

January
2025



Newsletter

A Celebration of 2024



learning.....laughing.....living

Renewing your Membership.....

- ✚ Due on 1st January 2025
- ✚ Pay at a monthly meeting, bank transfer or by post
- ✚ Pay by bank transfer, cheque or cash. At monthly meetings we will also have a payment card reader for your convenience
- ✚ It is most helpful to our Membership Secretary and our Treasurer if you can pay electronically
- ✚ Please remember to complete and return the Renewal Form (attached to or included with this newsletter) so that your contact details can be checked
- ✚ You will be able to collect your new card from the Membership desk at monthly meetings
- ✚ **Membership for 2025 is £16**

AGM report

Our second AGM took place at the beginning of our October speaker meeting.

A total of 64 members attended the AGM

57 voting papers were received either electronically or by hand = total of 121/231 members = 50.2%. Quorum met.

Lorry, our Chairman, gave her report – a summary of 2023's successes and challenges. She also appealed for more members to play their part, in whatever way they can, towards the running of FWDu3a.

Reports from post-holders and finances were accepted by majority.

Elaine Bloomfield and Phyllis Deer stood down from the Committee. The other Committee members were voted in by majority.

The Resolution to increase the Membership fee to £16 per annum was accepted.

To recognise past and continued service to u3a Phyllis Deer has been made Honorary Presiden.of FWDu3a Attending members approved this.

Your Committee now comprises:

Lorry Greenall	Chairman
Mark Riley	Treasurer + Webmaster
Gill Bridgwater	Membership Secretary
Karen Riley	Groups Co-ordinator + Social Events Team Leader
Karen Woolley	Speaker Co-ordinator
Kate Collins	Governance

As you can see we are working at half-strength which entails more work for everyone. Especially we require a Minutes Secretary. Please consider very carefully if you could step up and help in any way.

We all have different skills that can be utilised, a lot can be done at home in front of your PC or on the phone or getting together to share ideas.

2025 Speaker Meetings

January 3rd From London Firefighter to Author
Russell Webb

February 7th The Wonder of Norway
Joanne Larner

March 7th The History and Development in
Emergency Nursing Care
Gary Jones CBE

April 4th **AGM** – it seems to make sense and make reports more
relevant to hold the AGM earlier in the year rather than October
Followed by Speaker or entertainment

One way you can help FWDu3a is to bring along a friend or neighbour to a monthly meeting and introduce them to the opportunities of being a member.

Please always make sure nobody is left alone – we want to make sure everyone feels welcome. (Imagine how daunting it can be to come into a venue where you know nobody but they all seem to know each other)

Brickbats and bouquets!

At monthly meetings we always have a Suggestion Box (paper and pen included) if you have any thoughts you would like to share but don't want face-to-face

2025 Social Events



Free Range Legs Barn Dance Band (with caller)

15th March 2025 from 7.30pm

Doors open 7.15pm

BRING YOUR OWN NIBBLES!

Please don't forget your drink and glasses

£15 (members) £20 (non-members)

**Tickets go on sale from 6 December from Karen Riley
(01255 761628) (social@fwdu3a.org.uk)**



Get your tickets ordered – our events often sell out

2025 Social Events (more!!)



Summer Coach Trip – 17 May 2025

The National Garden Show, Hylands House, Chelmsford

£25 (members) £30 (non-members)

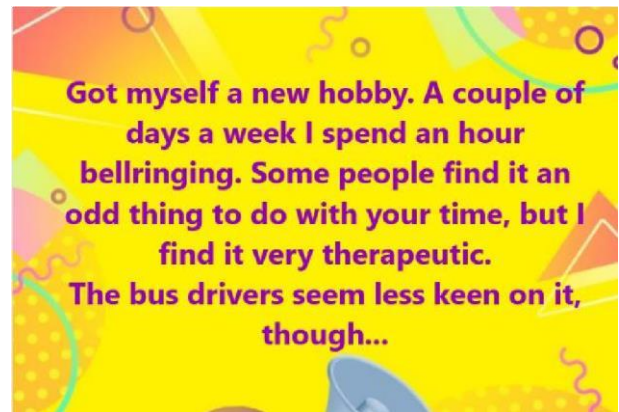
**Tickets go on sale from 6 December from Karen Riley
(01255 761628) (social@fwdu3a.org.uk)**

Later in the year we will have other events

– watch this space

**If you have any ideas for future events please do let us
know – even better if you could help organise!!**

Note: if any member is going on holiday with Riviera Travel, they will donate 10% of the cost to u3a (1% to the Trust, 9% to named local u3a. Please remember us if you are travelling with this company – it will significantly help with our funds



Male reindeers lose their antlers in winter and females don't, so Santa's sleigh is actually pulled by a team of women...
Of course it is.

