

Gainsborough & District U3A Newsletter



‘for the members, by the members’

August 2026

Introduction

Welcome to the August edition of the u3a Newsletter.

Chair’s Report

Well we certainly seem to be having a warm summer this year. I hope you all haven’t suffered too much in the heat. There have been plenty of things happening within the u3a to keep us all busy and I hope you have managed to take part. The Buccaneers have organised lots of outings including a visit to Papplewick pumping station’s Steampunk event. Crafty events included Glass fusion workshop and making a Highland Coo out of clay. If anyone has any ideas for future activities will be made very welcome at the Buccaneers planning meetings. Details of which can be found at the back of the hall at the monthly meetings at the Methodist Church. We have welcomed quite a few new members over the past few months and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them all to the u3a. I know all our current members will make them feel at home at the groups or at the monthly meetings.

Committee News

The committee meet once every two months. We are always looking for new members. If you feel you would like to become involved but are unsure what is entailed, please speak to a member of the committee who will be pleased to help. If joining a committee is not for you don't worry. We are always looking for volunteers for other roles. Just speak to either the chairperson or a member of the committee. Next year will be the 25th anniversary of our u3a and we are hoping to have a celebration to mark the event. Do you have any interesting stories about your time with us or photographs? Maybe you would like to share them with the rest of us.

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Please remember our motto.

For the members, by the members.

Without you we are nothing

Thursday Monthly Meeting Talk

There has been some really interesting speakers in the past year and we are looking forward to a lot more to come in the year ahead. If anyone has any ideas for speakers that they think would interest other members of the u3a then please let us know.

Just a reminder that Jane, who serves us all with drinks and biscuits at the meetings, would love to have your assistance. Please add your name to the list, it need only be once or twice a year. If anyone would like to help at the meetings with welcoming guest, setting up the powerpoint and the microphone, please let us know at the meeting or contact a member of the committee.

Occasionally members of the committee are unable to attend so its always helpful to have people who can step in for us. Thank you

Forthcoming Events

All events are at the Gainsborough Methodist Church, DN21

August 13 th	Fred Finn – Worlds Most Travelled Man. 15 million miles.
September 10 th	Peasants revolt. Accapella Folk Quartet: Traditional and Contemporary songs.
October 8 th	Richard Stephens Taekwondo For Keeping Strong
November 12 th	Beth Dawson Bransby Horses
December 10 th	Christmas Party
January 14 th	Martin Rowley Does our Criminal Justice System Work?
February 11 th	Andy Smith Sing a Century

Interest Groups

Art

Wendy Vick

We meet fortnightly at Beckingham Village Hall, DN10 4FX (officially from 1000-1200 but in reality it is approx 0945-1145!)

We are of varied ability and meet to enjoy using our own particular art medium while in friendly and supportive company. There are no good or bad artists – just different!

The Group Leader is Wendy Vick and she is assisted by David Arrowsmith who deals with the money!

We are a friendly group of 22 and welcome new members.

From time to time we arrange demonstrations by local artists where we usually get to ‘have a go’ at what is being demonstrated!

If you would like to come along to see what we do please feel free to do so. We meet every two weeks with our next meet being on 14 July so two weeks from then we will be at Beckingham if you wish to join us.

Bowling, 10 pin

Pauline Jackson

1st Thursday

1530 - 1730



The 10 pin bowling group continues to be a popular activity with a regular group of up to 10 participants which we expect to increase to maybe 15 once the lighter nights make driving home more pleasant. Since the new year we have recruited 3 new players whose standard is better than that of some of us who have been playing for years. But we all continue to have a good afternoon bowling, singing and dancing along to the 60's music the management knows we enjoy. And not forgetting the delicious cake and drink included in the price. So if you want to join a group with gentle exercise, much fun and laughter try 10 pin bowling. We car share and can accommodate anyone that needs a lift. 1st Thursday of the month 3.30 at Ashby Bowl, lifts from Gainsborough at 2.45pm. £12 contact Pauline Jackson 07866571868. Newcomers welcome.

Bridge

Roy Stewart

every Wednesday 10-12pm

Newcomers welcome. We keep in contact by WhatsApp, so we can ensure that the hall is contacted should there not be 4, or more, of us available. We would like our group to grow and you are very welcome to pop in on a Wednesday morning to see how we play – Morton Village Hall from 10.00 until 12.00.



Buccaneers

Pam Chapman

Newcomers welcome

We have done rather less than usual this session. The weather let us down so our Scunthorpe Treasure Trail has been postponed. Next is a session with Pottery at the Pub when several of us are going to attempt to create a Highland cow (a small one!). No doubt we will post some photos of the outcome if they are not too dire.



A group from the Buccaneers attended the Steampunk event at Papplewick pumping station. A great time was had by all and some even got into the spirit of the day by dressing in appropriate attire.



