkers, to setting up the Bird Watching Group. It has been a very pleasant journey.

*Bernard Dawes*

### **Bowls at Barnack Group**

The Group is for U3A members who enjoy playing outdoor bowls for fun and for member who are wanting to learn how to play bowls.

We meet at the Barnack Bowls Club on Thursday and Saturday mornings at 9.45am for 10.00am start and finish at 12.00 - 12.15pm with a tea break at 11.00am. The Barnack Club is set in a lovely country location with free parking on site. There are barbecue facilities, which we use during the season.

A group of the U3A members have just returned from a mid week break at Potters. We entered six groups of four players into the Bowls Tournament and two teams got through to finals day. We all had a great time.

Bowls and coaching are available for beginners. Should any U3A member wish to join our Group or just have a one off beginners coaching session then please contact me on 01733 571246

The fee is £2.50p per session inclusive of tea & biscuits.

*Malcolm Bayes*

### **Bowls at Bushfield**

#### **It's not too late for U3A Bowls at Bushfield – give it a try before the end of the season**

The U3A Lawn Bowls group at Bushfield has met every Monday since 2 May and continues until 17 September. Anyone interested is invited to turn up at the club on a Monday or contact Bernard Barker on 01733 236241 (e-mail: rekrab3@gmail.com). Please check the website <https://rekrab3.wordpress.com/u3a-bowls-group> for full details, including location (we are tucked in behind the Wilkinson's store at Ortongate).

These are exciting times for the club. The City Council is installing an automatic watering system and we are raising funds for a host of other improvements. The clubhouse bustles with U3A season ticket holders and new and old members playing roll-ups. There is a full programme of competitions and friendly matches for club members.



The club is open seven days a week so you can play every day, Monday to Sunday. Just turn up at the club at 1.45pm and you will be welcomed by our members and invited to join roll-ups, played between 2.00 and 4.00pm, with a tea interval at around 3.00pm.

U3A season tickets are £20 but reductions are available for people joining in September. Alternatively, you can pay a casual day fee of only £3.

If you are a new bowler, we provide woods while you decide on the right size and whether the game is for you. You need supply only flat shoes or plimsolls yourself.

To register your interest for the 2017 season, please e-mail Bernard at rekrab3@gmail.com or sign up at Activities Day where the Bowls Group will be represented.

*Bernard Baker*

## **Cinema Club**

In April we went back in time to the Korean war and saw the 1970 black comedy film **MASH**, the film that inspired the subsequent popular television series.

To close the session and with a change in location, we enjoyed in May, a second Donald Sutherland film **The Eagle Has Landed** from 1976 with Michael Caine and Jenny Agutter in supporting roles. The fictional plot was to kidnap Winston Churchill on a visit to Norfolk where much of the filming took place.

The group meets on the second Thursday of the month at Copeland from October through to May. We resume on 13 October and, after each showing, we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and have a brief discussion on the film.

The programme for the autumn will not be finalised until after Activities Day when members will have the chance to vote on the many films available. These include **Zorba the Greek**, **Tom Jones** and **The Pink Panther**.

*John Douglas*

## **Computer Help**

If anyone in Peterborough U3A has a particular computer problem, please contact me to see if I can help. I am not a professional and am mainly self-taught so cannot guarantee a resolution to your issue, but will do my best to help. A visit to your home can be arranged if necessary.

I no longer run courses so if you are new to computing and need instruction on learning how to use them try contacting the Library Service because they run some courses.

*Mary McCarthy*

## **Creative Writing Groups**

The end of another year for the three Creative Writing Groups and it has been one of changes. Members leaving, members joining, group numbers going up and down.

During the year we have all worked on different themes including genres, novellas, radio plays, writing in styles of various authors, Victorian melodramas, using famous paintings to inspire stories, and emotion stimuli. But we are ending the year on a joint high with a Literary Evening involving all groups and their guests and partners, meeting up to read and listen to each other's writing, eat local fish and chips and desserts brought by the group members. We have done this in the past and it has been hugely successful.

Each group works in different ways from quite intensive variations and ideas lasting several sessions to short lighthearted stories as members feel suits their writing energies at the time. Whatever our writing levels and needs our members find that their creative juices have an outlet that is entertaining, amusing, provoking, sad, shocking and nostalgic. Challenging and/or comforting, bring your own skills and ideas to enhance our happy band.

*Pam Kounougakis*

## **Cycling on Mondays**

Our group, usually numbering 10 to 15 cyclists, depending on holidays etc, started the year covering 25 to 30 miles, which we have now increased to 30 to 40 miles as we have got fitter. A few new cycles have appeared during that time also, helping the carbon fibre industry! During our ride we always have a restful refreshment

stop, which is either organised by the two Daves, or our leader for that day's ride. Our leaders are volunteers most weeks who devise a route, which, if the café chosen for the day is not too far away, can be quite circuitous. We have a few short stops en route to check everyone is with us and so far we have not lost anyone! We use only cycleways or small roads, no major roads. We add different stops when we can and some of these include Waddenhoe, Lyveden New Bield and Spalding.

Occasionally we do a ride, such as Rutland Water and Foxton Locks, where we load cars with the bikes and set off usually from Thorpe Meadows. We are a very friendly group and we always welcome new members. Nearer Christmas we organise a short ride then a 12 noon lunch when partners are welcome, last December we had 30 people enjoy a splendid lunch. Any queries regarding the Monday cycling group please contact us. We will also be at Activities Day if you would like to come along and meet us.

*The two Daves (David Catlin & David Moakes)*

## **Discussion Time**

This is a new group, launched in January 2016, following the success and popularity of Opinion Time. The group meets every second Thursday of each month (M2) from 2.00 to 4.00pm. Tea and biscuits are served during the second hour. Topics for discussion include: political correctness, the migrant crisis, the impact of social media, and human cloning. The format and focus on current issues is similar to that adopted by Opinion Time but each group will evolve over time to meet the needs of members. Meetings are held currently in Orton Wistow.

To express interest, please contact Debby Benatan at [debby.benatan@yahoo.com](mailto:debby.benatan@yahoo.com) or phone 01733 239629. Alternatively, please sign up on Activities Day.

There are vacancies right now so new members are very welcome. Bernard Barker and I will liaise to ensure that both groups are a good size and work well.

*Debby Benatan*

## **Foto Friends**

Foto Friends, as its name suggests, is a photography group that meets on a friendly non-competitive basis but we are enthusiastic about improving our range of photographic skills. The group has a regular attendance of 25 to 30 people meeting every second Thursday in St Andrews Church Hall, Netherton between 10.00am and 12 noon. Our simple approach is that at each meeting we are provided with information on an aspect of photography either by a group member or by a guest speaker. The challenge for the group members is to provide a print, which demonstrates improving mastery of their camera. The subject for the print is set each month and based on the previous presentation.

The topics covered so far have included landscapes, Bokeh, groups, texture and wildlife. These themes encourage members to explore their creative side as well as asking them to improve their technique. The prints are critiqued by the group as a whole or by the guest speaker. The ability to look at other people's work and to offer constructive criticism is another skill we are working on. Members seem to enjoy this challenge and this is shown in the number and quality of prints that are now submitted to each meeting. We also have had a number of extra events and these have included a visit to a studio, the bowling alley and photographic exhibitions. So, if you have a new camera or want to re-new your interest in photography you will be welcome to come and join us.

*Malcolm Turner*

## **Harmony for Pleasure**

In April we fulfilled a regular engagement when we sang to the members of the Crowland British Legion Ladies. The programme was varied with songs as diverse as 'Tulips from Amsterdam', 'The Gardeners Hymn' and a comical take on 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. The audience was extremely appreciative and, as usual, provided an excellent selection of refreshments.

In May we were at St Andrews Church in Ledbury Road where we were part of their Pentecost Festival. Although our programme did contain some songs of a religious nature, including some

spirituals, it also included popular classics. The theme of the festival was the uplifting of the spirit and the organisers felt that our contribution certainly fulfilled that purpose.

*Margaret Smith*

### **Holistic Health**

Members of the group have submitted their comments about the group over the past six months as follows:-

*'The Holistic Health class has been very enjoyable, inspirational and very informative. It has enabled me to understand more about all aspects of my wellbeing. It is a very friendly group with a tutor who is clear and concise in her teaching and very approachable'.*

*'I enjoy Holistic Health because our tutor is so knowledgeable and informative. Each week we cover various topics and they are all so different. The class is friendly and we discuss many issues'.*

*'The Holistic classes are very enjoyable, thanks to the enthusiasm of our tutor, who puts much more into the class than one would expect. Others attending clearly also enjoy the class'.*

*Barbara Perry, Class Secretary*

### **Friday Strollers Walking Group**

Our walks are generally within a village or countryside setting, usually within a 20 mile radius of Peterborough. We meet on the second and fourth Friday of each month, usually at a pub or restaurant facility around 10.15am for a 10.45am start.

Routes are planned and organised by members on an informal rota basis and we enjoy gentle exercise with companionship and conviviality finishing the walk about 12.15pm followed, if members wish, by a light lunch.

Locations in our recent programme have included Whittlesey, Southwick, Gunthorpe and Werrington, Apethorpe, Edith Weston, Peakirk and the Ortons; with Castor, Barnack, Thurlby, Kings Cliffe, Polebrook, Wadenhoe, Glinton, The Deepings and Ketton already planned.

At 30 members, the group has reached a comfortable and manageable level and for the time being regrettably is not be able to accept new members.

