

# News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 23.12 12th June 2023

## Summer Programme

**Bring a friend to events at Clarke Foley** An ideal way to introduce a friend to u3a. Bring up to two guests at no cost. Free tea or coffee. Just select any of the following links:

**[10 am Tuesday 20th June. Support for Planet Earth.](#)** A series of short presentations and discussion organised by our Saving the Planet Group.

**[10:30 am Tuesday 27th June. The Art of the Album Cover.](#)** From the peak period of LP sales (mid 1960s to early 1980s).

**[2:30 pm. Wednesday 28th June. African Children in Peril](#)** Brian Waller, a member of our u3a, will give a presentation and lead a discussion about the predicament of young children in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**[Visit Harrogate Monday 26th June.](#)** Local pickup points. Just £16 including morning coffee, guided tour and transport. **[Details here](#)**

**[Singing for Pleasure Tuesday 4th July.](#)** An opportunity to experience what it is like to sing in a choir. **[Details here.](#)**

**[Voyagers coach trip Wednesday 12th July](#)** An all-day visit to Sheffield Cutlers' Hall and Renishaw Hall. **[Select here for details and to book.](#)** **Bookings close Monday 26th June.** If we do not reach minimum numbers, the trip will be cancelled. We need another 10 to run this trip.

**[Select here to see the full event list.](#)** Once you've read the brief descriptions, click on the links for more information and to book. Some are running out of places so you know what to do!

## NOT going to renew of your membership for 2023 / 2024?

Email **[membership@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:membership@ilkleyu3a.org)** to tell us and please, if you feel able, give us a reason. By telling us now, we can stop reminder emails being sent unnecessarily. Thank you.

## Our Showcase event

This annual event, previously known as 'Meet the Leaders' will be at Clarke Foley **10:30 am to 1 pm Saturday 1st July.** **[Read our press release here.](#)**

Introduce a friend to u3a, discover new groups to join, pick up a copy of the EYE, find opportunities to help manage our u3a, meet up with old friends. A really sociable occasion, with free tea, coffee and biscuits! We look forward to seeing you there.

## U3a Fitness Hub

These popular sessions at Ilkley Tennis Club are continuing to a 4th Series starting on 11th July. Select these links for more information and to book a place:

[Fitness Hub Move Freely, starting 1 pm 11th July](#)

[Fitness Hub Pilates 1, starting 1 pm 13th July](#)

[Fitness Hub Pilates 2, starting 2 pm 13th July](#)

[Fitness Hub Silver Spin, starting 1 pm 14th July](#)

Our arrangement with the Tennis Club is changing and more information will be available at the [u3a Showcase event on July 1st 10.30 - 1pm in the Clarke Foley.](#)

## Short Courses

**Hand Build Pottery** Following the success of our first short course on family history, Sara Calothis has offered to run a taster six session course on hand build pottery from her home in Ben Rhydding. [Select here for more information](#) on course content and details of how to express an interest. Although responses are required by 10th July, if demand is overwhelming, we will close registrations earlier.

To express an interest in running your own short course, [select this link](#) which takes you to a new page on the website.

## New groups

**Motorbike 2.** Our existing motorbike group ([see this link for details](#)) has been running for a number of years and is unable to take new members. There are only so many bikers you can organise safely as a group on the open road. So time to start a second group. If this is of interest, probably riding on different days to the existing group, contact Mike Hogg (email [hoggie1959@live.co.uk](mailto:hoggie1959@live.co.uk)). Please include your phone number, details of the bike you normally ride and any days that you would prefer not to ride.

**Films on the Edge** has just started meeting in the Bar T'at Pub at 2pm on the fourth Monday of the Month. **Next meeting 2 pm Monday 26th June.** [Select here to read more](#) and to express an interest in joining. This group views films of various genres which are not mainstream Hollywood such as The Coen Brothers, Danish Films, Quirky English Films, etc. The films are viewed at home and discussed at our monthly meetings. Anybody can suggest a genre of their choosing.

**Reader Helpers** Until the onset of the pandemic, our u3a had a project for members to help develop children's reading by listening to them read aloud in local primary / preparatory schools. Sadly the pandemic stopped the project from March 2020 to September of last year when it re-started with about half the number of schools and volunteers that there had been previously.

Two of the original schools wish to start again in September and so a number of Reader Helper vacancies are now available. If interested please contact Geoff Howard ([ghoward44@outlook.com](mailto:ghoward44@outlook.com)) to find out what is involved. All have found this so rewarding.

**Leisurely Lunches, Practical Gardening, Bus Pass & Poetry Reading.** These groups are all making progress. [Further information on this link.](#)

**Solo Whist.** If you are interested or would like information about this card game, please contact [newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org). If enough members show an interest, a meeting will be arranged.

## Members' Market Place

Login to the website, [select here to visit the Market Place](#) to read about:

- Free printer ink for LxTek - both colour - 546 XL

To contact a member directly, click on their name on the post.

## Diary Dates

**Friday Drop-in sessions 10:30 am 16th June** at Clarke Foley and **10:30 am 30th June** at the Hub (above the library) in Addingham. An opportunity to discuss all things related to u3a with a member of the management team, book events on our summer programme and renew your subscription until July 2024.

**Saturday Talk** at **10am Saturday 17th June**. Marg Greenwood talks about her experiences discovering some of the lesser known Scottish Islands. [Much more information on this link.](#) The book of the talk will be on sale at reduced prices so please bring cash or your cheque book.

**u3a walking cricket on TV.** Apparently the schedule changed at the last minute. The broadcast on BBC One Show is now **7 pm Tuesday 20th June**.

