

The Newsletter of Anlaby, Willerby and Kirk Ella u3a
Number 83 February/April 2026

CHAIR'S CHAT!



A Happy New Year to you all.

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas. We are now all back to as normal as possible and thinking about holidays maybe. The Christmas afternoon was enjoyable apart from a few hiccups. I can't believe that you had forgotten how to play Pass the Parcel. David Newman won the Christmas Story and Dennis Driver the Poetry with each getting a prize of £10.

Our AWAKE u3a is thinking about what we can do this year regarding events or new groups. If anyone has ideas or suggestions, please let us know. The bingo afternoon went well so I think that could be repeated. We are also looking into helping St Andrew's Memorial Hall raise money towards the update of the hall. So, watch this space.

This Newsletter has a new editor who is Chris Toffolo and she is hoping to take over this task permanently. We also have two new people doing the distribution in Mel Woods and David Lambert. If there are any problems, either with delivering or receiving your newsletters, please contact Mel Woods. You can find his number on the committee list.

We will be having an open afternoon on Wednesday 25th March 1.30 - 3.30pm. If you know of anyone who you think would maybe like to join our u3a please let them know about this date. It is surprising how many people have not heard of the u3a.

Our membership renewals are due after 11th March, see page 14.

Look forward to seeing you all.

Kind regards,

Sue

AWAKE u3a took part in the Beverley Minster Christmas Tree Festival, said to be the largest in the country. Featuring a display of 150 individually decorated, real fir trees, this dazzling event filled the splendid medieval church with sparkle, colour, and the scent of Christmas. The AWAKE u3a tree was adorned with an array of hangings produced by our wonderful Craft Group and was topped with a magnificent star orbited by our u3a's name. This was a promotional hit, with our website attracting more than usual interest over the Christmas period.



The Picklers at Christmas 2025

Events & Dates for your Diary

General Monthly Meeting

All AWAKE u3a members are invited to our general monthly meetings which are held at St Andrew's Memorial Hall, HU10 7QA at 1.45pm for 2.00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The venue is on Beverley Road at the corner of Redlands Drive, opposite the large Willerby car park. Our programme for the next few months is:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 18 th February | "Fred Elwell, Artist" by Val Wise |
| 18 th March | Simon Davies talking about Simple History of Spurn Point |
| 25 th March | Open afternoon (not a monthly meeting) |
| 15 th April | Easter meeting – details to follow |

Your AWAKE u3a Committee

The committee continues to work hard to make AWAKE u3a even better! A list of AWAKE u3a committee members can be found in the latest edition of our "Useful Information" sheet. If you don't have one, please let Sue know and we'll get one to you. Please feel free to approach any committee member with your questions or any suggestions you may have about the running of AWAKE u3a or the wider u3a organisation.

Minutes of our monthly committee meetings can be found on the 'Latest News' page of our website.

Newsletter Distribution

We are grateful to all our members who hand deliver our quarterly newsletter in the HU10 and HU5 postcode areas. However, we are always on the lookout for new members willing to help in this respect. It would involve delivering no more than 10 newsletters in a small geographic area. If you able to help, please contact Mel Woods.

Interest Group News

All groups continue to be active, and details can be found on our website, when you Google 'awakeu3a'. The Mindfulness group and the new Photography group are holding their initial interest meetings over the next couple of weeks. Once details of day, and venue are confirmed I'll send a message round. There has, as yet, not been much interest in a proposed Mah Jong group but the suggestion is still there. It may be possible to start a Line Dancing group, please contact me if interested. There is the possibility for anyone interested in Italian to join the Swanland group. Contact Joyce Knox if you would like more details. If you have any queries about existing groups or have any suggestions for new groups please get in touch with me, Chris Watson.

Here are the reports from our interest groups

Art for Everyone

Hi everyone, a new year brings new opportunities to learn or practice your artistic talents. If you would like to try our friendly group, we meet on the first and third Monday each month. 1.30 to 3.30 pm. We are mixed ability bunch ably assisted by Mary Randell (retired Art teacher). The group is held at the Guide Hut, Main St, Willerby and there is ample parking. If interested, please give me a ring – Denise Roberts

Badminton

We meet Friday afternoons all the year at the Hull and East Riding sports centre on Chanterlands Avenue from 2pm to 3.30.

