



u3a learn, laugh, live

February

Great start to 2026 at Hornsea U3A

By Hazel Adamson, Chair of Hornsea & District u3a

January 2026 began with lots of snow, icy conditions and the dilemma of whether to go ahead with the monthly meeting in the Floral Hall. I am so glad we did! I am pleased to say we had 72 brave souls who attended to hear Steve Southcoat tell us about 17c medicine and surgery (see below), and also welcomed five new members. This is very encouraging and follows a trend which began early 2025 when we received new members every month. We are always happy to welcome even more! The snow was beautiful and much to my delight I was able to build a very large snowman! As I write this newsletter on January 10, here in Beeford, we still have a lot of snow on the ground which looks very picturesque, but makes it hard to get around. However with February we can start to feel the year beginning to get into gear, and our imaginations are full of what we're going to do with it. Redecorate, plan a holiday, new clothes etc.....but..... although we're starting to get longer days, it's still winter and cold! Take care when out and about.

February is also an interesting month with Valentines Day on the 14th and Pancake Day on the 17th; so lots of reasons to eat the naughty tidbits.

Hornsea is a buzzing place to live and new families are moving into the area all the time so with that in mind... Do you know Hornsea & District?

How about the Floral Hall

Hornsea Floral Hall, opened in 1913 as a Victorian style cast iron and glass pavilion, and has been a seaside entertainment hub, hosting concerts, dances, and shows, even serving as a WWII community centre and featuring acts like the Bay City Rollers in later decades. In 1946 the dance floor had to be replaced, possibly due to heavy footed soldiers! Improvements continued to be made until 2012 when East Riding of Yorkshire Council announced it would be closing (boo!)

Protests by the local community successfully saved it, buying the premises for just £1. The hall reopened in 2013 on the 7th July and is now run by volunteers forming a community trust. It continues to be a vital part of Hornsea as a venue for music, comedy, cinema, and community events, preserving its significant role in Hornsea's social life. And is where Hornsea & District u3a hold their monthly

meetings together with a speaker and offering refreshments supplied by the Floral Hall café (£1pp)

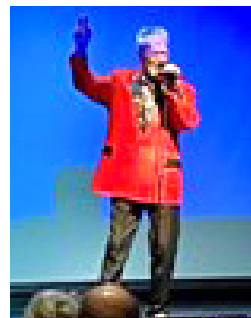
Or from the district Skipsea Castle

The Norman castle at Skipsea, built in about 1086, was a motte & Bailey castle and the residence and administrative centre of the lords of Holderness. William the Conqueror created the lordship of Holderness, a vast area from the Humber estuary to Bridlington. He gave it to Drogo de la Beauvrière, who had fought alongside him at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The king needed a trusted follower there to control the area and the adjacent coastline. Recent research has revealed that the mound at Skipsea, dates from the Iron Age.

Focus on....TED TALKS. These are professionally produced videos of many different topics of interest given by professional speakers. The strap line of TED TALKS is "ideas worth spreading" and we use it to stimulate discussion within the group. The videos last between 10 and 16 minutes on You Tube. We use subtitles. We do not discuss religion or politics because there are so many more other topics to discover. Please see the website for more information: hornsea.u3asite.uk

Recap on December Entertainer:

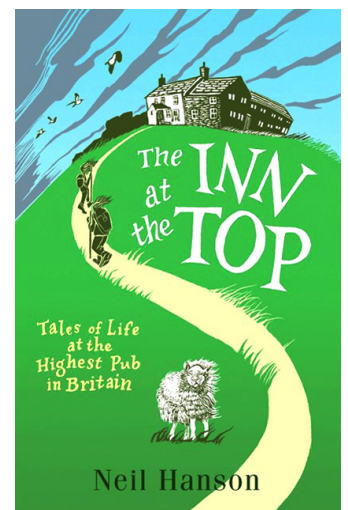
Malcolm Dorsey, singer, who entertained us with his style of music and we had lots of fun as the photos show!



volunteers! There are similarities with modern medicine and surgery allowing for a better awareness today of germs and the materials used in the making of the surgical instruments (of torture!)

Speaker for February:

Neil Hanson. He is an author with 70 books to his name but he is also a ghostwriter for famous people. His talk 'Inn & Out at the Top' is a laugh-a-minute tour of the quirks and foibles, highs and lows of his time running Britain's highest Inn back in the 1970s and 1980s,



A reminder...

Could we ask our membership and anyone who reads this article, to remember Hornsea & District u3a when they shop in the Co-op. We have been nominated by the Co-op as their chosen charity and every time you shop in the Co-op there is the opportunity to enable us to receive funding. This will help us to achieve the many ideas/suggestions we have for 2026. Thank you.

Finally a quote for the month:

"If you can dream it, you can do it." - Walt Disney

Have a great February, whatever your plans, keep warm, and hope to see you soon.

Hazel

Visit our website: hornsea.u3asite.uk



Recap on January Speaker:

Steve Southcoat, who introduced us to 17c medicine and surgery, took us on a journey of the procedures used in that time period, demonstrating on innocent

The next meeting at the Floral Hall is on Tuesday 3rd February with Neil Hanson – author and ghostwriter for famous people. The doors open at 10am and we make a start at 10.30am.

Visit our new website: www.hornsea.u3asite.uk