

News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 23.16 3rd August 2023

Reduced price gym membership for our members

Our relationship with the Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club gym is now entering a new phase. Building on the success of Silver Spin, Move Freely and Pilates classes, members of Ilkley & District u3a have the opportunity to become a member of the gym at a reduced rate from 1st September.

The special membership subscription rate is £30 a month for an initial six month period. This is for use of the facilities during their 'off peak' hours of 10 am to 4 pm, 7 days a week. This rate is almost 50% off the regular rate for adult members.

For more information [Select this link.](#) It will take you to our new Fitness Hub Group page on the website where we explain the full range of facilities available at this state-of-the-art facility.

To receive details on how to join email Richard Bell (richardwbell@btinternet.com) and he will update you after 14th August.

U3a members are also invited to our special launch event at the club from 5pm Friday 1st September. There will be a free savoury buffet with soft drinks, and a cash bar. This is an opportunity to see the extensive facilities of the gym and sign up for membership. [Register on this link.](#)

Short Courses

An encouraging response to our list of short courses. To find out more about organising a short course, [select this link](#). We look forward to hearing from you. Here is the current list:

Living Well in the 3rd Age currently has a few places left. Six sessions of two hours, meeting weekly at 10am from Friday 8th September upstairs at the Labour Rooms, Walkergate, Otley, LS21 1EZ. [Select here for more information and to book.](#)

Ilkley in the Second World War at 2 pm from Thursday 26th October for 7 weeks. Just buy a drink at the venue. For more information and to register, [select here.](#)

Peacebuilding 2 pm Friday 27th October for 7 weeks. Just buy a drink at the venue. For more information and to register, [select here.](#)

When a course is full, you can still register to join a waiting list. You then get priority to book if these courses are ever repeated at a future date. The following are full at the moment:

[Addingham in the Middle Ages](#)
[Rediscovering William Morris](#)

Group News

Trad Climbing Andrew Drury is wondering if there are other experienced u3a climbers interested in climbing in the Ilkley and surrounding area. The intention is to meet fortnightly (at least initially) on Mondays (?) but much depends on the preferences of those interested in joining!

This would be a group for experienced climbers, not people wishing to learn. Members will need to be competent trad climbers capable of leading VDiff routes and managing walk-ins of up to an hour. Members will need helmet, harness, suitable footwear and at least a partial rack.

As is normal for climbers attending group activities, there will be a disclaimer to sign provided by the British Mountaineering Council. This is to the effect that they acknowledge that it's a potentially dangerous activity and that they are responsible for their own safety.

If interested, please email Andrew Drury on Andrew.drury@outlook.com

(For the avoidance of doubt. I am assured that the target audience for this announcement will understand everything printed above. Grammatical errors do creep in every so often but not here!)

The Richard Brautigan Novels Reading group Richard Brautigan was a 20th century American poet and novelist. [Select here for more information](#). Next meeting is 2 pm Tuesday 8th August in the back room of the Lister Arms (Wetherspoons) in Ilkley when the group will discuss 'Willard and His Bowling Trophies. We hope to see new faces on 8th August.

Please contact Rob Nicholls (trebor@phonecoop.coop) for more details.

Solo whist group. The next meeting of this new group is 2 pm Thursday 10th August at the Red Lion, Burley. To express an interest in joining, please email newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org

Ancestry group. There will be a start-up meeting 2 pm Wednesday 6th September at the Red Lion, Burley. We are mindful that we may need to run two groups, one for those with a good deal of experience and one for those just getting started. To express an interest in attending this exploratory meeting, email newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org giving an indication if you feel you are a relative novice or an experienced researcher.

Practical Gardening group. Further details will be announced shortly. If you would like to be updated on plans for the group, please contact Lorelie Fox (foxylorelie@gmail.com)

Members' Market Place

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

- Cycle carriers and Atera Signo roof rack available for sale.
- Tapestry weaving bobbins, made at Morley Shed for their funds

Also, worth looking at earlier postings because they might still be available. To visit the Market Place without waiting for News Flash, just look under the News tab on the website.

Website changes

Following changes at Twitter, we can no longer show our daily postings on the home page of our website. However we now display the postings from our Facebook page. Anyone can view. You do not need a Facebook account. Lots of interesting and relevant content (not just about u3a. On a mobile phone, just scroll down. On a tablet or larger screen, look on the left side panel.

