
North Walsham u3a Newsletter November 2022

November – the ninth month in the Roman calendar, which started in March. The old Dutch name was *Slaghtmaand* – slaughtermonth, the time when beasts were slain and salted down for winter use. Anglo-Saxons called it *Blōdmōnath*, 'Blood month' – for similar reasons. Another Old English name for it *Windmōnath* – wind month, when fishermen beached their craft for the winter.



Thanks to all you who have contributed to this month's issue. The copy deadline for next month is **Thursday November 24th**. Please send any comments or articles to me at ralph4ed@hotmail.com.

U3a relies on the work of lots of people, from the Chairman down (or up). We are always looking for more people to help run groups and keep the organisation going. The new Group Alerts panel on page 3 gives details of special events and ways in which you can get involved.

If you are at a loose end for a morning or afternoon, how about joining another group? Details of which groups meet when are on page 6. If you can't see anything you fancy, start your own!

In this month's issue

General Information	Page	Group Reports	Page
<u>Thoughts from the Chair</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Art Appreciation</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Groups News</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Croquet</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Interest Group Summary</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Cryptic Crosswords</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Groups and Days</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Current Affairs</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>November Walks</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Family History</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>New You May Have Missed</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Jazz Appreciation</u>	<u>8</u>
		<u>Organic Allotment</u>	<u>9</u>
		<u>Ten Pin Bowling</u>	<u>9</u>
		<u>U3sings</u>	<u>10</u>
		<u>Wine Appreciation</u>	<u>10</u>

Thoughts from the Chair

As you may know, there's an old Chinese curse that condemns you to live through interesting times. It's a curse because 'interesting' in this case is a euphemism for unpleasant or worse. Well, I think we can all agree that we are currently living in very interesting times indeed. Apart from the rising cost of food fuel and much else, there's a (not completely finished) pandemic, wars in Ukraine and elsewhere, etc. etc. So we really are well and truly cursed. (Editorial policy and good taste force me to say cursed rather than another word that I was thinking when I wrote this.)

Still, they do also say that in times like these, if you don't laugh, you have to cry; and laughing is nicer, so let's try that instead.

I don't normally talk about politics here and I won't this month either, but I couldn't resist sharing a couple of things that arrived in my email recently.

Of course, humour is very personal and subjective. If three people hear the same joke, one may laugh out loud, one may be indifferent and one may find it objectionable. For example, think of Billy Connolly in his heyday or Frankie Boyle now; both of them offensive and hilarious at the same time (in my subjective opinion). And incidentally, if you Google 'offensive Scottish comedian', Frankie Boyle pretty much fills the first page of search results.

Anyway, on to safer ground with some (possibly) funny animals. Apparently, there's an annual international Comedy Wildlife Photo competition and the 2022 shortlist of potential winners, chosen from thousands of professional and amateur entries, has just been announced.

To be honest, I'm pretty sure that animals don't set out to be funny or even know what humour is. If they are funny, that's just our interpretation, not because they're trying to make us laugh. But I don't care. If something makes me laugh, that's enough, especially in these 'interesting' times.

To give you a taste of the kinds of pictures that were entered, here's one I really liked, just because it made me smile. You can see all the other shortlisted entries at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2022/oct/20/comedy-wildlife-photo-finalists-in-pictures>.

So, now you're retired and have some time to do it, why not revisit some of your favourite funny books, movies or TV or radio shows. They won't make the world any less 'interesting', but they might give you something nicer to focus on for a while. And if that doesn't work, just switch on the news!



Best wishes,

Steve Guratsky,

Chairman, North Walsham u3a

November Newsletter Page 2

[Back to contents page](#)

Group Alerts

From Jayne Potter, u3sings

I would like to invite all members of North Walsham u3a to the Catholic Church Hall 2pm - 4pm on Thursday 8th December to join the U3Sings group singing Christmas carols. Let's get together in festive friendship.

There will be a small fee of £1 each but I hope as many of you as possible will come along even if you think you can't sing.

You may want to bring a bottle of water with you.

From Chrissie Kimber, walking groups coordinator

Wanted: Coordinator for the shorter and slower walks

A person who can organise a walk each month for a shorter and slower distance

Generally 2 miles and at a slow pace

In the past these have been popular but we need a person to coordinate a leader for these walks

They currently are on the first Wednesday of the month at 10 am. However they could be any time of the month or time of day

If interested please let Chrissie Kimber know and she can answer any questions you may have.

Contact via the website

IF nobody comes forward these walks will no longer happen

Yoga

Want to get **fit** for Winter?