*Colin Baker*

## **Moto Bikers Group**

The new riding season got off to a good start with a ride to the Prickwillow Drainage Engine Museum on 11 April in fine weather. Others followed at fortnightly intervals with rides to the Newark Air Museum which is much more extensive than I expected. Next up was a ride to The National Motorcycle Museum near the NEC in Birmingham. A planned ride to Blakeney had to be pulled due to the non-availability of the ride leader and was replaced at short notice by a ride to Bourton-on-the-Water.

The next ride in the calendar is a circuit of the Cambridgeshire border. Other rides planned include a Fish and Chip Run to Skegness, a visit to the F1 Training Day at Silverstone and a visit to the Donnington Park Grand Prix Collection.

Already in the diary is a 652 mile four day ride travelling to and then along Offa's Dyke, which starts in the Severn Estuary and finishes in Prestatyn on the coast of Liverpool Bay. Once we have reached the end of Offa's Dyke we will tour Snowdonia taking in the Electric Mountain, Conwy and Caernarvon Castles, and the famous Llanberis Pass. The final day will see us heading home via the Cat and Fiddle Pass in the Peak District.

The group is accepting new members and we will be delighted to welcome anyone with an interest in motorcycling.

*Roy Turner*

## **Museum Society**

Our U3A has formed a Museum Group with the Peterborough Museum Society and the group will be meeting at the museum every two weeks on Tuesdays at 7.30pm from 4 October to 13 December and 10 January to 4 April.

The Museum Society was founded in 1871 and meets during the winter months in The Martin Howe Room at the museum to hear expert lectures on a wide range of subjects. In the summer there are usually three visits to local places of interest. This summer the visits were to Lyveden New Bield; the museum vaults and a tour of the Roman settlement at Castor led by Dr Stephen Upex.

Here's a flavour of some of the talks for the 2016/17: A Tramride to Dogsthorpe; The History of Cambridge University Library and People and Their Lives in the Roman World.

The membership fee for our Museum Group will be the same as the Museum Society i.e. £12.50 per year for pensioners or you could try it out by attending as a visitor at £2.50 per visit.

If you wish to join this new Museum group or have any further queries please contact me on [janicealmond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janicealmond@yahoo.co.uk)

*Janice Almond*

### **Opinion/Discussion Time**

Now entering its third year, the Opinion Time group meets on the last Friday of each month (ML) to reflect on news and current affairs topics, with members presenting and offering thoughts on items that have caught their attention. We aim to challenge one another to improve our understanding of contemporary issues. Debates have covered diverse topics, including whether we believe in climate change, prospects for the Labour Party in the wake of Jeremy Corbyn's election, the future of reading and public libraries and where we are heading with Europe. Sessions run from 2.00 to 4.00pm with tea and biscuits served during the second hour.

Approximately 3 topics are debated at each meeting, with discussants for each agreed in advance. Our meetings are usually held in Orton Brimbles, but individual members also volunteer to host meetings by prior arrangement. To express interest, please contact Bernard Barker at [rekrab3@gmail.com](mailto:rekrab3@gmail.com) or phone 01733 236241. Alternatively, sign up at Activities Day.

*Bernard Barker*

### **Painting for Pleasure**

The Painting for Pleasure group has been running successfully for a number of years now and continues to grow in numbers and popularity. The Group was founded and led by Peterborough professional artist Windsor Morgan. Sadly, Windsor passed away last autumn but the Group now has a new leader, one of Windsor's students. I am a retired RAF aircrew officer who has had a passion for painting and drawing for more years than I care to remember and feel a responsibility to pass on my skills and knowledge to all with a similar interest. The Group has artists of all abilities and uses just about every popular medium. For example we work in oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolour, graphite and charcoal; I can give advice and guidance in any of these. We have three terms throughout the year:

Winter, Spring and Summer. We spend the Winter and Spring term painting indoors at the Brookside Methodist Church Hall and spend the Summer term painting outdoors at locations such as Ferry Meadows and Orton Mere. Do have a look at our U3A web page where you'll find examples of the work produced by members of the Group, the dates and timings of the current term and contact details. At the moment, the Group is near capacity but do come and talk to us at Activities Day where we will be opening a waiting list.

*Alan Landsburgh*

### **Patchwork & Quilting Groups**

The Patchwork and Quilting Groups have been making baby quilts for the special Baby Unit at Addenbrook Hospital in Cambridge. These are special quilts for the premature and ill babies to lie on for added comfort and go home with the babies when they are fit enough to do so. Money was collected and raised to buy the special cotton material required, after which the ladies in each group set about making a total of 46 Quilts, which were then presented to the hospital.

*Winnie Wakefield*

### **Plane Daft (Aviation) Group**

For two out of three Plane Daft meetings, our leader was absent (holiday then surgery on a broken arm!). Nevertheless, the scheduled meetings went ahead thanks to the co-operation of the membership and the volunteers who undertook specific roles.

At the March meeting Norman Bonnor spoke to us about 'Victor Boys in the Cold War', the Victor in question being the Handley Page Victor, 'V' bomber. Feedback indicated that it was a very good, interesting and entertaining presentation based on Norman's own experiences as a member of a Victor bomber crew, serving at a time when the threat was real.

When I was under the knife, Brian Lever and Brian Waterland from Peterborough Model Aircraft Club presented a show entitled 'The Surprising World of Model Aircraft'. It provided a change from normal PowerPoint presentations, by adopting a hands on approach with a good selection of all manner of aeromodelling items. Many of



the latter display items included model aircraft, some of which, ie lightweight indoor free flight and radio models, were flown in the room! On my return, I was again regaled with comments indicating I had missed another good one.

For our final, formal presentation, we welcomed back, local (Spalding?) historic aviation author Alastair Goodrum. Using a wide range of photographs and maps he told us of the activities of RAF Sutton Bridge in peace and war. Basically, its purpose was to provide a temporary base for aircraft training on the ranges on the shores of the Wash nearby, including live weapon firing and bomb dropping. Up to the late 1930s this was a summer-only activity, when pairs of the few RAF squadrons participated in their annual two week camp there. As the war clouds gathered and the RAF expanded so training became an all-year-round activity. During the Second World War it was a very important training base with intensive use made of it by the RAF, American forces (even before Pearl Harbour!) and towards the end by the Free French Air Force. Although the ranges are still in use, the RAF base serving them declined and eventually closed.

In the course of his most interesting and well-researched talk Alastair told us of some of the accidents that occurred there, for even training pilots and gunners to fight exacted a toll. To balance this we were also told of some of the incidents, notably the young RAF pilot who flew under the railway bridge (over the river Nene), who later became the OC at the base. So ended a very interesting afternoon.

The final meeting of the session will be a Day Trip to the RAF Museum at Cosford.

Finally, I would like to thank all the loyal members who turn-up month after month and help to make the meetings enjoyable social occasions. I am very grateful, too, for our faithful tea and coffee makers, John Truluck and Peter Gilbert, who keep us refreshed mid meeting. If we are spared, we will meet again from September onwards for another varied range of presentations. If anyone wishes to join this 'band of brothers' they are more than welcome – see our webpage, or turn-up on Tuesday 13 September next, or give me a call.

*Terry McCarthy*

## **Poetry Writing Group**

The Poetry Writing group has had an eventful year. We are now 10 regular members and meet on the third Thursday of each month at Werrington or Bretton Library which we have been trying out to see which we like the best. It was fine at members' homes till ten cars parked along the street caused some issues! Our joint theme this year has been Aspects of Peterborough, (education, retail, population, religion, waterways, entertainment etc) which may sound dull but has actually produced some fantastic work and made us really look into our wonderful city.

We have also focused on group poems involving two, three or more reading parts in a poem, often very comical. Our infamous Bird poem is renowned, as we have performed it at several concerts. This year we have performed in conjunction with singing groups and as part of other events, the most recent being in St John's Church as part of the Heritage Festival in July.

We have recently been most deeply upset by the sudden death of a dear member of the group, Neil Smith, whom I had known both in teaching and singing groups. His humour, sense of fun and ability to rise above his problems, and his brilliant poems and their performing will be terribly missed.

*Pam Kounougakis*

## **Radio and RAYNET Group**

As the level of interest in this group has been very low, I have reluctantly decided to close the group. Two joiners showed interest in the RAYNET side of things and one member has already joined Cambridgeshire RAYNET. Another member is also intending to get involved.

If there are other members in the Peterborough U3A who would like to get involved in RAYNET, they can contact me at Roy.Turner2007@btinternet.com or view the Cambridgeshire RAYNET Website <http://www.cambridgeshire-raynet.net>. Two joiners expressed an interest in the Radio aspect of the group and they may want to join the Peterborough and District Amateur Radio Club.

Their Website is: <http://www.radioclubs.net/padarc>

*Roy Turner*

## **Railways Studies**

Yet another successful and enjoyable session of Railways Studies meetings draws to a close. Attendances continue to please, with between 30 and 40 regulars.

Since the last report we have enjoyed three meetings, starting with a visit from Brian Sharp, editor of the 'Railway Heritage' magazine. He showed us a selection of his slides, mostly taken post 1968 in the U.K. and overseas. These were accompanied by a commentary outlining his railway experiences, culminating in some insights into his roles in several railway magazines editorial teams, which ultimately led to his being editor of 'Railway Heritage'.

For April's meeting Brian Keegan made a welcome return visit, this time considering the engineering of 'Railway Tunnels'. Starting with an illustrated outline of the history of railway tunnels and noting that although there were tunnels constructed long before the railway era, it was the coming of railways after 1830 that caused the numbers of tunnels and associated technical developments to increase exponentially. Initially he considered Marc Brunel's Thames Tunnel circa 1829, later and still today a railway tunnel, leading on to his son, Isambard's work on the Great Western Railway's Box tunnel of 1841. In the process he mentioned Robert Stephenson's Kilsby Tunnel before advancing to the protracted saga and difficulties encountered constructing the Severn Tunnel 1873-86. Thereafter, discussion embraced the tunnels built under London for underground and tube systems, which continues to the present, in the amazing development of the Elizabeth (Crossrail) Line, which Brian illustrated amply with a DVD. All in all a most interesting afternoon.

