

The Gruffalo in flowers,
snapped by Martin
Peacock at the
Dersingham Flower
Festival. Our Flower
Arranging group was
also there, and you can
see their work in this
issue.



Please send in more
photographs. They need
not have anything to do
with groups' activities.
They just have to be
attractive!

FROM OUR CHAIR

Hello everyone,

As the Annual General Meeting approaches this month, this will be my final article for the newsletter as your Chair. It's hard to believe that three years have flown by!

Looking back at my previous writings for the newsletter, it seems I've covered quite a range – from the serious topics of fibre broadband and IT security to more personal notes about my injuries and wedding, not forgetting the occasional diversion like Buzz the dog or updates on world events. I truly hope you found them worthwhile, informative, and perhaps even entertaining on occasion.

My time as Chair of Hunstanton u3a has been an absolute pleasure. It is a real collaborative effort to keep this organisation running smoothly. I must thank the committee—you kept me on the straight and narrow. The shared giggles certainly kept our spirits up! The committee is vital, with the lifeblood of the u3a in its Groups. To everyone who volunteers their time to keep Hunstanton u3a, or one (or two!) of its Groups, up and running: thank you. Your commitment is what makes Hunstanton u3a special.

Thanks also go to Sylvia and David for the production of the newsletter, Jane and the team for teas and coffee at our monthly meetings, Jill and the greetings team, Karen for welfare and past members of the committee and previous group leaders and no doubt others of which I am unaware.

Thank you all.

With my very best wishes for the future,

Norman

FROM OUR COMMITTEE

Our Committee Members

Role	Name	email
Chair	Norman Mitchell	chair@hunstantonu3a.org
Vice Chair	Angela Blenkinsop	vicechair@hunstantonu3a.org
Secretary	Virginia Young	secretary@hunstantonu3a.org
Treasurer	Pat Eckersall	treasurer@hunstantonu3a.org
Membership Secretary	Annette Francis	memsec@hunstantonu3a.org
Events Co-ordinator	Verity Mitchell	events@hunstantonu3a.org
Webmaster	Ian Holland	web@hunstantonu3a.org
Publicity / Noticeboard	Addie Thompson	publicity@hunstantonu3a.org
Speakers Secretary	Angela Blenkinsop (acting)	speakers@hunstantonu3a.org
Groups Co-ordinator	Jacquie Yaxley	groups@hunstantonu3a.org
IT	Norman Mitchell	it@hunstantonu3a.org

By clicking on any email address in this list, you can email the committee member directly. Remember that you can also contact any member of the Committee by going to the Hunstanton u3a website and clicking on "Contact Us".

If you have an issue or query that you would like discussed at the next committee meeting, or wish to see the minutes of a particular committee meeting, please contact the Secretary with your request along with your full contact details.

Hunstanton u3a Membership Renewals 2025/26

Many thanks to all of you who have already renewed your membership for this coming year.

However, there are quite a few members who have yet to renew and just a reminder that if your payment has not been received by 31st October your membership will lapse and you will no longer be entitled to attend any group meetings.

If you are unable to pay by Bank Transfer, and wish to pay by cash or cheque – the next Members Meeting on Monday 20th October is the ideal opportunity. I look forward to seeing you there.

Annette Francis

Membership Secretary on behalf of the Committee

Groups Update

I hope you all had a wonderful summer, but it's over all too soon and autumn is now upon us. During the summer months there was very little happening regarding groups, so this is my first update since July.

Starting with new groups started and re-started since my last report:

Knit, Natter and Crochet – led by Ann Hamilton has taken over from Crochet Group 3. The Group will do exactly what it says on the tin! It's been very popular so there's already a waiting list. If you want to join the waiting list contact [Ann via the website](#)

Apple IT Awareness restarted on the 23rd September ready for the winter months. Spaces available, contact [Tony via the website](#)

The **IT Matters** group has also started with 3 distinct sessions comprising 3 weeks each, October, November, December. There is still a limited number of spaces available for November and December. It's a great chance to get the most of your technology. See the website for full details [HERE](#)

A **Spa Day** is being arranged by Christine in November at Knights Hill – details will be sent out once we have more information. All members are welcome.

Teddy Bear Pat teaches the group to make a small 6" teddy bear. The course consists of five lessons. The next course will start on the 20th October and then each Monday until the 8th December. Cost of £35 to include all materials, tea, coffee and biscuits for the whole course. Spaces are still available so do contact [Pat via the](#)

[website](#) if you wish to join

We also have a number of potential new groups under consideration:-

Music Appreciation for those who enjoy listening to classical/opera

Machine Sewing

Greek Mythology

Writing for Fun has closed. (Mary is busy writing a new book). However, we do have a member who is interested in running a similar type of group so all is not lost.