Members must also become members of the sports club - £30 a year.

We pay £2 each week to cover costs of lights and shuttles.

We do not have teams but play turn and turn about. We are a friendly group and would welcome more players.

Come along and join us! Contact Ann Berriman.

Book Groups

We've had a lazy end to 2025 with having a very light December meeting looking at Christmas Tales and Poems (plus an elf called David!!) For our first meeting of the year at the end of January we are reviewing the first book in Ken Follet's Century Trilogy, 'Fall of Giants' – a very large book that has been difficult to read in bed! Another group is looking at the autobiography of Gertrude Bell and her various travels. We will also be choosing books for the next few months where choices will be many and varied. The Groups meet once a month so if you're interested in joining one of them give me a ring (Chris Watson) and I can answer any queries you may have and let you know what books we are going to be reading. The February and March meetings will be on the 25th and 26th of each month.

Chess Group

We meet as part of the Games group every other week at the Willerby Methodist Church on a Monday from 10am to 12 noon. As a result of our plea for more players we now have around 8 members but still have room for more. If you are interested, please ring Peter Taylor for details.

Coffee and a Stroll

We offer a leisurely 2-mile (approx.) footpath stroll, locally or within a 10-mile radius of Willerby, fortnightly on Sundays at 10.00am. We start from a designated parking area, followed by coffee and chat in a nearby venue. Give it a try. You will be more than welcome. The next scheduled walks are:

March 1st – Ferriby. Parking & Coffee at 'Duke of Cumberland', High St.

March 15th – Anlaby. Parking & Coffee at 'Haltemprice Leisure Centre', Gorton Rd.

March 29th – Hull. Parking & Coffee at 'Coffee Luxe', County Road South.

April 12th – Anlaby. Parking & Coffee at 'Friends Café', Anlaby Common.
April 26th – Hull. Parking & Coffee at 'Springhead Golf Club', Willerby Rd.
May 10th – Hessle. Parking at the 'Hessle Whiting Mill' and Coffee at
'Country Park Inn', Foreshore.

For any further information or issues regarding location or transport etc. please contact Les McPhee.

Computer Group

The computer club is about much more than just computers. We meet at The Beech Tree from 11.00 – 13.00 every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, with 2 or 3 resident 'experts' willing to help and advise on individual problems. This Group is open to all AWAKE members – you don't have to be a member of the Group to make use of it. If you have an IT problem, please just drop into one of our regular meetings for help. All members are welcome. Contact Chris Moody for information.

Craft Group

Happy New Year to you all from the craft group. We had a good turnout for the first meeting of the year. There were plenty of sharing skills and that helped solve challenges for our members and that also included me! It really is a pleasure leading this friendly group as there are a variety of crafts being worked on to give other members encouragement to maybe try something different. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next three meetings which are the 16 February, 16 March and 20 April at Willerby Methodist Church, 2pm-4pm. Contact: Barbara Gardner.

Darts & Dominoes (& Cards) Group This group meets every other Tuesday, 7 – 9 at the Willerby Institute/Library on Main Street. We play Dominoes, and Darts but if you feel like coming to play any card games let me know and you'll be more than welcome. Our next dates are February 10th ,24th , March 10th , 24th and April 7th ,24th . If you're interested in joining the Group or you have any queries please contact Les Holmes for more information.

Digital Photography

The Digital Photography group has been in limbo for some time and Stewart Mawer (previous leader) is keen for it to start again but for this to happen we need someone to volunteer to run the group. Stewart is willing to offer his expertise in both photography and running the group to anyone willing to take on the role. If any ex-members of the group or any new AWAKE members would like to join the group or be willing to be the leader, please contact Stewart.

Family History Group

The Family History Group now meets at The Beech Tree from 11.00 – 13.00 every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. We are a small friendly Group, each working on our own projects, but sharing research hints, tips and pointers with other members. New members are welcome, so if you

have an interest in Family History, either as a beginner or an expert, do come along and join us. You may prefer to work quietly on your own, or you may wish to discuss your family tree problems with other members over a cup of coffee – either way, you will be made very welcome. New members are always welcome.