Canasta Group

We meet at 1930 on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Wendy's home in Gainsborough.

Except for one member, all have been taught this challenging and fun game by the host.

We are a friendly group of eight. Because our attendance numbers vary from week to week, we have elected to play singly although traditionally the game is played in pairs!

We are light-hearted players and have fun and laughter!

Eight seats fit around the table although it would be possible to have a second table in the kitchen end of the kitchen-diner. Realistically we would need to find premises to increase our numbers by more than four as there is limited on-street parking available.

However, don't let this stop you from enquiring. A second group could be formed with a willing leader!

Cinema Group

Margaret Forster

Thank you to all of you who have attended the Silver Screen so far. This takes place every other Tuesday at the Savoy cinema in Gainsborough. We meet at 11.45 in the foyer and then, hopefully sit in adjacent seats. If you wish to go to join us but are not keen on going on your own, then we will be pleased to see you. For more information, you can be added to the WhatsApp group.

Craft

Margaret Foster

Alternate Tuesdays 10-12pm

Newcomers welcome.

We all work on our own projects which have ranged from knitting, crochet, card making, patchwork and dressmaking. We are a small friendly group who always manage to have a chat while we work on our projects.



Cycling

Hilary Harris Newcomers welcome

Despite a long dark winter we have enjoyed 3 wonderful sunny bike rides this year so far, and are looking forward to many more. Of course an important part of the ride is the refuelling stop. All rides start about 10 am and are tending to be about 10 miles to the refreshment stop, and a shorter ride back. Helmets strongly recommended, especially by friends and family.



Our first ride of the year was in February from Marion's house near Sturton by Stow where we did a relaxing 7.5 mile ride on quiet roads apart from a very short bit of Tillbridge Lane, via a sunny bench in Stow to the Tillbridge Tastery where we met up with the 3 who couldn't cycle that day.

Two weeks later we were also blessed with sun for a ride from Doddington Hall, along the bridle way, round quiet roads through Eagle Moor, Swinethorpe and Harby, up to the cycle path and east along and down the Georgie Twigg path to the busy Grainstore Cafe. Pleased to say that ride was

50% on cycle paths. We added a recce for a couple of miles west along the cycle path out of curiosity.

After a rather long break for Easter we were back on our bikes in April for a 10 mile meander from my house at Laughton through Scotton, Northorpe with another sunny bench, and Pilham down to Blyton Ice Cream Parlour for the necessary refuelling before the short ride back to base.

We have vacancies in the group and more sunny days are on the horizon. We also welcome electric bikes.

French Conversatione

This small, new group has only met twice so we are still finding our feet. We are serious about wanting to improve our French and to that end we help each other a great deal and make good use of a dictionary. Each month we try to set a topic for the following meeting so we can refresh some of our vocabulary in advance. We do try to converse rather than just give a talk on the topic because we really are trying hard to improve our ability in French.

There is a lot of laughter as we realise our limitations both of vocabulary and in my case, pronunciation.

This month we are discussing Les Vacances.

We welcome new members, but you do need to have some French even if you are a bit rusty. We meet at the Clockhouse Bistro in the back room on the third Wednesday of the month at 10.0am

See the website for further details.

Card and Board Games group.

This group will not meet in July or August, resuming in September.

The York U3A Festival 2026 in July highlights new activities you can try.
Martlock Somerset U3A were providing Modern Board Games to play.

Modern Board Games, also called Euro Games, are board games less than 30 years old.

They rely on skill, strategy, luck, and economic model building.

And were invented by post-war Germany as competitive, but not combative.

Well known ones are Settlers of Catan, Carcassonne, Ticket to Ride, Wingspan, Tranquility etc.,

Assistance required - anyone interested in learning how to bulk e-mail reminders to groups, or put up group web page updates?

It is a lot easier than cribbage scoring or Catan trading.

Feel like acquiring a new skill?

Contact through webpage.

Gardening and Garden Visits

First Friday with occasional weekend visits

August 7th Secret Garden Louth

September 6th Brook Cottage

October 2nd Garden Quiz Little Retreat Lea

Full details will be on the table at the back of the hall each month or you can find them on the WhatsApp group

Kurling

Anthony Chapman

In recent weeks the number of members turning up for Kurling has decreased and we have taken the decision to raise the weekly fee to £3. We have done this reluctantly, but with full agreement of all our 'regulars', on the grounds that we want to keep going every week and it is still good value for money.

We now have plenty of room for anyone who would like to join us on any occasion. Do come and observe and/or participate to give it a try. You do not have to come every week and it is an opportunity for a little exercise, a small amount of 'competitive' sport and a lot of laughs. The 'hydration' break allows for conversation, although that goes on throughout the morning anyway.

Every Monday morning – Bank Holidays excepted – at Morton Village Hall from 10.00 until 12.00. Do come and join us

Lunch (Friday)

Joan S.

