



# Swanland u3a

Registered Charity No: 1078104

Newsletter No: 82 January 2024

Learn, Laugh, Live.

## Executive Committee from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Position	Name	eMail
Chair	John Munson	<a href="mailto:chair@swanlandu3a.org.uk">chair@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Chair Role plus: Newsletter Co-ordination; Liaison with other voluntary groups; Safeguarding Co-ordinator.	
Vicechair	<b>Vacant</b>	Assist the chairperson
Secretary	John Peck	<a href="mailto:secretary@swanlandu3a.org.uk">secretary@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Liaison with the Trust; Accord; Business matters	
Treasurer	Glenn Aitken	<a href="mailto:treasurer@swanlandu3a.org.uk">treasurer@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Financial transactions; oversight of CAF Bank accounts; annual accounts	
Membership Secretary	Graham Whitaker	<a href="mailto:memsec@swanlandu3a.org.uk">memsec@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a> 01482 631497
Role	Membership process; communication with members; email system.	
New Groups	Joyce Knox	<a href="mailto:groups@swanlandu3a.org.uk">groups@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Establishment of new Interest Groups.	
Minutes Secretary	Brenda Wilson	<a href="mailto:minsec@swanlandu3a.org.uk">minsec@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Production and distribution of a range of minutes.	
Web Admin	Keith Taylor	<a href="mailto:webadmin@swanlandu3a.org.uk">webadmin@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Maintenance and content of website; Hosting of website, production of Flyers and Newsletters	
Committee	Patricia Simmons	<a href="mailto:comm-ps@swanlandu3a.org.uk">comm-ps@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Without portfolio	

Position	Name	Email
Committee	John Bailey	<a href="mailto:committee2@swanlandu3a.org.uk">committee2@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Without portfolio	
Committee	John Scotney	<a href="mailto:comm126@swanlandu3a.org.uk">comm126@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Without portfolio	
Committee	Paul Chambers	<a href="mailto:comm-pc@swanlandu3a.org.uk">comm-pc@swanlandu3a.org.uk</a>
Role	Learning / Speaker Finder	
Committee Telephone No: <a href="tel:07513617720">07513617720</a>		

### **A View from the Chair**

Over the summer I was able to discuss the u3a movement with a mixture of young, older, working and retired people from Australia, Italy, Nigeria and the USA. All agreed that the u3a 'was a good thing'. The national organisations differed e.g. in Italy the u3a was linked to Universities and seemed to lack our spirit of peer led learning in favour of using academics and in Nigeria it was the preserve of the relatively affluent. However, 'Digitalisation' and a move away from cash were common challenges.

I recalled these conversations on returning to the UK. To retrieve my car from Manchester Airport I had to use a mix of QR and Bar codes thereby making a Mobile Phone a necessity; later on a train home I noticed a sign in big, angry letters on the Buffet Trolley declaring 'Card Payments Only'. And with a small Kit Kat at £1.90 a healthy bank balance was also required! .

We could help each other with 'Tech' e.g. short classes on how to use a mobile phone or tablet. Keith Taylor and I held many Zoom training sessions for members over Lockdown so it is a possibility. Nationally the u3a has working groups on the 'Built Environment and Older people' and 'Positive Ageing' both of which concern themselves with these issues. For more details contact me.

We enjoyed a busy Autumn. Preparations for the 'Ravenscar' holiday are well in hand and both our Christmas Carol Concert and Lunch were outstanding successes. Sincere thanks to all involved.

Finally, I shall be resigning from the post of Chair at next year's AGM although I will remain a member of our u3a and will fully support all activities. Anne Sherman will be taking on the Newsletter Editor post and Paul Chambers will become Speaker Finder. I am sure that you will give them your full support. If you feel that you could help the Committee in any way please contact me. Kind Regards, John Munson

### **News From the Groups**

*Descriptions of each group are available on our website and will be published in later Newsletters.*

#### Art Appreciation – Jean Quantrill

This group was formed 2 years ago mainly for people who are interested in the what, why and wherefore behind works of art but with little knowledge. We have studied a variety of artists, artistic styles and 'isms'. Currently we are full but I am happy to start a waiting list.

#### Bird Watching - Anne Sherman

After our Spring and Summer programme of visits and our December Lunch (apologies to the Turkey!) we have two meetings planned.