Jim Hogg, a loyal Group member, treated us to a show of 'Railways Around the World', illustrating how determined railway enthusiasts, even accompanied by their wives, can usually find something of railway interest to visit, ride on and photograph! His images showed his holiday progressing around the world starting in South Africa, and ending in the UK with a GWR scene for a be-slinged Terry, via Namibia, Sri Lanka, India, New Zealand, Ecuador and many others. His commentary told us of the histories, recent developments, etc. of many of the lines highlighted. In short, a delightful, interesting and thought provoking exposé, of what group

members get up to on holiday.

At the time of writing, there is one more formal meeting scheduled, when another U3A Member and Group Leader, Ernest Warnham, will tell us about his involvement in the development of Pendolino trains for Virgin West Coast, which sounds most interesting.

Finally, despite my recent injury, it is hoped that a number of the group will be paying the Bluebell Railway a visit, to sample the lovely East Sussex countryside from a beautifully restored carriage pulled by a vintage steam locomotive.

And so to 2016-17 for which the programme is practically complete. It is hoped there will be something for all students of railways, consequently anyone who might be tempted to join us is welcome – the tea/coffee is good too, thanks to Peter Gilbert, Alan Compton and helpers. Thanks, too, to the membership for their loyal attendance.

*Terry McCarthy*

## **Rowing**

The Rowing Group continues to meet twice a week at the Peterborough City Rowing Club, on Monday mornings at 10.00am and Thursday afternoons at 1.30pm.

Our numbers have increased this year as several new members have taken up the challenge of the 'Learn to Row' course; participants are entitled to one free taster session prior to joining and receive a three month temporary Silver membership of the British Rowing Association, which is included in the fee of £60.00 for ten sessions. These take place on Thursday afternoons.

We are fortunate to have the use of a variety of boats so learners can progress from their initial sessions in training boats to sculling in stable and fine boats. More experienced group members are continuing to develop skills by sculling or rowing in single or double boats or as part of a crew in a quad, four or in an eight, a particular favourite. Generally sessions take place on the rowing lake, but occasionally we scull or row on the Nene, sharing the river with a variety of ducks, swans and geese, oblivious to our presence in their world. If the weather is not suitable, instead of being on the water, we can also practise on the club's rowing machines or use

the gym. We are well supported by our excellent coaches who provide training and advice about rowing technique.

Social aspects of the group are strong too; participation and success in the Eastern Region recreational rowing activities, guest visits to other U3A rowing groups and, this year for the first time, a Rowing Group summer evening supper at The Olive Grove in Polebrook. All this and the post-session tea, cake and chat in the Rowing Club's venerable premises make membership of this group an absorbing and very enjoyable way to spend time and to keep fit.

If you are interested in joining the group or for information about the starting date for the next course please contact Barry Clarkson at 07570 47315 or [rbarryc@hotmail.com](mailto:rbarryc@hotmail.com)

*Elizabeth Jackson*

### **Saint David's Day Dinner**

From the lowest elevation in the UK, practically below sea level, 27 voices were raised in song, a sweet and heart-felt ovation to the far away people, mountains and vales of Wales. Music delivered with a tremble in the vocal cords, a tear of remembrance of youthful days past and of pride in involvement with this brave and gifted principality on its very special day of the year namely 1 March, St David's Day.

The members of the Peterborough U3A 'All Matters Welsh' group were sharing their joy, warm friendship for one another and sharing in a delicious lunch provided by the Admiral Wells public house in Holme, Cambridgeshire. A cornucopia of epicurean delights were served: a leek and potato broth, succulent roast lamb, a plethora of perfectly cooked vegetables, bara brith, creamed plums, Welsh cheese and vegetarian fare were amongst the delights enjoyed by the group, dining whilst enraptured by Welsh harp music.

What a pleasure to share food, time and laughter with these kind people who are capable of enjoying friendship and conversation, be it light or profound, within the warm and welcoming atmosphere they create.

Having consumed the lunch with gusto and having endorsed the organisers' Hilary Keegan and Elaine Davies and thanks to chef, staff and the U3A members, the group departed, carrying away with them the additional delights of new memories.

*Geoff Johnson*

## **Social History - 2015-2016**

There was a varied and interesting programme this year which we hoped catered for everyone and included talks on the 'Boot and Shoe Industry', 'Art of Knotting' and 'What did you do in the War Grandma?'

The year ended with the last meeting in June being the annual visit and this year we went to the Brewery Museum at Burton-on-Trent. Although it was a grey start to the day and the forecast was for heavy showers, we were all in good spirit as we boarded the coach. Our route took us towards Leicester and the fields looked splendid and there seemed to be an abundant amount of poppies.

The guided tour of the brewery was very informative and we were given tips on the best beers to enhance our food and beers to help with certain ailments. After lunch we were treated to a ride in a Brewer's Dray pulled by Jed a beautiful Shire horse. There was time to revisit areas and time to look around the shop. A thoroughly enjoyable visit. The journey home was difficult due to the roads being flooded but with brilliant driving we were only about 30 minutes late in arriving home.

Doreen Dare once again organised a very good day and we thank her for all her efforts. The group starts again on 21 September 2016, 9.30 for 10.00am at Christ Church Orton Goldhay.

We look forward to meeting old and new members.

*Eileen Clark*

## **Spanish Groups**

The three Spanish groups have continued to meet at the Copeland Centre. Basic Spanish on Tuesday morning led by John Douglas, Intermediate Spanish on Monday morning led by Caroline Davis and Improving Spanish on Thursday afternoon led by Claire Bysshe.

Members of the groups are now enjoying a well-earned summer break and many of the 70 are practising their new language skills on holidays in Spain and South America.

We look forward to welcoming new members at Activities Day in time to join the autumn sessions starting in September. However, we are now approaching the limits of our group numbers so make sure your name is down!

Hasta pronto!

*John Douglas*

## **Theatre Group**

By the end of 2016 we will have been to 20 shows this year including musicals, plays and a ballet, at various locations, including the West End, Milton Keynes and Nottingham. In addition we will have been to the outdoor theatre in the grounds of Kilworth House and to a Christmas Spectacular at Thursford.

We are already booking shows for 2017 and have no doubt the trips will be successful, due to the continuing support of our members.

New members are always welcome and you can find all the information you need at [www.pu3atheatregroup.org.uk](http://www.pu3atheatregroup.org.uk).

*Dorothy & Graham Woods*

## **Tai Chi**

The Tai Chi groups continue to be popular, with loyal support from our long-term members and new beginners joining.

For those unfamiliar with the concept of Tai Chi, it is based on the healing, meditative and ancient martial arts of China with each of the seemingly gentle movements having a practical application. We practice the Yang family style of Tai Chi in which the emphasis is on slow, soft, controlled movements.

Tai Chi may be practiced by people of all ages and abilities. It is said to bring health benefits, including posture, balance and circulation, and is being recommended by many health professionals. It can also bring a sense of relaxation, well-being and inner peace.

We are looking to start a new beginners class in September. Because of the progressive nature of learning the Tai Chi forms it is difficult to include new beginners mid-term. Therefore we run a waiting list and when we are able to amalgamate two classes we are able to invite those on the list into a new beginners course.

We usually run a taster session for potential new members, details to be announced later.

*Bruce & Monika Gwynne*

## **Table Tennis Group**

Every Friday, except bank holidays, we arrive at 4.15pm to set up the table tennis tables for our hour of energetic exercise, between 4.30 and 5.30pm.

We play doubles and change partners after every game to give everyone a chance to play with each other. Recently we have been averaging 10 people, so with 3 tables we have room for a few more. The cost is £2.00 per session; balls are provided and we have a couple of spare bats.

We are all much of a muchness in terms of ability, generally trying to remember that backhand smash from the days when we played in the youth club a year or two ago!

Like to know more or to come and join us? Give me a ring on 01733 265769 or email at [brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk](mailto:brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk).

*Brian Keegan*

## **Train Your Brain**

A lighthearted look at as many different kinds of puzzles that I can find. If you enjoy doing crosswords, sudokus, codebreakers logic puzzles and many more, then this is for you. After an hour and a half your brain will have been truly exercised.

We start each week with some exercises on concentration, mind power, problem solving, creativity and memory. After that we have an hour to investigate a particular type of puzzle. One week it will be word based, the next number based, then codes and finally logic puzzles. All you need is a clipboard, a pencil and a rubber. I will provide the rest. We don't take things too seriously.

We take a break in the summer months but will start back on Tuesday 6 September. We meet at 2.00pm in Bishopsfield, which is a retirement complex on Mountsteven Avenue. Come and see me on Activities Day for more details .

*Brian Parsons*

## **Walkie-Talkies Group**

The Walkie-Talkies walking group continues apace with walks every Thursday come rain or shine. Since the beginning of the year up to



mid-June we have completed twentytwo walks with an average attendance of fifteen or more and some walks attracting well over twenty members.

The highlight of the year so far has been our Walking Holiday in Crete with seventeen members flying from Gatwick and joining two members already there. We stayed at the Almyrida Beach Hotel and walks were organised for each day. The basic format being to walk for about five miles to a Greek Taverna where a Meze style meal had been arranged and then continuing for another few miles before returning to the hotel for a swim, sunbathe or siesta.

After two days of walking we went by coach to walk around the nearby town of Chania viewing the historic old town, doing some shopping and getting a bite to eat.