Chris Moody for information.

Flex and Stretch

Every Monday at St Luke's Church Hall 12.25 – 1.10pm and 1.20 - 2.10pm. Easy exercises do as much or as little as you want. No floor exercises. This group is for ladies and men. Please ring or email if you are interested to see if there are any places. Sue McPhee.

French Conversation Group

We meet at 2.30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays in the month. We begin by translating into English a text which has been previously distributed. We then give our news in French, followed by a general chat in French and English. We have spaces available, so please contact me if you might be interested in joining this friendly group. Michael Ebeling

Guitar Group

The Guitar group meets every Wednesday 10am to 12am. The group has recently changed venues and now meet at St Mark's Church Hall, Anlaby Common, near the junction of Hull Road and Springfield Way.

We play a wide range of music and have chosen the name 'AWAKE to the Beat' to reflect our u3a.

We already have twelve members, and if you are interested in coming to see us and what we do you will be welcome.

For more information call me, Paul Kirk.

Games Group

The Games group meets every Monday morning (excluding bank holidays) 10am -12 in the lounge of Willerby Methodist Church.

The chess group under the leadership of Peter Taylor join with us too as they're a smaller group and they generally meet once a fortnight. The Games that are usually played are Rummikub, Scrabble and Sequence. We do have other Games such as Banana grams, Upwords and we also have a large print Scrabble for anyone of limited sight.

For card Games we possess a holder for anyone who cannot hold their cards. We do try to cater for everyone.

Our group is very welcoming and friendly, and no one would profess to be an expert, we all like to play games for fun and keep our grey matter active. Our age range is from 50 to 95! The cost is £2.50 for the room hire and 50p for a drink and chocolate biscuit. If you want to know any more details contact Jackie Kitchen.

Local History Group

The Local History Group is one of the most popular in AWAKE u3a with a regular attendance of around 40 members. The venue is St. Luke's Church Hall, so there's plenty of room for more! Our monthly meeting is on the third Thursday of each month starting at 2 p.m. (doors open at 1.30). Every meeting features an illustrated talk by an experienced speaker covering a range of diverse topics, all related to the local history of Hull and East Yorkshire.

Our 2026 programme got off to a flying start with award-winning tour guide, Paul Schofield, guiding us around the Hull Fish Trail in his fully illustrated talk. This unique piece of public art includes 41 fish across the city centre, from Anchovy to Zander, taking in the picturesque Old Town and thriving Fruit Market. As always, Paul provided us with an entertaining and informative talk and the afternoon went swimmingly well! This is our programme for the next few months:

19th Feb "Statues of Hull" by Michael Free

19th Mar "Postcards from the Past" by Richard Pearson

16th Apr "History along the Yorkshire Wolds Way" by Francis Davies

Our meetings are open to all members of AWAKE u3a and their guests. Admission is usually £2 to cover hall hire costs, speaker fee, refreshments and a 4-page newsletter. Often the price is less and sometimes it's Free!

If local history is your thing, then this is definitely for you!

New to local history? Then come along and catch the bug – it's highly infectious!! So, if you've not been before why not give us a try! All AWAKE u3a members are welcome!

More information contact the group leader, Francis Davies, or take a look at our webpage: https://awake.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/local-history/

Play Reading

This group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2pm.

Contact: Pauline Park



Residents dancing to the music and singing of the **AWAKE Singers** at the St Mary's care home, Chants Avenue

The Cinema group (1) decided for the second year running to have Christmas lunch at the Bilocca restaurant at the Hull College.



The New Photographic group - Still Life

Barely Awake Ukulele Group



Sunshine Strummers

Quizzing Group

Our Quiz night continues to grow, with many new faces coming to test their knowledge (with varying levels of success!!!!). The good sign is that they come back for the next quiz. If you fancy turning up and seeing if it's for you, give me a ring (Chris Watson) and you'll be more than welcome. You don't need to be in a team as these are sorted out each Quiz, so anybody on their own can just arrive and be warmly welcomed. Our next dates are (Thursdays)

February 19th , March 5th , 19th , April 2nd , 16th , 30th and May 14th , 28th . The Quiz is held at Anlaby Village Hall and starts promptly at 7.30.

