

Meet Rascal, made at
the Teddy Bear group.



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

FROM OUR JOINT CHAIR

A Happy New Year to you!

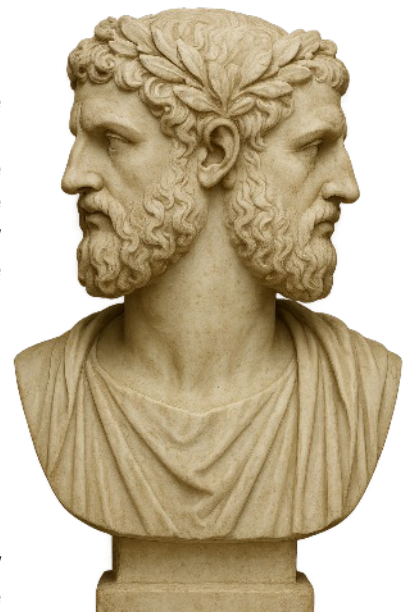
January is a time for looking back and for looking forward.

Named after Janus, the ancient Roman god of beginnings, transitions, doorways, and time, January is the month that bridges the old year and the new, symbolizing reflection and new starts. Janus has two faces, one looking to the past and one to the future. Certainly, a good symbol to represent the threshold between the ending year and the coming one. We use it as a time for looking back and planning ahead, echoing Janus's dual gaze. We review the past year, and resolutions are made for the next year. Have you made a New Year Resolution? How are you at keeping them?

This year has a new beginning for me, as Joint Chair with Ian of u3a! Ian kindly introduced me in the December newsletter.

So as is traditional in January, let me look back and review my u3a past life! Having taken early retirement in 2008, I joined Hunstanton u3a and began attending monthly meetings. Then in 2011 I was voted in as Treasurer and enjoyed a new role reporting each month to the monthly meeting and trying to spend the bank balance! I began to join groups and even started a new group, a Discussion Group. In my time in u3a I have been in a total of twelve

Continued....



Janus

groups, some for only six months as I just 'dipped my toe in' to see what I thought, some for a few years, and the longest time has been about 14 years with Mahjong.

Probably for the last few years I have quietly got on with enjoying u3a with no responsibility, but here we are New Year and new beginnings. Or perhaps just a revival of an old interest. u3a is a great medium for learning, for friendships and for fun.

Now to planning ahead my u3a future life. I shall probably ask to join another group and possibly leave one group, and I aim to attend more meetings of the groups that I am already in. As for being Joint Chair, I shall get to grips with the IT knowledge required (is that a resolution?), I shall enjoy working with Ian and the team, and I shall look forward to meeting you!

I hope that you too will look forward to your u3a life this year. What learning will you start anew? Who will you meet as a new friend?

But most importantly Have Fun!

Hilary

We need more articles!

It's a very thin Newsletter this month, partly because little happened over the festive period and partly because groups who were asked to contribute couldn't deliver. You can avoid this being a regular occurrence by sending in articles telling us about the groups that you belong to, or what you do in your non-u3a time. We would also love to hear from new members about what you did before joining us and how you feel about our u3a.

FROM OUR COMMITTEE

Our Committee Members

Role	Name	email
Joint Chair	Hilary Farrell	chair@hunstantonu3a.org
Joint Chair	Ian Holland	chair@hunstantonu3a.org
Vice Chair	Angela Blenkinsop	vicechair@hunstantonu3a.org
Secretary	Virginia Young	secretary@hunstantonu3a.org
Treasurer	Pat Eckersall	treasurer@hunstantonu3a.org
Membership Secretary	Margaret Oates	memsec@hunstantonu3a.org
Events Co-ordinator	Verity Mitchell	events@hunstantonu3a.org
Webmaster & Beacon Admin	Ian Holland	web@hunstantonu3a.org
Publicity	Verity Mitchell	publicity@hunstantonu3a.org
Speakers Secretary	Angela Blenkinsop plus Ann McKimm from Jan 2026	speakers@hunstantonu3a.org
Groups Co-ordinator	Jacquie Yaxley	groups@hunstantonu3a.org
IT	Norman Mitchell	it@hunstantonu3a.org
Long Standing Member (Co-opted)	Sylvia Pratt	newsletter@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.

