

WEST WOLDS

u3a

"Learn, Laugh and Live"

Website: www.westwoldsu3a.org

January 2024 Newsletter

Issue 125

Thanks for all contributions, these are very well received, I will endeavour to get them in if possible. *Terry Francis (Editor)*

newsletter@westwoldsu3a.org

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Dear Members,

I hope you have all had a good Christmas and are now looking forward to the New Year and all the exciting 25th Celebratory events we have planned throughout the year and the national u3a's first Festival in 2024. The festival is due to be held in York from 18th - 20th July 2024. The national u3a will be running a wide variety of activities, talks, sporting events, musical events and workshops. The festival will be based around the University of York's Exhibition Centre. Accommodation is available on the University of York's campus if you want to spend 3 days at the festival taking part or volunteering to help. York is not that far from Lincoln so you could just visit the Festival for one day and take in the sights of York at the same time. If you are interested in attending or participating, full details are available on the national u3a website.

A new year and our groups continue to grow. I am pleased to announce that we now have some more new groups available to join. Full details are available on our website. If you are interested in joining them, please either sign up at one of our monthly meetings when there will be the opportunity to chat with Sandra, Pam, Pat and David about them or contact them direct from their details given on our website.

Artificial Intelligence - Convenor Sandra Dean.
Board and Card Games - Convenor Pam Ebbage.
Crochet - Convenor Pat Hage.
Discussion Group - Convenor David Ebbage.
Map Reading with a Sat Nav - Convenor David Ebbage.

Although the national u3a has been offering online activities and presentations via 'Zoom' for some time I have only just recently had the opportunity to try them out. I would recommend them as I

participated in the 'Art of William Morris' presentation, which was seen incredibly by 412 u3a members at one time. I am not an IT expert but found 'Zoom' intuitive and easy to use. I watched the one hour 'bitesize' presentation from the comfort of my own home with no cost or travelling etc. and it has inspired me to go and find out some more information about William Morris. If you are interested in other activities see the national u3a website for more details.

As you can see I am an avid fan of u3a as an organization and heartily believe in its ethos 'of run by the members for the members' and all the fantastic opportunities that it offers to 'learn, laugh and live'. That is why I like to give something back by being a convenor, organizing the Christmas lunch, helping out on our publicity stall, helping organize the 25th Anniversary celebrations and Chair of our committee. If you too could spare just a little time to volunteer and help out in any way, it would be much appreciated and keep West Wolds u3a going for the next 25 years!

Volunteer opportunities are:

Join the committee

Refreshments Team (shared on a rota basis).

racheltefer1@hotmail.co.uk

Meeters & Greeters (shared on a rota basis).

ginger.mike29@btinternet.com

Monthly Meeting Reception Desk (shared on a rota basis). chairman@westwoldsu3a.org

Setting up the Festival Hall for the monthly meetings. chairman@westwoldsu3a.org

25th Celebration Events - general help.

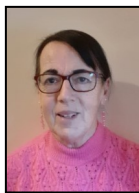
Best wishes

Shirley Fuller, Chairman

MEET THE COMMITTEE



Shirley Fuller – Chair and General Meeting Coordinator



Originally a Londoner, I moved to Lincolnshire 13 years ago from Norfolk when very sadly my husband passed away, to be closer to my daughter who settled there after completing her degree at Lincoln University. On retirement I have been a member of both Bracebridge Heath and West Wolds u3a undertaking various committee roles for 11 years. From this and my managerial career I can apply the experience and knowledge gained to the post of our Committee Chair. Both my husband and I started up and successfully ran our own small charity as Trustees for a number of years. In my spare time I like to travel, cycle, garden and embroider.

Sharon Rupp – Business Secretary



I joined the Committee in March 2017 as a co-opted member originally as Minute Taker but then became Speaker Finder once fully voted onto the Committee at the AGM that year. During that time, I have also volunteered for other roles; for example East Lincs Neighbourhood Secretary which I held for 4 years, and I have been on the Action Plan sub-committee for 3 years. In 2020 I took on the additional role of Business Secretary which covers such responsibilities as day-to-day administration of our u3a; organising and minuting all meetings; maintaining records and updating information to the Charity Commission. I have now passed the baton of Speaker Finder over to Ginny so I can concentrate on the Secretary role.

Please come and find me at the monthly meetings if you have any queries or suggestions -my contact details are also in the newsletter and on the website.

Terry Francis – Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Technical Support



I joined the Committee in late 2016, and started off as Newsletter Editor taking over from Geoff Goddard, and have produced the quarterly newsletter since February 2017, at first with the help of my co-editor Brian Ward, then when Brian stepped down from the Committee, I have taken the newsletter on from a booklet format which was quite expensive to get printed, to an online format in 2020 during the pandemic, which is available on our website or by email.

