

# News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 23.03 2nd February 2023

## Are you an organiser?

Some of us are and some of us don't have a clue.

If you answered 'yes', then we need you to coordinate our Saturday talks programme along with occasions such as Meet the Leaders. There is plenty of support available if you take on this role. For instance, someone else finds and briefs the speaker and books the venue. Your task will be to make sure I's are dotted and T's are crossed. If you're interested, email [chair@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:chair@ilkleyu3a.org) to arrange an informal chat.

## Can you write a story in 300 words?

Of course you can! Our new press and media officer would like to job share. The role involves using contacts within u3a to seek out and write up articles for the local media to improve awareness of u3a. You will need to use Word or similar word processing software. Contact Peter Mate ([petermate2@gmail.com](mailto:petermate2@gmail.com)) for an informal chat.

## Prospective Group Information

**Film production:** One of our more recent members has retired from TV & film production. They would like to contact other members who have worked in the industry and who would like to 'make just one more film'. He has a number of ideas for projects in and around Ilkley.

Email [establishedgroups@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:establishedgroups@ilkleyu3a.org) to express an interest.

## Groups with vacancies

**The Disco Group** is for anyone who enjoys dancing to the music of the 1960s-80s. They meet on alternate Mondays at the Ben Rhydding Scout Hut. [Select here to see some of your friends in action.](#) (Links to our Facebook page). Group information [on this link](#) or email: [peter@workhouses.org.uk](mailto:peter@workhouses.org.uk).

**Peacebuilding:** An opportunity to examine how ideas about peace-making lead to widespread choices and the legacies left by many eminent people. Group starts **Friday 24th February** for six weeks. [Select here for details and to register your interest.](#)

**Ilkley Heroes & Heroines:** The actions of the Ilkley men and women who went to war on the home front or overseas (1939 to 1945) are examined entirely from accounts of their work and exploits in the pages of the Ilkley Gazette. Group starts **Friday 24th February** for six weeks. [Select here for details and to register your interest.](#)

**Otley Circle Dance Group:** Jan Bows, an experienced Circle Dance teacher, has just restarted this group and is welcoming new members. The group meets in the Scout Hut, Burras Lane, Otley between 10.30 and 12 on Thursdays. To find out more contact Jan via [jan.4thway@gmail.com](mailto:jan.4thway@gmail.com). For more information on the Circle Dancing group, [select here](#).

**Otley Sewing Collective** meet at Beech Hill church on first Saturday morning of the month from 11.00 am to 1.00pm and the third Wednesday evening of each month from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

Members bring their own projects to work on and can become involved with the community initiatives we run. Last year we made the bunting for the Queen's Jubilee, ran workshops at Otley Wildlife festival and entered our first Christmas tree competition. We have fabric at reduced prices, haberdashery supplies and sewing machines and overlockers for members to use.

Whether you are an experienced sewer or wanting to learn, [select here for more details including contact information](#).

**Front Room Films** has changed the time of their meetings. They are still held fortnightly on a Monday, but will now be at 6pm rather than at 1:30pm. Watch films at your leisure chosen from subscription-free services, then meet up once a fortnight via Zoom to discuss them. If you are interested in joining contact Jacqui Wellbrook ([jacqui.wellbrook@gmail.com](mailto:jacqui.wellbrook@gmail.com)) or Lee Wellbrook ([lee.wellbrook@gmail.com](mailto:lee.wellbrook@gmail.com)) for further details.

**u3a Online talks** are now promoted on the [home page](#) of our website under "Events". In the next week or two topics covered include "Brain and Behaviour", "Fashion and Sustainability" and "highlights from the Royal Collection of coins and medals". [More information here](#).

## Group news

The following items are all taken from our Facebook pages. If your group has something to share with the wider u3a, just email a few pictures and two or three sentences to Helen Stevens ([helen@saltedit.co.uk](mailto:helen@saltedit.co.uk)). Don't forget to explain to other group members why you are taking the photos in case anyone objects. **Anyone can open the following links.** It's not necessary to have a Facebook account.

**Northern Towns** held a most successful bring your own food picnic at the Ben Rhydding Scout hut on Thursday 19th January. Guest speaker was u3a member Alec Denton who enthralled everyone with the history of Guiseley. [Select here for pictures on the event](#).

