

News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 23.05 2nd March 2023

Introducing Members' Market Place

A new facility on our website. Share details and hear about items you no longer want or highlight offers and activities that you think other u3a members might want to know about.

You need to be a u3a member and logged into the website to access this. The first two postings are for anyone who might want past copies of Current Archaeology magazine and a 2-for-1 offer for a Radio GaGa Queen Tribute concert at Kings Hall, Ilkley on 14th December 2023.

To read the guidance notes on postings, [login to the website](#) and [select here](#). To view the above offers, [select here](#).

Group news

New Members Meeting: 2 pm Tuesday 14th March. For anyone who has recently joined or who missed going to one earlier. For more information and to register attendance, [select here](#).

Fitness Hub Update: The current fitness hub sessions are continuing for another round of eight weeks. The cost is as before - £24 for the eight weeks. The first sessions of the new round will take place starting on the following dates:

Move Freely - 1pm 7th March

Pilates - 1pm and 2pm 9th March

Silver Spin - 1pm 10th March

If you would like to join, come along to the above sessions. These are at the Ilkley Tennis Club Stourton Rd, Ilkley LS29 9BG. Please arrive early as collecting names and money will take time. Ask at reception for directions.

Please bring a cheque payable to Ilkley & District u3a or cash. We may have access to a card reader but this is not certain. If you would like to join but are unable to attend the first session of the new round of classes, email fitnesshub@ilkleyu3a.org saying which activity you are interested in. You may be able to join at a subsequent session.

Numbers for each session are limited, so we can't guarantee everyone a place.

Pickleball: It's taken a long time and much patience but this group is finally up and running, meeting every Wednesday 2pm – 4pm at the Aireborough Leisure Centre in Guiseley.

The game is played on a small tennis or badminton court but with a lower net. We use a graphite or wooden paddle, about twice the size and weight of a table tennis bat, and a perforated plastic ball. It's a sociable sport so ideal for u3a, as can be seen by how popular it is in some of our neighbouring u3a groups and throughout the organisation.

For more information about our own Pickleball group and to express an interest in joining, email newsgroups@ilkleyu3a.org

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 on Tuesday afternoons beginning 25th April and Thursday afternoons beginning 4th May.

No particular level of fitness is required but each game lasts about 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.

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 2023. These novels are unconventional in style and content but are easy to read and can often be read in a day. The group will read all 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 this group, email newsgroups@ilkleyu3a.org.

Readers Group: A friendly and relaxed group who meet at St Johns Church in Ben Rhydding on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you're interested in sharing and discussing a wide range of books, from classic novel and modern fiction to memoir/biography, this might be for you. A few places available. Details of who to contact [on this link](#).

Singing for pleasure: Cover all types of music, classical, jazz, theatre, folk, sacred and much more. We really love to sing and that is what drives the group. Brian Mason our Musical Director keeps our noses to the grindstone but we have fun too.

35 or so members meet at St. John's Church Hall in Ben Rhydding on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and finish at 12 noon, with a refreshment break, where we do a bit of socialising. New singers (especially tenors) are always needed and made very welcome. For more information about the group including how to register your interest [select here](#).

Come along and support the group at the Regional u3a MusicFest on 13th June. [More details on this link](#).

Online groups via Zoom: Details on one-off national u3a events [on this link](#). But did you know there are also a variety on ongoing study groups. [Read more on this link](#). You can also find details towards the top of the home page on our website.

Does anyone have expertise in copyright issues?

The Archiving Group are planning to put a catalogue of reference material relating to the history of Ilkley and surrounding area on the u3a website. The catalogue is a list of books, maps, pamphlets and other documents from WEA classes and other sources. Some of them are digitised. The group wonder if they need to do more than gain permission from the sources and acknowledge this with thanks on the website. If you have any guidance to offer, based upon experience in this area, please email Ann Thake (annithake@gmail.com).

Raising awareness of u3a throughout the district

Our organisation is called Ilkley **and District** u3a. We are now trying 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 3rd March. Drop in at Clarke Foley to chat about anything u3a related over a cup of coffee.

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

2 pm Tuesday 14th March. **New members meeting.** Even if you're not that new, feel free to find out what makes our u3a thrive. To register attendance and for more information, [select this link](#).

10 am Saturday 18th March. We are delighted to welcome a distinguished resident of Ilkley, Sir Rodney Brooke, for our **Saturday Talk**. Well worth [reading this link](#) which gives you a flavour of his varied career. This could be an ideal opportunity to bring a friend to introduce them to u3a.

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 a performer, [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 taking a volume from our digital bookcase.

Thanks to Lynne Blackburn for these groan jokes

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

*A new café has just opened on the moon. **The food's OK but there's no atmosphere.***

*Why can't you trust atoms? **Because they make up everything.***

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, then it dawned on me.

The Cartoon Gallery

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 items added each month.

Regards

John & Christine

Email: Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org

Deadlines for items for News Flash. News Flash is normally sent out on the 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, we would appreciate items for inclusion as soon as they're ready but no later than 4 or 5 days ahead of these dates.

The latest issue of the national u3a newsletter can be read [on this link](#).

Photo ID required to vote in May local elections. Thanks to postings on our Twitter account we share these links for more information. [Select here](#) for Bradford. [Select here](#) for Leeds.

Updating the masthead on our website. [Select here](#) to see how we now give greater emphasis to our name and have dropped reference to members being of retirement age. Instead we refer to the spare time we have to enjoy the shared experience of being members of u3a.