

## u3a news flash

### Raising awareness of u3a

We are 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 registering for either talk you may invite up to five extra guests who can be anyone, wherever they live. [Register here for the first talk](#) at 10:30 am 25th February. The second talk is on 25th March with registration later this month.

We will be joined by members of Ilkley Civic Society and anyone who registered after seeing coverage in the local media.

### Learning in lockdown

The national body of u3a are running a wide variety of online talks. The full list and joining instructions are [on this link](#).

Caves act as nature's archives by preserving materials which would be destroyed on the surface. Learn more by attending a public lecture at 7:15 pm Thursday 18th February arranged by the Leeds Geological Association. [Details on this link](#).

Gerald Whitely recommends Future Learn courses. [Select here for more details](#). They're free and Gerald says that over the years he's taken and enjoyed a range of courses covering literature, politics, weather forecasting and historical subjects. They're ideal for lockdown since you work at your own pace.

Our local libraries provide many research facilities on line. You can also borrow audio books and books to read on screen. Follow these links: and sign in with your library card details.

[Braford Libraries on line](#)   [Leeds Libraries online](#)

### Did you spot the zebra?

The picture quiz on the website home page features Otley. See if you can find items that look wrong or unlikely. [Select here to view](#) and click on the picture to reveal the answers. Apologies to Neil Stevens for not giving him credit for the picture (and its manipulation) in last News Flash.

### Other website regulars

The first two links below are particularly interesting because they record, through photos and humour, all the challenges of the past 12 months.

[Lockdown photo gallery](#) has more images added. You need to log in to view them.

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

[The Ilkley History Scrapbook](#) now includes 1962 to 1966.

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

We're looking for someone to produce some Household Tips each Month to replace Green Tips from April. [Have a look at this video](#) for some suggested topics. Please reply to this News Flash to volunteer.

## Forthcoming talks and events

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

**3:30 pm Thursday 18th February:** Steve Pool explains how Brexit means the UK is developing a completely new way of supporting the provision of food whilst protecting our environment.

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

**10:30 am Thursday 25th February:** On the trail of Ilkley's blue plaques.

**10:30 am Tuesday 2nd March:** Ulcers, bugs and the Nobel prize presented by Mike Dixon, Emeritus Professor of Gastrointestinal Pathology, University of Leeds.

**3:30 pm Thursday 4th March:** Hill Forts to Gunpowder – the Story of Castles by Robin Leleux.

**3:30 pm Thursday 11th March:** A new u3a members meeting but it might interest anyone who wants to know how an organisation like ours keeps going.

**10:30 am Friday 12th March:** Enjoy meeting with the u3a Poetry Writing group.

## Have you missed any talks?

Many have been recorded. [Select this link](#) and login to see what is available.

## Widening the net for more speakers

Our schedule of talks will soon see presentations from u3a members in Craven and Newcastle upon Tyne. We've also taken up an offer from one of our members whose son is willing to give up his time to talk to us about his work in Artificial Intelligence.

We have committed to run talks over the next few months so we have plenty of places to fill. Have you got a hobby or area of expertise other u3a members might be interested in? [Email John Hancock](#) (or reply to this News Flash) with your contacts and suggestions.

## [Walking in Yorkshire](#)

Select the above link to see a series of walks being promoted by Welcome to Yorkshire Tourism. u3a members have been invited to participate by writing a description of their favourite walk, Email Angie Grain ([angiegrain@aol.com](mailto:angiegrain@aol.com)) who has more information.

**Ilkley Tree Trails:** The trail starts at the Manor House and visits East Holmes Field and the Lido area. It includes 18 trees with features that are recognisable in winter. You can find out more [on this link to the Ilkley Trees website](#).

**National census:** Sunday 21st March 2021 is National Census Day and the Office for National Statistics want to encourage people to complete the census on line. [More details on how this will run on this link](#).

**A benefit of Zoom if you can lip read:** One of our members experimented with lip reading on Zoom by adjusting the settings on her device. If you think this might be helpful, just reply to this news Flash and we can give more details.

**Beautiful snow & ice picture gallery:** Happy to share stunning snow and ice images recently circulated by some members. [Click on the link to enjoy at your leisure](#).

**Some jokes based on our recent weather conditions!**

**How does a snowman get to work? By icicle.**

**What do you call a snowman in the summer? A puddle.**

**What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow.**

**Stay safe.**

**John & Christine**

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

**PS. A message from Geoff Howard who coordinates the u3a Reader Helper project with local primary schools.**

I have made enquiries about the possibility of remote reading support by our volunteers until in-school support becomes possible again. Unfortunately, schools are not in a position at the moment to explore remote support.

However, an excellent voluntary opportunity exists for u3a members to help school pupils disadvantaged by the pandemic. [Select this link to find out more information](#).

**PPS. [Select here to visit Discover Ilkley](#)**

This is a new website just launched. The organisers have commissioned a short two minute promotional film all about Ilkley which has had a favourable response by all who have seen it. [Select here to view](#)