On 07<sup>th</sup> February Colin Bradshaw will be speaking on 'Migration': we all know that many birds travel long distances but perhaps not the 'How' and 'Why'. And on 06<sup>th</sup> March Penny Darmody will be talking about the North Cave Wetlands.

The u3a Lecture on 'The Birds In Your Garden' on 4<sup>th</sup> January will replace the usual Wednesday meeting of the group.

#### Creative Writing – Susan Shaw

Why Write? Creative Writing is an inherently good activity that utilises our imagination and language skills – these are not 'fixed' in our minds and writing develops both. But there are other benefits.

It causes us to reflect on our own lives and experiences and to empathise with others. Concentration and self discipline (necessary qualities for good mental health) are also developed - no writer became rich and famous with a blank page! There are numerous studies that show creative activity of all kinds has considerable psychological benefits that cross age, social class and academic ability.

What do we write? We cover all genres and forms: from the Short Story through to Radio Scripts ; Crime to Travel writing. Pieces are prepared at home then discussed at meetings where all feedback is positive but also suggests how improvements could be made to a piece. Of course it is the writers decision whether or not to accept this advice which leads to stimulating discussions on many aspects of the writing process.

What else do we do? We have been part of Swanland u3a for at least 15 years and have published our writing both in book form and online; have collaborated with a school In Nairobi; featured on local radio and read our work at the AGM. We also enjoy regular social events. If you think you would enjoy the challenge we are open for new members. Susan Shaw

#### French Conversation 4 – Jill Chester

We are eight in all and most have French to at least university level. Meetings consist of a chat about what we have been doing during the preceding month or a book we could recommend - indeed anything we think might be of interest to the members. After tea the monthly leader has prepared something to read, translate and discuss. This could be a newspaper article or perhaps something from the internet.

There are rarely any silences but the conversation never degenerates into a 'melee generale.' The group has been following this pattern for about thirteen years so I assume there are no complaints! Cheers. Jill

#### Italian Self Help - Joan Simpkins

When I retired I decided to learn Italian having spent many holidays in the south of France near the border with Italy and often travelling into Italy where I didn't understand the language. I attended a night class, did a short residential language course in Italy and joined the u3a Italian group which I love.

I am delighted to take over as Convenor for the group, though Daphne will be a hard act to follow. Our morning sessions will continue to be a mix of conversation in Italian, some points of grammar, both revision and new topics, listening to recordings of texts and/or songs in Italian and we shall be reading a short Italian novel. We usually have a good time and enjoy a meal out on occasion.

Our group is well attended and is full at the moment, but visitors are welcome. Looking forward to continuing.

#### Literature 1 - *Linda Ricketts*

We meet on the first Friday of every month at 2.00 at members homes. This limits our numbers, somewhat! We do have a small waiting list but are quite happy with our numbers so far.

We choose the books to read throughout the year at a meeting in the summer. Members submit their recommendations which are then voted on.

We enjoy our lively discussions, which are usually followed by a cup of tea, biscuits and a chat.

#### Longer Walking Group – *Andrew Campbell*

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The walks are around 6 miles in length followed by an optional pub lunch. We are a sociable group and new members are always welcome. Recent walks include Millington, Welton, Goodmanham, Brandsburton and Barrow Haven. A walk with a Christmas lunch is already booked for December. The group will continue in a similar vein with our new convenor / sub-committee as John and Joyce are stepping down.

#### Short Walks Group - *Alison Peck*



On 01<sup>st</sup> November the Short Walks group remembered Keith Sennitt. We were joined by his widow Hilary and their children Claire and Tim, along with Stan the dog, on a walk in North Cave where lots of happy memories were shared. We then enjoyed coffee at Hotham.

#### Swanland u3a Choir - *Brenda Wilson*

u3a choir numbers have been going from strength to strength recently with the arrival of some new members, but we still have room for more singers.

We sing all types of music usually in four parts, soprano, alto, tenor and bass. The choir is directed by Gill Barker who is a very experienced and enthusiastic conductor.

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 3.30 p.m. in St Barnabas Church Hall, following the u3a Thursday talks. We

give concerts during the year including a summer concert at Sewerby Hall, Bridlington and the u3a Christmas Concert. In September we gave a concert at Willerby Methodist Church where the evening was enjoyed by a very appreciative audience.

