

News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 23.23 14th November 2023

Joining the Management Committee

We can take nominations to join our management committee of Trustees right up to the AGM. So, if you're still thinking about it, please email chair@ilkleyu3a.org and our Jacqui Wellbrook, will be pleased to hear from you. You can get an idea of the range of the different, interesting jobs that are available to suit different skills by [selecting this link to our website](#) and logging in.

New Group News

Family History The next **beginners group is on Thursday, 16th November** at the Red Lion Burley, 2-4 pm. The next meeting for the **experienced group will be Monday, 24th January** at the Red Lion Burley, 2-4 pm. New members are welcome to either group, particularly if you attended the start-up meeting. Email newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org for more information.

Film Discussion Group This is a very popular group and it's full, with 9 people on the waiting list. So, we are planning to start a second group run on similar lines. We're holding a meeting to discuss when, where and how often we should meet. If you're interested in finding out more, and possibly joining, come along to the drop-in meeting in the Clarke Foley Centre in Ilkley on Friday 17th November at 10.30am. You can read how the current group works by [selecting this link to our website](#).

Sing Sea Shanties...in landlocked Ilkley! [Select here](#) to see a super video of a similar group in Hayling Island u3a. Their success and enthusiasm has inspired Jeannie Caunce to form a new group and already over 20 members have responded wanting to join. Always room for a few more, especially from our gentlemen members.

The group will be meeting fortnightly, starting on Monday 15th January, 2-4pm at the Baptist Church on Kings Road, just a few minutes' walk from the centre of town. Good car parking too! The cost will be determined by numbers. Please contact Jeannie Caunce (jeanniccaunce@gmail.com) for more information and to express an interest in joining the group.

Potential Group

Folk music from around the world Dates, times and frequency to be determined. If this of interest to you, please email Rob Nicholls (trebor@phoncoop.coop). Rob hopes to start the group in the New Year and welcomes suggestions on format, convenient times to meet etc.

Short Courses

Getting more from your Smart Phone and Tablet Possible dates for this short course are 10:30 am to 12:30 pm Tuesday 16th / 23rd /30th January. If you have a smart phone or tablet, can switch it on and link to WIFI but want to be able to do so much more than answer calls and read emails, this is the course for you. We hope to confirm details in next News Flash.

Already mastered much of this technology? Please help out at one or more of these sessions. Nothing onerous but the more members we have able to show apps and techniques in a 'one to one' environment on the day, the more members we can accommodate on the course. Please email John Hancock. octopuss@btinternet.com

We know that some members would like assistance with more basic skills. So, we're hoping to get some help from specialist agencies and will update everyone in due course.

The novels of Lawrence Durrell Think of this as a book club dedicated to the four novels of the Alexandria Quartet and the five novels of the Avignon Quintet. So a book a month for nine months starting in March 2024. If you're interested, please write to shortcourses@ilkleyu3a.org indicating the days / times of the week that you can't attend.

The Pottery Course Now completed but some great memories for those able to take part. [Select here](#) to read more and see pictures of what was produced. (Opens our Facebook page.)

Refugees and Asylum Seekers [Bookings now open on this link.](#) A new short course starts weekly on Fridays from 2pm to 4pm, starting 5th January 2024 and finishing on 16th February 2024. The venue is the Flying Duck in Church Street Ilkley. The course is free but you will be expected to buy a drink from the bar.

The course will cover this complex issue which has caused polarisation in a fractured world. In the UK, the right to seek safety from war and persecution is being undermined. Offering sanctuary should be at the core of the approach to helping refugees. If you're interested, or want to understand more about the course material, contact Richard Thackrah richardthackrah222@gmail.com or on 01943 831032.

Aquacise in Ben Rhydding Several years ago one of our members ran a series of water-based exercise classes in the private members pool at [Audley Cleveland](#). We're in the early stages of discussion to run these classes again under the guidance of their instructor. An early expression of interest would help us gauge demand. Please email shortcourses@ilkleyu3a.org. Probably weekly sessions on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon for 40 minutes plus 10 minutes swim and a likely cost of £30 to £35 for six sessions.

On line courses

A full list of online courses (provided by Third Age Trust) can be found [on this link.](#)

A wide range of topics including 'When Art and Literature Meet at Christmastide'. The presenter gave us a wonderful talk during lockdown so this is bound to be worth your time if the subject matter appeals.

Suggested courses looking for someone to take the lead

- The Novels of Rose Tremain
- Esoteric or Unusual Music
- Classical Music
- Latin American Novels
- World Mythology
- Theology versus Politics

If you're interested in any of these subjects and fancy starting up an interest group, please write to newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org and someone will get back in touch to help you get started. If you have your own ideas for other courses, just complete the details on this form. [Select here to open.](#)

Is your group organising a Christmas lunch?