Did you have trouble renewing your subscription?

If so, we would like to like to find out why and to receive your suggestions about how we can make online payments easier. Please reply to this News Flash giving your thoughts. If easier to talk about it, give a phone number and a convenient time to call so we can have a chat. We want to improve the process but can only do that based upon what our members tell us. Thank you.

Are you pleased you joined u3a?

We all know personal recommendations go a long way when deciding to see a play, employ a decorator or go for a meal. Much the same applies when joining an organisation like u3a.

We would like to give some personal testimonies on our website and social media posts that might encourage others to join. Please reply to this News Flash with a sentence or two. We will only publish your first name and rough location (Otley, Silsden, Ilkley etc.). For inspiration, [select here to read a poem](#) about u3a by Denise Marsden.

Diary Dates

Drop-in An opportunity to chat to a member of the committee and other experienced members about u3a. Next sessions **10:30 am Friday 4th August** Clarke Foley and **10:30 am Friday 11th August** at the Core in Otley.

If you have experience that you think will be valuable in running an organisation like ours with 1,800 members and getting on for 140 different groups and activities, we really do need to hear from you. If you can't make the drop-in but want to talk about volunteering, then email info@ilkleyu3a.org.

Sir Rodney Brooke at the Saturday Talk 10am Saturday 19th August. Part two of a fascinating talk. Sir Rodney explains how he was appointed Chief Executive of Westminster City Council and saw its Leader, Dame Shirley Porter, surcharged £42.5m. He left Westminster in a blaze of publicity with the national press camped out on his Ilkley lawn. He also explains his part in Mrs Thatcher's downfall. [Details on this link.](#)

u3a at the Burley summer festival [Details on this link.](#) Come along and say hello. If able to help at the event email membership@ilkleyu3a.org.

Fitness Hub launch event 5 pm Friday 1st September. Ilkley tennis club. Free snacks and see the facilities now available to our members at a special off peak rate. [Register here.](#)

WestNet Quiz 6 pm for 6:30 pm Thursday 7th September at Gargrave Village Hall BD23 3PT. Pie & peas supper. £5. [Booking details here.](#) Although Skipton (Craven) u3a no longer offer reciprocal membership, it's good to see them fully involved in other WestNet activities. There is life beyond Ilkley & District!

Ed Sheeran tribute concert 7 pm Wednesday 20th September. A fund raising concert at Clarke Foley. Full details and booking information [on this link.](#)

Pages from the Ilkley Gazette Archive

Turning the pages of the scrapbook, we are now up to 1987. [Select here.](#) Did you know that Ilkley Railway station was the last in the country to be lit by gas lamps? This edition records when they were turned off for the last time.

Just for Fun

Introducing the Internet Detective. From time to time the Internet Detective will set a puzzle that involves researching the Internet in order to find the answer to a topical question. Your first challenge is to answer the question: Who owns the Ilkley Gazette? [Select here for the answer](#)

A man orders fish and chips in a café. When it arrives, he calls over the waiter.

Customer: Has this fish been cooked?

Waiter: Certainly sir. Why do you ask?

Customer: Well, it's eaten half my chips!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Nobel. Nobel who? No bell, that's why I knocked!

Regards

John & Christine

Email: Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org

The Alzheimer's Society Wellbeing Cafe have been in touch to ask if we are able to support their work by providing entertainment at their venue in Clarke Foley. Maybe an opportunity for one of our music groups? Please [select this link](#) to read their letter. Email Jean McCrickard (jmcc1596@yahoo.co.uk) or phone her 01943 608655.

A reminder about Associate Membership With so much happening in our u3a, it's not surprising that members of other local u3a groups want to join some of our activities. Now they can join us as an Associate Member for just £10 a year whilst retaining membership of their own u3a. So if you have friends who may be interested, [here is the link that gives more information.](#)

Last call to renew your subscription. On 1st August we wrote to just over 300 members who have not yet renewed their subscription. If not intending to renew please email membership@ilkleyu3a.org so we do not keep chasing. If you feel able to share why you are not renewing, that will also be helpful.

The latest edition of the national newsletter [Select this link to read.](#)