When our previous Treasurer Shelly Franklin left the u3a in 2020, it was touch and go whether the u3a would be able to carry on without a Treasurer, so I volunteered to take it on and have been the Treasurer since. Then, because our previous Membership Secretary decided to resign from the role in October/November 2023, I offered to take that on as I had been doing more and more of the role recently as it ties in closely with the Treasurer's role. This goes back to when Shelley Franklin did both jobs in the past.

I also act as Technical Support for the various equipment issues that may arise. My background as an Electronics Engineer and spreadsheet/database design has stood me in good stead in these roles.

Sandra Dean – Vice Chair and Safeguarding Officer



I bring a vast wealth of expertise to the committee and I'm now in my second year. My background is in science and technology, linguistics, educational management and training. I've been involved in business development both in the south east and here in Lincolnshire. I've also played a lead role as a learning rep for a major organisation. I've gained further qualifications in sailing, navigation, football refereeing and cake decoration which I've put to good use over the years. I hold a full DBS check for safeguarding.

As a member of West Wolds u3a I've promoted and developed groups in Spanish. Starting from one group in 2018 we now have four groups plus Italian and French groups. I've got further plans to start an Artificial Intelligence (AI) group in 2024.

Together with Shirley, our Chair, I work to promote activities for our Anniversary Year, liaising with the membership, group convenors and the committee. More recently I've become the national Spanish Subject Adviser for the u3a.

When I'm not at a u3a event you'll find me at Meridian Sports Centre, Louth or at my sailing club in North Hykeham as I still enjoy swimming, playing badminton and sailing on a regular basis.

Ginny Beard – Speaker Finder

I moved to Market Rasen with my husband in 2006, joined u3a in 2021 and this is my second year on the committee. Now widowed, I am the group convenor for the Solo group and also for card making. My role on the committee is as the Speaker Finder.



I have had previous experience as a secretary, a WRAF Admin sergeant for 11 years and with my husband later ran a very successful petrol filling station for 5 years. After retiring I moved to Portugal to live in 1988 and returned to the UK in 1996.

I enjoy travelling, particularly cruising, a passionate card maker, line dancing and meeting new people.

Gary Beighton - Groups Coordinator and Publicity Officer

I've been a member of our u3a for quite a few years now. I took over as group convener for the German group when the previous convener left the area.



I was coopted onto the committee to create our Facebook page and have subsequently been publicity officer for the last 3 years. I'm now also taking on the Groups Coordinator role. I enjoy an active lifestyle and love to go cycling, dancing, and walking.

Dave Ebbage – Visits

Commissioned in Royal Air Force (Aircrew-Navigator) for 12 years, firstly in RAF. Germany and lastly, RAF Finningley as a Navigation Instructor.



Sports-rugby, badminton, squash, and road running

which included two London Marathons. Current activities, cycling, metal detecting, photography and family history.

Qualifications

HNC in Electrical Engineering and an HNC in Land Surveying.

Civilian career. Mainly in sales of high-quality precision optics, and software. Lastly, a consultant trainer to Ford Motor Company, in computer use/sales training.

2004-2022 lived in France.

Developed our house to include a rental apartment, and started a Caravan Storage business.

Joined Euromayenne, an Anglo-French Association similar to U3A

Ran the Photographic Group, started a Technology Group and organized visits.

Locally I started a SHED group which became a Discussion Group.

Why I joined U3A: To meet new friends, pursue group interests, and continue learning. Please encourage your friends and partners to participate.



**NEW YEAR RESOLUTION
MORE FUN
MEET NEW PEOPLE
GENTLE EXERCISE**

COME AND JOIN OUR
INDOOR BOWLING GROUP
WE MEET ON THURSDAY
FROM 2.15 TILL 4.30
AT DUNHOLME INDOOR BOWLS CENTRE

BOWLS AVAILABLE AT THE CLUB.
FLAT SHOES NEEDED.

CONTACT CATHY WHELAN
01673 565608

WEST WOLDS U3A CHRISTMAS LUNCH

I would like to thank all of our 50 members who supported our annual Christmas lunch at Market Rasen Golf Club. Unfortunately, 3 members were unable to attend due to illness and I hope by now that you are all fully recovered. The lunch was successful with good food, eye watering desserts and good company. Good service was provided by Janet and her team from the Golf Club working very hard to look after everyone as usual, to ensure all our members had a good time. A thank you to Joe Willis for starting the proceedings with one of his thought-provoking poems. (see next page).



I have booked next year's Christmas lunch date with the Golf Club as it is a very popular venue and their bookings diary gets filled very quickly for Christmas lunches.

Advance notice for your diary, the next Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 12th December 2024, the same day as the December Monthly meeting.

Shirley Fuller

CHRISTMAS POEM (RHEINSBERG)

Read by Jo Willisich at the Christmas lunch

I wish you all the things of which one says,
how beautiful all are and were, yet still exist.

The moment, when on his bird wings,
the lark flies into the blue of the eternal sky.
The song, which is accompanied by the lute,
a poem is changed into song,
a bell, which peals for peace,
when, in the evenings you are homewards drawn.

