

Newsletter
April 2026

These amazing arrangements are 'Flower Trees', created by the Flower Arranging group.



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

FROM OUR CHAIR

I hope that you had a Happy Easter! I had a very pleasant time walking along the Norfolk Coast Path. We are so lucky to have the bus service connecting the coast, and I made full use of it with my bus pass!

What did you get up to over Easter? Seeing family, having a holiday, attending church, eating lots of chocolate? Whatever you did, I hope that you had fun. Whenever I returned home from a walk, full of news of what I had seen, my husband Paul would say "and did you have fun?" The answer was usually "Yes".

Spring seems to have arrived, and the weather is pulling us outside, whether for a walk, to wash the car, to work in the garden or just to sit in the sunshine and admire the view. Our minds turn to sunny days and holidays, perhaps even to spring cleaning!

So, shake off the winter blues, get outside and feel that Spring has sprung!

Have fun!

Hilary (Joint Chair)

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
Deputy Treasurer (co-opted)	Amanda Peacock	deptreasurer@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	Ann McKimm	speakers@hunstantonu3a.org
Groups Co-ordinator	Jacquie Yaxley	groups@hunstantonu3a.org
IT	Norman Mitchell	it@hunstantonu3a.org
Newsletter Editor (co-opted)	David LeMoir	newsletter@hunstantonu3a.org
Long-Standing Member (co-opted)	Sylvia Pratt	

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.

It's always good to talk

It's always good to talk isn't it? It's even better when it's accompanied by a free cup of tea or coffee. That's exactly what happened recently when twenty one new members accepted the call from your committee to meet up together with group leaders for a social event recently.

Introductions were brief.

Hilary, our joint chair, welcomed everyone and explained that this was primarily a social event so, following short introductions, there would be time to meet and chat over a cup of coffee or tea. Hilary spoke about her own experience and how much being a member of the u3a had meant to her. So much so that when she was approached about becoming the chair she was happy to accept as a way of giving something back to the group. Her experience reflects one of the principles of the u3a in that it is a mutual help organisation where each has a responsibility to contribute time and talents whilst enjoying the opportunities arising as a result.

She encouraged all new members to enjoy their u3a and to consider getting involved by helping in any of the various roles to ensure that it continues to thrive both now and in the future. This benefits everyone. It is about learning whilst also having fun. We are members not customers. She urged everyone to talk to any of the committee members or group leaders about how they can get involved and contribute.

Then a handover to David to give an introduction about how the groups operate to achieve the u3a objectives of enabling like-minded people to meet, learn and share activities together. Central to this are the groups. David explained there are currently over sixty groups, details of which are on the website, in the handbook and regularly updated. There's no restriction on how many groups can be joined. What's more if anyone has an interest they would like to share and lead then they can propose that a new group is set up. Two new members here are already group leaders.

In the event that a group is full then he urged members to ask to go on the waiting list as this could result in further groups being set up so that no one waits too long.

David emphasised that the groups serve as a vital social network where many friendships are forged through shared interests. For new members who have recently retired/part retired or are new to the area, getting involved by volunteering and helping to run the u3a and its groups is a good way to make the most of your time and



Pattie, from our Recorders group, who entertained some of us after the speeches

energy. He had only been a member for 18 months before he became chair and Jacquie (Groups Coordinator) volunteered to help soon after she joined.

David echoed Hilary's description of the u3a as a mutual help organisation where we are members not customers. He urged everyone to consider how they could get involved and speak to committee members and group leaders here now.

And finally in his new role as editor of the monthly newsletter he said he badly needed help. He wants to make the newsletter even more interesting and useful and said that all members could assist him by submitting articles. Some suggestions are: what's happening in your group, short stories, poems, personal recollections, interesting experiences. Just contact him through the website or email him on newsletter@hunstantonu3a.org.

Then it was time to socialise and get that cup of coffee or tea. Judging from the ensuing noise level that's what happened and was borne out by some comments that were made.

"I really enjoyed the event, mainly because everyone was so welcoming and friendly with the result that I felt comfortable in a group of like-minded people. The venue was spot on, the speakers were brief, to the point and informative so that I left feeling I knew what the whole u3a was about."

"Very enjoyable even though I failed to get a coffee because I was chatting too much!! Also I think it was quite constructive from the u3a point of view."