Back in serious walking mode we did two more days of walking and some hardy members tackled the famous Samaria Gorge which is sixteen kilometres starting from the top, where the coach leaves you, and dropping over 4,000 feet down to sea level. There are no roads at the bottom so a ferry trip along the coast is required to get to a point where coaches can pick you up for the return journey to the hotel.

In September, fifteen members are off to The Lake District for five days of walking. Staying in Keswick, our planned walks include Latrigg, Stonethwaite Valley, Braithwaite, Elterwater and Loughrigg Tarn. A highlight of the week will be a visit to the restaurant in The George Hotel for a portion of 'Cow Pie'.

*Roy Turner*

### **Wednesday Cycling Group**

Our Group Organiser is now Peter Nunn, who is very familiar with cycleways all over Peterborough and beyond.

Every Wednesday, come rain or shine, he will be at the Lido to welcome you to the group for a ride of approximately 10 miles to a refreshment stop, along cycleways wherever possible.

Recently we have visited cafes in Alwalton, Werrington, Thorney, Castor and Whittlesey. Occasionally we have had longer rides to Oundle, Spalding and Stamford.

We are not speedy! If you would like to join our very sociable group, please contact Peter Nunn on 01733 347735 or email him at petenuncycling@gmail for details of our next outing.

*Jean Stamford*

## **ENTITLEMENT**

Perhaps it is further evidence of my having become a grumpy old man, but for some time now I have found myself becoming increasingly intolerant of the way some folk seem to regard all the services and facilities they use in life as if they had automatic and exclusive rights to them, with no associated duties to balance them.

This behaviour I have come to call, for short, 'entitlement'. From failing to thank the bus-driver who has safely delivered them, to taking more than their fair share of whatever is on offer, with no thought for others, this behaviour permeates all age-groups and all levels of society.

It is particularly sad to me that, despite the splendid aims of the U3A, it seems that it has become embedded in some elements of our organisation. I find it in those who habitually arrive late and leave early for group sessions, so avoiding helping with setting up and clearing away, who register for groups but seldom appear for no apparent reason, so wasting the group leaders' time in preparation for them. Rather than continuing to keep these thoughts and feelings to myself, I have been sparked into offering them to the PU3A NEWS by a short item I read recently in our national magazine, Third Age Matters, Spring 2016. It is contained in the Chairman's report on his recent consultation on our future, and reads as follows:

*Our learning methods should be closely guarded. Members of an interest group have corporate responsibility for that group.*

Couldn't have put it better myself. What do you think?

*Donne Buck*

# GROUPS ACTIVITIES

## MONDAY

### **Afternoon Tea Dance**

Gwenn Roffe 01733 554537

The group is still enjoying two afternoons a month of Sequence and Ballroom Dancing. We have had a waiting list for some time now but are always willing to add your name to the list.

### **Astronomy**

Brenda Kilby 01733 394785

Will be meeting monthly in Orton at Brenda's home at 2.00pm.

### **Bushfield Bowls Club**

Bernard Barker 01733 236241

The U3A Bowls Group meets at the Bushfield Club on the first Monday of each month from May to September with just one remaining opportunity on 5 September at 1.45pm. Members who wish to play more often join club roll-ups any day also from May to September. For more details look on the club website: <https://rekrab3.wordpress.com> or contact Bernard Barker (Publicity Officer) e-mail: [rekrab3@gmail.com](mailto:rekrab3@gmail.com)

### **Chess**

Norman Harris 01733 266296

Why not join us and have a friendly game on Monday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.30pm at Copeland Leisure Centre, South Bretton. There is just a small charge per term. We are a happy band of about 16 ladies and gents from beginners to more experienced, rotating from player to player, no set pattern. Chess sets not required, just bring yourselves and have a cup of tea and a biscuit while you play.

### **Camcorders**

Brian Pears 01733 391945

We meet fortnightly in members' homes at 2.00pm. If interested first contact Brian.

### **Canoeing**

Les Ranford 01832 280731

Weekly at Ferry Meadows at 1.45pm. For further information please telephone Les.

### **Cycling**

Dave Catling 01733 260626

& Dave Moakes 01733 555020

Meets weekly at the Lido at 10.00am. For cyclists of reasonable ability. Rides are normally between 25 and 35 miles with a refreshment stop.

## **Earth Science**

Stuart Osborne 01733 233840  
s.osborne7@ntlworld.com

We learn everything to do with the Earth. No surprise there then! We start by putting the Earth together from cosmic dust and continue via continents and oceans to Plate Tectonics. Then we learn about the basic Rock Types, which includes a Geological trip around Peterborough City Centre. We cover Fossils and what they teach us about the past and Evolution before continuing with stuff like Ice Ages, Climate Change, Volcanoes and Mountain building. We learn about Coal, Oil and Gas as well as precious Stones. Along the way we'll learn about El Niños and Hurricanes, Greenhouse Gases and where the Oxygen came from. If it's anything to do with the Earth we'll do it. A truly wonderful learning experience. It will change the way you look at the world. Really - Orton Waterville Village Hall, Mondays, 10.00 - 12.00.

## **French Conversation Improvers 1**

Gigi Stephens 01733 573457

Weekly at Hodgson Community Centre Werrington at 2.00pm. Phone Gigi for further details.

## **Golf**

Jack Alderdice 01733 231710

Tee off time at Orton Meadows 09.00 – 09.40am. The cost for playing 9 holes is £5.10.

## **Greetings Cards Making**

Elaine Bridger 01733 572087  
Ann Harris 01733 321666

Meets weekly in the Bowls Centre, Burton Street from 10.00am to 12 noon. New members welcome.

## **Knit & Twitter**

Kathleen Daniels 01733 326825

Weekly at Bishopsfield from 1.00 to 3.00pm. Contact Kathleen for details.

## **Bushfield Bowls Club – U3A Lawn Bowls Group**

Bernard Barker rekrab3@gmail.com      telephone 01733 236241

We meet on the **first Monday of each month** (May, June, July, August and September) at 1.45pm and play through until 4.00pm, with a break for tea at 3.00pm. Additional group sessions are arranged at members' request. The group is thriving and newcomers are welcome to join us on 7 September and/or for the upcoming 2017 season. We welcome players of all abilities,

including beginners, and provide all necessary equipment, including woods. Enquiries please by e-mail to Bernard Barker. Keep up to date with the latest developments by clicking the U3A tab on the Bushfield Bowls Club website: <http://rekrab3.wordpress.com>

**Orton Bookworms** Mary-Helen Shakespeare 07711 764684

Meet monthly at 3.00pm on Mondays at Orton Centre Library.

**Painting for Pleasure** Alan Landsburgh 01733 890141

We meet at Brookside Methodist Church, Gunthorpe Road at 2.00pm every Monday.

**Patchwork and Quilting [2]** Winnie Wakefield 01733 577629

All Saints Church Hall, weekly 10.00am to 12 noon. Join friends and enjoy sharing your skills. You will be made very welcome.

**Pitch and Putt 1** Philip Makepeace 01733 554970

The P&P Group continues to be very well supported, playing every other Monday with members enjoying the (not too serious) game throughout the year. The fee remains at £3.50 per round, we hold a draw before each session to determine playing partners, this ensures a good mix and offers the opportunity to get to know one another across the whole group. The draw takes place around 9.55am to enable us to tee off at 10.00am (when the schools are on holiday we start 30 minutes earlier). The course has been reduced from 12 to 9 holes, however we continue to play 12 holes, i.e. 1 - 9 then 1 - 3. The 12 holes usually last just over the hour and most of us 'retire' to Notcutts café for tea/coffee and more chat! I look forward to welcoming all who enjoy a little light exercise and a good chat.

**Pitch and Putt 2** Jeanne Butler 01733 579683

As Pitch and Putt has become so popular we are pleased to offer a second group on the alternative Monday morning. It is gentle exercise with friendly people who enjoy fresh air and fun. Clubs and golf balls are free with your ticket for the 12 hole Pitch and Putt course at Orton Meadows Europa Golf Centre. We start at 10.00am except on a Bank Holiday when we start at 9.30am.

**Rhythmaires + Jazz**

Audrey Creed 01733 571955

Weekly at Bishopsfield, Walton at 10.00am. If you can play a musical instrument why not come and join us.

**Rowing**

Barry Clarkson 07570 473153

Meets at Peterborough City Rowing Club at Thorpe Meadows every MONDAY at 10.15am and THURSDAY at 2:00pm. After a free taster £57.00 currently covers 10 outings. Contact Barry for more information.

**Snooker**

Ted Smith 01733 574580

We meet at the Conservative Club at 2.00pm. Open to men and women. Beginners welcome.

**Spanish (Intermediate) (WL)**

Caroline Davis 01733 244140

Weekly on Monday mornings at 10.00am at Copeland.

**Ten Pin Bowling [1]**

Margaret Lea 01733 572245

Meet weekly at the AMF Bretton at 10.00am.

**Watercolours Just for Enjoyment**

Trevor Cross 01733 208727

We meet on Monday afternoons from 1.00 to 4.30pm each week at Alwalton. If you are interested in joining either phone Trevor or e-mail him at [trevorcross66@yahoo.com](mailto:trevorcross66@yahoo.com)

**Werrington Crime Readers**

Mary Purdon 07849 329956

Meet on third Monday of the month at Werrington Library at 2.00pm.

**TUESDAY****Archaeology and the Human Journey**

Co-leaders Chris Wareham 01733 263006

David Favell 01733 574103

We meet once a month on the morning of the fourth Tuesday at St Mary's Court in the centre of town to explore the history of the human race from the dawn of time to the present day (more or less). Despite the group's name, trowels and knee pads are not obligatory, but an interest in who we are, where we come from and the many and varied ways human beings have manifested themselves over the years would help.

