



# u3a

learn, laugh, live

# DEREHAM

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## GROUP NEWS Lunch Group at Christmas

Members of the Lunch Group came together to enjoy their Christmas meal, sharing good conversation, festive spirit and a very enjoyable lunch. A great time was had by all.



## U3A Canasta Group

If you've ever played Rummy, you'll be able to play Canasta. We are a group of friendly people meeting at Toftwood Social Club on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Your only outlay is the membership fee for the club, but this allows you to attend other events at the club or call in for a drink.

Games, generally, consist of teams of 4 playing as pairs. The idea is to reach a score of 10,000 first. When you first join us, we will show you how to play the game.

We also hope you will buy a drink whilst you are playing, as a way of supporting the club.

If you would like to join us, just email [mawkin44@gmail.com](mailto:mawkin44@gmail.com) or [laviniarix@gmail.com](mailto:laviniarix@gmail.com)

Rosemary & Lavinia

## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR DEREHAM U3A MEMBERS

The Committee would like to wish all Dereham U3A members a very happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year. Thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm and friendship throughout the past year. We look forward to another enjoyable year ahead, with a full programme of activities, talks and opportunities to learn, share and socialise together.

### FROM THE CHAIR – Pauline Lowe

This year's Christmas Party was, by all accounts, a great success. The room was full, the conversation flowed, and the festive spirit was very much alive. The entertainment, while perhaps not the star of the afternoon, did provide a memorable talking point and reminded us that the real highlight is always the people we share the afternoon with. Thank you to all who came along and helped make it such an enjoyable celebration.





## For the Curious - 2026

These varied talks are held in Trinity Methodist Church Hall in Theatre Street and are open to all. The meetings start at 2.00pm, last about an hour and are followed by refreshments. They are always on the last Friday of the month.

**In the New year we will be charging £5.00 entrance fee**

Our next talk is as follows:

**January 30<sup>th</sup>: Helen Murray  
Fishermen, Bathers and Beach Folk**

## Local History Group 2026

We meet the third Wednesday afternoon of the month, 2.00 PM at the Baptist Church in Dereham. Doors open at 1.30 PM.

Join us for cup of tea, coffee and biscuits after the meeting.

Cost for the afternoon £5.00.

Our next speaker is:

**21st Jan on Happisburgh  
Lighthouse by Geoffrey Turner.**

Full programme for 2026 can be accessed via our website, groups, local history for by clicking on this **LINK**.

Some friendly requests:

- Please consider helping with serving tea and coffee after our meeting.
- Should 1 or 2 be interested in helping with planning the programme for 2027/ 8, please let Lynette or Margaret know by contacting via their groups page. They would love to hear from you, and it will help greatly to ensure the group continues.

**Thank you all for your ongoing support.**

## HELP NEEDED – Pauline Lowe

You may or may not be aware that I produce this Newsletter every month and I also maintain the website. We are currently looking for someone to take this over as my load is quite full so if there is anyone out there who feels they can take this on and make it their own please get in touch.

**Thank you.**

## JOLLY DAYS OUT



Contact: Trudy Gust/Jan Hayes-Griffin. Email: [jollydaysout@gmail.com](mailto:jollydaysout@gmail.com)

The Jolly Days Out team would like to thank everyone who joined our outings in 2025. We look forward to welcoming members on days out in 2026.

## MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKERS 2026 – MEMORIAL HALL

**Doors open 1:30pm, speaker commences at 2pm**

- **JANUARY 8TH** - Be Scam Aware P C Roger BENTON - Dereham Police Station
- **FEBRUARY 12TH**- Heritage Craft - A Paulus
- **MARCH 12TH** - Renewals / Groups Day
- **APRIL 9TH** - Mary Newton A retired Principle Forensic Scientist -*Rape short word long sentence. Part 2*
- **MAY 14TH** - Norfolk Accident Rescue Service
- **JUNE 11TH** - Paul Isherwood A Storyteller - *Child Gambler Wins Life Back*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MNR Model Railway Exhibition, will be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 21st February from 10am to 4 pm.

### **GROUP CONVENORS MEETING - Jan 31<sup>st</sup> - Trinity Church Hall**

Calling all Group Convenors, a Beacon workshop has been arranged for Group Convenors **only** on Saturday 31st January 2026 at Trinity Church Hall, Theatre Street, Dereham NR19 2EP. Plenty of parking available. Arrive at 9.30am, drinks available, workshop starts at 10am - 12. Lunch available when there will be time for questions and to have the opportunity to raise any group issues arising.

It is hoped that as many of the convenors as possible will attend as it will help to show how the Beacon system is of benefit to our U3A. It will also help for convenors to understand how the groups section can be used.

As has been explained nobody will be forced to use Beacon, even after attending this workshop, but a few more of you may feel more comfortable with its use by understanding the system better. Also, by having an informal get together it is hoped that convenors can share any group issues and learn from each other.

Can you please let Pauline or Jenny know if you wish to attend this workshop.