"Currently we are in the process of selling our house in King's Lynn prior to moving into our second home in Hunstanton. This introduction to u3a has reinforced that we are making the right decision. Many thanks for such a wonderful introduction to you all."

Thanks to everyone for coming. It certainly was good to talk!

Margaret Oates Membership Secretary

Groups Update

I have a number of updates to tell you about this month.

1. **Canasta** We had a number of members interested in forming a group to play Canasta at the end of last year but at the time we didn't have anyone who was in a position to lead the group. So, if you are interested in joining a group to play Canasta then do please let me know and also let me know if you would be able to lead/host the group.
2. **Dog Walking** A number of members has asked if they could join the strollers group with their dog/s. The strollers have decided that this wouldn't be appropriate for the type of walks they do so it was suggested we started a new group of strollers/walkers together with their dogs. The dogs don't have to be u3a members!!! If you would be interested in this then let me know, and again, if you'd be able to lead the group.
3. **Badminton** Again a suggestion from a relatively new member. Fancy playing badminton?
4. **Cycling** A group to get out, dust off the cobwebs and arrange cycling trips.
5. **Spa Days** We did have a leader setting up a SPA day in March but due to illness she was unable to do this. If anyone would like to arrange a Spa Day approximately twice a year then do please let me know. This was incredibly popular so it would be a pity if no-one comes forward.

I know many of you get "put off" by the term Group Leader but I can assure you it's not an arduous task and many groups have two leaders to share the task. All a Group Leader needs to do is arrange dates and times for the group to meet and keep in touch with group members. Most of our Group Leaders use our Beacon system to contact members of the group and training is available. Beacon is incredibly easy to use so don't be put off by this, you certainly don't need to be an IT whizz kid!!! Remember:

no leader = no group and no groups = no u3a!

Don't be put off asking to join a group with a waiting list; once we have enough members on a waiting list then we are in a position to open a second, or even in some cases a third, group.

Any further suggestions for new groups gratefully received, particularly if you have a skill you'd like to share with others.

Jaquie Groups Co-ordinator

Groups Co-ordinator Needed!

Jaquie, our Groups Co-ordinator, will be stepping down from her post at our AGM in October. This is a great opportunity for you to become further involved in the running of Hunstanton u3a. Jacquie is more than happy to discuss informally just what is required and would work alongside any candidate/s to help them adjust. The Groups Co-ordinator could be shared between two people.

Hilary

March 2026 Speaker



The talk at the March Members' Meeting was **To France and Beyond**, by Gillian Harvey, author and freelance writer.

Gillian spoke easily and naturally throughout her account of a life that grew from infant ambition to be a writer to adult success in the role. It was not straightforward. Wearing by teaching, and strained by home counties life, she suggested to her husband that they move to rural France. It did provide the peace and beauty Gillian sought but also presented the challenges of change and, sometimes, social isolation. In the event the Harveys stayed in France for fourteen years.

Though productive, after several years Gillian was stuck to publish and she addressed the issue through a correspondence course. It provided the boost she needed. However, the pandemic interrupted sales and progress slowed. She honed her skills over the years through pursuit of a range of

assignments together with a studied response to comment and criticism. Gillian became a successful novelist and freelance journalist. She has fourteen books to her name, translated into as many different languages. The latest is due to be published in May, when there will be book signing at Hunstanton's independent bookshop, **by the book**, at 9 High Street.

We learned how the pressures of family life spurred Gillian to make effective use of time. She commented wryly "You don't have time to procrastinate, or have writer's block". Gillian's humour threaded through her talk. The flow of questions at the close of the presentation showed that she had touched hearts and minds through dedication to transform observations and experiences into popular literature.

Virginia



Speakers News

Hallo everyone,

As I hope you know by now, I have recently taken over from Angela Blenkinsop managing and booking the Speakers for our monthly meetings.

My bookings will not start till 2027 as Angela has done all the hard work for 2026. I am looking for interesting talks and good quality speakers, and wondered if you had come across any excellent speakers in other groups you may be part of?

If you have, please let me know with their contact details if you have them. They often leave cards or leaflets behind after giving their talks.

The coming bookings are:

Life with Brass by Kevin Mackie on April 20th, Rascals Rebels and Rogues by Chanters Jig (Music Group) on May 18th. Ghosts of Norfolk with Wally Webb on June 15th, and An Antarctica Experience with Davis Pinion on July 20th. There is no meeting in August.