I wish you all the things, which should comfort you
in sorrow,
the colour of the butterflies,
the garden, in its' spring garments,
a blackbird, which sings for you,
a stroll through the wheat fields,
the rapture, which penetrates you, when resting in
the shade of the woods,
the autumn leaves, full of reddish glow
which the storm has chased away,
the frozen lake and its' glittering sheen.

When you quietly stand before HIM, and say to
yourself:
where there is light, there is hope,
where there is friendship, there is peace and truth.
Christmas is a time for celebrating the special
people in our lives.
When I cannot find my way, I light a flame
and at Christmas, I think of you!

A Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to you All!

KEEP FIT GROUP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Eleven of Dawn's Supple Seniors attended the Keep Fit Group Christmas lunch above Jossals, we had a great time and the food was very enjoyable.



ADVANCE NOTICE OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH VISITS

The Time Keeping Museum at Newark:
Wednesday 21st February 2024, starting at
1315. The cost will be £12/head with travel by
car sharing. There are 9 people interested so
please apply early as there are just 12 places.

Additionally, there will be a visit to the Lincs.
Transport Museum in March however details
have not been finalised, please notify the
Group Convenor (details below) of your
interest.

u3a Contact: David Ebbage on 01673 847750
(davepame@gmail.com).

WEST WOLDS XMAS MARKET STALLS

We'd like to thank all members who kindly offered
to help out with setting up and clearing away our
stall at the Christmas Craft Fair in Market Rasen on
December 8th and 9th. Thanks also to everyone
who volunteered to do a shift on the day itself.
Many of you spent valuable time helping out and
the committee very much appreciate this effort.



25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION



The Anniversary planning committee has met several times since November to further develop plans for the wonderful array of events we'd like to deliver in 2024.

25th Anniversary Monthly Meeting

In the New Year everyone will receive a personal invite to the 25th Anniversary Celebration Monthly Meeting on 14th March. This will be sent to you by email using the u3a Beacon system or by post if you don't use the Internet. If you wish to come to this event, please reply to Shirley Fuller chair@westwoldsu3a.org or post by 29th February 2024.

Further Events, April to June

Dates for three further events have also been confirmed and these are:-

Thorne Beehives Visit plus refreshments,
Wednesday 24th April from 2pm

Anniversary Car Treasure Hunt and Pub Lunch,
Wednesday 1st May from 10am followed by lunch
at 12 noon

Baumber Walled Garden Visit plus refreshments,
Thursday 27th June 2pm

Final costs for some events have yet to be checked as venues and suppliers haven't yet confirmed these in some cases. Payment can be in cash or by cheque only.

You will need to sign up for these events so do look out for these or let us know.

Looking Further Forward

Events for July through to September will be announced later in the New Year.

We've already had many offers of help from members and Convenors and this also includes suggestions for further activities and events during the year. Thanks to everyone who has come forward with ideas and offers of help. If you've not yet been in touch please contact either Shirley chairman@westwoldsu3a.org or Sandra vicechair@westwoldsu3a.org with your suggestions.

Let's make this a year to remember!

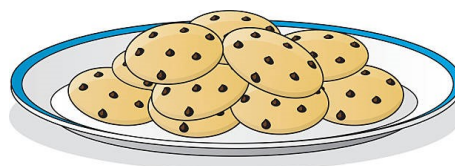


**AT THE MONTHLY
MEETING, TEA & COFFEE IS
SERVED FROM
9.30 - 10.15.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CATERING
STOPS SERVING AT 10:15, PLEASE ENSURE
ALL CUPS ARE RETURNED TO THE
KITCHEN BY THIS TIME.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

**IF ANYONE NEEDS HELP CARRYING
THEIR DRINK TO THEIR CHAIR, PLEASE
ASK ONE OF THE CATERING TEAM.**



Greeters Rota

February

Eunice Hughes
Anna Ettridge
Pauline Wellings

March

TBA
TBA
TBA

Caroline Dale is asking if anyone would like to be a greeter, please contact her at the meetings or on 01673 844142.

Catering Helpers Rota

February

Serving:: Anita Handford
Stephanie Fox
Kitchen: Bernadette Heald
Christine Kettlewell

February

Serving:: Anita Handford
Norma Willis
Kitchen: Barry Dukes
TBA

Rachel Telfer is looking for members who would like to volunteer to help with catering at future meetings, please contact her at the meeting.

WEST WOLDS XMAS LUNCH WALK

The brave bunch who battled through the stormy conditions for the last walk of the year. 4 miles along the sea front from the fitties to Cleethorpes town. We were lashed with rain and strong winds but at least the return journey had the wind behind us. Thanks to Yvonne who organised the walk and fish & chip lunch; and to Rachel for the coffee stop and warm up part way.



