

GROUCHY GIRLS 2025

January 2025

Get Down with the kids . . . Or not?

The Grouchies gave their views on modern parlance, i.e. slang.

- If a young person refers to you as **GOAT**, be flattered as it stands for '*Greatest of all Time*'
- Careful with **LOL** as it means '*Laugh Out Loud*', not lots of love
- Another compliment is being called **RIZZ** as it means you have *charisma*
- **Hangry** we could identify with, as it means 'hungry and angry'
- I'm thinking **YOLO** could be **our u3a motto**, as it stands for 'You Only Live Once'

New Year Resolutions was an idea most of us gave up on years ago, but Sue has persuaded her husband to get out of his armchair and go to the gym with her - working already as he is feeling more upbeat. Some girls do dry January, and many of us start to de-clutter.

After Christmas local charity shops were refusing to take items - what does that say about unwanted presents! Most of us no longer buy presents for everyone at Christmas, preferring 'Secret Santas', 'children only' and other ideas. Also, we sent and received fewer cards. We felt good not giving in to commercial pressure and making waste.

We have new convenors for our February meeting, and they are threatening to get ideas from *Loose Women* . . . you have been warned!

Maggie Martinez

February 2025

26 of us met at the Willowbrook and put the world back on its axis.

We discussed if we should be concerned about Cyber Terrorism. This was brought up in light of that a 20 year old man in Finland had been one of the instigators of the Southport Riots after the senseless killings of children at a dance studio last year. A lively discussion ensued. Many felt that the news is so depressing they have ceased to watch it. They try not to believe everything they read.

The next issue raised was how can we best protect ourselves especially when just going about our own business. Many said that they didn't venture out after dark anymore and were more vigilant than they use to be. They were cautious at Cash points, avoid Nottingham and other town centres.

Spring cleaning, do we do it and why did we? Mainly in the past to coal fires and condensation in homes, blankets and eiderdowns, rugs ,and freshening up the home. Some still feel that when the warmer weather arrives that the need to decorate takes over. Technology has made keeping houses cleaner easier with energy efficiency and lightweight devices. Many keep 'on top' of the cleaning throughout the year. However its lovely to be able to get the duvets washed and the beds aired and the windows opened and cobwebs cleared. We all reminisced about our mothers doing the 'spring Clean' and many felt that it was the women that did the majority of the work. I'll just leave that in the air and let myself out.

Sheila Munks

September 2025

Who are the Grouchy Girls? They are a lovely group of interesting, fun loving members who struggle to be grouchy!

This month, the subject was **HOLIDAYS**, and, *would you be happy to stay in the U.K.* It was a unanimous '**YES**'; even if it rains. Julie had a wonderful time in Scotland, and it rained every day. We'd reduce our carbon footfall, especially if we used coaches and trains, and there are so many places to visit. We'd be happy to support UK hospitality. Grouchies with dogs say it is easier than going abroad.

Next topic '*the problems of single women travelling alone*'. Some felt less confident, especially if with mobility problems. Alfa holidays do not charge single supplements and Forest Travel do not stop off to pick up passengers. Their holidays included additional trips and evening entertainment- plus cheap drinks. You always learn something useful at Grouchy Girls.

Best and worst holiday experiences: We remember childhood holidays as wonderful, maybe because parents had all the responsibility. The worst holidays were with grumpy teenagers. Sheila had a long and bumpy ride in a station wagon to Rhodesia, S.A. and Deidre had a 23 hour coach trip to Lourdes. Pat had to go to hospital with bites.

Sue and Maggie loved taking their children camping, and Elaine remembered Caister holiday camp, where the cabins had no facilities. A bell was rung in the morning to summons holiday makers to get a cup of tea from an urn on a trolley! Then a mad dash for the communal toilets, but at least her Dad won the Knobbly Knees contest.

I enjoyed convening this group again, as we laughed so much. Unfortunately I promised not to include the most embarrassing memories in this article!

Jennifer and Sheila will welcome new members to this group.