Want to be **calm** at Christmas?

Then join our **Yoga** group every Tuesday 10.00 a.m. in St Benet Hall

Contact Joy Lloyd via the website

Coffee Mornings on Zoom

Richard Nevill is still hosting coffee mornings on Zoom at 11.00 each Monday. They're open to all members and are a great chance to have a friendly chat over a cuppa. If you'd like to join in, contact Richard at ricnev@gmail.com and ask to be included in invitation emails.

Interest Group Summary 26/8/2022

Group	Face to Face	Zoom	Not Meeting	Notes	Contact
Art Appreciation	X	-	-		
Book Group	X	-	-		
Brain Games	X	-	-		
Computing	-	X	-		
Croquet	-	-	X		
Cryptic Crosswords	X	-	-		
Current Affairs	-	X	-		
Cycling	X	-	-		
Digital Photography	X	-	-		
Drawing and Painting	X	-	-		
Family History	-	X	-		
Folk Music	X	-	-		
Gardening 2	X	-	-		
Gardening 3	X	-	-		
History	X	-	-		
Jazz Appreciation	X	-	-		
Knit and Stitch	X	-	-		
Mac Users	-	X	-		
Mah Jong	X	-	-		
Mind, Body, Spirit	X	-	-		
Organic Allotment	X	-	-		
Philosophy	-	X	-		
Poetry	-	-	X	New leader needed	
Rock'n'Pop	X	-	-		
Scrabble	X	-	-		
Ten Pin Bowling	X	-	-		
U3 Sings	X	-	-		
Walking	X	-	-		
Wine Appreciation	X	-	-		
Yoga	X	-	-		

Groups correct at 29 October 2022

NW u3a Groups and Days

Week	Day	Morning	Afternoon
1	Monday	Coffee Morning	Croquet Jazz Appreciation
	Tuesday	Yoga	Croquet Poetry
	Wednesday	Walking (short)	Mac Users
	Thursday		Digital Photography Mind, Body, Spirit
	Friday		Monthly meeting

2	Monday	Coffee Morning	
	Tuesday	Yoga	
	Wednesday	Walking	
	Thursday	Ten Pin Bowling	Book Group U3Sings Wine Appreciation
	Friday		Family History

3	Monday	Coffee Morning	Committee Meeting
	Tuesday	Yoga	Gardening 2
	Wednesday		Art Appreciation Rock & Pop
	Thursday	Current Affairs	Computer Group
	Friday	Philosophy	Brain Games Scrabble Mah Jong

4	Monday	Coffee Morning Painting & Drawing	Folk Music
	Tuesday	Yoga Cycling	Classical Music Cycling
	Wednesday		Knit & Stitch*
	Thursday	Cryptic Crosswords	
	Friday	Walking**	Family History *** Gardening 3

*Last Wednesday of the month

**Last Friday of the month

***Last Friday of every other month starting September

News from the Groups

Art Appreciation

It's very difficult to write this month's account of the Art Appreciation meeting. We went to see the exhibition Ancient Egyptian Art at the Sainsbury Centre,

I expected a few drawings or hieroglyphs on papyrus – but it was something more – it was amazing! It showed how the Romans to the present day had taken the art of ancient Egypt and turned it into their art. There were paintings, jewellery, artefacts, clothes, furniture all based on Egyptian culture.

There was too much to take in even with having an excellent guide.

Some of us are going to see the exhibition again.

Mave Edwards

Croquet

The Croquet Group meet at Scarborough Hill Hotel on the first Monday and Tuesday afternoons of the month from April to September, weather permitting.

At our final meeting of the season a couple who were staying there at that time came over to speak to us. It transpired that they were members of the Yeovil U3A Croquet Group so they joined us for the afternoon playing with us and generally chatting.

On their return to Yeovil they took the trouble to contact us via the website saying what an enjoyable afternoon they had had and inviting us to join them if we were in their area.

Friendships created by U3A membership is I believe one of the aims of the organisation and, in this instance, it worked.

Best wishes

Marilyn Nevill

Cryptic Crossword Group

Four of us met this morning under the tutelage of John H. H. To use a culinary metaphor, we polished off the Guardian Quiptic quite speedily as an appetiser. Then on to the main course, not sampled before, the Times Cryptic. Fortunately, Ralph joined us this week, so, with cunning hints from him, a crossword solver of fifty years standing, we managed to complete it in about forty-five minutes. Jubilation followed. Should you wish to join the cruciverbalists we meet again on Thursday, 24th November, 10a.m. in North Walsham Library. It's challenging and tremendous fun.

