

***What's happening in January and February:***

**Chairman's Letter**

Dear all,

I am aware that Christmas is not always a time of cheer for some of our members but I hope you all had a peaceful holiday, spent with family or friends. Usually Rob and I are the hosts for our local family but this year was a complete change with only 3 of us for dinner. I have to admit, it felt strange but was more relaxed than previous years. I'm sure many of you can relate to this.

I heard that the pre-Christmas lunch at the Royal Oak was its usual success – we are fortunate to have a village pub that continues to serve quality traditional meals at very reasonable prices.

Now here we are at the start of 2026 and some traditional winter weather – fortunately not too heavy – but enough to make us all take care when venturing outside. Hopefully by the time of our January meeting getting out will be easier and we can look forward to catching up with U3A colleagues there.

Meanwhile may I wish you all a peaceful and healthy New Year with the opportunity to spend time with family and friends.

With best regards,

Pat  
Neston U3A chairman

**The Drawing and Watercolour Group** will start on Thursday 22nd January 2pm to 4pm at Neston Library.

So the 4th Thursday in the month will be our regular slot. I'd like the group to meet the week before, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, at the library for an informal chat and introductions, as well as what materials we might need.

Liz: [briardtouslefell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:briardtouslefell@yahoo.co.uk)

A lady with a clipboard stopped me in the street the other day. She said 'Can you spare a few minutes for Cancer Research, I said 'Alright, but we won't get much done.'

I thought growing old would take longer.

I have kleptomania but when it gets too bad I take something for it.

One minute you're young and fun. The next, you're turning down the car stereo to see better.

Short funnies supplied by Phil Cartwright

## Antiques and Collectables

In December we had our annual quiz- a fiercely contested event. This year, in addition to the winners receiving tubes of Smarties, the runners up received the wooden spoon. To be fair there was only one point between the two teams.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Elizabeth Marrs



Antique and Collectables Quiz

## The Inaudible and Noiseless Foot of Time by Pauline Sallis

The sweet Summer's green too soon fades away.  
Swift-footed Time hurries the swallow's call.  
Reckoning Time darkens the golden day.  
Winter's ragged hand bids the leaves to fall.  
By Time's injurious hand the flowers die.  
Devouring Time steals the scent of the rose  
And Summer's lease too soon goes by  
As never-resting Time onward goes.  
Time's tyranny though will never harm me.  
From the wastes of Time I will be free.  
Young, fit and vibrant I will always be.  
I will go on always like the boundless sea.  
I did grow old and in Time's fickle glass declined,  
The inaudible noiseless foot of Time.



**Margaret Mellor and Marion Holland**

The lyric on the board:

Your fairy tales are ending  
When your wand has started bending  
No-one loves a fairy when she's old.

**The Singing for Fun Group** starts again next Friday, January 9th at 2pm in the United Reformed Church hall on Parkgate Road, when we sing all your old favourites and some new ones too. Join us for a Musical New Year! You would be very welcome.

Sad news: Margaret Mellor died in hospital over the festive period. She was a staunch supporter of the Singing Group for many years and will be sadly missed. Funeral arrangements to be announced.

Next Speaker Meeting is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm. The doors will be open from 1.30pm so please get there in good time buy your raffle tickets and find a seat.

The January speaker is Jim Chinnery - 'Jungle Jim' - Explorer and Adventurer. Follow his varied career through business and other areas.

### **Important**

Please note that any change of personal details should be sent to your new Membership Secretary, Vivian. [membershipsecretary@nestonu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@nestonu3a.org.uk)

**If you know of any members who are unwell or in hospital, please let Doreen Higgins know on 336 5108 and she'll send them a card.**



Everyone enjoying their Christmas Lunch at the Royal Oak

If anyone wants digital copies of any of the pictures in the Bulletin  
Then email the [newslettersecretary@nestonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettersecretary@nestonu3a.org.uk)





Luncheon at the Nag's Head in Willaston as you can see from the smiles all had a jolly good time.

## Editor's Bit

Happy New Year and, I don't know about anybody else, I'm glad to see the back of all the bah humbug. It wouldn't be so bad if it didn't all kick off till December but I get sick unto death of the build up that seems to start earlier every year. But take no notice of me, I just choose not to subscribe to all the commercial crap and the instructions to stuff your face, kill a shed load of factory turkeys and Have Fun! The TV chefs want you to start cooking bits of dinner and freezing them from November. What's that all about? It's a roast dinner. People eat a roast dinner every week. Don't they? And if they don't they jolly well should. At the table, not on a tray in front of the telly. I've done my time cooking big dinners for all and sundry. I'm 80 now and I can do what I like so don't argue. We had a lovely time at home with steak, chips and salad, nice drinkies and I sat and read a good book without interruption. Just the job.

There aren't many words in this newsletter, not a lot going on, but the amount of photos should make up for it.

If anybody, group leaders or anybody else, has anything interesting coming up for the following months, please keep me informed and I'll spread the news.

The next lunch club will be Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at the Royal Oak in Little Neston, being as it's too cold to be faffing about travelling too far. It won't be a set menu like we do at Christmas, we'll eat off the menu and pay our own bills at the bar. Details to be confirmed. While I'm at it, can I just humbly request that if you book a place and can't make it for some reason, it would be polite and considerate to let Kenny or me know in advance. It's not fair to the staff who've set tables and it's a tad embarrassing for us when we've booked for 12 and only 8 turn up.

Kath Grant would be interested in a beginners' Spanish group. Do we have anyone who could start one? Contact Tina if you can help. All I can do, in Spanish, is order coffee with brandy and some tapas. I do miss European coffee – Costa doesn't do it for me. And the price they charge! You can get a really good cup of coffee in the right sort of café in Portugal or Spain for one euro. Follow the locals.

Horrible cold weather as I write this. Be careful if you go out. We don't want broken hips or loss of dignity if you fall over. I fell over recently in the Philharmonic pub in Liverpool! I was so busy looking for the door to the Ladies that I missed a big step down and ended up on my bum. No damage done except bruising and, thank God, nobody saw me! I wasn't even p\*\*\*ed, more's the pity!

See you at the next speaker meeting.

Best wishes from grumpy Shelagh  
newslettersecretary@nestonu3a.org.uk

Notice seen recently, I'll not say where but it amused me greatly.

Will ladies please rinse out the teapots

Then stand upside down in the sink

On no account must hot bottoms be placed on the worktop