The choir is a very friendly interest group. It helps if you can read music a bit and, if you're interested to find out what the choir is like, you are very welcome to come along to a practice and give us a try. If you would like any more information you can get in touch with me at [minsec@Swanlandu3a.org.uk](mailto:minsec@Swanlandu3a.org.uk) or on 01482 653175.

#### Swanland u3a Quiz Group - *Phil Walker*

We meet at North Ferriby Social Club, 6 Low St, North Ferriby HU14 3DD at 7.30pm. This is a very comfortable venue with a car park and onstreet parking. There is a bar with hot, soft and alcoholic drinks. Some members have been part of the group for quite a long time but we regularly get new members. Everyone is welcome. People come on their own, in pairs or as a group.

Each month we have a three-round quiz set by the convener or one of the quizees. Some are keen to volunteer but most people just take part. The aim of the quiz is to show our general knowledge but it is a fun quiz where no-one is put on the spot individually. We have lots of chat and laughs along the way.

Many studies have shown the importance to senior members of society that they keep their minds active and also the value of socializing with others.

These qualities are exactly what our group provides. New members rapidly become friends and we all look forward to our next meeting.

Why not come along and give us a try.

You can contact Phil Walker on :

07548 758671 or by email : [philwfromhull@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:philwfromhull@yahoo.co.uk)

However you can just turn up on the second Monday and we can chat then.

Theatregoers – Jean Quantrill

We have one show on our current programme with a February

deadline: 'The Life of Pi' at Hull New Theatre on March 27<sup>th</sup> in the evening.

The Theatregoers group offers the opportunity not only to see a variety of shows from drama, comedy, musicals, ballet etc., but to have a good day out perhaps in Leeds, Sheffield, Scarborough or York. The group has been in existence since 2005 and many friendships have been formed during that time.

There is always room in the Theatregoers group for the princely sum of £2 per year and you are under no obligation to attend all of the events, just pick and choose.

If you would like to join us, please contact Convenor.

Wild Flower Walks - John Bailey

Wild Flower Walks' replaces the Botanic Walking Group name in 2024 at Swanland u3a.

It meets twice or three times a month on a Monday and a Friday from April though to September, members are expected to arrange their own transport to the walk location.

The locations are chosen at a planning meeting held in either February or March where the locations and walk leaders are agreed , the walk leaders are expected to recce the walk before we go. The planned walks will be promulgated on the Swanland u3a website plus information ref the planned walk together with directions will be sent to members by email from the Convenor.

Members are welcome from Swanland u3a or any Accord u3a.

We go to different locations and habitats i.e Marshland, Rivers Meadows, Verges, Quarries looking and identifying and recording the plants which are in flower at that time. In the summer we can spot between 60 and 70 species many are related to plants we have in our own gardens . Knowing or being able to recognise wild flowers will enhance your walks and rambles plus your Birdwatching activities where you will be able to identify what seeds and berries the birds are feeding on;

**Information: What you Need to Know to Keep in Touch**

Interest Group Diary	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Art Appreciation. 10:00am	11	08	14	11	09
Art Appreciation	25	22	28	25	23

Interest Group Diary	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Art – Hands On. 2:00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays After Easter				
Badminton 2:00pm	Most Fridays 2:00pm				
Bird Watching	04	07	06	TBA	TBA
Book Group. 7:30pm	Contact Convenor				
Bridge Mon 2:00pm	8,15, 22,29	5,12, 19,26	4,11, 18,25	8,15, 22,29	6,13, 20,27
Bridge Duplicate	6:30pm Most Sundays				
Bridge Thurs 2.00pm	11, 25	8,22. 29	13	-	14,28
Canasta 1 & 2	(1) Wednesdays 10:00am				
Canasta 2	Fridays 10:00am				
Choir 3:30pm	04,18	1,15	6,20	-	7,21
Creative Writing	17	21	20	17	15
Cribbage (Alena)	02 <sup>nd</sup> and 04 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month 10:00am				
Croquet, April-Sept	Contact Convenor				
Discussion Group	02	06	05	02	07
English Country Dancing	1:45pm – 4:00pm Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday				
English Country Dancing	1:45pm – 4:00pm Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday				
Family History.	10:00am, 01 <sup>st</sup> Friday each month				
French Con 1.	12, 26	9, 23	8, 22	12, 26	10, 24
French Con 2. 10:00am	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month,				



