

u3a news flash

Do you live in Addingham?

April's picture quiz is a street scene you may recognise. [Select this link](#) to spot 12 wrong or unlikely items in the image. Even if you identify them all, it's worth checking the answers for some laugh out loud explanations.

To raise awareness of u3a in Addingham, we would like to share this picture with other local residents who might find it fun to check their powers of observation. So please reply to this News Flash with the contact details of any Addingham groups that we can approach to include in newsletters etc.

Do you know someone who likes railway engines?

Please invite them to join our u3a presentation at **3:30 pm Thursday 6th May** when members of the B 17 Steam Locomotive Trust will be talking about their ambition to build a 1930's locomotive from scratch. [Select here](#) to join the meeting yourself and to ask for up to five additional places. Or ask your friends to email talksgroup@ilkleyu3a.org to receive the Zoom links direct.

New for the website: [Memories and Family Histories](#)

You can see a collection of members' memories of family, friends and acquaintances by selecting the above link. We would welcome your contributions on similar themes or a note about how you came to live in the area to add to the page. Please send these by email to memories@ilkleyu3a.org

Ilkley Civic Society Blue Plaque Trail

Part two of the presentation by the Ilkley Civic Society attracted another bumper audience. We estimate that 165 people watched Alex Cockshott's masterclass on the history of Ilkley. Both presentations are available for all to watch on our website. [Select here](#) and look for the Civic Society link.

New members' meeting

Fifteen new members (including one from the south coast of England) joined a few of our trustees on 11th March for an informative, enjoyable presentation and discussion via Zoom. It was a delight to meet so many friendly and supportive new members who were full of suggestions and appreciation for our u3a. We wish them, and all new members, a joyful u3a experience.

Raising awareness of u3a in Otley

Our 'Otley u3a Ambassadors' held their first meeting on 9th March. Thanks to all who participated and for the enthusiasm, proactive attitude and many suggestions, including the possible formation of new interest groups. Watch this space for exciting things to come. Our u3a is too good not to share it with others so we're aiming to publicise it in all our outlying districts.

Gift Aid

If you're a UK tax payer, we hope you'll consider gift aiding your membership fee. At no cost to yourself, we can then reclaim 25% of your annual subscription from HMRC. Check your eligibility by viewing the Gift Aid declaration form [here](#). If you would like to gift aid your subscription, print off the form and email Jean Smith on membership@ilkleyu3a.org to find out where to send the declaration.

A huge thank you to the many members who are already doing this as it helps to maintain the running of our u3a at a lower cost for everyone.

Opera North

As this group doesn't go in the u3a programme, this is your only chance to join. Please contact Clare Heap on 01943 430406 or clareheap@gmail.com.

Clare writes: This is a very small group. We just go to Opera North at the Grand in Leeds and have to pre-book places before the main u3a programme is ready to print. I send out a booking form for anyone who wants to join us. We go mostly on Friday nights and we car share, so drivers are most welcome. You select which operas you want to go to and then I book the tickets and arrange the lifts. We also pre book car parking. It does mean paying up front for the whole season which will start in September.

Forthcoming talks and events

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

3:30 pm Thursday 8th April: A beginner's guide to Artificial Intelligence. Professor Peter Cowling who was persuaded to give up time from his day job by his mum who just happens to be a member of our u3a. Thanks Mum!

3:30 pm Wednesday 14th and 21st April: A two-part explanation of the US Constitution previously given to our friends in Craven u3a. We hear a lot about pleading the 5th amendment and the right to bear arms. This is your chance to understand the background to these and many other issues including the process to elect the President. Only 4 years away!

10:30 am Saturday 17th April: Caravaggio, a Man in Extremis presented by Andrew Bond who is a WestNet member from Bradford u3a.

10:30 am Tuesday 20th April: Iceland Then and Now by long standing member, Pam Harris. Includes pictures of a young woman who many will recognise!

10:30 am Thursday 22nd April: Happy Ever After presented by Catherine Stevenson of Newcastle u3a. A reprise of a talk recommended by a u3a member.

10:30 am Tuesday 27th April. Watching Bumblebees by Maurice White of Craven u3a. A reprise of an acclaimed talk recently given to our friends in Skipton.

10:30 am Thursday 29th April. Looking after Your Wellbeing. Nurses from our local community and mental health trust share advice about keeping active, reducing the risk of falling and techniques for minimising the impact of the worries you may have been prey to over the last year.

Zoom sessions post lockdown

After 12 months, and over 70 events, we expect to stop running these talks and events in June and, fingers crossed, get back to some form of face-to-face normality.

Website links

[Quirky humour](#) has yet more content to lighten your mood.

[Ilkley Archive Scrapbook](#) turns another few pages. This month they cover 1971 including new housing to the west of Victoria Avenue and the removal of the railway embankment at Easby Drive to make way for a new school.

[Memories and Family History](#) the new page for some nostalgia.

[Green Tip of the Month](#) has run its course but can still see the tips on our website by selecting the link. Thanks to Sylvia Durrant who, having read last month's tip recommends Bea Johnson's book, Zero Waste Home. Read more on [this link](#).

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

A man threw milk, cream and butter at me. How dairy!

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity; I can't put it down.

Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.

Stay safe

John & Christine

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

PS. In the last News Flash we asked if there were any graphic designers amongst our membership. Thanks to the three who offered to help who are now all busy designing leaflets and flyers for u3a day and our life after lockdown.

So, having struck gold once, we are going to try again. Is there anyone who would be interested in joining a small group chaired by national trustee Margaret Fiddes? Its remit is to come up with ideas to get the whole of u3a more interested in working digitally. Reply to this News Flash and we will put you in touch.

It could be an interesting assignment and an opportunity for you to find out more about u3a as a national organisation.