Please contact me via speakers@hunstantonu3a.org

If you have any feedback on current speakers, I would love to hear that too.

Ann McKimm

AN OCCASIONAL EDITORIAL

Sylvia's idea post-covid was to make our Newsletter more like a magazine, with items of interest and entertainment, not just a list of announcements. I am delighted with the response to my editorial in the March newsletter. If that continues, then Sylvia's brainchild will have a healthy future.

Two members, Carole and Bill, reacted to my plea for quizzes and I now have a stockpile of four, not including the two(!) that you will find later in this issue. They are often entertaining in their own way, too. Carole promised to generate a quiz whenever I need one, and Bill has already sent me three! But please don't let that stop you sending in your own quizzes – you may just have to wait a few months before they are published.

It struck me that our members would value information on books that they might read in their spare time. So I asked each of our three book groups (Book groups 1 & 2 and the Crime Book group) to commit to providing a monthly review of one of the books that they have been reading. The members of all three groups showed great enthusiasm for the idea and I'm delighted to tell you that they all agreed. From next month, you can expect information and views on three books. One member of the Crime book group jumped in this month with a fine review which you will find later in this issue.

We are members not customers

This mantra was repeated at the recent New Members Meeting. As a Mutual Help organisation, each branch can only move forward if all members strive to contribute their time and skills to the running of their u3a and the groups which provide them with so much to do and learn.

On the previous page, you will have read that we will need a new Groups Co-ordinator from October. Now is the time to think about taking on then role, especially as Jacquie can get you involved and show you the ropes in the months before you take it on. I held the role until about eighteen months ago, and I can tell you that there is no better way to get to know the wonderful people who make up our membership. This means that it is especially appropriate for anyone who has recently joined us. Just get in touch with anyone on the committee, through the website, to express your interest.

That also applies to the Newsletter!

As I mentioned above, there has been a most encouraging start in expanding the number and type of contributions that appear in this publication. As a member, how can you help?

Sylvia approached Group Leaders about providing articles on what goes on in their groups. Of course, the people best placed to tell us about their groups, and to tell us what they like about them, are the group members. So please, don't wait for your group leader to write something. You don't just have to write about one group – tell us about what you get out of all of the groups that you belong to.

At the New Members' Meeting, I was approached by new member Barry Dennis. He has been involved in journalism and print media management throughout his working life and was Managing Director of a large group of publications that include the Eastern Daily Press. He offered me his help, especially in generating ideas for topics for articles that our readers would enjoy writing, and our members would enjoy reading:

We got together over a coffee at the Granary in Snettisham, and here is a surprisingly long list of topics that we came up with:

1. Have you any claims to fame?
2. Have you ever been mistaken for someone else, or told that you look like someone?
3. Have you ever held any sporting record, or done something unusual in the sporting field?
4. Have you been on a special holiday, or have any holiday horror stories?
5. Have you ever met someone famous (e.g. Royalty) and what were they like?
6. What was the first record that you ever acquired? Has your musical taste changed since then?

7. Any embarrassing moments in your life that you don't mind telling us about?
8. Have you ever had any strange illnesses or anything else remarkable on the medical front?
9. Were you brought up in this area? What was the area like when you were young, and how has it changed?
10. Was there anything special or unique about your job, or anything that you encountered or did in your career?
11. If you could invite any three people to dinner, whom would you invite, and why?
12. Have you any tips for our readers? (Cookery, DIY or even life in general.)
13. My first car.
14. The best and worst inventions in my lifetime.
14. If you are relatively newly retired, or recently moved into the area, how has your life changed? What do you think about this area?

How about it? Who is going to be the first to write an article on any of these themes?