Interest Group Diary	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
French Con 4. 2:00pm	11	08	14	11	09
Gardening Group.	23	27	26	23	28
German Mon. 10:00am	Contact Convenor				
Golf	Fridays once a month contact Convenor				
Greek Conversation 1 & 2	Contact Convenor				
Italian Self-Help	10,24	14,28	13,27	10,24	08,22
Latin Group.	25	22	28	25	23
Latin Improvers. 2:00pm	Contact Convenor				
Literature 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday each month, 2:00pm				
Literature 2	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday each month, 2:00pm				
Local History 1:45 pm	10	14	-	-	13
Luncheon Club	09	13	12	09	14
Mah Jong 2:00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each Month				
Music Appreciation	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month 2:00pm				
Outdoor Sketching 2pm.	Starts April 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays PM				
Play Reading 2:00pm.	23	27	26	23	28
Quiz Group. 7:30pm	08	12	11	08	13
Sat Supper Club. 7.30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday every Month				

Interest Group Diary		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Scrabble Group. 2:00pm		16	20	19	16	21
Singing for Fun. 2:00pm		24	28	27	24	22
Spanish Advanced.	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting Tuesday 09 <sup>th</sup> Jan then every 2 weeks, 2:00 – 4:00pm					
Theatre Visits.	See notice board					
Walking Longer. 9:45am	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays,					
Walking Short, 10:30am	03, 17	07, 21	06,20	03, 17	01, 15	
Wild Swimming	Contact Convenor (erikab@live.co.uk)					
Wild Flower Walks,	April to September - 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month					
Wine appreciation / Tasting. 7:00pm.	Contact Convenor					

### News and Views From Swanland u3a

Thursday Lectures at St Barnabas Church, Main Street, Swanland  
2:00pm to 3:00pm

Date	Subject	Speaker
04 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Birds in Your Garden	Mike Grey
18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	'Tales from the Family Archives' (Reflections on Bees and Bee Keeping)	Wendy Maslin
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Cerrutis	Tina Cerruti
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	'Soap'	John Wilson
7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	'Ghost Writer'	Neil Mann
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Annual General Meeting	Chairman
4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	'The Storm Tossed Lady' (Hornsea Inshore Rescue)	Sue Hickson Marsay

Date	Subject	Speaker
18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	'My Life with Laughs'	Patti Gold
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	'Sammy Chan: The Man Who Put Words into The Mouth of Sinatra'	Stuart Atkins
16 <sup>th</sup> May	The Beeton Family of Hull and Barrow-Larger – Than-Life Eccentric Characters	Paul Mann

*In this news and views section we look at some of activities and interests that our members have enjoyed over the last few months.*

### **National Poetry Day.**

*Our October event was cancelled due to illness but many members have submitted their favourite poem for publication. Ros Green has chosen 'Head, Heart' by Lydia Davies:*  
Head, Heart.

Heart weeps.

Head tries to help heart

Head tells heart how it is again: You will lose the ones you love.

They will all go. But even the earth will go someday.

Heart feels better then.

But the words of the head do not remain long in the ears of the heart.

Heart is so new to this

I want them back says heart.

Head is all heart has

Help head, help heart.

Lydia Davies

*Both Sue Robertson and Paul Chambers opted for 'High Fly' by John Gillespie Magee.*

### High Flight

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth

And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;

Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth

Of sun-split clouds, – and done a hundred things

You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung High  
in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,

I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace Where never  
lark, or ever eagle flew –  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

*Below Paul Chambers has used the first stanza of 'Daffodils' as an inspiration for his own poem, originally written for our Creative Writing Group. JM*

*I wander'd lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills' When, all at once I saw a  
crowd,  
A host of golden daffodils,  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the  
breeze.*

They reminded me of children playing, Running and skipping on  
the village green, I imagine their laughter and shouting,  
And close my eyes on the happy scene.  
I slumber, the breeze blows my hair,  
Wake me from my dream, if you dare.  
Lovers holding hands pass by and make memories, Among the  
daffodils, of stolen kisses, perhaps more. Such things have  
happened for centuries,  
And will continue for evermore.  
Those daffodils, happy in their dance,  
Makes a lovely day, perfect for romance

Paul Chambers – October 2023

*More poems will be published in forthcoming Newsletters*

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**Thanks to Barry Kensett for this article on his flight simulator.**