Sharon Rupp

SEEING THE STARS IN 2024

A visit has been arranged for the 30th January 2024 to the Cleethorpes and District Astronomical Society Observatory, at Beacon Hill in Cleethorpes. The details are as follows:

Date/time: Tuesday 30th January 2024. The event will start at 19:30 and the gates will be open from 19:15 and locked at 19:30 promptly. This is an essential security requirement and late arrivals will not be able to attend for any reason.

Refreshment: Individuals to pay for their own drinks at 50p/person (cash please) and includes a tasty biscuit.

Numbers/ Cost: We are limited to 15 attendees so an early booking is recommended. The cost is £2/person.

Transport: Attendees are to arrange their own transport, preferably sharing cars, as parking is limited.

u3a Contact: David Ebbage on 01673 847750 (davepame@gmail.com).

Directions: Taking Clee Road from Cleethorpes take a left turn up Davenport Drive and then immediately take another left up Normandy Road and an immediate right turn up Montgomery Road. At the top of the hill, just before the road turns sharply left, look out for a small private road on the right between houses numbered 30 and 32 (What 3 Words: ///during.punks.focal). This is easily missed! Follow this road into the allotments. Limited parking is available and you will see the observatory (Beacon Hill), in the middle of the allotments. The entrance is clearly lit on club nights. There will be someone at the gate to let you in but it will be locked at 19.45.

Observatory mobile telephone number: 07704079630 (only available during meeting times).

There will be a presentation and you will be able to look at and through the telescopes/binoculars, and if the weather is suitable, we should be able to go outside to observe. Everyone needs to bring warm clothes and waterproof shoes as it soon gets chilly and the ground/grass can be damp. Astronomers always wear two pairs of socks! With a group of 15 all those who wish should have time to look through the telescopes and binoculars. A torch to aid walking down the short drive would be useful too. One with a red filter would be preferable but not essential.

Dave Ebbage



GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER PROGRAMME 2024

8th February - Dawn Blunden - Sophistcake - The story of the Royal Wedding Cake



A recipe for an entertaining talk
By Dawn Blunden
A cupful of Royalty
A sprinkling of celebrities

A pinch of TV & radio
A large spoonful of laughter & an ounce or two of talent.
Mix together & decorate with a "big" personality. & enjoy an abundance of funny stories & anecdotes.



14th March - Steve Short - Comedy Speaker/ Entertainer/Magician



Using photographs and video clips Steve Short will bring to life the story of how these two great comedians met to become Britain's most loved double act. First appearing in 1954 with rather poor reviews they returned two years later and appeared in a series of massively popular television shows over the next twenty years. By 1976 they were awarded OBEs, with their partnership lasting until 1984 when Eric Morecambe sadly died.

This entertaining presentation by Steve includes the story of their unique comedy magic act and will bring back many memories of a much-loved comedy partnership.

11th April - Catherine Ball - Training Guide Dogs for the Blind



Ever wondered how a guide dog knows when its safe to cross the road? Or how they can guide their owner safely down a crowded street and find the door to Marks and Spencer? How long does it take to train a guide dog? What breeds are used and how long do they work?

All these questions and many more can be answered by a Guide Dogs Speaker like me. My name is Catherine and I have been registered blind since 2002. Since then, I have had four beautiful guide dogs, each with their own very distinct personalities. They have all been brilliant, guiding me safely on our trips out of the house, but they have been very different dogs, with very different strengths. The one thing they have in common though is they allow me to be independent and be myself.

I would love to tell you all about their amazing abilities and their journeys from cute little bundles of fluff to qualified guide dogs and beyond. Please join me and my guide dog Chandler for a talk on all things Guide Dogs.

9th May - Elaine Hagger - Voluntary work at Bletchley Park

13th June - Martin Lloyd - Passport, Assassins, Traitors and Spies

U3A FESTIVAL 2024 AT YORK UNIVERSITY

July 18th to 20th

This national event will include a wide range of events.

Details on the national website and in TAM

THE WEST WOLDS GARDENING GROUP.



This is a very friendly group, more of a 'garden family' now as I think of them. There is a raffle with lots of prizes, plant sales and some give-aways too.

If you have not been to any of our meetings, please do give this a try. You do not have to be a passionate gardener, but a love of plants does help! Maybe you now have a small patio with a pot or two, you are just as welcome.

We also have arranged our first coach excursion next year to Littlethorpe Manor which is near Ripon, on the 30th May. The price is £45 per person which includes the coach (from Market Rasen), the driver's tip, entrance to this beautiful garden, and tea and cake too. You do not have to be a member of the garden group to attend. Book through Jane.

GARDENING GROUP PROGRAMME

17th January: Life of a Gardener - Part 2 by Alan Mason

18th February: Snowdrop Visit to Church Farm, West Drayton, Notts

21st February: Echiums - In the Land of the Giants by Linda Heywood

13th March: Willow weaving. £25 which includes materials

20th March: All about Irises by Chris Davey

17th April: All about Peonies by Gail Harland

30th May: Coach excursion to Littlethorpe Manor, Ripon. £45.00

Jane Guy

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP PROGRAMME

Meetings at Middle Rasen Village Hall

February 13th 2024. "A light hearted history of Market Rasen". A talk by Brian Ward.