David

FROM OUR GROUPS

Art Appreciation

Fitzwilliam Museum – the Ancient Egyptian Exhibition



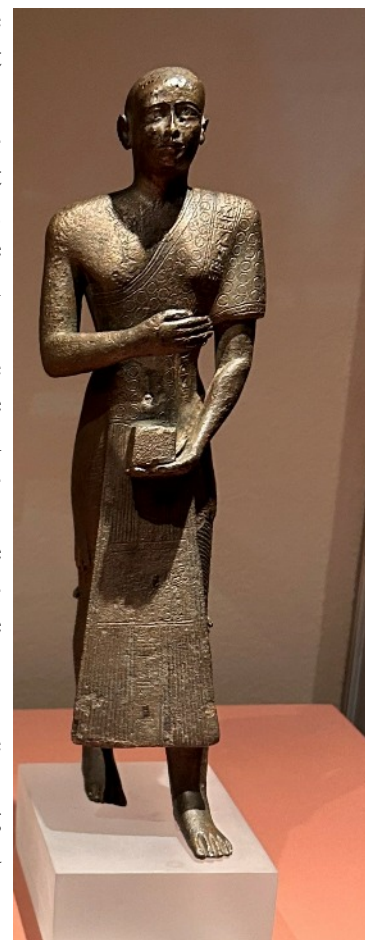
The Art Appreciation group visit for March was to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to see the Ancient Egyptian Exhibition.

The exhibition was focused on the crafts people and artisans whose work produced the objects we enjoy today. It contained a range of objects, jewellery, fabric, ceramics, sculptures, funeral items as well as artwork. Many of the objects had been loaned from a variety of international museums and private collections.

I found the exhibition fascinating, spending my entire time exploring it. I marvelled at the skill of those crafts people from so long ago who created such beautiful items with very simple tools – which were also displayed. The jewellery was colourful and exquisite, the designs quite intricate. The many items for both decorative and household use were beautifully made, the shapes and decoration so interesting. There were fragments, known as Ostraca, of the rough designs made before the object was begun.

Coffins were also on display showing the artistic talent. One coffin lid had been used for a second time with the artwork from the first use being covered over with the new. The exhibition was certainly thought-provoking, making me appreciate the workmanship of those crafts people and the skills they had.

Susan Sullivan



Fitzwilliam Museum – the rest!

How lucky are we? Did you know that for just £9.30 (return train fare*) you can visit Cambridge for the day – and if you have never been to The Fitzwilliam Museum before you can discover its treasures for free. Just hop on the U bus outside the station with your bus pass and it will drop you right outside the Museum.



Joan of Arc by Rossetti

Inside you will find the museum's impressive collection of objects, famous paintings, and sculptures each providing a fascinating insight into the development of European art from the Renaissance to the modern period. Titian, Canaletto, and Van Dyck are all there. Since I prefer the modern stuff, I headed for the upper galleries where I discovered Pre-Raphaelite works by Rossetti, Ford Madox-Brown, Impressionist works by Monet, Renoir, Seurat, Op art by Bridget Riley, Cubism by Picasso, David Hockney, Joseph Wright of Derby, to name just a few.



Poplars (unfinished) by Monet

If sculpture is your thing, you are in for a treat. Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Jacob Epstein, Rodin and Degas are all there waiting for you.



Ballet Dancers by Degas

Although I have been to The Fitzwilliam many times, I have never had the time to really explore their collections as I have usually gone to a specific exhibition. This time I was determined to dedicate my day to exploring this impressive classical style building, and I was completely



Minoan Head by Barbara Hepworth

blown away by the sheer quantity and quality of their collection.

The Art Appreciation Group will be going back to the Fitzwilliam in November for "The Call to Art – William Morris and the Pre-Raphaelites" exhibition. If you fancy a wonderful day out why not join us?

Lunch at Brown's opposite is an optional extra!

Contact Jill or Sue (via the Art Appreciation Group webpage if you are not already a member)

*With a senior railcard discount.

Jill Davis

Playreading Group 3

We are a friendly group that meets once a month to read all kinds of plays out loud for fun. So far, we have tried comedy and tragedy, Whodunnits and spy stories and would welcome new members with or without experience.

The tutor for this group is Ann McKimm who is a licentiate of the Trinity Guildhall School of Music and Drama originally from London but now living in Hunstanton.

We meet on the 4th Monday of each month to read, chat and have a cup of tea at 2pm in the afternoon in Hunstanton.

Please contact me for details of how to join.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ann McKimm



Chair Yoga group 2

The popular image of Yoga is that it is for the young, athletic, or super-flexible. This misconception has discouraged many people from trying yoga and others from thinking they are now too old simply because their bodies have changed. But no, it is an act of self-care, a way of looking after ourselves, our body, our mind and our breathing. In doing chair yoga we can still practice a range of asana i.e. the physical practice of yoga. We stretch, reach, bend, twist, balance, we limber up and find our bodies have more to give.

Along with pranayama (breathing techniques), concentration, meditation and mindfulness we can go home feeling stronger, more mobile, and sometimes in less pain. There are emotional and mental benefits too.