*It is a very impressive use of I.T. and, to my mind, an outstanding achievement by Barry. We all know that 'getting out of the house' is a good thing but not everyone can go up into their loft and fly to New York! JMI was trained as an aircraft designer and spent a working lifetime in the aircraft industry during*

which time I was involved with a number of flight simulators. After work I continued my interest by attending conferences held by the Royal Aeronautical Society. Commercial flight simulators are multi million pound machines occupying large buildings and to get the most return on investment they are running night and day training new pilots and checking their skills at six monthly intervals. Time could not be afforded for pilots to fly around maintaining their hand flying skills. Some bad accidents revealed the need for a new approach and was a consequence of automation which, although safer than the pilot, needed pilot skills if ever it went wrong. If Sullenberger were not a military pilot he would be unlikely to have the skills to land on the River Hudson

I set out to design and build a simulator for my own enjoyment knowing that this would be one of the biggest challenges I could take on. Very little was available to buy and I built most of the device myself. It is a full size replica of an Airbus A320 cockpit with everything working. It is flown online anywhere in the world and the current weather at location is represented. Live air traffic control is provided by controllers on the ground wishing to hone their skills for professional development.

Word got around about my machine and I was soon getting requests from professional pilots to fly it for practise before their checks and one airline offered me a job which I declined, I was not going to be a performing monkey again. The need for machines like mine was apparent but I was not interested in building them. I was one of three home builders in the country at the time but the commercial development has resulted in a market of similar machines. These are suitable for home use provided one has the space and although cheap in the professional world they still cost tens of thousands of pounds. I usually fly once a week with other pilots on line, we fly similar routes, can see each other and chat. It has become a social tool and was very useful during pandemic. I am currently involved with some school programmes and young enthusiasts will be coming to fly. Barry Kensett.

### **Swanland u3a Visit to Archaeological Dig, June 2023**

This site is located on farmland on the B1230 and has been known since the 17th Century with additional information



gathered from surveys including LIDAR mapping completed by Historic England in 2019. The aim of the project was to establish the character, form and extent of the village, concentrating on the largest House Platform. The site has commanding views and was both the site of a beacon and the

muster point for the 1536 Pilgrimage of Grace, probably the most serious threat that the Tudors faced to their rule. A dozen Swanland u3a members ranging from the mildly curious to the expert braved the summer rain to visit the project.

The dig was classed as a 'Community Dig' rather than one led by academics. The four on-site Directors all had formal archaeological experience but the 'diggers' were amateurs from all age groups and backgrounds - many young teenagers were heavily involved. The diggers camped on the site which meant there had to be a formal Safeguarding structure and rigorous Health and Safety standards applied to arrangements for meals and hygiene. We were surprised to find Compost toilets in use and even more surprised to discover that they were very hygienic as well as being environmentally friendly.

Richard Coates conducted us on a tour of the site explaining LIDAR mapping; how finds were categorised and the often painstaking techniques used to literally dig down into the past. Another structure had been found a few hundred yards from the main site that was thought to have been a small tower. The diggers were excavating stones from the foundation and showed our group how these had been cut to shape by masons from the Tudor era. The puzzle was to establish what function this played in a small community. Margaret Lawrenson, Pat Whittaker and I both looked into the distance to see the Humber then to the north where roads were supposed to have led to the North East and opted for the Tudor equivalent of a toll booth. We won't know the answer until future digs have been concluded!

In true u3a spirit we spent an afternoon learning something new and, as the sun had decided to shine, enjoying some time outdoors in our beautiful East Yorkshire countryside. Many thanks to Edith Johnson for putting us in touch with Richard.

### **Remembrance Of Things Past.**

Malcolm Lawrenson gave an excellent talk in November on

'The Curacoa accident' – a collision between 'R.M.S. Queen Mary' and H.M.S. 'Curacoa with the loss of over 300 lives.

The daughter of a survivor was in the audience and spoke to Malcolm and Margaret Hanson has now contributed a photograph of herself and husband Vin on a Merchant Navy Ship 80km (50miles) from the Curacao coast in the Caribbean Sea. JM



*Swanland u3a and Heritage Centre member Geoff Collier has contributed this article on the connection of Swanland to national historical events. I found it fascinating reading and the first three Paragraphs are a cogent argument for the study of family and local history. JM*

### **English History – The Local View**

Those of us who had to study history at school in the 1950s might be forgiven for thinking that history was just one darned thing after another. The curriculum embodied a tediously long succession of kings and queens who mostly seemed to possess all the same human failings as the rest of us. It struggled to convey a sense of continuity and offered only a superficial understanding of the histories of the common man and woman. We could not see the wood for the trees.