## **Basic Science**

Stuart Osborne 01733 233840  
s.osborne7@ntlworld.com

We teach Science. Chemistry, no smelly boring bits but lots about the atom and how and why they join together to make absolutely everything. Physics and how things like gravity, heat and light and all that sort of stuff works. Although no one's entirely sure about gravity! Biology. We cut up mice and examine.....no of course we don't but we do learn a lot about Human Body systems. We also do some Earth Science, effectively anything to do with the Earth from Rocks and Fossils to Ice Ages and beyond. Anyway, like it says at the top, we do science, basically, understandably and interestingly. Why not join us? We meet weekly, but not weakly, on Tuesday 10.00am to 12.00pm at Copeland Community Centre, South Bretton.

## **Brain Training**

Brian Parsons 01733 263211

Meets at Bishopscote, Walton at 2.00pm. We will look at various ways of stimulating different aspects of using our brains such as memory and creativity. We will examine some of the many puzzles that are around today. If this sounds very serious; it is not, it is fun.

## **Country Churches &**

### **Afternoon Teas [3]**

Joan Castle 01733 569201

Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month in various locations at 2.00pm. This group will be suited to those of you who have not been a member of any of the existing Churches and Teas Thursday groups. Please contact Joan for further information.

## **Creative Writing**

Pam Kounougakis 01733 252018

Fortnightly, meeting venues vary, 10.00am to 12 noon. Ring Pam for details.

## **Creative Writing - Writers Forum**

Pam Kounougakis 01733 252018

Meets fortnightly, usually at Glinton at 10.00am. A fairly new creative writing group.

## **Creative Writing - Writing Creatively**

Peter Best 01733 263884

Meets fortnightly in Longthorpe at 10.00am.

Do you have a story in you? Have you this urge to show your creative side? You are not alone! Many of us feel the same.

The difference is that some of us have done something about it. We meet regularly, we read our works, discuss them, and find out how to improve our techniques, so that our creative side can be expressed with feeling, in the secure knowledge that our writing will be received positively. Our three groups each progress along the same road, but have unique identities. Come and join us – we can help you channel your creativity and give you the techniques to express yourself interestingly and confidently.

### **English Country Dancing**

Ann Pollack 01733 269108

We meet at Marholm Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons during term times at 2.00pm for a bit of exercise. We learn to put one foot in front of the other in time to the music, to dance stars and turns and balances and swings and more pretty patterns. A by-product is that we get to distinguish between right and left and clockwise and anti-clockwise. We have a lot of laughs when we get things wrong but do dance beautifully without realising it. If you have enjoyed Ceilidhs and Barn Dances come and join us for more of the same and lots of differences. We start the new term on Tuesday, 6 September.

### **Family History**

Maureen Hudson 01778 349413

Jo Smith 01832 280740

Our meeting venue continues to be at The John Mansfield Centre, Western Road, Dogsthorpe, which is on a bus route. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 10.00am unless we have an outside visit arranged – we have a break in July and August and restart in September. Meetings begin with coffee and tea so we can catch-up with members' family history research progress. We try to organize a varied programme to include speakers, workshops and trips out to venues that members have shown an interest in visiting. We are a very friendly group of folk and many members of the group are able to give advice on family history, so join us to increase and share your knowledge of family history.

### **Gardening**

Ernie Warman 01733 569279

Fortnightly, at Millfield Community Centre from 10.00am to 12 noon. To exchange ideas, swap plants and cuttings and perhaps make a visit or two.



**German Language**

Margot Perry 01733 311149

Weekly in Park Road at 2.00pm. Please contact Margot for details

**Greeting Cards Making**

Fiona Richardson 01733 346371

Sue Garner 01733 560156

At the Bowls Centre from 10.00am to 12 noon. Contact Fiona or Sue for a list of equipment required for parchment craft and to enroll. New members welcome.

**Museum Group**

Janice Almond 01733 268265

We meet fortnightly (jointly with the Museum Society) in Priestgate at 7.30pm. If you are interested, please contact Janice first.

**Plane Daft (Aviation)**

Terry McCarthy 01733 232518

terry.macu3a@gmail.com

The 2016-17 programme encompasses a number of different aspects of aviation interest to suit a wide range of tastes (see website for final list). An integral part of the group's activities is the annual day trip, which for 2017 is still under consideration.

Members of U3A enjoying similar interests are welcome to join this vibrant group of about 30-40 members who meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from September to June inclusive at the Peterborough & District Indoor Bowling Centre between 2.00 to 4.00pm (tea/coffee break at 3.00pm). For further details, look at the website or contact Terry,

**Railways Studies**

Terry McCarthy 01733 232518

terry.macu3a@gmail.com

The 2016-17 programme encompasses a number of different aspects of railways (see website for final programme). An integral part of the group's activities is the annual day trip, which for 2017 is still being determined. The group meets, usually on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September to June inclusive at the Peterborough & District Indoor Bowls Centre, between 2.00 to 4.00pm. Approximately 30-40 members regularly attend meetings to enjoy the presentations, the mid-afternoon cuppa (3.00ish), pleasant company and the chance of a railway chat! For further details, look at the website or contact Terry

**Snooker / Pool**

Ted Smith 01733 574580

We play weekly at Courts at 10.00am. Please phone Ted in the first instance.

**Spanish (Basic)**

John Douglas 01733 394485

Weekly, at the Copeland Centre, South Bretton from 10.00am until noon. For Spanish beginners, those who have a little knowledge or those who may have forgotten. For those who wish to improve their Spanish see Monday and Thursday.

**Tai Chi**

Monika &amp; Bruce Gwynne 01733 234922

Tai Chi is based on the healing, meditative and martial traditions of China. Classes are held at All Saints Church Hall, Park Road and we look forward to seeing you

Tai Chi [Beginners]	from	1.00	to	2.00pm
Tai Chi [Intermediate]	from	2.00	to	3.00pm
Tai Chi [Advanced]	from	12.00	to	1.00pm
Tai Chi [Improvers]	from	11.00	to	12.00pm

**Ten Pin Bowling [2]**

Alan Lane 01733 770279

This is a sociable group of 30+ members who meet weekly at 10.00am at AMF Bretton, for a couple of hours bowling and refreshment. Previous experience is entirely unnecessary, but those who have bowled before (even many years ago!) are equally welcome.

**Tuesday Watercolours**

Valerie McNeill 01733 321221

[valeriemcneill@waitrose.com](mailto:valeriemcneill@waitrose.com)

The Tuesday Watercolour Group meets at St John's Church Hall in Mayor's Walk at 1.30pm with artists of mixed abilities and experience. We started with a range of group projects, as some members had not painted for a while. It also has the additional benefit of getting to know each other better.

**Walking**

- The Four Plus Milers** Jeanette Taylor 01733 701831  
The distance is in their title, approximately!
- Tuesday Walkers** John Hucklesby 01733 231894  
Walk between four and five miles
- Red Kites** Gill Coffey, 01832 280491  
Meet at 9.45am. A rota is drawn up for all to share



**Bridge**

Mary Claxton 01733 261210

We play weekly on Wednesday at Copeland Community Centre at 1.00pm. Although in theory my group is full, we have yet to have one hundred percent attendance. Holidays, family and other commitments, hospital appointments, and, regrettably, sometimes sickness, keeping some members from their weekly dose of bridge. So we still welcome new players to the king of all card games. Anyone with card sense, and especially whist players, can come and join us, and we do teach newcomers to the game. If everyone of our members does turn up I do have a plan B, so come and join us. Give it a whirl. It has to be good for the little grey cells! And we are a very sociable group. Ring Mary for more details.

**Bowls**

Martin Bunning 01733 238677

We play weekly at the Indoor Bowling Centre at 4.00pm. Contact for more information.

**Craft Group**Anita Bothamly 01733 566496  
anita.both@btinternet.com

We meet weekly at 2.15pm at Bishopsfield Sheltered Housing. Please email Anita for further details.

**Crime Book Reading Club**

Ann Pollack 01733 269108

This group meets at Bretton Library on the first Wednesday of the month at 3.00pm. Books are provided by the helpful librarians. Our search is for enjoyment and thrills, not great intellectual experiences! We look at crime novels from around the world, past and present.

**Cycling – Short Rides**

Peter Nunn 01733 347735

We meet at the Lido at 10.00am every Wednesday even on rainy days! At every outing we have a 'leader of the pack' who planned a route to lead us to a café for refreshments. Sometimes we are invited to members' homes, which is rather lovely. We have a back marker to ensure we don't lose anyone. We keep to cycle paths whenever possible. We normally pedal for 1 to 1.5 hours (not usually more than 10 miles). We are a very sociable group and definitely not racers in lira! So if you would like some exercise, fresh air and our company, please come and join us when you have time;

you will be given a very warm welcome. If you have any queries please contact Peter.

**French Conversation - Improvers 2** Gigi Stephens 01733 573457  
Weekly at Hodgson Community Centre in Werrington at 3.25pm.  
Phone Gigi for further details.

**German for Improvers** Margot Perry 01733 311149  
Weekly in Park Road at 1.30pm. Please contact Margot for details.

**Golf – 18 Holes** Viv Wyer 01733 244582  
We meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 9.00am at Nene Park Golf Centre,  
Thorpe Wood Golf course. Contact Viv for further details.

**Golf for Fun** Jill Buxton 01733 263854  
The group meets at Gedney Hill Golf Club for the ball draw at 9.00am.  
The cost is £5.00 including a cup of coffee.