As usual if you see a group you're interested in then contact the group leader who will arrange to add you to a waiting list. Once a waiting list is long enough then we can look at opening a second or even third group. If you have any ideas for new groups or skills you'd like to share then do please let me know. All ideas welcome, the sky's the limit!

Finally a plea to all members, **please, please, please** do let your Group Leader know if you can't attend a meeting or want to leave the group. The Group Leaders work really hard for you so a simple e-mail would be really helpful to them.

Jacque Yaxley Groups Co-Ordinator

FROM OUR GROUPS

Arty Facts and Art Deco

You are probably familiar with the term Art Deco – do you know that the deco part stands for decoration? If not you are not alone!

Anne Roberts (erstwhile tutor at Anglia College in Kings Lynn) not only enlightened us about that but about a myriad of things in her talk. It was one of those occasions when you felt you knew a bit about the subject being presented, but in reality you had no idea about the depths and breadths of it.

And it was an astonishingly huge movement with influence reaching forward to today.

2025 happens to be a very significant year for Art Deco because it is the centenary of the biggest exhibition in the world placed right in the centre of Paris: Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes de Paris 1925.

It was a landmark event bringing together competing designs in art, design and architecture from over twenty countries apart from Germany, which was not invited.

What inspired such an impressive spectacle?

As is always the case, what had gone before led to this inspired flowering of ideas. In fact the French had a tradition of expositions reaching back to 1844, 1855, 1867 and 1878.

In 1900 the Exposition Universelle showcased Art Nouveau; everyone who has been to Paris has seen the entrance to the Metro at Abbesses. It is now world famous.

The Eiffel Tower was one of the chief attractions and many new inventions such as a moving pavement (anyone use the moving walkway at airports?) astounded and delighted the more than 16 million people who attended.

Twenty-five years and one world war later Paris came back with yet renewed energy to present to the world modern design. Things had moved on.

The languid lines of Art Nouveau were being replaced by angularity and sleek lines. Three new influences were of interest – cubism, colonial art from the French colonies and Bauhaus architecture.

The French wanted to reinstate cultural leadership in the world – they wanted to rule taste and style and show that Paris was once again the showplace of modern design and decoration.

The new technology of electric light was used for stunning effect by Lalique who designed a 14-metre high tower of crystal, which shimmered as light touched the water tumbling down over its sides.





Anne Roberts mentioned two connections to Norfolk stemming from the event – the Swedish Pavilion was based on the design for Stockholm City Hall and next time you are in Norwich take a look at the City Hall – echoes of Stockholm? Outside there



are two bronze lions sculpted by Hardman in 1938 Art Deco style.

There was so much in this exposition to impress and surprise that it is impossible to describe it here as fully as Anne Roberts did for us.

The success of Art Deco was that it spread into so many areas of creativity – architecture, sculpture, painting, design of all kinds, film, costume, pottery (Clarice Cliff) and the list goes on.

One story that delighted me was that a man called Oscar Deutsche (1893 – 1941) built the UK Odeon Cinema chain in Art Deco design. The reason all the cinemas were called Odeon?

Oscar Deutsch Entertains Our Nation = ODEON.

Finally the next time you drive into Kings Lynn on the Gaywood Road glance at the Woolpack pub. It was built in the 1930s in art deco design.

What Anne left me with was a sense of excitement at how our world has been so influenced by Art Deco ideas. She made me realise how people’s creativity ran with its core message and developed visual feasts expressed through many mediums and which are still available to enjoy.



If you are keen to know more about art history Arty Facts is here for you! Our next meeting is in November. Contact Carolyn McDermid for details.

Margi Blunden

Flower Fairies Resurgence



After a short period when the Flower Arranging group had to close, we are now up and running again. Angela Blenkinsop-Jewell, a former member of the group, once referred to us as her Flower Fairies and the name has stuck!

Quite appropriate then that the first meeting of the new group saw us participating in the St Nicholas Church Dersingham, Flower Festival. The theme was ‘Read it! Read it! Read it! – It’s all about books!’ Our books were all children’s

fairy tales and fables, six in total.

Five members offered their services, representing the Hunstanton & District u3a Flower Arranging group. For some, it was their first time of taking part in such a venture. What was anticipated as quite a daunting prospect was in fact a time of learning, sharing and having good fun. It was also an opportunity to meet new people and share experiences of the u3a. The results of our endeavours are on the flower arranging web page. First of many? Let’s hope so!

