

u3a news flash

Raising awareness of u3a

Lots of people would really benefit from the friendship and lifelong learning that can come with u3a membership. We are therefore extending a welcome to non-members to join two upcoming u3a Zoom presentations by Alex Cockshott of the Ilkley Civic Society who describes the history behind the blue plaques seen around the town.

When you register for either talk you can invite up to five extra guests, so this is an opportunity to share these with anyone, wherever they live.

[Register here for the first talk](#) which is at 10:30 am 25th February. The second talk is on 25th March and you can register for this later in February.

Ilkley u3a have been chosen to be a 'recruitment pathfinder' for the u3a. This is a trail blazer for best practice to help other u3as remain as vibrant as us despite the challenges facing us all during the pandemic. [Select here](#) to read the first draft of our action plan.

Learning in lockdown

The national body of u3a are running a wide variety of online talks. Angie Grain reports that one on the National Trust was particularly good. The full list and joining instructions [on this link](#).

Dr Hannah Fry explores the mystery of maths as part of the BBC learning at home initiative. Was it invented like a language or is it part of the fabric of the universe which humankind has discovered? If this appeals to you, [here is the link to the series on iPlayer](#).

Do you use Word or Excel computer programs and would like to improve your competence? Barnsley u3a are running a two-hour session every week on Wednesday afternoons for about 16 weeks. This is aimed at those who have some basic knowledge of these packages but would like get more from them. A synopsis of the course content [is available on this link](#). Barnsley u3a extend a welcome to Ilkley u3a members to join this course. Please indicate your interest to David Andrews on 01709 368976 or david.andrews.it@btopenworld.com.

UK Parliament are offering a series of free talks and virtual guided tours around the Palace of Westminster. [More information and booking on this link](#).

Want to know more about hosting a zoom meeting. The national body of u3a are running a series of workshops. [Select here for more information and to book a place](#). A couple of our trustees report they are really helpful.

More changes to the website

We have a picture quiz on our home page which in February features Otley. See if you can find items that look wrong or improbable. [Select here to view](#) and click on the picture to reveal the answers.

[The Ilkley History Scrapbook](#) 1962 to 1966 has now been added.

[The quirky humour page](#) has had even more additions added in the last week.

[Green Tip of the Month](#) for February is to consider your water footprint.

Forthcoming talks and events

[Select here to view more information and to book](#) the following:

10:00 am Tuesday 2nd February: Note the earlier time to join a meeting of the Science and Technology Groups to hear about Carbon Capture techniques.

3:30 pm Thursday 4th February: The art of the Pre-Raphaelites, a group of British Victorian artists whose works seem to divide opinions, with Angie Grain.

10:30 am Tuesday 9th February: This is a fascinating explanation of how the earth started and progressed as a result of movement of tectonic plates. It's aimed at the non-expert so that's probably most of us!

10:30 am Thursday 11th February: u3a member John Rhodes has spent lockdown sorting through his many photographs. This talk is about his time as a government medical officer in Jamaica during the early 1960's.

3:30 pm Thursday 18th February: u3a member Steve Pool explains how Brexit means that the UK is developing a completely new way of supporting the provision of food whilst protecting and enhancing our environment. This is a reprise of a talk given to the Environment Forum.

10:30 am Saturday 20th February: Gaudi's Barcelona presented by Derek Bacon of Barnsley u3a.

Widening the net for more speakers

We already share talks with Barnsley u3a and our schedule will soon see presentations from u3a members in Craven and Newcastle upon Tyne. We have also taken up an offer from one of our members whose son is willing to give up his time to give a talk to us.

We are committed to run talks over the next few months so we have plenty of places to fill. Thinking caps on please! Just reply to this News Flash.

National creative arts competition for older people

The latest round of the King Lear Prize competition is running to 19th March 2021. The competition accepts entries in poetry, real stories (short stories from people's lives), art and musical performance from amateurs and beginners over the age of 65. Over £2,000 of prizes

on offer. The winners will be picked by a panel of expert judges including Gyles Brandreth and Julian Lloyd Webber. [More details here.](#)

Ilkley Tree Trails

U3a members Neil and Sue Stevens have been busy creating another tree trail - Trees in Winter. The trail starts at the Manor House and visits East Holmes Field and the Lido Area. It includes 18 trees selected for features that are recognisable in winter. You can find out more [on this link to the Ilkley Trees website.](#)

And on that note - three tree jokes!

Why don't you see hippos hiding in trees? Because they're really good at it.

What's a tree's favourite radio station? One that plays poplar music.

What did the tree do when its bank closed? It started its own branch.

Stay safe.

John & Christine

[Email NewsFlash@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:EmailNewsFlash@ilkleyu3a.org)

PS. A message from the editor of the EYE

I need your help for contributions to include in our May 2021 edition of the EYE. So please email editor@ilkleyu3a.org if you can help with any of the following topics:

- Your 'one-line thoughts' to be included in a feature about reasons to be cheerful.
- Examples of how you have maintained contact with your u3a groups during the past year and what this has meant to you in these challenging times.

We also want your stories of how individual u3a members have contributed to the community effort during the pandemic.

We're thinking of examples like those who volunteered to support NHS staff, staffing food banks, delivering prescriptions and food to the housebound, or just generally being a good neighbour. Don't be shy in telling us what you've been doing.

We want stories that are uplifting and might inspire others to get involved.

Best wishes

Owen Wells, Editor of the EYE