For information about any of these talks or visits contact **Paul Ettridge telephone 07916 910023**
Email paullettridge28@gmail.com

SOLO GROUP

The solo group met on Friday 15th December



and it was a fun afternoon with plenty of cake and mince pies, I think the photo says it all!! and I would like to thank all those who provided a raffle prize.

The next meeting will be Friday 19th January 2024 at the New Life Church, Market Rasen from 2.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. and it has been proposed we have a Beetle Drive. Any new members interested in joining this group can contact me via the details on the Convenors page.

Thank you.
Ginny Beard

Proposed New Groups

Discussion Group:

The topic is "AI, Friend or Foe". Venue in my house (Market Rasen), Wednesday 17th January at 10:00. Maximum number is 8.

Proposed additional Group:

If anyone is interested in a "Map Reading and Sat Nav use for Motoring" Group, I will be happy to organise one on an occasional basis.

Please contact the Convenor, David Ebbage on davepame@gmail.com or 01673 847750

WEST WOLDS U3A GARDEN GROUP
EXCURSION TO LITTLETHORPE MANOR,
NR. RIPON ON THURSDAY, 30TH MAY, 2024

This is perhaps the loveliest garden I have ever visited so I am very pleased to be able to take our Garden Group there at a wonderful time of the year.



The garden is on two levels - an upper level of 4 acres around the house, fairly formal in layout, with 7 acres of parkland below. The design is not an attempt at an historical recreation, but more the creation of a garden sympathetic to the Manor and its surrounds. On the upper level, a series of four gardens with different themes are linked together by repeated use of the same hard landscape materials and key structural planting (Hornbeam, Yew and Box hedging, with Bergenia, Luzula and Hakonechloa groundcover). A path running from the stable block to the drive links the gardens together via the Holly walk, Pergola and Fountain lawn.



The heart of the estate is the walled garden, reflecting Mrs Thackray's desire to relate the four seasons to the cycle of life. In the centre is Ygdrasil, the Norwegian World Tree - the symbolic Tree of Life. The circular features here are repeated as a theme throughout the garden.



The gardens around the house are increasingly formal. The Sunken garden parterre is based upon the White Rose of York emblem, the clipped box and trelliswork combining well with the white rendered Manor house. The main formal axis of the garden, from the terrace down to the classical pavilion, reflects Mr Thackray's ambition to create a 'mini arcadia'. To the front of the house, the new drive introduces a more contemporary feel, but still repeating the same key plants, materials and circular motifs.

Jane Guy

**For further information or an excursion
Booking Form please contact jane Guy on
0797 1277482 / 01673 885415
or via email jane.m.guy@gmail.com**

CROCHET GROUP

Pat Hage is running a new Crochet Group on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 2pm in Market Rasen. Please contact her on 01673 849447 or by email on phage65@gmail.com

Join us for a Celebration

Be Part of Something Special



West Wolds u3a 25th Anniversary Monthly Meeting

14th March 2024

9.45am

Festival Hall, Market Rasen

Highlights will Include

keynote address by John Lewis, East Midlands Regional Trustee
cake and fizz

“Britain's Most Loved Double Act” with Guest speaker, Steve Short

Let's make this anniversary unforgettable together!

Full details in the monthly newsletter, at the Monthly Meeting
and on the website or Facebook page

Dates for your diary

April 24th Visit to Thorne Beehives

May 1st Car Treasure Hunt

June 27th Visit to Baumber

Booking for all events will open on January 11th 2024 at the Monthly Meeting

LANGUAGE GROUPS AT WEST WOLDS U3A

Bonne Année/Neues Jahr/Feliz Año Nuevo/Buon Anno

French

We're aiming to relaunch our French Group in the New Year after a short break in 2023. The group is looking for new members, why not add your name to the list to find out more? You'll be kept up-to-date about future developments.



German

This well established group meets every Tuesday throughout the year in Market Rasen. With a varied programme of activities, our German group welcomes new members.

Italian

This very popular group is for those who are at the start of their Italian journey. Activities are varied and fun and we enjoy everything about Italian culture. Meetings are held fortnightly on Thursdays throughout the year.



Latin

This is a well-established group that meets regularly; it's for those with some prior knowledge of the language who want to keep up their skills.

Special Thanks to Lesley and Stephen Flockton

Thanks to Lesley and Stephen Flockton who have very kindly donated some language resources for the French and Italian groups to share. This is a wonderful way to ensure that those unused books are getting a second life and it's great for the planet at the same time.



Spanish

We offer a range of Spanish groups covering all levels of ability and points of interest so whether you fancy learning a little Spanish to enhance future travel, or if it's just to keep your mind active, take a look below to see what's on offer at West Wolds u3a.