The photos show the class practicing a position my text book calls 'Full Open Gate' which is giving them a stretch from the toes on one side, across the body through to the fingertips on the other. It is currently a very busy class with no spaces which I hope means they all enjoy the sessions and go away feeling invigorated without being exhausted.

Christine

HUG playing at Fridhem Rest Home in Heacham

On the afternoon of Friday 27 February, HUG (u3a Hunstanton Ukulele Group) were invited to play to the residents, visitors and staff at Fridhem Rest Home in Heacham.

We were given a warm welcome by Alan, Activities Co-ordinator, and settled down to entertain. Our play list was varied but we started off with a *Happy Birthday* to one of our group, Jessica. Ian, our leader, had wanted an Easter theme and the best we came up with was *Run Rabbit!!* We played six favourite songs including the *Skye Boat Song* and *The Wild Rover* and then broke for a tea/coffee and biscuit.

Our second half of six songs included a couple of Beatles songs, *My Darling Clementine* and *Leaving on a Jet Plane* and finished with *Jamaica Farewell*. It was clear to see that the residents really enjoyed our playing and singing and joined in. My biggest problem is to remember to smile, play and sing all at the same time! Jean, who sadly wasn't with us at Fridhem, reminds us to smile, otherwise we look rather serious.

We are a group of twelve of mixed ukulele experience, who meet fortnightly on a Friday afternoon at Ian's home in Hunstanton. On this occasion seven of us were able to attend, including Ian, Graham, Yolanda, Pattie, Steve, Jessica and myself.



We have previously played at Nightingale Lodge in Hunstanton and The Gables in Dersingham. We have upcoming bookings at Millbridge Care Home in Heacham on the 24 April and the Norfolk Lodge in Hunstanton on 8 May.

I have aspirations to take centre stage at Glastonbury in the future. However, I might have lapsed into some sort of parallel universe!!!!

Kim

Creative Prose Writing



Wanted: Storytellers

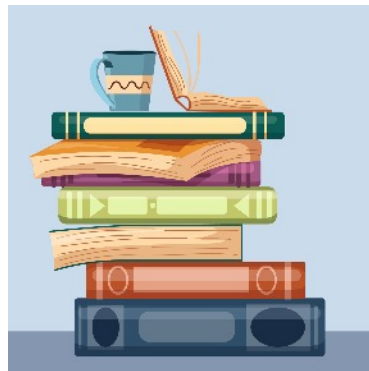
Do you feel a story of adventure, murder, romance, or other tale of derring-do bubbling in your imagination? Is self-doubt holding you back as your fingers tingle with eagerness to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard? Perhaps we can help. Our small group gathers to learn from each other about how to write, sharpen our prose, and share what we've created.

No writing experience necessary, no plot too daring, no draft too rough, no story too short. But a sense of fun and willingness to give authentic supportive feedback is essential.

If you'd like to find out more and perhaps come to meet us before deciding, please contact me .

Julie

Book Group 1



As the newest member of Book Group 1, I have been volunteered to write a few words about my experience. I first joined a book club maybe six or seven years ago. At the time, when I mentioned this, a couple of people remarked "Why? You don't need to join a group to enjoy read reading." That's true, and I had always enjoyed reading. Indeed, I was the child that would sit at mealtimes reading the cereal packet or sauce bottle – in fact anything at all.

Throughout my life I squeezed reading into a busy life bringing up children, running a home and going out to work. I remember many occasions when I stood at the stove stirring something in a saucepan, wooden spoon in one hand and holding an unputdownable novel in the other.

I only had time to read books that I knew would interest me. I didn't have the capacity for extending this to try new styles and subject matter.

The luxury of having more free time as I got older meant that finally I could read more and a book club offers the opportunity to try different genres and discover new authors. It's so interesting to discuss with others what they enjoy and what each person gets from a story, very often something totally different from oneself.

Sadly, my first book club had to suspend meeting during Covid and subsequently disbanded. It was not until last Autumn that I was in a position to look at joining u3a, and first on my list was to find a book club.

I was extremely lucky to be able to join Book Group 1 where from the outset I was made to feel very welcome. We are a diverse group from very different backgrounds with differing likes and dislikes as you might imagine.