FROM OUR GROUPS

Art Appreciation

Visit to Blickling Hall



On 10th December a group of Arts Appreciation members enjoyed the last visit of 2025. On a lovely sunny day the group met at Blickling Hall for a coffee before commencing a tour of the hall. The hall was beautifully decorated for Christmas, the theme this year being a Mouse's Christmas. A whimsical mouse themed trail was made through the house with beautiful floral decorations and mice peaking out in so many unlikely places. Mice were running along the rails, peaking out of the dolls house they were everywhere. It was a magical display for both children and adults. The group followed the trail at their own pace enjoying the wonderful displays.



A mouse Christmas



Those mice get everywhere!

After the house tour and a wander around the gardens some members made their way home others stayed on for the evening light show. Tim, Jill and I went for a meal before returning to the garden to follow the trail which was magnificent. For those who couldn't walk the two-mile trail they provided disability scooters which were much appreciated by Tim.

We set off along the Garden of Lights Trail, the trees, shrubs and plants were lit by lights that changed colour, music played in places and many statues and garden building were changed into magical displays. It was the most wonderful trail and greatly enjoyed by all of us.

Susan Sullivan



Forthcoming Meetings

All meetings at 2:00pm unless otherwise stated

- 19th January 2026** **Forty Years of BBC Radio Norfolk**, a talk by Wally Webb, former BBC Radio Norfolk presenter and roving reporter.
How Radio has changed since the introduction of local radio around 1980, with many amusing stories.
- 16th February** **The History of Cromer Pier**, by Sean Garrett, the Pier's General Manager
- 16th March** **To France and Beyond**, a talk by Gillian Harvey, author and freelance writer.
Gillian shares insights from her fifteen years in rural France, her author journey and the inspiration for her 13 published novels.

QUIZ

A Loosely 'Cryptic' Pop Quiz

Each answer is a famous pop act from the 1960s, and alludes closely to one of their big hits

They should be easy if you were there at the time

1. Boy child and French dear have got you, baby.
2. Where the Simpsons live is slightly dirty and in the middle of nowhere.
3. Sounds like the insects want you to please them, twice!
4. Surfers are vibrating well.
5. They are excellent but you keep them hanging on.
6. The prickly trees are at the bus stop.
7. Robert, the Welsh poet, is blowing in the wind.
8. Overweight American draught wants us to twist again.
9. Knock, knock. Who's there? The...? I can't explain.
10. Surprise, Surprise! You're her world.
11. The Big Guys initially? It's only words.
12. Rock face Dick is a young one.
13. Odin was mixed up and was a wanderer.
14. Parents sing twice on Mondays.
15. The top of the milk feels free.
16. Primates take the last train to Clarksville.
17. Honest, mixed up artisan does it his way.
18. Led backwards, Irish river is runaway.
19. Creatures at the zoo don't want to be misunderstood.
20. For quivering sounds, silence is golden.

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 9th FEBRUARY 2026. 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

1. Sonny and Cher; *I Got You Babe*
2. Dusty Springfield; *Son of a Preacher Man*
3. The Beatles; *Please Please Me*
4. The Beach Boys; *Good Vibrations*
5. The Supremes; *You Keep Me Hanging On*
6. The Hollies; *Bus Stop*
7. Bob Dylan; *Blowing in the Wind*
8. Chubby Checker; *Let's Twist Again*
9. The Who; *I Can't Explain*
10. Cilla Black; *You're My World*
11. The Bee Gees; *Words*
12. Cliff Richard; *The Young Ones*
13. Dion; *The Wanderer*
14. The Mamas & The Papas; *Monday Monday*
15. Cream; *I Feel Free*
16. The Monkees; *Last Train to Clarksville*
17. Frank Sinatra; *My Way*
18. Del Shannon; *Runaway*
19. The Animals; *Don't Let me be Misunderstood*
20. The Tremeloes; *Silence is Golden*