November

The clocks have gone back and the pumpkins have disappeared from the shops – it must be November! Naturalists have said the trees 'are confused about the seasons' and that's why we still have many green leaves and no bare branches yet. I expect this month will be when things return to more normal conditions. That's if there is still such a thing as 'normal', after a year of so many broken climate records.

We start the month with our Drop-in, as usual, from 10 until 11.30 on **Thursday, November 5th**. We have noticed lower attendance at recent Drop-ins, and have been wondering why. If you don't usually come along, why not give it a try? There's always a friendly welcome and an opportunity to share time and conversation over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit! You can also buy a u3a diary for next year, or collect yours if you'd ordered one.

The **Indoor Games** afternoon on the 10th was enjoyed by all who came – there's another planned for January. Watch this space! In the meantime, do you know about our **Weekend Group**? This is a very flexible group that meets in the Feathers at the weekend, usually 2.00 pm on Saturday, for a drink or a coffee and a chat. Anyone is welcome but it's aimed at people living alone. There is no commitment; just turn up if you're at a loose end and fancy some company. You can make new friends, with a view to finding like-minded people to share outings with. We all keep in contact through a WhatsApp group to which you will be added after you have registered to join the group.

Looking ahead to December**,** we hope you have **Midwinter Music**, at 2 p.m. on **Thursday December 17th** in your diary. This year the event will be in the Tom Stoppard Theatre at Pocklington School, with plenty of room for all. Bring friends and neighbours – especially if they don't know about u3a yet! It's always a joyful occasion and a chance to get the festive spirit and enjoy a cup or a glass and a mince pie. Our music groups will be the chief entertainers, and there are invitations to get involved :-

Ukulele for Beginners Have you ever been tempted to try your hand at playing the ukulele? The next course for absolute beginners will be starting soon and there are four spaces left. Everything you need to get started will be available on loan so it's as easy as registering your interest with Martine Bantick (group leader) via martine.bantick1@gmail.com and then turning up to the first session to see if it's for you. The meeting dates will be chosen once all the spaces are filled and everyone's availability is known, but the group will meet in Pocklington in the afternoons.

Anything Acoustic is a friendly group of musicians who get together every other Friday afternoon at Yapham Village Hall to make music. The group now has a few spaces and the only membership criteria are that you belong to our u3a and that your instrument is acoustic

(including voice). All standards and genres of music are very welcome. Most of the time you'll sing and play everyone's music choices together (no practice required!) but there are also opportunities to do solos in a very informal and supportive setting. For more information. please contact Martine Bantick (group leader) via martine.bantick1@gmail.com.

Our **Wilberfoss quiz group** now has space for a few new members. If you enjoy fun and friendly company whilst giving your brain a workout, this is the group for you! It's every other Wednesday, 2 - 4 pm; contact Jane on dixon.je@btinternet to find out more. And don't forget the Pocklington group, now meeting in The Feathers every fourth Thursday morning – you can join both!

A new **Scrapbooking and Papercraft** group will be starting in January 2027 as an extension to the existing group. It will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Allerthorpe Village Hall 1.30pm-3.30pm (the existing group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the same time). The new group will run, initially, for six months but with a view to continuing if popular. The cost is £15 for the six months.

For more information contact Sue Simpson on 0772 970 2401.

On, as usual, the third Friday afternoon in October, the **Rock Music Appreciation Group** got together. On this occasion it was to celebrate the seventh anniversary of its first meeting. The four remaining founder members were there and one of them, Richard Olsen, the group's archivist, brought with him a list of every topic that has been covered over 79 monthly sessions. This provided a reminder that during the Covid pandemic, which arrived just three months after the inaugural session, the group continued to meet virtually by email every month to share great music and the memories of mis-spent youths that go with it. Members have come and gone but the group continues to thrive because, as Argent told us in 1973, "God gave rock and roll to you"; and as Neil Young told us in 1979, "Rock and roll will never die".

All our Groups are run by dedicated leaders, and the whole Pocklington and District u3a is overseen by the Committee. It's not especially time-consuming or arduous – one meeting a month, and a helping hand at functions – but a Committee is essential to keep an overview of all our activities, plan events and keep an eye on making sure all runs smoothly. At the moment we have a couple of vacancies – would you be willing to step up? No previous experience or technical qualifications are necessary, and new members just as welcome as longstanding ones. All Committee posts are on fixed terms of office, and so we need a constant accession of new members to take over as some retire. Please think about it! If you have ideas to share, and might be willing to help, talk to any member of the Committee, or contact our Chair, neil.barrett@btinternet.com, or Vice Chair vicechair@pocklingtonu3a.org.uk. Thank you!

November brings lots of warming festivals to take our minds off the chill – Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukkah, Gingerbread Day, Pudding Day and Roast Dinner Day. Scots can enjoy a

dram on the 30th for St. Andrew's Day, though I don't think Lancashire Day on the 27th will be a big deal here!

Whatever you're celebrating, keep warm and take care.

Rosemary Waugh