

Thanks for all contributions, these are very well received, I will endeavour to get them in within the limited space available. *Terry Francis (Editor)*

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# A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!



### New Chairman's Thoughts

Hello Everyone,

Many of you know that I have been a U3A member for the last ten years and for three of them I was Chairman. I agreed to become Chairman again this year because I believe in the considerable benefits gained from being a member of West Wolds U3A and we all need to help keep it going. This year there were not enough volunteers to join the committee though there are 327 of us members.

Happily, extra people came forward when asked again so we have a committee but this cannot continue as a trend otherwise we might as well say no-one wants U3A because they will not help keep it going. So please really think about this now for next year.

There are still some groups that are managing to function using Zoom, my Drama Group being one of them. I do hope you have been able to do some of the things you did and have been able to keep in touch with friends. I have met so many people through my U3A membership and it is always a delight to see some of you on Zoom or walking in Middle or Market Rasen.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas in whatever way you manage to celebrate it and hope to see you in the New Year.

*Gail Dennis, Chairman*

### Potential 2021 Speakers

The following speakers have been provisionally arranged from May next year, hopefully by then we may be back to having monthly meetings in the Festival Hall, they are subject to change dependent on the Government restrictions.

#### May 13<sup>th</sup> Nigel MacKnight Adventures of an Author - Hanging on Tight

Nigel takes us through his interesting life as an author on everything that moves, cars, boats, planes etc. and brings us-up-to date on his 20 year project to build and pilot the boat to beat Donald Campbell's water speed record.

#### June 10<sup>th</sup> Ashley Behan - Confident Driving Pt 2 from IAM

A presentation to improve your driving skills as a result of having confidence on today's roads; covering driving at night, motorway driving and examples local to Lincolnshire. A great hit last time they came; this is a new presentation.

#### July 8<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Horner - Great Ormond Street Hospital

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity supports the hospital and its patients by funding four key areas: rebuilding/refurbishment; supporting families & children; research and life-saving equipment. This talk takes us through a brief history of the hospital and details how the charity funds itself and what it does to support the hospital.

*Sharon Rupp*

## COMMITTEE & MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES 2021



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your new Committee

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## Christmas 2020 - The Christmas Card.

*I have a list of people I know,  
all written in a book;  
And every Christmas,  
I go and take a look.  
And that is, when I realise,  
that all those names are part  
Not of the book they are written in,  
but are in my very heart.*

*For each name stands for someone,  
who has crossed my path sometime.  
And in that meeting,  
they have become a treasured friend of mine.  
For once you have got to know someone,  
the years cannot erase  
The memory of a pleasant word,  
or a friendly face.*

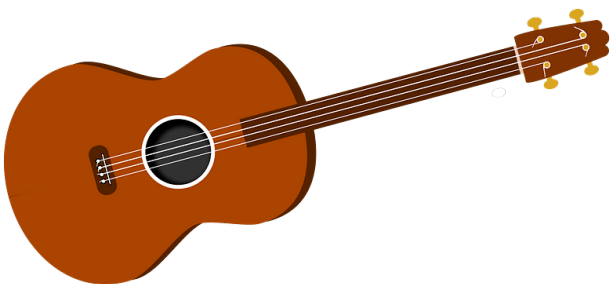
*So, when I send a Christmas card,  
that is addressed to you,  
It's because you are on that list of folk  
I am indebted to.  
You are one of many,  
who in the past I have met,  
And happen to be one of those I don't forget.  
Whether I have known you many years or few,  
In some ways you have been part,  
in shaping the things I do.*

*This is the spirit of Christmas,  
that forever and ever endures.  
May it leave it's richest blessings  
in the heart of yours.*

A happy Christmas and a healthy New Year 2021,  
to all the members of Market Rasen U3A!

From Joe Willisich

## West Wolds Ukulele interest group relaunch



Are you still managing to keep occupied during the various lock downs and restrictions, or are you fed up with gardening, decorating or cleaning the

house/car/shed/garage, and wondering what else you could do?

As we are forced to spend more time at home, now is an ideal opportunity to learn to play a(nother) musical instrument – the ukulele. The ukulele was popular in the 1930's and 40's, interest waned in the 60's and is currently enjoying a resurgence in popularity. The instrument is cheap, compact and relatively easy to start to play. Do you think you might like to learn to play the ukulele?

The very successful ukulele group, founded by Heather Barrett, has now restructured outside the U3A to follow its performance ambitions. This leaves the West Wolds U3A ukulele group the opportunity to rethink how it might move forward.

Having agreed to lead the West Wolds ukulele group, my thoughts are that we could focus on giving more individual support than was previously possible. This would mean directing group activity more towards developing technique, proficiency and knowledge and less towards fine tuning songs for public performance. Ultimately the direction and activities of the group will be determined by its membership.

Learning a musical instrument requires a lot of regular, individual practice, preferably with periodic support from a tutor. My simple plan is to provide that support directly to individuals or small groups when safe to meet, and via zoom, email and telephone whilst we are unable to meet.

Opportunities to learn, laugh and live, with the common interest of playing the ukulele will continue to be available, just not perhaps in the manner or on the regular basis we might prefer. We will have to adjust our life expectations and adapt to take advantage of, say a spell of good weather, to meet and play outdoors, using the time when we are locked up in our homes for individual practice or meeting via zoom.

If you are at all interested in participating with a relaunched ukulele group please do make contact with me.

You may wish to add a ukulele to your Christmas present list!

Contact: Tim Hirst, 01673 849571,  
mothyhirst@gmail.com



## CHRISTMAS CRAFTS – NO BAKE TREATS



### INGREDIENTS

You can cut into little squares to give as gifts.  
Change the ingredients to taste, or what you have in the cupboard.