We don't hold back in voicing opinions but always listen to each other's point of view too. Interestingly there always seems to be more discussion over a book that we have universally disliked rather than those that have been enjoyed. Very often discussion leads to conversations about almost anything and everything, often including much laughter.

I am in awe of the knowledge and life experiences of other members, what a wonderful group of individuals they are.

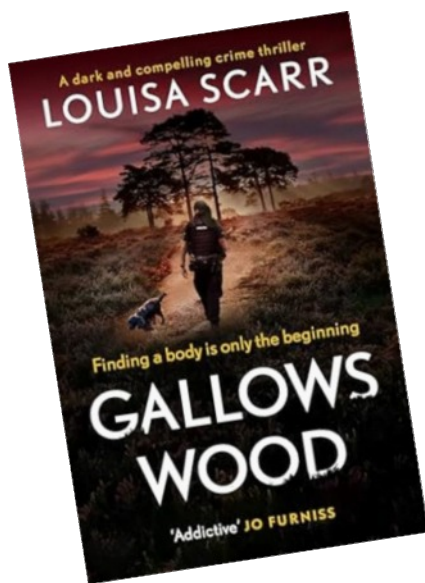
I would really recommend joining a book group to anyone with a love of the written word. It's a great deal of fun and an excellent way to make new friends.

Jan Fisher

Crime Book group Review

Gallows Wood by Louisa Scarr 4.5/5★

This is the first book in the PC Lucy Galloway series, set in the New Forest area.



Lucy had been a Detective Inspector until her journalist husband, Nico, started writing articles containing confidential police information. Suspicion that Lucy gave away the info caused her to be demoted and she became a dog handler, a job she fell in love with. Nico then disappeared.

When a hand is found in Gallows Wood, Lucy and her search dog, Moss, are called in to find the rest of the body. She uncovers another body, which causes new DCI Jack Ellis to initiate a thorough search of the wood and Nico's body is found. All the bodies have connections to serving police officers and Nico's research papers indicate an organised crime gang, working with corrupt police officers to steal or tamper with evidence. Jack Ellis and Lucy don't know who to trust and investigate on their own. Lucy also comes under suspicion of Nico's murder.

So, a police procedural, organised crime, corrupt officers – nothing new. However, several things about the book impressed the group.

The mismatched pairing of Lucy and Jack was well written. Lucy is chaotic, impulsive, scruffy and mad about dogs; Jack is suited and booted, straight down the line and dislikes the animals. There are some amusing incidents when Jack and Moss meet, and some emotional passages as Lucy tries to explain her relationship with the dog to Jack. Lucy is also a lowly PC compared with Jack's DCI, so it's different from the usual mismatched pairing of two detectives. Both Lucy and Jack had back stories, including Lucy's relationship with Nico which had an unexpected twist, and Jack's reason for transferring to the New Forest.

A lot of information about how police dogs work, the different types of dogs and the handlers' relationship with the dogs was included as part of the plot, which added another interesting layer to the story.

The plot is complex, dark in places and well-paced. Most of the group didn't work out who was the main culprit until the end – always the sign of a good crime book! And the final indication of a good series; all the group said they would read the next one, Memorial Park!

Julie Barnes

From next month, the Book groups will have their own section, featuring reviews of books that they have read recently.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Decoy Duck Race

Myself and friends had an enjoyable evening on Friday 27th March, supporting Hunstanton Rotary Club's fund-raising event in aid of local charities including Home Start.

The ducks raced against each other, being pulled along by audience volunteers, winding string around a wooden baton. Sounds easy? Not so, there were a few simple rules which, if broken, resulted in ducks' disqualification – I mean disqualification. There was lots of fun, cheering, race and raffle prize winners, as well as money raised for local good causes. An enjoyable evening had by all.

Debbie Peel



National Memorial Arboretum

Recently a few u3a members joined a visit to the Arboretum. Some of the party had been before but for others it was a first visit. We set off early but certainly not bright, in fact quite misty, but it didn't detract too much from the lovely show of fields of Daffodils when we travelled the A17 through the Spalding area. In Nottinghamshire not only did it become distinctly foggy but it was noted that roadworks everywhere does not just apply to Norfolk! The Arboretum is really very impressive and our coach was welcomed and a brief outline of what was available given. Blue sky did make a short appearance just after lunch! While we wondered if it was a little early to appreciate the Arboretum, the advantage was that we could see easily through the trees at lots of the installations which would be perhaps shielded when the many trees were in leaf and/or blossom.