NatureWatch

The NatureWatch Group arranges fortnightly visits for members, to various natural locations, as detailed in the Forthcoming Events list below. All the meetings start on Friday mornings at 9.30am at Willerby Square car park (down by the side of Sainsbury's)

We welcome prospective new members, with or without their own transport, and are happy for them to try out a visit to see what they are letting themselves in for.

U3A AWAKE Nature Group outings 2026:

9.1 Blacktoft	<u>Additional dates</u>
23.1 North Cave	23-25.1 Big Bird Count
30.1 Tophill Low	17.7 to 9.8 Big butterfly Count
13.2 Far Ings	
27.2 Burton Woods, Beverley	
13.3 Potteric Carr, Doncaster	
27.3 North Cliffe + North Cave	
10.4 Paull Holme Strays	
24 to 27.4 City nature Challenge details to follow	
8.5 Noddle Hill, Bransholme	
22.5 Hodgeson field / Kilnsea Wetlands + Spurn	

Please let us know by email if you are intending to come with us and whether you need transport. Mark and Celia Beaumont

Photography Group Launches with a Creative First Meeting at Willerby Library.

The first gathering of the relaunched AWAKE U3A Photography Group took place at Willerby Library this month, bringing together eight enthusiastic members for a morning of conversation, creativity, and shared inspiration.

Members spent time getting to know one another, exchanging stories about their photographic interests and experiences. A highlight of the session was the informal sharing of favourite images, everything from travel shots to still life experiments, giving the group a real sense of the diverse styles and perspectives within the room.

The meeting also included a hands-on learning segment focused on still-

life photography. Members explored different approaches to lighting, experimenting with how shadows, highlights, and direction of light can dramatically change the mood and impact of a simple subject. It was a relaxed but genuinely insightful introduction to the kind of practical sessions the group hopes to build on throughout the year.

Looking ahead, the group plans to meet monthly, with the next session scheduled for 27th February at Willerby Library. This month's photo project continues the still-life theme, inviting members to create images featuring keys, fruit, or cutlery—a simple brief with plenty of room for creativity and interpretation.

The group is off to a strong start, and the enthusiasm shown at the first meeting suggests an exciting year of learning, sharing, and photographic exploration lies ahead. Contact: Kevin

Pickleball Group

When AWAKE started Pickleball a few years ago we were the first in Hull. Admittedly, Pickleball does sound rather a silly name. Legend has it that the game earned its title in the US of A when the inventors of the game trained their dog Pickles to fetch the ball from the bushes. So during the game the cry: "Pickles, ball" was common. From such humble undergrowth, Pickleball has sprouted across the globe and now one cannot even go on a cruise without being invited to play Pickleball. In AWAKE we have a group of fun loving of Picklers, welcoming players of every skill level. For more details and contact please check out the u3a Pickleball website (on the AWAKE site) https://awake.u3a.site.uk/u3a_groups/pickleball-monday/
We would love you to join us.

Short Walks

Our walks start at 10.30, are about 3 miles long and are on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. All members of AWAKE u3a, or any local u3a group, are welcome to join us. We socialise afterwards at a local hostelry for a bite to eat, or just a drink and a chat. No need to book, just turn up, but if you have any questions or would like more information, contact Paul Newman.

23rd February - Victoria Dock and Hull Old Town. Flat, all pavements, toilets at Queen Victoria Square. Park at Three Crowns, Plimsoll way (HU9 1PW) where we will socialise.

9th March – Oak Road/River Hull. Generally flat, no toilets. Park at the Oak Road playing fields (HU6 7NG) at the bottom of Beresford Avenue and we will socialise at the Goodfellowship Inn, Cottingham Road (HU5 4AT).

23rd March – Pickering Road Womble. Flat, pavements and grass, not sure about toilets. Park in the car park beside Warners Health Club (HU4 6TG) Pickering Road and we will socialise in their café.

13th April – Melton/River Hull. Generally flat, footpaths, pavements and roads, no toilets. Park at the Sandpiper (HU14 3FQ) off Monks Way East

where we will socialise

27th April – South Cave/ Everthorpe. Generally flat, footpaths, pavements and roads, toilets at café. Park on West End near the West End Café (HU15 2EY) where we will socialise.