In retirement, however, many of us enthusiastically pursued the increasingly popular activity of exploring our family histories, sometimes within u3a groups. We discovered that this country possesses a rich endowment of historical records, both national and local, which gently led us into the realms of social and local history. Exploring history from a local, rather than a national, standpoint can give an entirely different perspective: from the bottom upwards instead of from the top downwards. We can relate much more readily to a narrative at the local level which includes features with which we are familiar. So it is with Swanland.

There is an astonishing amount to be found. Benjamin Franklin claimed that 'nothing can be certain in life except death and taxes' and, indeed, records of taxation in Swanland go back as far as the twelfth century. Many of the later ones provide detailed local information as to who was around at the time and the value of

their possessions as a basis of taxation. At school, we were taught that one of the reasons for the unpopularity of Charles I was his imposition of the tax known as Ship Money; but study of the records of the Swanland residents required to pay it, and how much they were charged, conveys the reality of the situation so much more vividly.

Similarly, it has been recorded that one of the lords of the manor of Swanland [Sir Gerard Usflete III, died 1420] fought alongside Henry V at Agincourt in 1415 with a retinue of thirty archers and nine lancers. This claim takes on added realism when it is appreciated that these supporters were all drawn from his tenantry in Ousefleet and Swanland and inevitably suffered casualties.

Two hundred years previously however, in the Baron's Revolt of 1215, the then lord of the manor, Eustace de Vescy, witnessed the signing of Magna Carta and was one of the twenty-five barons deputed to ensure its fulfilment.

In 1138, de Vescy's grandfather, Eustace Fitzjohn, (also lord of Swanland) had backed the losing side at the Battle of the Standard, in support of the rebellion against King Stephen. It is claimed by some historians that it was as a penance for this disloyalty that Fitzjohn established the priories at North Ferriby, Malton and Watton. Certainly, he was a great builder. It may well have been he who built Swanland's manorial hall which was sited near the present junction of Queensbury Way and West End.

Nor were these the only confrontations of the Swanland lords with the crown. In 1536, a spontaneous rebellion arose in the northern counties which became known as the Pilgrimage of Grace, protesting against Henry VIII's incursions against the minor monastic houses and, according to a prevailing rumour, potentially against the parish churches of the land. William Stapleton, brother of the lord of Swanland and captain of the East Riding contingent, was eventually pardoned for his part in the uprising, but the Steward of Swanland at the time did not escape the king's vicious retribution. Sir Robert Constable was executed at Hull by being hanged in chains above the Beverley Gate.

All the above events weave the history of our village, Swanland, inextricably into the fabric of the history of the nation.

So, I cannot agree with L P Hartley that 'the past is a foreign country'. It is on our doorsteps.



## **Committee - Convenors Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> November** - Publicity, Publicity, Publicity!

Each Convenor reported on the progress of their group and shared activities that members had enjoyed. There was an important discussion on publicity that included how to use Whats App and Facebook; the content of our posters and when would be the best time to 'blitz' the local Libraries, Halls and Shops not forgetting the village noticeboards!

Convenors were issued with Business Cards to distribute to members. These contain contact details and a summary of what we are about - please give to anyone interested in joining our u3a or leave in your favourite cafe or restaurant.

If you need more please contact me.

The meeting concluded with an excellent Buffet Lunch organised by Patricia Simmonds to which our volunteers were also invited. Notes from this meeting will be circulated to all members.

John Munson

### **The Wider u3a and Community**



Anne Sherman and John Peck representing Swanland u3a at the North Ferriby Village Hall Christmas Fair 25th Nov 23.

Accord: Open Door Policy –  
A Note For Convenors!

If any Group Convenor would like to publicise or advertise for new members from other local u3as, then forward some relevant details to the Secretary, John Peck ([sec23@swanlandu3a.org.uk](mailto:sec23@swanlandu3a.org.uk)). He will arrange to circulate that information to the other u3as that form part of the Accord Consortium. Details should include name of group, name of contact person, frequency of meetings, venue and timing of meetings, any costs involved plus any brief explanation of the group's activities. Although there can be no guarantee that new members will materialise, there is the benefit of spreading the word across a much wider area of East Yorkshire. Some of our Interest Groups have already benefited from this Open Door Policy, and hopefully it will help other Groups to attract new members e.g. Singing For Fun and Wild

Swimming have members from Driffield and Hessele u3a's respectively.