Some of us took the Landtrain trip to get our bearings and pick where we could return to special areas. There are now so many memorials – over 400 – and, as it was National Women's Day, some of us were pleased to note there are now more for women in the various conflicts commemorated.



The site is situated at the confluence of the rivers Tame and Trent and an ancient burial ground remains among the approximately 25,000 trees. The reclaimed mineral site was gifted by Redland Aggregates, now Tarmac, and some 40% of the funds required was granted from the National Lottery's Millennium Commission.

The very first installation was the Polar Bear placed in 1998, before the Arboretum opened, in memory of the 49th West Riding Division, and inside it there is a time capsule containing the names of all those who did not come home, together with the relevant documents. Perhaps one of the most impressive is the centrally placed Armed Forces Memorial – for those who like statistics, built on a six metre high earth mound, 100 metres round, reducing to 50 metres with the 43 metre stone structure at the top containing

the names in year order of all those killed (sadly with some space remaining). One of our party placed a small cross at the foot of the appropriate panel for her brother among the others. The memorial is built with a gap between two of the rows of panels that throws a light on the main statue at the appropriate time we all know so well, with an inscription carved into the side of the panel – well worth the climb.

All the installations have had a great deal of thought put into the construction, and everyone was so friendly and helpful that we felt the lengthy journey well worthwhile and there were thoughts of returning at a different time of year.

Addie Thompson



Editor's note: As I mentioned in my editorial, Barry Dennis and I came up with a list of topics for members' articles which included 'Claim to fame'. Barry volunteered to submit the first article on the subject, so here it is...

How I spent 14 million pounds in a weekend in New York

They say you never forget your first trip to New York. Mine will stay in my memory for the rest of my life. The reason is because I spent £14 million buying a magazine! Yes you read that correctly – £14 million for a magazine. Let me explain. At the time I was working with magazine publishers Emap in Peterborough, in charge of their sport and outdoor leisure titles. We had around 24 magazines with 300+ staff. Subjects included fishing, shooting, equestrian, football and athletics.

We had had great success with the launch of Country Walking magazine. Overnight it became the market leading publication. That gave us the desire to do more launches.

We decided to have a crack at the lucrative golf market with a new practical magazine called Today's Golfer. People thought we were mad because there were already two big hitters in the market - Golf World and Golf Monthly.

After months of planning, we were ready. We did it with some national advertising and by attaching a free golf ball to the cover. That had never been done before.

We tried to guess how the rival magazines would react. Surprisingly they didn't. It proved to us that this could be a golden opportunity. The rivals were clearly thought we would be gone in six months.

Two years after the launch of Today's Golfer we launched our second golf mag - Fore! It did well but still didn't achieve our strategic aim to be overall market leaders in the UK. The only way to achieve this would be by acquisition. The target would be Golf World, owned by the New York Times Group.

I made an initial approach and was told to take a hike. A few months later we heard that Golf Monthly had purchased Golf World. We couldn't believe it. Months of chasing Golf World had failed. I phoned my contact in New York to discover that he had left. The person I was talking to confirmed that the sale had been agreed with IPC. The deal was agreed verbally but contracts hadn't been signed! If we wanted to put in a bid they would give me 24 hours to do it. I got our legal team involved, put together a business plan and sales team.

I telephoned next day to say we would bid £14 million. They were shocked. They didn't think we could do it. They said they needed time to consider. I said they had 24 hours to decide. That didn't go down well. I pointed out that was the deadline you set me...

We knew that Golf Monthly owners were slow movers in decision making. A little birdie told me that they had offered £8 million. We knew we were paying a high price but fortunately the Emap Main Board agreed with me, that it was a major strategic purchase for our sports portfolio.

The purchase went ahead and immediately pushed our market share to 75%. I'm pleased to report that the magazines are still going strong.

So that's how I spent £14 million in New York in a weekend.

Barry



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? QUIZZES! ?
? ? ? ?

April Fools Day

by **Hilary Farrell**



1. Which Geoffrey Chaucer novel contains the first link between 1st April and foolishness?
2. With which animal do the French best associate April Fool's Day?
3. An infamous BBC prank suggested what food stuff now grew on trees?
4. Which Google service was initially dismissed as a joke on its launch date of April 1st 2004?
5. A 2008 BBC news report suggested a flying colony of which bird species had been discovered in the Antarctic, tracking their flight to the Amazon?
6. Who was presenting BBC's Grandstand in 1989 when a fight appeared to break out between staff members in the background of the shot?