**Otley Sewing Collective** recently featured in the local press for helping folk to make their own draught excluders. [Select here to read more](#).

**Science & Technology** welcomed David Blythe from the William Merritt Disabled Living Centre who really opened the eyes of u3a Science & Technology Group. The centre, based in Leeds, takes referrals from NHS and other bodies to assess and support the physical needs of anyone with a disability. This ranges from children needing bespoke buggies to helping adults put on their socks in the morning. [Select here to see images of the presentation](#).

## Group of the Month feature

We are thinking of establishing a group of the month feature on our website. Would anyone be interested in writing perhaps 200 to 300 words per month? We will supply details of group leaders to contact. You just need them to talk and perhaps provide some pictures to illustrate activities or maybe take some photos yourself.

Reply to this News Flash for an informal chat. [Here is an example from when we last ran this feature pre Pandemic.](#)

## Dates for your diaries

**10:30 am Friday 3rd February:** Our next drop in to meet one of our Trustees and fellow members to discuss anything related to u3a. Free refreshments. [Small hall at Clarke Foley.](#)

**10:30 am Friday 10th February:** Drop in at Otley. [Meet at the Otley Core on Orchardgate.](#)

**10 am Saturday 18th February:** The monthly Saturday Talk is titled *The Road to San Francisco. An Ilkley resident's journey across America by bicycle.* [More information on this link.](#)

These talks are free to attend and an ideal opportunity to invite a friend or neighbour so they can find out more about our marvellous organisation. Pictures from the last Saturday talk (Lee Wellbrook with his collection of stringed musical instruments) can be seen [on this link.](#)

## Ilkley Newspaper Archive

The regular updates are now up to 1984. Ex Post Office Union boss became chair of the Ilkley Festival and in this very week that year, Ilkley had 8 inches of snow. [Read more on this link.](#)

Read the full collection [by selecting this link](#) and take a volume from our digital bookcase.

With thanks to Denise Gaines Marsden for these jokes. Keep them coming.

**Q. Did you hear about the platypus that walked into a bar owned by a duck? A. He finished his drink and asked for the check - Duck billed Platypus.**

**Q. What do sheep do when they walk from one side of a field to the other? A. Make a ewe turn.**

**Q. Did you hear about the snack factory that was set on fire? A. It burned down to a crisp**

**I was going to try out archery but decided not to - there are too many drawbacks.**

**You should try darts blindfold - you don't know what you're missing.**

For the latest additions to our cartoon gallery on the website: [Select here](#).  
Started during lockdown and still going strong with more added each month.

Regards

John & Christine

Email: [Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org)


**Last chance. Does anyone want to join an Ilkley u3a Quiz team?** An inter u3a quiz has been running by Zoom at 7pm on the last Wednesday of every month. [Read more here](#). If you would be interested in participating, reply to this News Flash.

**Need physical support to limit the impact of a disability?** David Blythe from the William Merritt Disabled Living Centre, gave an excellent presentation to the Science & Technology Group at their meeting on Wednesday 18th January. So many gadgets to make life easier from putting on your socks, demonstrating stair lifts and opening cans of food. [This website is worth a look](#).

**Reduced price ticket offer to see Nunsense!** A new production at Kings Hall Ilkley by our good friends at the Ilkley amateur Operatic Society. They are offering u3a members a £2 discount on each adult ticket on 2nd, 3rd and 4th March. [Details of the show and booking details on this link](#). Enter code U3A to reduce price from £17 to £15. For those not comfortable with booking online, there is a phone booking facility. Details on the flyer at the bottom of this newsletter.

**Changing your password for u3a website.** A few members have received requests from our website host company (Wild Apricot) to update their passwords. Our webmaster advises you to login as normal, and use the change password facility at the top of the u3a website.

**The national newsletter** for January has just arrived. [Read it here](#).



**Ilkley Amateur Operatic Society**

The King's Hall, Ilkley  
March 2nd and 3rd at 7.15pm  
March 4th at 1.30pm and 6.30pm

# Nunsense!

A Musical Comedy  
Book, Music and Lyrics by  
Dan Goggin

07376 176490  
[www.ilkleyoperatic.co.uk](http://www.ilkleyoperatic.co.uk)  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/ilkley-amateur-operatic-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ilkley-amateur-operatic-society)

This amateur production of NUNSENSE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.  
[www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)