250g Digestive Biscuits  
140g Butter  
2 tbsp Golden Syrup  
1 tsp Vanilla Bean Paste/Extract  
Pinch of Salt  
2 handfuls of Rice Krispies  
80g Dried Cranberries (Or any dried fruit)  
400g White Chocolate (or any good quality chocolate)

Handful of Pistachios or any nuts, roughly chopped

Handful of Marshmallows

1 Tablespoon Freeze-Dried Raspberries

### METHOD

Put the biscuits into a freezer bag and bash them with a rolling pin into small pieces.

In a saucepan, melt the butter with the golden syrup, vanilla and salt.

Once melted, take the pan off the heat and add in the crushed biscuits and Rice Krispies.

Stir until everything is fully coated.

Mix in the half of the dried fruit. Line a square or rectangular baking tin with greaseproof paper and firmly press in the biscuit mixture making sure it's evenly levelled.

Pop it in the fridge for at least half an hour to firm up.

Whilst the biscuit layer is chilling, melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of simmering water.

Pour the chocolate evenly over the biscuit layer and sprinkle over the remaining dried fruit, nuts, marshmallows, freeze-dried raspberries and any other extras you're using.

Leave to set completely before cutting into squares.

*Sharon Rupp*

### Winter Wolds

Climbing on and up to crest Willingham Hill  
Like a blue-nosed dolphin surfaces for air,  
Our car rises ever higher,  
Trapped in the glass dome of a child's toy,  
Amongst whirling, swirling snowflakes.

Each as big as an old penny; a fist of pocket-money  
Spent on comics and sweets.  
Delicate discs - each flake a fragment of memory  
Blown into banks of time,  
Drifting into half-recalled yesterdays.

Spearing the summit as gold flakes settle  
We turn along Caistor High Street; backbone of the  
Wolds,  
Sight a fluttering white flag.  
This is no surrender though.

Hovering over his prey - the owl has its day.

*Susan Flower*



## Christmas Past

I remember Christmas 1937, I was nearly ten, being very much the youngest of six. My father supported Grimsby Town ( The Mariners) and often took me with him to matches. They had a good team in the middle of Division One. Wages were fixed at £20 a week and they had some internationals, the best known, Pat Glover, Wales Centre Forward.

We set off in good time on Christmas morning, as thirty miles seemed quite a long way then, driving a Morris Cowley. At Blundell Park, we met some of Dad's friends from near Brigg and went to our usual spot in the East Stand. Children were allowed to be

lifted over the wall to sit on forms at the edge of the ground behind the cinder track. The match was against West Bromwich Albion, the crowd was about 35,000, a contrast to today. The result was 2-2. After the match, we set off home, arriving about 2.30pm. Mother and elder sister, Margaret, had dinner ready. I was well ready for it too! After washing up, Dad returned to his chair.

Dad never bought presents or sent cards, that was a wife's job. The eight of us spent the rest of the day together, playing cards or charades. Those were the days when men ruled.

*Rob Tatam*



## Christmas Quiz

- 1). In Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol" what was "Scrooge's" first name?
- 2). In what decade did Coca Cola start using Santa Claus in advertising?
- 3). What Christmas decoration was originally made from silver?
- 4). What Bing Crosby Christmas song is the best selling Christmas song of all time?
- 5). How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?
- 6). What country is the leading exporter of Christmas trees?
- 7). Who donates the Christmas tree set up in London's Trafalgar Square?
- 8). Who created the first electric light Christmas display?
- 9). What old Christmas tradition signals that the residents of a house are Christian?
- 10). What is the most popular Christmas meal in Japan?
- 11). What is the most famous Christmas ballet?
- 12). What colour Christmas does Elvis Presley sing about?
- 13). Which band holds the record for the most Number one Christmas singles in the UK?
- 14). What is Santa Claus's post code?
- 15). What is the name given to the special piece of wood designated for the fireplace at Christmas?
- 16). What Christmas holiday film features a cameo role by Donald Trump?
- 17). In the song "12 days of Christmas" what is given on the 7th day?
- 18). The French word "Noel" is often used around Christmas - what was the original meaning in Latin?
- 19). Who played "George Bailey" in the Christmas classic film "It's a Wonderful Life"?
- 20). In "The Muppet Christmas carol" who played "Scrooge" (It wasn't a Muppet!)
- 21). In what country did the carol "Silent Night" originate?
- 22). In what country did the Christmas tree originate?
- 23). What is the longest Christmas present in the history of the world?
- 24). Which reindeer is Rudolph's dad?

*Submitted by Paul Ettridge*

*Answers will be placed on the web site on December 31st, and also in next month's Newsletter.*



**DON'T BURY YOUR HEAD IN THE SAND  
YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU!**

**TO BE MATCH FIT FOR 2021 AND READY TO RECOMMENCE OUR ACTIVITIES, WE NEED  
VOLUNTEERS WHO CAN HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

**HELPING A MEMBER WITH BASIC TECHNICAL ADVICE**

E.g.: downloading an app to their smartphone, Zooming etc.

**GREETERS**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**KEEPER OF THE CUPBOARD**

E.g.: itemise contents, ensure its unlocked/locked etc.

**SETTING UP AND CLEARING AWAY AT THE GENERAL MEETINGS**

e.g.: setting up the PA, Projector etc. (training can be given)



**DON'T BE A COUCH POTATO, YOU CAN LEND A HAND.  
WEST WOLDS U3A - BY THE MEMBERS, FOR THE MEMBERS**

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