

News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 23.04 15th February 2023

Interest Groups on line

We have just discovered that the Third Age Trust not only provides regular online talks ([see this link](#)) but also runs a series of regular online group meetings. There is long list to choose from. Everything from Astronomy to 3D printing. The full list [can be found here](#).

Has anyone signed up to and attended one of these groups? What were they like? Should we be promoting them alongside our own groups? Any information based upon experience of attending these groups will be appreciated. Just reply to this News Flash.

Group news

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

Introduction to Croquet: Come to Ben Rhydding and learn how to play this fascinating game led by qualified Croquet Association coaches. This very popular course will be running twice this spring, each session over four weeks, Tuesday afternoons beginning 25th April and Thursday afternoons beginning 4th May.

No particular level of fitness is required but each game lasts approx. 45 minutes and you will be standing/walking (and swinging your shoulders!) for this length of time. Cost £30. Places are limited. All communication is by email. Contact cathyobrien52@gmail.com for further details.

Railway Group had an attendance of over 70 when it welcomed a TV star to its meeting on 24th January. Not Michael Portillo! [Read more on this link.](#)

Blues Appreciation Group is now up and running. Meets first Monday of each month at 2 pm. [More information on this link.](#)

Richard Brautigan Novels group. The first meeting will be **2pm Tuesday 14th March** in the back room of Ilkley Weatherspoon's then on the second Tuesday of the month finishing in December. These novels are unconventional in style and content but are easy to read and often can be read in a day. The group will read the ten novels starting with '[A Confederate General from Big Sur](#)' Click on the link to read the first few pages. Other suppliers are available!

To express an interest in joining email newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org

Raising awareness of u3a throughout the district

Our title is Ilkley **and District** u3a. We are now endeavouring to improve the u3a experience for those living beyond Ilkley. The 'Otley Ambassadors' have had great success in their town with new interest groups and more than doubling our local membership.

We would now like to continue our efforts in Addingham and also extend the scheme to Menston and Burley, with more areas possibly still to come. To get involved please e-mail Jean Smith, membership@ilkleyu3a.org

We will be arranging more local Drop In sessions for members across the district. Dates, times and venues will be promoted in News Flash and on our website so please come along for a cuppa and a chat - and bring a non-u3a friend, they will be made very welcome.

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) for an informal chat.

Dates for your diaries

10:30 am Friday 17th 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 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.](#) Remember, you can attend these talks for free. It's an ideal opportunity to invite a friend or neighbour so they can find out more about our marvellous organisation.

6:45 pm for 7 pm start Wednesday 22nd February: Our u3a has entered a team for the regular **inter u3a quiz night** on zoom. We can have up to four in a team and there are three participating so far. If you want to join this team, just reply to this email. [Details of the quiz on this link.](#)

10:15 am Friday 24th February: **Travel back in time.** Our good friends at Ilkley Manor House are recreating a talk on old Ilkley first given by Joseph Pollard in 1893 using the original glass slides and text. [Select here to register for this presentation](#) on zoom by u3a member John Cockshott.

John writes 'We are indebted to Joseph Pollard's family for the text and for the glass slides from which the digital presentation is given'. Makes you wonder what Joseph would make of his presentation being delivered 130 years later via the wonders of the internet.

3 pm Saturday 25th February: **Ilkley in the 1950's** is the subject of another talk on zoom, this time by the Ilkley Civic Society. More information and registration details [on this link.](#)

10 am Saturday 11th March. Astronomy for Beginners with Martin Whillock who is the national subject adviser for u3a. A full days programme with a variety of speakers and held in York. For details and to book [select here](#).

Tuesday 13th June: A **Music Festival** has been organised by the Yorkshire & Humber Region of u3a, taking place in York. The cost is £15 to include refreshments and a buffet lunch. Details, including how to register as performers, [on this link](#).

Ilkley Newspaper Archive

The regular updates are now up to 1984. [Read more on this link](#). Read the full collection [by selecting this link](#) and take a volume from our digital bookcase.

Thanks to Lynne Blackburn for these groan jokes.

*My group leader threw sodium chloride at me. **Oh, that's a salt!***

*My group leader threw some milk at me. **How dairy!***

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

The guy who fell into an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

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

Regards

John & Christine

Email: Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org

Deadlines for copy. News Flash is normally sent on 2nd or 3rd each month (coinciding with month end changes to website content). Then again on 15th or 16th (a mid point in the month and just ahead of the monthly talk). So copy when ready but no later than 4 or 5 days ahead will be ideal.

For Social Media enthusiasts. We know some members like to use Facebook as a way of sharing views, asking questions and generally keeping up to date. Here are a couple of links to national u3a groups that might be of interest. [Keeping in Touch](#). [All about Tech](#). Both are moderated groups that require password access.

Ilkley & District u3a also use [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to communicate. These are open pages that anyone can see. Just select the links above. The variety of content is really worth exploring.

Leeds Year of Culture. Our friends at Otley Court House have asked us to promote some volunteer opportunities which will give you the chance to develop skills around other inspiring, passionate people. No background in culture or the arts required - just a lot of love for making brilliant things happen in Leeds. Select this link for more details. [Volunteer for LEEDS 2023](#). If you do register, use code OTY23.

Audit of u3a group membership data. Group Leaders have recently received a request to verify their group membership records against those held on our u3a records. Your help in responding promptly will help keep our records in good order. Thanks.

Booking u3a equipment. To book projectors, laptops etc, email equipment@ilkleyu3a.org You can see the record of who has booked what and when on the website. [Select here to reach the members page](#) then look for a heading under Equipment: Use and Booking.

Reduced price ticket offers. Nonsense! A new production at Kings Hall Ilkley by Ilkley Amateur Operatic Society. They're 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 the price from £17 to £15. For those who don't like booking online, you can phone 07376 176490.

Finally, just to cheer you up, this from Margaret Barrans