11th May – Cottingham Sub Station. Flat, grass and roads, toilets at the pavilion. Pavilion car park (HU16 5QW) off Northgate, Cottingham and we will socialise at the King William IV on Hallgate.

If you have any questions or want further details, please contact Paul Newman.

Singing for Fun

If you like to sing and enjoy meeting people, why not give us a try. We sing all the songs that you will know and remember from your youth. We meet every other Tuesday evening 6.30-8pm at the Anlaby Village Hall. Please come along and give it a try. Sue McPhee.

Spanish

The AWAKE Spanish group meets roughly fortnightly on Monday mornings. Please note that from February onwards the meetings will be held at The Beech Tree, South Ella Way, Anlaby, and will begin at 11am when the pub opens. Turn left inside and head for the far corner. The group offers opportunities for both beginners and improvers to practice Spanish conversation.

The dates for the next few months: February 2nd and 16th, March 2nd and 9th, April 13th and 27th. These dates allow for my being away in February and March, as well as for Easter.

Un saludo cordial, Hazel.

For more information, please contact: Hazel Ward

Stately Homes

Happy New Year to you all. Our December trip to York did not go ahead unfortunately but we're hoping to get there in a couple of months. With this in mind, our January presentation was about Fairfax House prior to our proposed visit. For February we are having a return visit of our popular speaker who brings lots of old items to guess the use of. For March (Thurs 5th) we again have a speaker telling us about the goings-on at Tranby Croft with the Baccarat scandal. April 2nd will hopefully see our visit to Fairfax House in York. If you would like more general information about the group, please do not hesitate to get in touch. (Chris Watson).

Supper Club

We hope to meet every third Friday of the month depending on numbers. If you are interested in joining us, please give me a ring or send an email. Sue McPhee.

Table Tennis

This is a friendly group of all abilities who play together. We meet every second and fourth Thursday at Men in Sheds, First Lane Anlaby from 2pm until 3.30pm. Equipment provided. Please ring if you would like to join us and I can explain about the parking.

Sue McPhee

Tai Chi

The Tai Chi groups focus is on health and wellbeing through movement, we are super friendly groups held on a Monday morning at St Lukes Church, Willerby Road. There are limited spaces available, if you are interested contact via the u3a website, groups section selecting Tai Chi

Ten Pin Bowling Groups

The Monday group meets at 10am at The Hollywood Bowl Kingswood Retail Park, Gibraltar Road, Hull HU7 3DB Bowling costs £7 for two games, car parking is free. New members are always welcome no experience required come and learn a new skill and have fun. Lifts maybe available if required please contact me if you need a lift or any further information.
Steve Clark

The Friday group play at the Superbowl on the lowest level of the Princes Quay Shopping Centre in Hull. We start at 10.15 to allow bus passengers to use their passes after 9.30. We only bowl during school term times and two games cost £8. Shoe hire is free, although most of us use our own flat-soled shoes or trainers. You don't need to bowl each week, just turn up and we will be delighted to see you whenever you can make it. For further information please contact David Newman.

Ukulele Groups

In the lead up to Christmas we entertained the crowd at the Star Inn Willerby for the Christmas light switch on celebration, well over one hundred people joined in. At the general meeting we joined together with all of the u3a musical groups and a good time was had by all, a great way to start Christmas.

We also entertained the residents at St Mary's Chants Ave and The Willerby Wives group, always fun events.

Christmas is also the time we join with The Sunshine strummers and several other ukulele groups from around the area and play at the Albermarle Centre. Gary and Hazel work extremely hard to put on this great event in aid of the Stephen Hughes Foundation and we always have great fun playing a variety of Christmas and other songs. The groups include players of all ages from school-children to old-timers like us.

Barely Awake are starting 2026 with a practice of some old songs and hoping to add some new ones. Anyone interested in joining the group please contact Peter Taylor.

It was an amazing Christmas period for the Sunshine Strummers Ukulele band in our eight performances during the festive season. These

included concerts for the Thursday Forwards and Singing for the Brain Social Groups, Charterhouse and playing alongside five other ukulele groups at The Stephen Hughes Foundation's Charity concert - One Amazing Christmas Strum at the Albemarle Music Centre. We are already receiving bookings for next December!!