Myra Burgess

November Newsletter Page 6

[Back to contents page](#)

Current Affairs

Many of you will have received a circular from the LibDems last week, outlining our local MP's voting record on key issues. The appropriateness of this sort of advertising was briefly discussed, but most seemed to agree that voting with his party was currently the safest thing to do as a new and junior member. This gentle introduction led to a much longer discussion as to what was going on in politics at the moment. The meeting took place before the resignation of Liz Truss, but we discussed the advisability of allowing a small minority in the country the right to choose the PM. It was pointed out that the decimation of public services has been going on for some years, and that the NHS, in particular, has been burdened with huge debts from the labour led PFI initiative. Politicians have always been somewhat mendacious, promising first class public services and low taxes. Brexit also has a role to play, having reduced the UK's GDP by up to 5% by some estimates. Most people seemed to believe that the Scandinavian model of high taxes and good public services was the way to go.

We then turned to the housing market, which is another depressing subject. People seemed to agree that the commodification of property (that is, considering houses as an investment rather than simply a place to live), coupled with the relaxation of controls on mortgages has led to an unsustainable house price boom, which is likely to be followed by a crash.

Public services next came under the spotlight – it is a fact that many of them are owned by state-run foreign companies; in effect, our government is paying for services to other governments. This is surely just a bit strange, to say the least. Privatisation by stealth of other services, particularly the NHS, was also decried. This led to a short discussion about growth in the economy – is it necessarily a good thing? It depends upon what type of growth. Certainly not that produced by the indiscriminate exploitation of fossil fuels, as advocated by Jacob Rees-Mogg.

Concern was then raised about the EU retained Law bill currently making its way through Parliament. This seemed to us to be an ideologically driven mistake – many of the EU laws were entirely sensible and progressive, and junking them would be a serious error, leading to erosion of rights, decreased health and safety at work and a general reduction in standards.

Away from party politics, a committee has been formed to look at returning the Parthenon Marbles to Greece. This seemed to be a measure designed to kick the problem into the long grass, but other national treasures should be considered as well, in particular those looted during the Britain's not so illustrious empire. The main argument for keeping things here seems to be that of accessibility – many more people have the opportunity to view these artefacts if they are in UK museums. Couldn't accurate copies be made and the originals returned to their rightful homes?

Our penultimate subject concerned a letter in the independent about Putin's desire to undo the reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev. There were strange parallels with the recent governments undoing all the benefits of being a member of the EU.

Finally, we had a brief discussion about the recent protests on the Dartford crossing – what good did they do? It was pointed out that the fact that we were talking about the subject meant that the protestors, in part, had achieved their goal.

Ralph Edwards

Family History

The Family History Group meets on alternate months between January and November and is still using zoom in place of face to face meetings. Most of the subjects examined are based on Genealogy but sometimes the link is quite broad.

At the September meeting Joy Lloyd gave a presentation about the history and role of inquests which turned out to be a very complex subject albeit most fascinating. Although there are official records of the results of inquests, the most likely approach of the researcher would be through local newspapers, a goldmine for family historians.

Subjects for the next few meetings include, information from trade directories and Worshipful Companies, the place of women in the history of mining, what might be available from newspapers (and how to find those nuggets of family life,) and lastly families at the forefront of recycling (rag and bone trade).

As the group meets on line there are no restrictions on membership so if anyone wishes to know more about resources for research and how to grow a family tree then please contact me through Beacon.

David Fitzhugh

Jazz Appreciation

We had a lovely, relaxing & enjoyable get together at our last Jazz Meeting. Some of the music was familiar to us but for the most part we discovered new sounds as served up by Alistair.

It was also interesting to discuss the comeback of the 12" LP as many of the outstanding classic jazz albums have been re-issued in the familiar format with those gorgeous cover photos, although the price of the modern-day LP now seems extremely expensive.

For our next meeting on Monday November 7th, we are all contributing tracks on the theme of 'Body Parts'! Expect plenty of songs about the heart, Cheek to Cheek & perhaps even a Black Bottom!

The North Walsham U3A Jazz group meets on the first Monday of the month starting at 2pm at Honing Village Hall. We ask you to pay £2 at each session which helps to pay for the refreshments & the hire of the hall.

Contact me if you would like to give our friendly group a try, you'll be made most welcome.

Jim Costello

Organic Allotment

We have been experiencing unseasonably warm weather recently; this means that the tomatoes are still going strong in the greenhouse. I am hoping that a few more will ripen over the next few days or weeks.