Spanish for Your Holidays



This group will give you a basic range of words and phrases that even the most reluctant foreign language speaker would find useful. The group runs for for 8 weeks for an hour. Our next session will be in 2024.

Spanish Beginners (Próximos Pasos)

As the Spanish name suggests, this group is designed to look at basic Spanish in a little more detail than the Spanish for your Holidays group. Próximos Pasos is Spanish for "next steps." Meetings take place every fortnight.

Spanish Intermediate (¡Hablemos Español!)



This group is for those who have been studying Spanish for a while and who already know a fair bit of vocabulary and can tackle a range of tenses in Spanish such as the present, future and past. Compound verbs

and the subjunctive are also used.

The group meets every week on a Tuesday afternoon when we get together to take part in a range of activities which include chatting in Spanish, sharing experiences, reading Spanish texts and newspapers.

Spanish Conversation and Scrabble (Vamos a Juntarnos)

Our group for confident Spanish speakers who have been using the language for a while meets to talk and play board games entirely in Spanish. Meetings are either fortnightly or monthly by arrangement.

Full details can be found on the West Wolds u3a website or on the groups page of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at one of our groups very soon.

DEMISTIFYING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - AN INTRODUCTION



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a fascinating and rapidly evolving field that touches many aspects of our daily lives. At its core, AI refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence.

Every day we're bombarded with information about AI and the u3a is very much aware of the rapidly growing interest amongst its members both at home and internationally.

We now have a subject adviser for AI, Barry Claydon, who is already doing a great deal to promote the field. Across the country there are already many interest groups such as Science and Technology that are already developing a specific interest in the field. At the same time they're sharing their ideas and know-how via Zoom sessions and at other regional seminars and courses to learn more. There will be a forum at the u3a Festival in York this coming July.

Before this all becomes "too techie" let's return to everyday matters. We're already seeing the benefits of AI when we consider healthcare and finance. AI has the ability to complete many tasks more quickly and efficiently than vast armies of humans. It is already at work in the fields of drug development

and was used effectively in the need to move on from the covid pandemic. AI plays a crucial role in fraud detection in the financial sector.

Our transportation system will be revolutionised as AI will be used to navigate self-drive vehicles. If you use a sat nav on your smartphone or in your car you're already using it. It will bring about changes to society very much like the coming of the railways or the introduction of machinery into the wool and cotton industries. Jobs will change and young people will need different skills.

AI raises ethical questions about privacy, bias in algorithms, and the responsible use of technology. Striking a balance is crucial for a fair and inclusive society.

Looking ahead, the challenge for AI will be to focus on how society uses its capabilities and addresses ethical concerns.

From voice assistants to recommendation systems, AI is becoming increasingly integrated into our daily routines, simplifying tasks and enhancing user experiences.

In conclusion, while AI might seem complex at first, its real-world applications are diverse and impactful. As you delve into the world of AI, keep in mind its potential benefits, challenges, and the exciting possibilities it holds for the future.

If you want to know more or join our very own AI group contact smobrien1@gmail.com

Find out how Artificial Intelligence can boost your language learning - join the new AI group

Sandra Dean

FOR ALL GROUP CONVENORS

Looking for New Members? Why not tell us more about what your group does.

Write a short article or create an advert for a future newsletter.

Speak to the Groups Coordinator or Newsletter Editor to find out more

WALKING GROUPS PROGRAMME FOR NEXT TWO MONTHS

Date	Place	Distance	Walk Leader	Telephone
Jan 3rd	Chapel Room, Church St Nettelton	Annual Planning Meeting and short walk	Ken Howitt	
Jan 10th	Market Rasen to Wolds Edge	3.5 to 4 Miles	Rachel Telfer	07443 483831
TBA				
TBA				
TBA				
TBA				

THE NEW STROLLERS

As you may already know we are hoping to relaunch this very popular walking group and we are keenly searching for volunteers to lead walks of about 2 miles distance. You will find below details of any walks we are offering at present. I must stress that these are the ONLY ones on offer at present and, unless other volunteers step up to lead a walk, they may well be the last ones! So, please, help us all out by taking charge of a walk. If you can offer a walk see me at the u3a general meeting on or leave a message on 01652 678490.

Sign up to lead a walk at the meeting on January 11th

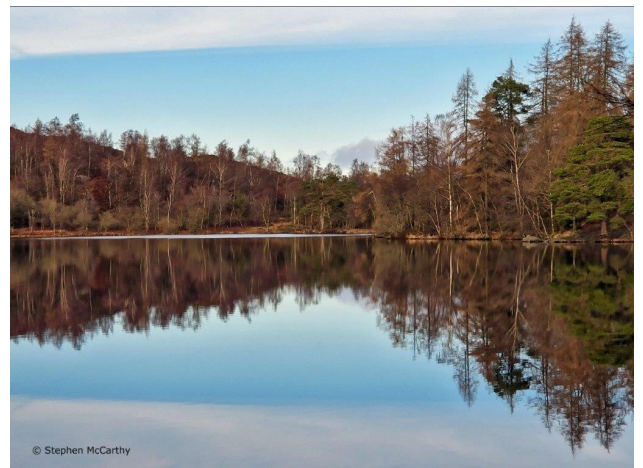
Let's revive what was once a very thriving group!!