My dad told me his password is:
MickeyMinnieGoofyDonaldPlutoHuey
LouieDeweyDublin.

Because he was told his password had to contain 8 characters and at least one Capital.

PRO-TIP: Carry binoculars when hiking so when you make frequent stops... it looks like you're appreciating nature and not fighting for air.



**Wishing you a very
Happy Christmas and
a Peaceful New Year**

New Year Resolutions for 2025

Resolution: Keep your mind challenged:

'Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death.' - Albert Einstein

Resolution: Stay connected:

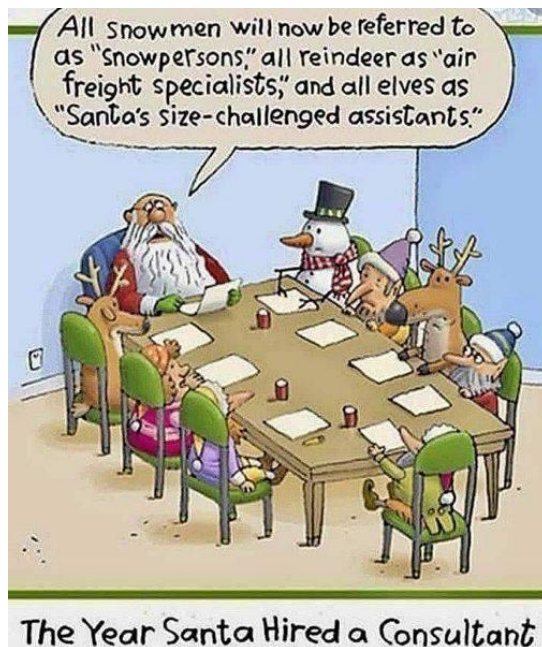
'Friendship is the source of the greatest pleasures, and without friends even the most agreeable pursuits become tedious.' - Thomas Aquinas

Resolution: Enjoy more Laughter:

'Laughter is nothing else but sudden glory arising from some sudden conception of some eminency in ourselves, by comparison with the infirmity of others, or with our own formerly.' - Thomas Hobbes

Learn, Laugh, Live!!

A few bonus “funnies” for email users- well they amused me!



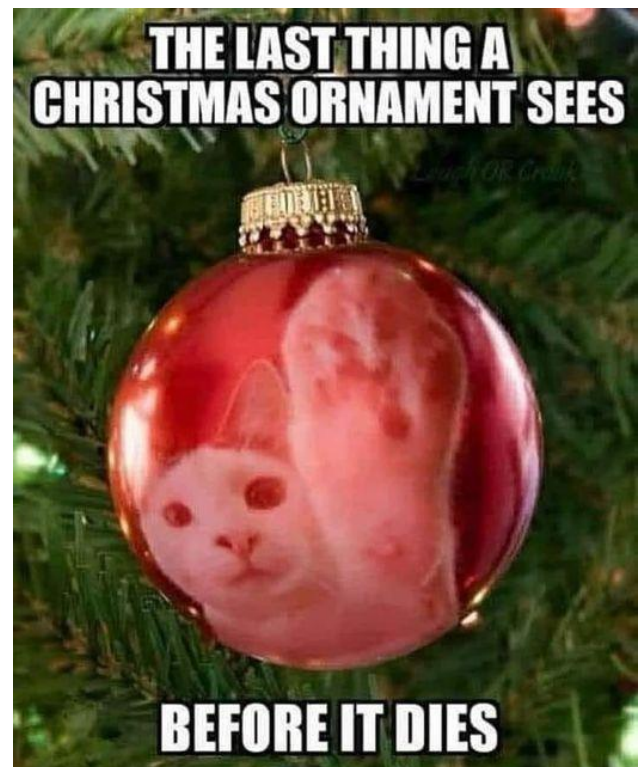
It's been a rough year.



Advent: the 24 days you get to let off steam about the commercialism of Christmas.



I dropped a box of spaghetti on the ground and accidentally graduated from Art School.





"I wouldn't go there, if I was you!!!! It's not been a good day so far."

**The man who fell into
an upholstery machine
is fully recovered.**

***WHEN I WAS A KID CHRISTMAS
TREES LOOKED LIKE THIS ...***



Season's Greetings – ho...ho...ho...ping not to offend anyone