**Holistic Health** Rosemary Steele 01733 563971  
This is a small group that meets on a Wednesday at 2.00pm at the  
Indoor Bowling Centre, Burton Street, where various types of therapy  
and treatment are discussed in a way that enables people to feel  
which are the ones for them, mentally, emotionally, physically and  
spiritually-holistically!

**Line Dancing  
for Absolute Beginners [1]** Lesley Bennetto 07919 030894  
Meet weekly at Matley Community Centre at 1.45pm.

**Lunch Club [Weekday 1]** Jackie Salmon, 01733 210018  
Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at noon. Phone Jackie  
for details, booking and the venue.

**Lunch Club [Weekday 2]** Janet Day 01733 896685  
Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at noon. Phone Janet  
for details, booking and the venue.

**Patchwork and Quilting [1]** Winnie Wakefield 01733 577629  
At All Saints' Church Hall, Park Road, 10.00am to noon. Join friends  
and enjoy sharing your skills. You will be made very welcome.

**Singing for Pleasure**

Margaret Smith 01733 210480

Weekly on Wednesdays from 2.00 to 4.00pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Netherton. If you like to sing but don't necessarily feel you can sing alone, this group may be for you. No auditions required, no need to be able to read music, just a happy time of sing-along songs with a friendly crowd of folk (including quite a lot of men!). We often go out in small groups to sing to and with folk in day centres and residential complexes to show that singing is good therapy and can be enjoyed by all.

**Social History**

Doreen Dare 01733 260994

Monthly speaker meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at Christ Church, Orton Goldhay except July and August. Our group is open to all. Please ring Doreen for further details.

**Ten Pin Bowling League**

Steve Powell 07967 134677

We meet on Wednesdays at 10.00am, AMF Bretton, to pit our skills against each other in a friendly but competitive manner. The league is made up of team pairs, but reserve members are also welcome. All receive the schedule for the year, so matches can be re-arranged to suit if necessary

**Walking Football**

Ron Seddon – ron.seddon@ntlworld.com

Meet at 10.00am at Netherton Football Club

**Wednesday Readers**

Mike Street 01733 229131

Wednesday Readers meet once a month to discuss the book the group has chosen to read. Everyone offers choices of novels and our leader Mike Street makes up an annual programme for us. Some download books onto Kindles but most of us buy cheaply second hand or scour the charity shops for copies. There are no restrictions on the novel, either genre or period, (we have done the occasional short stories and essays), and all heights of brows are welcome! Reading as part of a group is very engaging and leads you to read books you probably would never have chosen yourself but can often find enjoyable. If you are interested please contact Mike.

**Wednesday Walkers**

Duncan Hallam 01733 554359

We meet at 10.00am at various venues. For programme and meeting places contact Duncan.

*See also Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for countryside walks*

**Wood Turning**

Dave Longworth 01733 231745

Group 1 meets weekly at Railworld at 10.00am

Group 2 meets weekly at Railworld at 1.00pm

**Yoga**

Kathryn Chiswell 01733 569951

Group 1 meets at 9.45am until 10.45am

Group 2 meets at 11.00am until 12 noon

Both at East Community Centre.

**THURSDAY****All Matters Welsh**

Meirion Griffiths 01733 266483

Monthly at Bretton Gate on the first Thursday of the month at 2.00pm.

**An 'Alphabet of Art'**

John Shearman 01733 76175

The Alphabet of Art group meets on the second Thursday of each month, with two sessions being held on the same day. The morning session of (Group 1) from 10.30am to 12.30pm is repeated in the afternoon (Group 2) from 2.00 to 4.00pm. .

We spend our sessions looking at specific painters, genres of art, schools of art etc, and our sessions are delivered through a PowerPoint presentation, which allows us to look at, and discuss, a large number of images. As well as our home-based sessions we undertake a visit to a gallery each year, and in the past these have included Tate Modern and Britain, Dulwich Art Gallery, University of East Anglia Gallery, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, the National Gallery, and this year to the New Walk Gallery in Leicester. Small groups have also visited Paris, Brussels and Stamford Arts Centre.

A deep and detailed knowledge of art and art history is not a prerequisite for joining the group, but a love of art and a desire to learn a little more certainly is!

For further details please contact John Shearman, 01733 270910 or by email to [johnfrancis43@live.co.uk](mailto:johnfrancis43@live.co.uk)

**Bowls At Barnack**

Malcolm Bayes 01733 571246

Bowls at Barnack group meets at 9.45am to 12.00pm with a tea break at 11.00am. We will meet each week until the end of the bowls season in mid-September. For further details see also 'From the Groups' or contact Malcolm.

## **Cinema Club**

John Douglas 01733 394485

The group meets on the second Thursday of the month at Copeland, starting in October. After each showing, we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and have a brief discussion on the film. The programme for the autumn will not be finalised until after Activities Day when members will have the chance to vote on the films available. All films shown are normally at least 40 years old and they are guaranteed to bring back the memories. Do join us.

## **Country Churches & Afternoon Teas** Geoff Castle 01733 569201

We currently run four groups - two on the first Thursday of each month and another two on the second Thursday of each month and now also a new group on the fourth Tuesday of each month. It will be re-visiting many of the churches we have already explored and therefore best suited to those of you who have not been a member of any of the existing Churches and Teas groups.

## **Darts**

Joy Rooke 01780 784010

We meet weekly on Thursday at Coopers in South Bretton at 2.30pm. Please contact Joy in the first instance.

## **Engineering**

Brian Keegan 01733 265769

[brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk](mailto:brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk)

We have completed a second year of collaborative engineering meetings with Peterborough Engineering Society. The talks included subjects as diverse as Crossrail, converting diesel engines to run on Methane and a talk by one of our members Peter Leverington on the subject of Engineering Nene Park. Sixteen of us visited Perkins Engines in June and saw how diesel engines are assembled and in July went to Wing Water Treatment Works to see how the water from Rutland Water is treated before it is pumped to Peterborough. Next year's programme includes talks on the subjects of the London & North Eastern Railway, Whisky production, St Germans pumping station and the Stamford and Deeping Canals. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm from October to May at Perkins Engines Conference Room in the Learning Centre and have a couple of visits in the summer.



**French [advanced]**

Maga Bruce-Rahmany 01733 333408

In the morning at her home in Ravensthorpe. Please phone Maga for details.

**Listening to Music**

Paul Parker 01780 782976

We meet most months on the penultimate Thursday of the month in Nassington at 2.15pm. It is a small group with varying degrees of knowledge of music from very little to much more. Do phone first as accommodation is limited. See also musical Alphabet below.

**Mah Jong**

Stuart Osborne 01733 233840

s.osborne7@ntlworld.com

Mah Jong is a game you can play straight off. No weeks or months of learning the basics, you simply sit down comfortably, admire the three Suits, four Winds and three Dragons and off you go. You'll be able to play by lunchtime. Honestly, everyone else did. It's much like Rummy, collecting groups or runs. Being Chinese it's played with beautifully constructed tiles rather than cards. There are a few odd words, which you quickly pick up as you play. We'll take you by the hand and lead you into the delights of the game. Warning: From the first morning you'll be hooked. We are all very friendly, helpful and good company, just like you. Join us at Copeland Community Centre, South Bretton, every Thursday from 10.00 - 12.00

**Musical Alphabet**

Paul Parker 01780 782976

Meets in Nassington at 2.15 pm on the last Thursday of each month, except August and December. The group listens to the music with the aid of notes. The musical knowledge of members of the group varies considerably. Sessions last for about two hours including a short break for tea/coffee. A charge of 50p covers the notes and the refreshments. Any member is welcome, but phone first as accommodation is limited.

**Photography - Foto Friends**

Malcolm Turner 01733 705265

We meet monthly on second Thursday at 10.00am at St Andrews' Church Hall in North Bretton

**Photography for Pleasure [1]**

Lynda Porter 01832 280581

Meets at Copeland, South Bretton at 10.00am. On the first Thursday we have a competition on a theme, eg birds, market scenes, still

life. On the third Thursday we have a discussion on some aspects of photography led by different members of the Group. We also make occasional visits to places and events of photographic interest.

**Poetry Appreciation [2]**

John Hucklesby 01733 231894

The Poetry Appreciation Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at St Luke's Church at 2.00pm (also on Friday). In general we cover English poets from Elizabethan to modern poets. Whether you like restoration poets, modernists or romantics we find time to cover the vast spread of poetry throughout the centuries.

**Rowing/Sculling**

Barry Clarkson 07570 473153

Meets at Peterborough City Rowing Club, Thorpe Meadows every MONDAY at 10.15am and THURSDAY at 2.00pm - After a free taster £57.00 currently covers 10 outings. Contact Colin for more information.

**Scrapbooking - Memory Album** Trish Colebrook 01733 705105

Monthly in Werrington in Trish's home at 1.30pm. A memory album is a record of events, family occasions and, if like me, you are into family history you can build up an album to complement your records. It is not just photos you put in your album. Journaling is a very special part of scrapbooking and decorating the pages adds to the whole look of the album. Everything we use is acid and lignin free, papers, pens and adhesive as well as the album itself. Therefore when finished the album is archival and can become a precious item to be passed down in the family for many years to come.

**Spanish (Improvers)**

Claire Bysshe 01733 253164

Held weekly in Copeland Centre, South Bretton from 2.00 to 4.00pm. For those who have some knowledge of the Spanish language, and wish to extend their use of it.

**Walking Groups**

1. **Thursday Walkers** Judith & Brian Hood 01778 344535  
Walk between four and five miles.
2. **Amiable Amblers** Geoff Brown 01733 262607  
Walk between four and five miles.
3. **The Thursday Tramps** Paul Allingham 01733 340450

If you fancy a brisk, regular tramp for approximately six to seven miles why not join us? We park and depart from a local pub having pre-ordered lunch for when we return. We walk whatever the weather.