Sandra Loader



Jigsaw, Coffee and Chat



At home my husband and I tend to have a jigsaw on the go most of the time. We find it relaxing and gently distracting when the TV choice is dull, or the day seems overly long (which I must say, is not that often). So I suggested that u3a may like to start a Jigsaw Swap Club and, of course, as I suggested the idea I was the one who was volunteered to run it. We try to meet fortnightly, though in the holidays this can be too difficult due to going away or having visitors to stay, so then we just change the meetings to monthly.

There is a rolling five or six in the group, and we don't try to complete puzzles when we meet. We bring any puzzles we have already completed and swap them around the group during a meeting in the Conservative Club. There is a free choice of puzzles which means that sometimes some puzzles go home with the person who brought them as, either we have already done them, or we don't just fancy doing that particular one! Many of us are particularly fast at completing puzzles, so we have had to put a limit of one puzzle per person per meeting, though this is not a hard and fast rule, as when the puzzle table at home becomes overladen, puzzles need to be moved on!

We tend to stay for an hour or so, just having a chat and arranging/checking the dates for next meetings. We have our own WhatsApp group and I try to remember to send out a reminder to everyone the day before the meeting. It's been a great way for me to get to know other u3a members, as well as enhancing our puzzling choices.

If you'd like to join us, please do get in touch with the u3a Groups Coordinator and she will pass your details on to me.

Cheri Crossley

Pitch and Putt Group



We are now coming towards the end of our second season of the Pitch and Putt Group. We normally meet on alternate Thursday afternoons at 2pm – the venue is The Pitch and Putt Course on the Old Hunstanton Cliff top. There is free parking at the course for the duration of your game. Golf Clubs, score cards etc are provided, the charge is £6.00 per round payable to the person in the kiosk. We play one round of nine holes and we usually take about 60 to 90 minutes to play the round.

There are currently twelve members in the group. We have had a few members leave for various reasons, other commitments, poor health etc. We however have also had some new members joining us so we there are four places available if anyone would like to join us next April when we restart the Group.

We generally have around six members who are able to play at our meetings and even had 9 of us once. The course rules state a maximum of four people in a group to avoid holding up other players on the course, we make up our playing groups to fit in with this rule, some people like to play together, and some don't mind who they play with, so we are very flexible.

At the beginning of this season, we had a problem with the Pitch and Putt Course not being open when we turned up to play. A phone call to the Resort Services of KLWN council revealed that they were having problems with staffing levels. The Resort Services understood our frustration of not being able to play when

they were supposed to be open. This was quickly sorted out by the addition of a phone number on the website so that I was able to check if the course was going to be open on a specific day. Problem solved!

We have had eleven meetings over the season, and all were thoroughly enjoyed by the members. We have had all sorts of weather, but thankfully we have not had to cancel any meetings because of this. We have had windy afternoons, hot and sunny afternoons, cloudy and overcast afternoons. It was very hot a couple of times in the July heatwave, but a few brave souls were there to enjoy the weather; sun hats, suncream and bottles of water were the order of the day.



Whatever the weather the fresh air, lovely views across The Wash and the gentle exercise are most enjoyable. We don't take it too seriously and we have a good laugh and some friendly banter while enjoying the game. It doesn't matter what your skill level is, we have fun.

The course is open daily from April until the end of September, with a final week open during the October half term school holidays, that should be about 30th October for us. If you fancy a fun couple of hours giving our group a try before we close for the winter. Please contact me and I will let you know the exact date when it is confirmed.

David Tanner Pitch and Putt Group Leader.

HUG

(Hunstanton u3a Ukelele Group)



The first u3a ukelele group met in September last year under the guidance of Ian Bell.

The ability of individual members varied greatly, with some of us not having any musical background, nor the ability to read music. However, we shortly realised that all we really needed was plenty of enthusiasm!!

So it's a great testament to Ian's expertise, and the many hours of dedicated practice (and sore fingertips!!) in between the fortnightly meetings, that we were able to showcase an entertaining hour of singalong favourites.

The residents, staff and friends of Nightingale Lodge welcomed ten of us on a Friday afternoon and enthusiastically joined in as we strummed and sang.

Old traditionals, 1960's pop, and songs from the musicals were featured, with buoyed encouragement from our audience. We were amply rewarded with the grateful thanks from many residents, that we had rekindled some forgotten memories in the melodies.

We look forward to many more local outings, bringing joy, smiles, and song.

We meet on Friday afternoons and are currently at the maximum number of members, but prospective players are welcome to join the waiting list.