## A further opportunity to learn about and spot bumble bees

Mentioned in the last News Flash, join Clare Heap, and other members of u3a, as they walk across three fields just beyond Grassington recording which kind of 25 varieties of bumble bee you can spot. It's all part of a survey organised by the [Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#) and takes about 90 minutes. There is no set date for the visits so there is flexibility about what suits those who wish to take part. To join Clare and help her complete the survey, call her on 01943 430406 or email your contact details to [clareheap@gmail.com](mailto:clareheap@gmail.com).

## Ilkley Newspaper Archive

The latest edition ([select here](#)) takes us into 1986 and includes Concorde arriving at Leeds Bradford Airport and the publication of a book about our local railway by one of our own members (Bill Smith).

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

## Mathematical groan out loud jokes

Q: How do you stay warm in an empty room? A: Go stand in the corner—it's always 90 degrees.

Q: Are monsters good at math? A: No, unless you Count Dracula.

Q: Why should you wear glasses during math class? A: They say it improves division.

Q: What did the mermaid wear to math class? A: An algae-bra.

Regards

John & Christine

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

**Want to win afternoon tea at Bettys?** Look for the prize draw on the back page in the EYE. Available to pick up in Clarke Foley, the Core in Otley and numerous other locations throughout the area. [Select here to read the online version.](#)

**The latest Newsletter from Clarke Foley.** This will be of interest to all those who visit the centre. This month it features our forthcoming Showcase. [Select this link to read online.](#)

**From the latest issue of TAM (Third Age Matters).** Our u3a features twice. Jo Peters as winner of the national poetry competition and our motorbike group celebrating 10 years on the road. Images here.



## Home

by Jo Peters, Ilkley & District u3a

*When I walked to get the Saturday paper I found  
a nest blown out of the hedge by last night's gale  
lying there small but undamaged on the path.*

*The paper had a COP 27 special. On the front page  
was the earth seen from space with its cloud wisps  
circling soft white over the blue of its roundness.*

*The nest so circular too, wispy sheep's wool woven  
into the complexity of its making, swirling round it,  
and smoothing that cup for eggs just two inches wide.*

*'Last chance', the caption for the earth picture. How come  
its most evolved creatures are so destructive, so blind  
to the balance, the delicate circularity of its systems?*

*We of the fiddling fingers, clever opposable thumbs,  
who, given the hundreds of items for a goldfinches' nest,  
and a hundred years, could no more have constructed  
this circular cradle than we could spin straw into gold.*

# Riders rev-el in adventure

Motorcycle enthusiasts revive their passion for two-wheeled machines at regular catch-ups and on 200-mile overnight jaunts. *By Joanne Smith*

**N**orman Jones was thinking of selling his little-used motorbike when he was encouraged by his wife to set up a group at Ilkley & District u3a in West Yorkshire. The following month, seven riders set off for the east coast and the adventures began.

More than 10 years later, the group is flourishing. Membership is restricted to 20 and outings are limited to about a dozen riders for safety reasons. With a growing waiting list, a similar group was formed at nearby Craven u3a in Skipton.

Ilkley Motorbike Group meets twice a month to ride in the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District, sometimes covering up to 200 miles. They also enjoy overnight trips to Scotland and Wales.

Norman, who rides a 320cc Yamaha, says: "There is a wide variety of motorbikes, from large-capacity multi-cylinder machines to lower-capacity lightweight models. The larger bikes do not have much advantage on the often twisting and narrow lanes that we use.

"Safety is an issue and the group is lucky in having several members of the Institute of Advanced Motoring, which tends to set a good standard. Ride-outs are planned and led on a rota basis."

The group includes regular bikers and those who tend to only get in the saddle on mass outings.

John Lovel, 73, has been biking since he was 18 and is on his fourth Triumph Street Triple. He stopped riding while raising a family but has been a member of the Ilkley group for 11 years.

John, who has also owned a Mobyette, the Honda models CB200, CB350 and CB550 K3, a Honda VFR and BSA Bantam, says: "I took the precaution of getting my advanced riding certificate on returning to biking in my late 50s. I learned a lot. We ride safely but have fun."

Keith Ruddock's 1974 Honda CD175 was bought brand new by his father, who used it to commute from Keighley to

*“All of the magic instantly came back”*

Halifax fire station before passing it down to Keith in 1976.

Keith says the machine was "seriously neglected" when he was a teen and left languishing at his parents' house for 10 years until he began its restoration and used it to commute from 1988 to 2015.

Fellow member Fred Lee passed his motorbike test when he was 16 and now has five two-wheeled machines, including an old BMW and a Yamaha.

He says: "All are different to ride, which is much of the pleasure. Last year, I rode the North Coast 500 for charity with support from the group members."



Above: The Ilkley & District u3a Motorbike Group. Left: Geoff's 1953 BSA Bantam

Paul Hodgson became hooked on motorcycles when he took a friend's BSA Bantam for a spin at the age of 14. He later bought the bike – despite his parents' misgivings – but quit riding at 17.

He recalls: "In my early 50s, I rode a friend's off-road bike around a field and all of the magic instantly came back. I'm enjoying my biking more than ever, undertaking at least one European trip each year."

Geoff Beardsley bought a 1953 BSA Bantam for £15 just two weeks before his 16th birthday and pushed it nine miles home to Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

He says he was "overwhelmed by the acceleration, speed, and power" when he finally ventured out at 6am on the morning he turned 16 in March 1961. He says: "I have never looked back."

Norman adds: "I would recommend any u3a member with a motorbike to start a group. There are no fees to pay, just plan a route once in a while and turn up for a day's biking and chatting with a group of like-minded people.

"The oldest member of the group is 85 and I have a job keeping up with him!"