Walks are only cancelled if it is unsafe to drive to the start point. We are a varied and interesting bunch always on the lookout for new blood. Each of us plans and leads 2 walks per year and the rest just play follow my leader. O.S. maps (and the ability to read them) are essential. Use of modern technology is encouraged.

If this appeals at all, why not get in touch. To summarise all we have to offer is mud, sweat and beers.

4. **Walkie Talkie** Lynn Turner 01733 267635

All the above countryside walking groups meet at 10.00am follow more or less the same format as the Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday walking groups. See Friday for shorter stroll.

5. **Wombles** Philip Hare 01733 231570

Walking for pleasure and enjoyment once a fortnight on Thursday at Thorpe Meadow car park at 1.00pm.

6 **Short Walks** Gill Parsons 01733 263211

We meet at Ferry Meadows at 2.00pm

**Writing Poetry** Pam Kounougakis 01733 252018

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10.00am at various locations. Please contact Pam for further information.

## FRIDAY

**Archaeology & Architecture** Brenda Fearon 01733 239848

We meet at 1.00pm at Matley Community Centre on the first Friday of the month. The intervening months are devoted to visits to places of architectural or archaeological interest. Please contact Brenda for further information.

**Belly Dancing (Beginners)** Jackie Marjoram 01733 577369

The group meets weekly at 1.15pm in St Jude's Church Hall Netherton.

**Belly Dancing (Improvers)** Jackie Marjoram 01733 577369  
Meets weekly at 2.30pm in St Jude's Church Hall Netherton.

**Boules I (Petanque)** Jo Davies 01733 240906  
Weekly at 10.00am at The Windmill, Orton Waterville.

**Concert Party** brianhaswell@ymail.com  
The party starts at 2.00pm at Copeland Community Centre. Please email Brian if you would like to join in.

**German Language** Margot Perry 01733 311149  
Weekly at 2.00pm in Park Road. Please contact Margot in the first instance.

**Harmony for Pleasure** Margaret Smith 01733 210480  
Meet fortnightly on Friday mornings from 10.00am to 12 noon at Crowland Methodist Church. This group is for those who enjoy a structured form of singing in harmony. It is preferable for members to have the ability to read music and be able to sing songs of a more intricate nature. No auditions required, but anyone interested is advised to come and see if this works for you. Occasionally we perform to entertain other organizations and individual items are encouraged, but mainly we sing for the joy of learning and tackling music, which stretches our capacity to the full.

**Jazz Appreciation ZoZiety** Mike Edgley 01480 433481  
We meet on the second Friday of the month at each other's homes at 10.00am, which leads to a cosy 'club' atmosphere (also see Jazz 4 U below). Several of our members do presentations and we also have some speakers from outside U3A. Most of us prefer early jazz but we have made forays into the post-bop era. Above all we are enthusiasts, which is surely the main ingredient of any U3A group.

**Jazz 4 U** Mary Boyall 01733 897144  
We are a group of Jazz enthusiasts, who meet on the second Friday of the month from 10.00am to 12 noon at Orton Waterville Village Hall. You do not need an in-depth knowledge of Jazz, you just need to enjoy it. The term runs from September to June. Members bring their own CDs, tapes or vinyl, which are played and discussed. Occasionally, one of us will put together a themed programme, favourite artist, or type of Jazz, with a little history, and anecdotes. We are very eclectic, so whatever your taste you should hear it here if not, bring it along and convert us!

**Knit and Natter**

Jean Bodily 01733 564181

Our knitting group continues to thrive and meets fortnightly at 2.00pm at Paston. Unfortunately because our group is held in our homes we are limited for space but please contact Jean if you are interested.

**Line Dancing [2]**

Elaine Neale 01733 577468

The Friday Line Dance class is a very friendly group that dances every Friday from 2.00 to 4.00pm at Matley Community Centre Orton Brimbles. This class is not suitable for beginners, as no formal tuition is given. We are a self-organised group, which is very popular so there is a waiting list. Please phone Eileen for further details or if you want to put your name on the list.

**Nordic Waking**

Elaine Plant 01733 332762

Meet weekly at 1.30pm usually at Ferry Meadow Visitor Centre. All members will be asked to organize a walk on a rota basis, on your own if you are brave, or with another member of the group to keep you company. Nordic walking is good for your heart as the use of Nordic poles exercises the whole body and utilizes muscles that would not otherwise be used; you feel more energized and therefore benefit from the 46 percent efficiency of the Nordic Walking activity. All those wishing to try Nordic walking, please contact Elaine in the first instance.

**Opinion Time**

Bernard Barker 01733 236241

rekrab3@gmail.com

This group meets on the last Friday of the month at Orton Brimbles to review news and current affairs topics, with members presenting and offering first thoughts on items that have caught their attention. Lively debate invariably follows! If interested please contact Bernard.

**Poetry Appreciation [1]**

John Hucklesby 01733 231894

Third Friday of the month, 2.00 to 4.00pm at St Luke's Church Hall, including half terms. See also Thursday's group but you may also phone for further details. Group [1] & [2] are the same course repeated.

## **Roses and Castles (Canal art)**

Donne Buck 01733 568896 and Sidney Harbour, 01733 343761  
Weekly at Bishopsfield, Walton at 2.30pm. Roses and Castles is the traditional title of the very colourful art of the English canals. It is suitable for decorating all kinds of household and garden items for personal use or for gifts. We are a friendly group with a long record of helping new members to gain the skills they need. To do this we have a small collection of basic materials ready for you to use. So, why not bring along something from home on any Friday afternoon, and have a go. There is no charge for this class. Refreshments are available. We still have vacancies for new members as there is plenty of room at Bishopsfield.

Any U3A members who have relatives at Bishopsfield might wish to remind them that they are welcome to join our group on Fridays as visitors or participants and to have tea or coffee with us, as several already do. Parking is free at the rear of Bishopsfield. Please give one of us a ring if you have any questions. Visitors always welcome.

## **Rummikub 1**

Rosemary Dethridge 01733 718742  
rosemaryu3a@sky.com

The Homenene Rummikub group meet at 2.00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month at Homenene House at Orton Centre. Rummikub is a fast track numbers game and we always enjoy a social occasion and a cup of tea whilst playing several games, and having many a laugh! We are very fortunate to be able to use this comfortable venue free of charge, which is accessible for people with disabilities. There is plenty of parking and it is right on the No1 bus route. If you would like to join us, we have a few available places! The group is relaxed and informal, all are helpful to new players. So come along by yourself or with a mate. Ring or email Rosemary for further details

## **Scrabble**

Sylvia Blackall 01733 765509  
Daphne Renshaw 01733 231199

We are a small friendly group who meet every Friday morning from 11.00am to 1.00pm at the Indoor Bowling Centre. The aim is to enjoy playing scrabble with like-minded people, the social side being an important part. Although we do like a challenge, we do not intend

to take the game seriously enough to participate in tournaments. The use of dictionaries and 2 and 3 letter words is permitted. From beginners to advanced, all levels are very welcome.

**Table Tennis Group**

Brian Keegan 01733 265769

We meet every Friday from 4.30 to 5.30pm at Longthorpe Memorial Hall 295 Thorpe Road, Longthorpe, Peterborough, PE3 6LU at a cost of £2.00 per session. This group is held in conjunction with a local table tennis group based at the hall and there are limited places. Please contact Brian to find out more.

**Walking Groups:**

**Friday Stroll Nomads**

Barbara Cleaver 01733 574133

The Friday Stroll Nomads meet on the first and third Friday of each month at 10.30am at various locations. Ring Barbary for further details.

**Friday Strollers**

Colin Baker 01733 222324

colinb23@hotmail.co.uk

If you are looking for a healthy and social activity totally devoid of extreme sports, with a walking pace comfortable to members, you may find our group to be worthy of consideration. We are currently at capacity of around 28 members, but we do keep a list of people who express interest in joining us, so if that's you, give Colin a call or email him.

**Village Walkers**

David Hart 01733 231095

Our walks are on the second and fourth Friday of each month. If you enjoy gentle exercise and good company the above two strolling groups meet at 10.30am for a 10.45am start. Those who wish can finish with refreshments at the local pub. The distances are approximately two to three miles and the strolls generally start within a 20-mile radius of Peterborough. For locations phone David.

**Watercolours - Friday**

Valerie McNeill 01733 321221

Members meet every Friday at 1.45pm to share our love of painting and to meet like-minded people. This class is not suitable for complete newcomers as no formal tuition is available. We are a self-help group with some occasional step-by-step workshops. This is a very popular group so there is a waiting list.

**Watercolours for All**

Ros Parker 01733 770641

We meet on first and third Friday of the month at the Memorial Hall in Alwalton at 10.00am. New dates for the September to December term appear on line. There are a few places at present if anyone would like to join us. Please phone Ros for further details.

**Wood Turning**

Dave Longworth 01733 231745

Group 3 meets weekly at Railworld at 9.00am

Group 4 meets weekly at Railworld at 1.00pm

**Yoga 3**

Kathryn Chiswell 01733 569951

The weekly class starts at the East Community Centre on Friday 9 September from 9.45 to 10.45am. Please contact Kathryn for further details.

**Yoga 4**

Kathryn Chiswell 01733 569951

This weekly class also meets at the East Community Centre on Friday 9 September from 11.00 to 12.00pm. As before please contact Kathryn for further details.

**SATURDAY****Bowls At Barnack**

Malcolm Bayes 01733 571246

Our new Bowls at Barnack group meets at 9.45am to 12.00pm with a tea break at 11.00am. We will meet each week until the end of the bowls season in mid-September. For further details see also 'From the Groups' or contact Malcolm.