In between we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas meal at the Bistro at the Star Inn Willerby, which featured a ukulele quiz and Strum Along session after lunch.

We have started January with a bang with a new Country and Western theme and many new songs to work on for the group. Some of these featured in our first concert of the year with a performance for the Tower Hill Methodist Church Social Group, Hessle, and were well received by the appreciative audience.

With a Valentine's Day concert planned, the group are now working on a 'Love Theme' catalogue of songs and includes numbers such as All My Loving, Love Me Do, Happy Together, That's Amore and Teenager in Love.

The group now has 31 members and meets every Monday at Men in Sheds, Anlaby 2pm - 4pm. New ukulele players are always welcome, and a six-week introductory programme is available for beginners before progressing to join the group. If interested contact us, Gary and Hazel Hughes

Membership Information

As you receive your newsletter as a paper copy your 2026/2027 renewal form is included in the newsletter. Please fully complete the form and return to Gwynneth Carmichael, Membership Secretary.

The full membership fee has been maintained at £15.00. Completed forms for both new and renewal membership together with the appropriate fee, preferably paid by bank credit can be sent to the Membership Secretary from March 11th. Membership cards will be available after April 1st when our membership year commences. If you are a taxpayer, you could assist us by signing the box for GIFT AID. With your help we can reclaim basic rate tax from the government this will help towards running our u3a.

Did you know?..... AWAKE u3a is part of the local u3a ACCORD, an association of all the u3as in our area. This includes Swanland, Cottingham, Hessle and Beverley. We have a reciprocal agreement with all these u3as enabling members to join each other's interest groups, if their home u3a does not run one with their particular interest. There is no obligation to join the neighbouring u3a as a member. So, just type in the other u3a's name in your internet search engine and see what else is on

offer out there!

AWAKE u3a Website

You can find lots more information on our all our AWAKE u3a interest groups on our website. Just type awake.u3asite.uk/groups/ into the search engine of your choice and you will find a wealth of information about our interest groups and much more at your fingertips! Get clicking!!

In My Own Write

Write an article for AWAKEN and win £20! Your article will appear under the title 'IN MY OWN WRITE.' What we are looking for is a reflective, interesting, amusing or opinion piece, rather than a purely informative article. The content can be lighthearted or serious, but it must be suitable for the AWAKEN readership. Your article must be approximately 450 words long (one side of A5). Avoid religion, politics and too many exclamation marks!!! Please include your Name and Membership Number. Contributions should be sent to the Editor.

Co-op Community Support

The secretary of Hornsea & District u3a sent an email requesting support. They have been chosen as one of the local charities that the Co-op will support between November 2025 and October 2026.

Co-op members can choose to support a charity every time they swipe their card when they shop. It costs nothing to do this but raises funding for the charity.

Hornsea & District u3a is part of the @coopuk Local Community Fund. To find out more contact the Hornsea u3a secretary.

Listening to Children Read

Our chairman has been asked by Rachael who along with her friend runs the Ready Steady Read group. This is a Charity group who go into the poorer schools in the Hull area and listen to children read. She is asking if any of our members would be willing to give a little bit of their time to help with this project. No cost would be involved as the police check would be paid for. If you think this would interest you, please get in touch with Rachael (via Sue McPhee) for more information and let her know that you are an AWAKE u3a member.

Next AWAKEN: The deadline for contributions for the next Newsletter is **30 April 2026**

The AWAKEN Team

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Registered Charity Number 1150988 ANLABY WILLERBY AND KIRK ELLA U3A.

The Post Box

The post box is round and red,
It has a tammy on it's head.
Standing there all loud and proud,
Hoping to attract a crowd.
To see the latest knitters attraction,
Their needles again have been in action.
This time for the AWAKE u3a,
Telling you about their Open Day.
An open invitation for you from me,
Why not join me for a cup of tea.
There's lots of interesting things to do,
Come along and meet the crew
Don't forget the date of our Open Day,
Make a point of passing this way.
Make new friends and new things to do.
Your life could be different if only you knew.

Friday 25th March, St Andrew's Memorial Hall 1.30pm until 3.30pm.