General Knowledge

by **Carole Gibb**

1. Which supermarket tried to sue a country over goods name branding. It lost.
2. Which South American Capital city sits in the Andean foothills and is constructed on the foundations of an ancient Incan city?
3. Tashkent is the capital of this country.
4. What is the name of the principal character found in a musical composition by Richard Strauss, inspired by a novel by Friedrich Nietzsche and was used in the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*?
5. Which musical instrument is a member of the lute family of Portuguese origin and was popularised in Hawaii.
6. Which traditional game involves the throwing of metal, rope or rubber rings over a set distance, usually to land over or near a spike or pin. The game encompasses several distinct variations.
7. A form of Spanish or Spanish-derived musical theatre in which the dramatic action is carried through an alternating combination of song and speech, a bit like operetta.
8. What is the name of a Mexican dish consisting of a tortilla that is filled primarily with cheese, and sometimes meats, spices, and other fillings, and then cooked on a griddle or stove?
9. Which well-known film character had his name followed by, "and the temple of doom", "the Last Crusade" and "and the Dial of Destiny"?
10. The instrument used in the title music of the 1949 film, *The Third Man* starring Orson Welles.
11. What celestial object has an extremely luminous galactic core where gas and dust falling into a black hole emits electromagnetic radiation across the entire electromagnetic spectrum.
12. A natural earth pigment, consisting of iron oxide and manganese oxide and brownish in colour, sometimes seen in cave paintings.
13. Which island, situated off the coast of Spain 93 miles from Valencia, is well known for its nightlife and club scene?

14. Which metal has the atomic no. 30?
15. What is the name of the movement in Art that included such artists as Pissaro and Degas amongst others?
16. The name of a citrus fruit that arose on the island of Jamaica through the natural hybridization of a tangerine or orange with a grapefruit.
17. An island in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Tanzania, also known as Unguja.
18. Which flowering plant in the amaranth family is grown as a crop primarily for its edible seeds; and is rich in protein and fibre?
19. As well as two grand pianos, one on top of the other, over 100 of which item was found in the composer Erik Satie's apartment after his death?
20. Who, according to St Mark's gospel, is the father of the disciples James and John?
21. What is the name of the behaviour seen in ducks and geese which occurs during a 'critical or sensitive' period just after hatching? During this time, the duckling will learn to follow its mother, who is usually the first large moving creature it sees.
22. What word or phrase is used by our continental cousins to express the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs and spirit of the time?
23. A compact family SUV by Nissan that rivals cars such as the Kia Sportage, and Ford Kuga.
24. What is the capital of Mongolia?
25. Boise is the capital and most populous city of this US state.

Answers to both quizzes are at the end of this Newsletter

Forthcoming Meetings

All meetings start at 2:00pm

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 20th April | My Life in Brass , a talk by Kevin Mackie, taking us on a journey from first forays into music up to becoming one of the most accomplished euphonium players in the Midlands. He will bring instruments with him and share some of his music with us. |
| 18th May | Songs of Norfolk performed by Chanter's Jigge. Songs, ayres, jigs and jollies from around Europe and across the centuries, played and sung with ancient, traditional and modern instruments. |
| 15th June | Ghosts of the Norfolk Broads , a talk by Wally Webb. Tales and fables that happen at the water's edge across the Broads. |

ADMIN...

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 11th MAY 2026. Please send them to David at newsletter@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. Or you can simply type your text into an email, and I will extract it and format it for publication. **No PDFs** please.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

More please!

Answers to the Quizzes

April Fools Day

1. The Canterbury Tales
2. Fish
3. Spaghetti
4. Gmail
5. Penguins
6. Des Lynam

General Knowledge

1. Iceland
2. Quito
3. Uzbekistan
4. Zarathustra
5. Ukulele
6. Quoits
7. Zarzuela
8. Quesadilla
9. Indiana Jones
10. Zither
11. Quasar
12. Umber
13. Ibiza
14. Zinc
15. Impressionism
16. Ugli
18. Quinoa
19. Umbrellas
20. Zebedee
21. Imprinting
22. Zeitgeist
23. Qashqai
24. Ulaanbaatar
25. Idaho