**Boules 1 (Petanque)**

Jo Davies 01733 240906

The group meets weekly at 10.00am at The Windmill in Orton Waterville. Please contact Jo for further information.

**SUNDAY****Lunch Club [1]**

Jean Bodily 01733 564181

On the first Sunday of the month.

**Lunch Club [2]**

Jennifer Day 01733 231819

On the second Sunday of the month

**Lunch Club [3]**

Pamela Blackith 01733 565992

On the fourth Sunday of the month.





# TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

Arthur and Pat have taken Travel Club members to Athena Beach in Cyprus and to Rome and Amalfi. On 21 September they will be taking a coach to Istria and Opatija in Croatia. Ann and Malcolm will be taking the second coach a day later.

At the end of June, John Douglas took a group to Galicia & Oporto. On 21 July Ann and Malcolm will take a trip to the Outer Hebrides with 43 people.

Later on, in September, we will take a holiday in Torquay with special focus on keen tenpin bowlers and bowls players. The hotel will also host an afternoon tea dance.

The last holiday in the year will be a festive break at Warners in Alvaston, Cheshire. We will be taking two full coaches to the popular pre-Christmas holiday. At the time of writing we have had 2 cancellations of double/twin rooms.

## **Projected holidays for 2017 with Arthur**

February: A Caribbean Cruise.  
May: A visit to the Dolomites  
October: A holiday to Portugal

## **Projected holidays for 2017 with Ann**

June: Shetland and Orkneys  
July: Cruise to the Norwegian Fjords  
September: A holiday in Cornwall  
November: Warners Festive Break

## **Future Travel Club Meetings at Jack Hunt School**

Thursday	25 August	- 11.00am - Activities Day
Saturday	8 October	- 10.00am
Saturday	3 December	- 10.00am
Saturday	21 January	- 10.00am

## VISIT TRAVEL CLUB ON THE WEB

We meet 7 times a year to describe our trips, show you our itineraries, take payments, and hand out tickets and labels. Some of our meetings can get a bit crowded

Do you want to avoid the queues and complete the paperwork at home? You can do this and more as our meeting dates, travel dates, itineraries and booking forms are available on the Internet and easily accessible from your computer or tablet.

You can view or print all of our documents or download them to your computer at any time. You do not have to log in to do this; anybody can read, print or download any of the documents.

You can access the Travel Club web pages from the main web site. Go to [www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk](http://www.peterboroughu3a.org.uk) and find the Travel Club web page on the **Activities** tab under **General Interest** or via the **A-Z** list. There you will see the general information that I provide about the Travel Club. For detailed information scroll down a little and click on **Click here**.

The word documents at the bottom of the screen list meeting dates and important dates for your diary, for paying deposits and balances, collecting luggage labels and travel details, etc.

Once you have chosen a trip, print out and complete the booking form. Bring the form and your completed cheque to the next Travel Club meeting and avoid queuing to complete a booking form on the day.

We also have interest lists online. You can click on one of these to open a form to express your interest. These are not a commitment nor do they confer any priority. Booking forms are always taken on a first come, first served basis at one of our meetings.

If you experience any problem then email me at [pu3a.travel@libourne.co.uk](mailto:pu3a.travel@libourne.co.uk).

*Malcolm Pollack*

## DAY VISITS 2016-2017

*Please read this carefully if you intend to book for any day visit.* More 'Day Visits' for 2017 will be published in the January edition of the NEWS.

**Any member of the U3A can book a day visit.** Non-U3A members are welcome as guests, but have to pay a slightly higher charge. Please use the booking forms, the bottom form first! (Additional booking forms are usually available on day visits and at monthly meetings). **Please pay by cheque whenever possible. Cheques should be made payable to Peterborough U3A.** Enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your form if you wish to have a receipt. Refunds will not normally be made after the booking deadline. If you cancel we will try to re-sell your place, although you will have to pay the costs of this, which will normally be about £2 per person. If there are spare seats we will usually accept bookings after the deadline.

It is best to book as early as possible if you want to be sure of a seat for a particular visit. I am happy to deal with **any queries, except booking queries**, by phone on 01780 782976. If you cannot get hold of me, Sandi Osborne or Doreen Dare may be able to help (see inside front cover of this NEWS). **Booking enquiries should only be made to Gina Bates [01733 579317].** Book with Gina by phone and then send the booking form and cheque to Gina at **Peterborough U3A c/o Mrs G Bates, 82 Temple Grange, Werrington, PETERBOROUGH, PE4 5DW** within seven days. If you are booking for just one visit just cut off the bottom slip.

If the visit is already fully booked it is a good idea to put your name on the waiting list. You may be able to replace someone who has to drop out. If the waiting list gets very long we may book a second coach or run the same visit but possibly on a different day.

Some people who live in the side road near the Crab & Winkle have complained about constant parking in their road. They know that the parking is not illegal but I can understand their problem, particularly when sometimes it is difficult to access or leave their drives. Can I suggest if you are going to use your car it is easier to park it at Thorpe Meadows where it does not upset anyone. You would also get home earlier as Thorpe Meadows is usually the first drop off point.

***You can also book on Activities Day, but please bring your chequebook.***

**Note:** Fuller details of conditions, etc. are published annually in the April 'News'.

*Paul Parker – Day Visit Organiser (01780 782976)*

**HARLOW CARR GARDEN, HARROGATE**  
**A Royal Horticultural Garden**  
**Tuesday 6 September 2016**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.20am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.30am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 7.40am and Thorpe Meadows at 7.50am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.**

This is the most northerly of the RHS gardens. It is just outside Harrogate. This beautiful 58 acre garden combines innovative design with creative planting and is bursting with practical ideas. RHS Garden Harlow Carr highlights include the colourful main borders, streamside and scented gardens, an alpine zone, woodland walks and wildflower meadows.

There are places to eat and drink – a great place to spend a day.

**Cost, including entry to the gardens £24.00**

**U3A members who are also RHS members £17.00.**

**Those who are not U3A members pay £2.50 in addition to the above prices**

**Deadline for booking 21 August 2016**

**BIRMINGHAM & SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT [1]**  
**Wednesday 15 February 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.40am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.50am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.00am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.10am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm.**

The programme for the concert includes Rachmaninov's Piano concerto No. 2 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 (*Pathétique*). Names can be deceptive, *Pathétique* actually means 'full of emotion' and from the first note to the last, Tchaikovsky's heart rending Sixth

Symphony is exactly that. As the former Bolshoi music director, Alexander Vedernikov, who conducts the concert, has this music in his blood, expect raw feeling, great melodies and Russian flair by the bucket-load as he teams up with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Artist in Residence Steven Osborne in Rachmaninov's best loved Piano Concerto.

There will be time to look round some of Birmingham before the concert; we usually arrive before 11.00am. It is the UK's second city, with all the shops you would expect. There are also some superb museums and art galleries and the canals. You will be dropped off and picked up fairly near to the city centre just outside Symphony Hall. There are usually spaces for those who do not want to go to the concert (see below)

Further details from Paul Parker [01780 782976]

**Cost: Travel & Concert: £35.10 (Non-U3A members £37.60)**

**Cost: Travel only £10.50 (Non-U3A members £13.00)**

Deadline for booking for the concert **7 December 2016**

**You can book for travel only after 14 December 2016**

Deadline for booking for travel only **8 February 2017**

## **BIRMINGHAM & SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT [2]**

**Thursday 4 May 2017**

**Leaving Bright Street Coach Station at 7.40am, Crab & Winkle, Werrington at 7.50am, Bretton Centre bus stop at 8.00am and Thorpe Meadows at 8.10am, arriving back in Peterborough at about 7.30pm**

The programme for this concert is Beethoven's Symphony No. 2, Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in E flat major and Dvorák's Symphony No. 8.

No composer makes a happier noise than Joseph Haydn, and when Alison Balsom is the soloist you've got a concert that's pretty much guaranteed to lift the spirits. After all, symphonies simply don't get any more cheerful than Beethoven's Second, except may be Dvorák's Eighth! Village bands, singing birds and hummable tunes: instant sunshine delivered with wit and charm by the young British conductor Ben Gernon.

There will be time to look round some of Birmingham before the concert; we usually arrive before 11.00am. It is the UK's second city, with all the shops you would expect. There are also some superb museums and art galleries and the canals. You will be dropped off and picked up fairly near to the city centre just outside Symphony Hall. There are usually spaces for those who do not want to go to the concert (see below)

Further details from Paul Parker [01780 782976]

**Cost: Travel & Concert: £35.10 (Non-U3A members £37.60)**

**Cost: Travel only £10.50 (Non-U3A members £13.00)**

Deadline for booking for the concert **16 February 2017**

**You can book for travel only after 23 February 2017**

Deadline for booking for travel only **27 April 2017**

## **NEW MEMBERS' MEETING**

**Saturday 1 October 2016  
at Christ Church Orton Goldhay**

Coffee Served from 9.30am

Meeting Starts 10.00am

Prospective members and  
any members who have missed previous  
New Members' Meetings are welcome to  
attend

**Reports and articles for next U3A News should  
reach the editor not later than**

**Monday 31 October 2016**

Items can be given to Conny Yarwood  
or sent by email to [conny.yarwood@gmail.com](mailto:conny.yarwood@gmail.com)  
or by post clearly writing NEWS in the top left hand corner  
of the envelope to the address below:

***PLEASE NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER  
AND POSTCODE***

**Peterborough U3A News  
PO Box 1341  
Peterborough PE2 2QD**





Barnack Bowls Club break at Potters Bar



Patchwork & Quilting Group