Newcomers welcome. We meet on the second Friday of each month (the day following the monthly meeting) when you are invited to sign up for the following day. We usually meet at 12:00 for 12:30 In any pubs in the area which serve good food



Meet the 2nd Friday in the month. Venues to be decided

Reading Group 1

Margaret D. Foster

Newcomers welcome. 2nd Wednesday of the month, 2pm In the Library



Reading Group 2

Jane Rose

Waiting list

Our book club continues to thrive. We have 11 members, which is the maximum we want at present.

We generally meet in the cafe at The Old Hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 10.30am until around midday.

Drinks and cakes are available to buy.

The library chooses the books for us, which I collect once they have e mailed me.

It's a mixed bag of mostly fiction plus the occasional autobiography. We don't all like what they give us, but it's a good way to discover an author you may not know. Since getting a Barbara Kinsolver novel last year which I absolutely loved, I have now read everything she's ever written and loved them all!

Reading Group 3

Pam Chapman

3rd Friday 10am Waiting list

We are still going strong, still enjoying most of our reading and all our discussions.

Our latest novel was Molly and the Captain which was a very clever book. It was written in three parts; each concentrating on a different era. What they all had in common was interest in Merrymount a talented painter (based on Gainsborough). The title is the name given to his most famous painting of his daughters. We follow the fortunes of the family and extended family and, of course, the painting. The family are all artistic or theatrical and provide the reader with plenty of interest.

Scrabble

Barbara Jervis

Newcomers welcome

Really very little to report. Our players when available comfortably total eight, though we could set would squeeze in one or two. I myself had to attend a family funeral in July so my newly appointed deputy Lyn took over the Scrabble Bag and I'm told did a very good job. Thank you Lyn.

We meet very happily in the Clock House every 1st Thursday in the month and enjoy coffee and a chat before starting play. 😊 Barbara

Singing for Fun

Carol Dutton

This group has just celebrated its 3rd birthday (you might notice a glass or two of Bucks Fizz – and some cake on the photo).

We are going from strength to strength averaging 10 to 12 people each time, though we do have about 17 members.

We choose a wide range of songs from the Beatles and Buddy Holly, ballads and sea shanties musicals and old-time music hall. Our only reason for not choosing a particular song is that we haven't got the vocal range. We soon find out if it is not for us, when we try to sing it and just end up giggling.

If you have always wanted a go at singing in a group but haven't thought that you had the ability, let me reassure you, we are the group to be in. Come and join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 10.0am at the Little Retreat in Lea.



Snooker

Phil Rose

Waiting list

Phil's snooker club continues to do well at the United Services Club on Bridge Street. They meet every Friday from 12pm til 3.30pm.

At present he has 4 regulars attending - 2 men and 2 ladies, so it's not just a man's game!

Newcomers are always welcome, but sometimes they only get 1 table to play on.

It's been running now for 2 years and everyone really enjoys it.

There is a bar, plus tea and coffee are available too.



Strollers

Lyn & Graham Vlachos

Our walks are usually about 4 miles in length, taking place on the Friday of the week following the monthly U3A meeting. At the meeting, we advertise details of the next stroll. New strollers are always welcome.

For those interested, we go for a meal at a local pub afterwards.

The group leaders are Lyn and Graham Vlachos. As we live in Bawtry, our walks tend to have a west of the Trent bias, although other walk leaders add variety to the locations.

Due to the recent hot weather, our numbers are currently very low.

Sunday Lunch 1

Rosie Seaward

webpage via Contact

Waiting list. Once a month, various locations and once a year: combined lunch with other lunch groups.



Theatre Group.

Sharon Spalding

This is a newly formed group which will organise trips to various theatre companies in the local area.

Visits (Coach Trips)

Carol Dutton

Newcomers welcome

Walking

Joan S.

Webpage via Contact New members welcome. Our walking group meets every 4 weeks and our walks are around 7 miles long, in either Lincolnshire or Nottinghamshire, but no more than an hour's drive away. We car share and split the cost between us.



In the latest copy of the u3a magazine there was an article about a u3a group who have set up a Disco group. I think this is a brilliant idea and one that I would like to copy.

I envisage that we meet once a month in the afternoon for two hours with breaks for tea and coffee. It would be very informal and we would be dancing in the company of friends. All we need is somewhere to meet - village hall - and some music.

I've made enquiries about a village hall and am hoping that someone will read this article and say they have the equipment we need to dance to.

If you are interested (and did not put your name on the list at the last meeting) please do so at the August meeting.

Hope to see you on the dance floor.

Pauline Jackson

Facebook

We now have a Facebook page which is for information only. If any group leaders have anything they wish to be included please contact a member of the committee and we will see it gets included. The page is called u3a Gainsborough.

All articles and group leaders updates welcome

Please send to

chairgainsborough@gmail.com

For information regarding anything at all please contact the number below. Thank you

Telephone number 07751 058640