The only other crops that have survived the heat of the summer are the squashes, which were regularly watered and are now ripening both for use now and storage.



Ralph Edwards

Ten Pin Bowling

We all had great fun at our last tenpin session, a lot of the players really excelled, scoring quite a few strikes. We meet at "Strikers" at 10.00am on November 10th for our next friendly date.

If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome. It cost £9.95 for two hours, that includes a cup of tea or coffee.

The list will be by the notice board if you wish to come, or contact via the website.

Diane Mulligan

U3sings

We welcomed Mave, groups coordinator, for the first hour of our meeting this month. After a warm up session of clapping to a four-beat bar, scales to vowel sounds and breathing through the alphabet, we started singing a 'round' involving four slightly different words and tunes. This helps us to concentrate on singing our own part whilst being conscious of others singing in harmony. We have now learnt five sections of the six-part cantata, 'The Mighty Mississippi' and will add the final part next month. We practiced all five parts: the first about the river itself, the second, a jazzy number about New Orleans, and the third about eight ill-fated steam boats of the same name. 'Lament for a Slave', the fourth part, is hauntingly sad but the fifth part lifts the spirits initially as President Lincoln abolishes slavery but when he is shot uncertainty remains. We finished our session learning the Morecambe and Wise theme tune 'Bring me Sunshine'. Although this is a familiar tune to many, it is in two parts so we are taking our time to learn the alto tune so we can sing together in harmony. Not sure that we will have enough breath to sing and do the hand and skipping actions at the same time though.

Jane Potter

Wine Appreciation

This month we tasted a selection of Wines recommended by Lidl (their Scores are in brackets)

The Wines and Scores were:

7.0 Crémant de Loire Rosé Brut, France 12.0% (Score 90) £9.99

7.6 Pouilly-Fumé Prestige de Haut-Bois, France 2020 13.5% (Score 90) £11.99

7.8 Gavi DOCG Piemonte, Italy 2021 12.0% (Score 88) £6.99

7.3 Chianti Corte Alle Mura Tuscany, Italy 2020 12.5% (Score 92) £5.99

7.9 Morgon Collin Bourisset Beaujolais, France 2020 13.5% (Score 90) £8.99

7.4 Saint-Emilion Grand Cru, Bordeaux, France 2019 13.5% (Score 89) £12.99

Yet again, we decided the Wines we preferred were not the most expensive

The only problem is that Lidl change their range so we cannot always repeat our favourites

Next month Richard and Marilyn are providing a selection from M&S - Cheers !

Roy Tuff

November Walks 2022

Walking Group Coordinator

Chrissie Kimber

Shorter and Slower

Wednesday 9th November 10:00 am start approx. 2 miles (note date is the same day as the longer walk this month)

Leader Chris Roberts

Meet at Honing Station for 2 mile walk around Honing using part of the Weavers Way

(note from Chrissie: I believe Honing Station is the same as Briggate car park on Weavers Way NR28 ONQ. I will update you if this isn't the case)

Wednesday 9th November 10 am start approx. 4.5 miles

Leader Joe Pitchford

Park in Trunch on or near the pub Trunch Crown NR28 OAH

Meet just outside the pub

Friday 25th November 10:00 am start approx. 4 miles

Leader Roy Smith

Stokesby Park at the village green NR29 3EX

Paths can be muddy and overgrown this time of year so wear appropriate clothing

And Finally – Some News You May Have Missed

Once again, here's selection of recent this month's weird and sometimes wonderful news stories.

Lidl ordered to destroy its Lindt-like chocolate bunnies by Swiss court

<https://www.theguardian.com/food/2022/sep/29/lindt-chocolate-bunnies-lidl-swiss-court-trademark-ruling>

Great Yarmouth: Council bans planting of 'hazardous' fruit trees <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-63156505>

Ron's house: Minotaur head and lion discovered in rented Birkenhead flat

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/entertainment-arts-63067699>

iPhones calling 911 from owners' pockets on rollercoasters

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/oct/11/iphones-calling-911-from-owners-pockets-on-rollercoasters>

Charming and lively? You must own a border terrier. Faithful and a good listener? A jack russell!

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/oct/11/charming-exuberant-and-lively-you-must-own-a-border-terrier>

Fat Bear Week winner crowned after cheating scandal [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-63218790)

[canada-63218790](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-63218790) If you want to share a news story with other North Walsham u3a members, send a message through the website at: <https://www.northwalshamu3a.org/contact-us>