Ken Howitt

No walks proposed at present in January.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP-
PICTURES OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER 2023

Here are some photos from the Digital Photography Groups challenges for December, based on the fun theme 'Festive' and a technical theme of 'Night Photography' plus a favourite of the month. These will be voted on by the group at our next meeting to decide which ones we all like the best, the results will be shown as a post on the u3a Website.



For more photos taken by the West Wolds u3a Digital Photography Group look at our Challenges page on the website at https://westwoldsu3a.org/?page_id=8458

GROUPS DISCLAIMER

Please be aware that it is your responsibility to take care of your own health and safety when participating in any u3a activities, and ensure that any current Government guidelines around Covid are adhered to. *The Committee*

CHANGES OF CIRCUMSTANCE

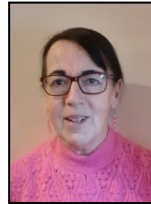
If you have any changes of circumstance, e.g. change of address, telephone or email, or a death of a member, please let the Groups Co-ordinator and Membership Secretary know by phone or email.

COMMITTEE & MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES 2023/2024

Chair and General Meeting Coordinator

Shirley Fuller Tel: 01673 885948

chairman@westwoldsu3a.org



Vice Chair and Safeguarding Officer

Sandra Dean Tel: 07734 456213

vicechair@westwoldsu3a.org



Business Secretary

Sharon Rupp Tel: 07803 694889

secretary@westwoldsu3a.org



Treasurer & Membership Secretary Newsletter Production Editor and Technical Support

Terry Francis Tel: 01673 842088

treasurer@westwoldsu3a.org
membership@westwoldsu3a.org
newsletter@westwoldsu3a.org



Publicity Officer, Groups' Coordinator and Website Support

Gary Beighton Tel: 01673 849364

publicity@westwoldsu3a.org
groupcoordinator@westwoldsu3a.org



Speaker Finder

Ginny Beard Tel: 07980 209642

speakerfinder@westwoldsu3a.org



Visits

Dave Ebbage Tel: 01673 847750

visits@westwoldsu3a.org



Support Roles (Non Committee)

Catering Coordinator

Rachel Telfer Tel: 01673 844244

rachelterfer1@hotmail.co.uk

Greeters Coordinator

Caroline Dale Tel: 01673 844142

ginger.mike29@btinternet.com

Welfare

Mandy Murphy Tel: 01673 565295

Mandy.murphy1396@gmail.com

Website Administration

Steve McCarthy Tel: 01673 308364

webadmin@westwoldsu3a.org

How to Subscribe on the West Wolds website to receive updates and notice of New Posts by email.

Opening the West Wolds website homepage, www.westwoldsu3a.org, look for the area shown on the right.. Enter your email address and click on the 'Receive Updates' button. You will receive an email from Wordpress, which refers you to opening your account. Make sure you click the link shown.

Back copies of all Newsletters can be seen on the website.

Sign Up For Updates

Enter your email address to get updates from Westwolds U3A and receive notifications of new posts

Receive Updates

Here is the Interest Groups Monthly Timetable, please contact the relevant Group Convener shown overleaf to ascertain if the group is running, and times and where they meet.

Conveners, please check the days and times for your group and the information on the last page are correct and let me know if any changes are needed. *Terry Francis (Editor)*

INTEREST GROUPS MONTHLY TIMETABLE (excludes short run groups)