*Thank you to Pauline Dennison for suggesting that we include short items regarding the wider Swanland Community in our Newsletter. Deborah Parry (also a u3a member) has contributed the following articles on the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the Heritage Centre. JM*

### **Swanland Heritage Centre**

The Centre has a growing collection of historic records, memoirs, maps and photographs of Swanland and its surrounding district. These can be viewed both in the Centre and on the website at <https://swanlandheritage.info/index.html>

The Centre will be re-opening, after the winter break, weekly from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 between 10:00 am and 12 noon. Visits, by appointment, can be made any time, including during January and February 2024, by contacting Martin Parry at Tel: 632576 or [mlp@dparry.karoo.co.uk](mailto:mlp@dparry.karoo.co.uk)

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Neighbourhood Watch is active within Swanland. There are about 40 volunteer Street Co-ordinators who normally meet three times a year to review any incidents of crime and to discuss crime prevention measures. A Police Community Support Officer usually attends to answer questions about security and to review the latest crime reports for the South Hunsley area. All are welcome to attend these meetings which are held in the Church Hall at Christ Church. For more information either visit the village website or Contact Deborah Parry.

Residents should be vigilant and report urgent issues or actual crimes in progress to the police by calling 999. For less urgent criminal matters, telephone the free non-emergency number 101. On-line reports of incidents can be made at

<https://www.humberside.police.uk/>.

Deborah Parry, Swanland NHW Coordinator  
01482 632576 [dparry@inbox.com](mailto:dparry@inbox.com)

### **Defibrillators in Swanland**

Did you know that we are lucky enough to have three lifesaving Public Access Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in our village? They were purchased through Yorkshire Ambulance

Service in memory of Jamie Loncaster (13) who died in 2015. Each defibrillator has an assigned guardian who checks them each week and then sends an update to the national database. In an emergency situation, the 999 call handler will give you the access code to the nearest yellow defibrillator cabinet should they consider it of benefit to the patient.

These 24/7 accessible are located at the following places: Copy and paste the What3Words into this website

<https://what3words.com/> to find the defibrillators locations.

‘what3words’ location reference

St. Barnabas Church - /// blinking.onlookers.woods

Swanland Village Hall - /// larger.shining.tasks

Swanland Playing Fields - /// agent.atlas.comment

For more information about how to use the defibrillators that we have in our village, please scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet camera and follow the link to watch a short video.



<https://vimeo.com/91431931>

*Remember: You can't kill someone with an AED, but you might just save their life.*

### **Swanland Village Association**

Swanland Live Events at Swanland Village Hall

#### **Swanland Live**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8:00pm. Stickyfingers – Rolling Stones cover band Tickets £8.00 Licensed bar.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 3:00pm. Catherine Terry - West End Theatre, Cabaret and TV performer gives a presentational talk, ‘A Life Treading the Boards’, followed by afternoon tea. Tickets £10

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 8:00pm. Midnight Flyers, a night of Pure Eagles music. Tickets £8.00

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 8:00pm. Liam Alexander performs a tribute to the Bee Gees and Frankie Valli. Tickets £8.00

Tickets and further information from Christine email [cw@swanlandvillageassociation.info](mailto:cw@swanlandvillageassociation.info)

See our website for the latest information  
[www.swanlandvillageassociation.info](http://www.swanlandvillageassociation.info)



## **Su3a WEBSITE**

<https://www.swanlandu3a.org.uk>



Website



eMail

To update or to add information please email:  
[webadmin@swanlandu3a.org.uk](mailto:webadmin@swanlandu3a.org.uk)



## **Look / Join our Facebook Page:**

[www.facebook.com/SwanlandU3A](http://www.facebook.com/SwanlandU3A)



Swanland u3a Contacts for information and help.

eMail: [info@swanlandu3a.org.uk](mailto:info@swanlandu3a.org.uk)

Committee Telephone No: 07513617720

**Photographs in this newsletter can be viewed larger  
on the website Photo Gallery.**

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The closing deadline for submission of articles for the May 2024 newsletter is 01<sup>st</sup> April 2024, would convenors please send all diary dates for their groups up to and Including Sept 2024 to [newseditor@swanlandu3a.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@swanlandu3a.org.uk). Many thanks.