Lyndsey



Play Reading Group 3

The group is relatively new having had five meetings this summer all on the afternoon of the 4th Monday of the month. We have read:

A Toe in the Water by Derek Benfield
Dead Man's Hand by Seymore Matthews
The Reluctant Debutant by William Douglas-Home
Murder in Play by Simon Brett
How the Other Half Loves by Alan Ayckbourn

We will be reading *Pack of Lies* by Hugh Whittmore on 27th October

The group gets the script in advance of meeting and often we have ladies reading male parts as there are currently more ladies than gentlemen in the group.

We'd love to see a few more members join our bunch of budding thespians so if you fancy yourself as one then contact Phil Oldroyd, the Group Leader via the enquiry button on the website.

https://hunstanton.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/play-reading-3/

Phil Oldroyd Group Leader

Poetry

We have been having monthly meetings for our poetry group, at which we have a monthly theme. We either find published works or compose our own poetry to suit the theme. These are read to the group and more often than not there is a discussion about the work.

I have attached one of my poems.

Hope

Oh! What joy a child can be,
That hope and love can only bring,
As family and friends gather round,
To take a peek while she huddled down
Fast asleep,
Her lips quiver in a dream her eyes flutter so
It seems,
A tiny hand clutched underneath her chin,
As suddenly she wakes and makes a awful din,
A mother touch so full of love,
A kiss on the head from above,
And a lullaby so beautifully sang,
To this wonderful little one.

Shirley Radley

Forthcoming Meetings

All meetings at 2:00pm unless otherwise stated

20th October	AGM 2025 followed by John Rushmer singing popular songs
17th November	Oh Yes It Iis! , a talk by Jim Stebbings The History of the English Pantomime
15th December	Christmas Party . STARTS 1:00pm. Booking necessary.

QUIZ

Sport...

...In General

1. Which famous footballer was named: 'Athlete of the Century' by the International Olympic Committee in 1999?
2. In which country was women's tennis legend Martina Navratilova born?
3. Who was awarded a series of perfect scores in the 1982 World Diving Championships?
4. How many hurdles would a hurdler jump over in a women's 100 metres hurdle sprint?
5. Which referee did Paolo di Canio push when Sheffield Wednesday played Arsenal in a Premiership match in 1998
6. What 'C' is the name of the seven minutes of play in a game of polo
7. At which well-known stadium is the French Open tennis tournament held
8. What is the object of flight shooting in archery?
9. Which colourful football coach compared his players to eggs in an omelette in September 2007?
10. Early in his career, Roger Federer considered turning professional in which other sport besides tennis?

...Involving Balls

1. Netball which two positions are allowed to shoot?
2. Snooker – There are 22 balls on the table at the start of the game, name the colours and how many of each colour.
3. Cricket – Why is a red ball used in Test and first class matches, but a white ball in limited-over forms of the game?
4. What ball game is played at The Gin Trap in Ringstead?
5. Stoolball is played in which County?
6. In which month is the Hunstanton Bowls Tournament held?
7. The word 'Chukkas' refers to which two games?
8. How many swimmers are in a Water Polo team?

Answers at the end of the Newsletter

FROM OUR EDITOR

Welfare

If you know of any member who is ill or has recently suffered a bereavement please contact Karen, our Welfare member. Karen will then send a suitable card from the u3a. Email welfare@hunstantonu3a.org

Change of Circumstances

If you change your address, telephone number (landline and/or mobile) or email address please ensure that you pass the new details to memsec@hunstantonu3a.org

Newsletter Copy Date

Items for the next newsletter are required by MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2025. Please send them to **BOTH** Sylvia at newsletter@hunstantonu3a.org AND David at subeditor@hunstantonu3a.org. You will receive an acknowledgement of your contribution.

Please submit them in WORD or odt (e.g. from Libre Office) as email attachments. If you are including photographs, we need them as separate files – please do not embed them in the document as that causes us problems! No PDFs please.

Thank You to.....

Our thanks to all who have contributed to this month's newsletter. Group Leaders: please encourage your members to tell us about one of your meetings. Please don't leave it to just a few groups to let us know what is happening.

Answers to the Quiz

Sport in General

1. Pele
2. Czechoslovakia
3. Greg Louganis
4. Ten
5. Paul Alcock
6. Chukkas
7. Roland Garros
8. Distance
9. Jose Mourinho
10. Soccer

Sport Involving Balls

1. Goal Attack (GA) and Goal Shooter (GS)
2. One white, 15 red, and six various colours
- 3 A white ball would lose visibility against the white of the players' dress
4. Petanque
5. East Sussex
- 6 July
7. Polo and Field Hockey
8. Seven