WEEK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st	14:00 Crochet 14:00 Digital Photography 14:00 Turkish Delight Desert Dancers	10:00 Family History 14:00 Backgammon 14:00 Upholstery PAUSEDUNTIL SPRING 14:00 Spanish Intermediate 14:00 German	10:00 Country Walks 10:00 Cycling (Short Rides) 10:30 Strollers 14:00 West Wolds Warblers	10:00 Patchwork 10:00 Italian for Beginners 10:15 Keep Fit 14:00 Indoor Bowls 14:30 Drama 14:30 Recorder Group	10:00 Latin 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Biblical Hebrew 10:00 Cycling (Longer Rides) 14:00 Scrabble 14:00 Discovery Group 14:00 Holiday Spanish
2nd	13:30 Spanish for Beginners 14:00 Ukulele for Beginners	10:00 Local History 10:00 Beginners Family History 14:00 Upholstery PAUSEDUNTIL SPRING 14:00 Canasta 14:00 Spanish Intermediate 14:00 German	10:00 Embroidery 10:00 4 Mile Walkers 10:00 Cycling (Short Rides) 12:00 Luncheon Group 14:00 Poetry	09:45 GENERAL MEETING Festival Hall Market Rasen 14:00 Indoor Bowls 14:30 Drama	10:00 Latin 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Biblical Hebrew 10:00 Cycling (Longer Rides) 14:00 Holiday Spanish
3rd	14:00 Crochet 14:00 Digital Photography	10:00 Country Walks 14:00 Embroidery 2 14:00 Upholstery PAUSEDUNTIL SPRING 14:00 Spanish Intermediate 14:00 German	10:00 Cycling (Short Rides) 14:00 Readers Group – FULL 14:00 Gardening Group	10:00 Patchwork 10:00 Italian for Beginners 10:15 Keep Fit 14:00 Indoor Bowls 14:00 I.T. Workshop 14:30 Drama 14:30 Recorder Group	10:00 Latin 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Biblical Hebrew 10:00 Cycling (Longer Rides) 14:00 Scrabble* (*And 5th Friday of the month, if there is one) 14:00 Holiday Spanish 14:00 Solo Group
4th	13:30 Spanish for Beginners 14:00 Ukulele for Beginners	10:00 Music Appreciation 10:30 3 Mile Walkers 14:00 Upholstery PAUSEDUNTIL SPRING 14:00 Canasta 14:00 Spanish Intermediate 14:00 German	10:00 Embroidery (*Last Wednesday of month) 10:00 Cycling (Short Rides) 14:00 Rasen Book Group 14:00 Artificial Intelligence	10:00 Cross Stitch – FULL 10:15 Keep Fit* (* And 5th Thursday, if there is one) 14:00 Architecture – every two months 14:00 Indoor Bowls 14:30 Drama	10:00 Latin 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Biblical Hebrew 10:00 Cycling (Longer Rides)* (*And 5th Friday of the month, if there is one) 14:00 Mah Jong 14:00 Holiday Spanish

INTEREST GROUP CONVENERS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Sandra Dean, 0773 4456213

ARCHITECTURE

David Oliver 01673 880188

BACKGAMMON

Bill Roberts 01673 842703

BIBLICAL HEBREW

Alison Atkinson 01673 849979

CANASTA

Brian Ward 01472 852273

CARD MAKING

Ginny Beard 01673 844432 / 07980 209642

CROCHET

Pat Hage 01673 849447

CROSS STITCH – FULL

Audrey Storey, 01673 849625

CROSS STITCH 2 / EMBROIDERY

Shirley Fuller 07810 845178

CYCLING

Gordon Jennings 0794 8881121

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Terry Francis 01673 842088

DISCOVERY GROUP

Mary Howes 01673 849554

DRAMA

Gail Dennis 01673 843575

EMBROIDERY

Pat Hage 01673 849447

FAMILY HISTORY

Jacqueline Reid 01673 849490

FAMILY HISTORY – BEGINNERS

Jacqueline Reid 01673 849490

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Sandra Dean, 0773 4456213

GARDENING

Jane Guy 0797 1277482 / 01673 885415

GERMAN

Gary Beighton 0758 2227856

INDOOR BOWLS

Cathy Whelan 01673 565608 / 07974 856984

ITALIAN (for beginners)

Sandra Dean, 0773 4456213

KEEP FIT

Dawn Stopper 01472 851133

LATIN

Gwen Parsons 01673 601086

LINE DANCING

Margaret White 01673 849274

LOCAL HISTORY

Paul Ettridge 07916 910023

LUNCHEON GROUP

Kay Green Tel: 0790 081 8373

MAH JONG

Margaret Allerston 01673 842247

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Barry Dukes 01472 852454

PATCHWORK

Lyn Henry 01673 843851

POETRY

Eva Smith 01673 842218

READERS GROUP – FULL

Audrey Storey 01673 849625

RASEN BOOK GROUP – FULL

Kathryn Wade 01673 849487

RECORDER GROUP

Geoff Goddard 07752 945543

SCRABBLE

Audrey Storey 01673 849625

SCRABBLE 2

Yvonne Heathershaw 01673 308976

SOLO GROUP

Ginny Beard 07980 209642

SPANISH

Sandra Dean, 0773 4456213

START SPANISH

Sandra Dean, 0773 4456213

THEATRE VISITS

Jane Lloyd 01673 843078

TRIBUTE BANDS

Phyl Murray 01673 838543

TURKISH DELIGHT DESERT DANCERS –

Gillian Anderton 01673 844382

UPHOLSTERY AND FURNITURE

**RESTORATION – PAUSED UNTIL NEXT
SPRING**

Gail Dennis 01673 843575

WEST WOLDS WARBLERS

Terry & Julia Francis, 01673 842088

THE COUNTRY WALKERS

Ken Howitt 01652 678490

**THE STROLLERS – NEW CONVENER
REQUIRED**

Have a look at our Facebook page for interesting information, share it to all your friends, to increase our membership.



westwoldsu3a