Photos Please send yours (with permission) to Helen Stevens (helen@saltedit.co.uk) along with a three-line report that includes the name of the venue. We will then use these on our social media postings and, by linking to the social media accounts of the venue, help spread awareness of u3a throughout the district.

Cracker jokes Send your best ones to newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org. The more groan worthy the better. Take a vote on each one and send the best.

Table centres A kind offer from Pam Harris (olicanapam@gmail.com). Voyagers are making saucers full of oasis with a candle in the middle surrounded by Christmas trinkets and greenery for table decorations. They're happy to let any other group borrow them after their own lunch on Tuesday 12th December.

Diary Dates

Drop-in Plus 10:30 am Friday 17th November at Clarke Foley. This will also be the place to express an interest in joining a second Film Discussion Group. [See details here.](#)

AGM 10 am Saturday 18th November at All Saints Church Ilkley. You should already have received formal notification by email, or by post if you're not on the internet. [Select here for more information.](#)

Meet for coffee in Otley 10 am Monday 27th November. [Details here](#)

Christmas Concert 10 am Tuesday 5th December St. John's Church, Ben Rhydding when our Singing for Pleasure group will be joined by Trans Pennine Harps for a wide range of music, both carols and secular, with opportunities for audience participation and refreshments. [Select here for more information](#)

Christmas Cracker 10 am Saturday 16th December. The arrangements for this event are slightly different this year. This will be a member only event (no guests) with a limit of 80 registrations. The main entertainment is The Daytones Barbershop Choir with a slot for a few poems and carols and mulled wine/mince pies. There will be a bucket collection for St Martins Hospice so remember to bring cash. [Register attendance by selecting this link.](#)

u3a National Festival due to be held in York from **18th to 20th July 2024.** A huge event drawing delegates and events from u3a groups across the UK. [More details on this link.](#) Bookings open soon.

YAHR Summer School 31st July to 3rd August 2024. Booking now open. More information on the YAHR website. [Select here.](#)

Members' Market Place

Log in then [select here to visit the Market Place](#) to see latest postings. These include:

- Charity Rock & Roll concert by u3a member band. **This Saturday 18th November.**
- Canon Printer Inks.

The Ilkley Gazette scrap book

In the latest edition we reach 1992. Roman altar altercation inside All Saints Church and electrification of the Wharfedale Line. Our own u3a member Bill Smith will have fond memories stirred in this edition as it features the publication of his book on local railway history. [Select here to read all about it.](#)

Cookridge & Horsforth u3a have joined WestNet.

Visit their website ([select here](#)) to see the range of groups and activities that are now open to our members, subject to the usual proviso of space being available. Learn more about the reciprocal arrangements between u3a groups that are members on WestNet by [selecting here](#). So our own groups may possibly be approached by members of Cookridge & Horsforth.

Some circus jokes

Q. What do you call an elephant the circus doesn't need anymore? A. Irrelephant.

Q. How do you start a flea circus? A. You have to start from scratch.

My friend did the human cannonball act at the circus. They never replaced him when he retired. They couldn't find anyone else of the same calibre.

Regards

John & Christine

Email: Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org

An audit of group information on the website Thanks to the 41 Group Leaders who have already responded and updated their records. **If the other 70 can respond by 18th November**, that will be really helpful and save the website team from chasing replies.

Last year we identified more than 20 people regularly attending group meetings who had simply not paid their £15 u3a subscription. Not on purpose. Just forgetful! So, it's an important exercise to undertake.

Why are you glad you joined u3a? Back in September we asked for personal testimonies to use on our website and social media posts. Personal recommendations go a long way when deciding to see a play, employ a decorator or go for a meal and much the same applies when joining an organisation like u3a. We will simply say 'Peter from Ilkley' and quote whatever you may want to write. So far only three members have written something.

Last call folks! Your opportunity to make a small difference. Please email two or three short sentences to newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org.

Do you listen to podcasts? [Select here to listen to the latest u3a podcast](#). Next month the podcast features one of our own members taking on the role as one of the regular reporters. Yes, there are all sorts of opportunities to do something different when you're a member of u3a.

Organ recitals at St. Margaret's Church Ilkley Members might like to know these free concerts are held at 12:30 pm on the first Friday of each month. [More information on this link](#).

Stop Press: Prize Draw Winners

The draw in the EYE closed on 31st October. The winner was drawn by the Ilkley Town Crier at the bandstand on the Grove in Ilkley last Saturday. Congratulations to u3a member Karen Bearder who wins afternoon tea for two at Bettys. [Select this link to view a video](#) of the Town Crier.

The cry about u3a was composed by member Denise Marsden. Also thanks to members who turned out to support on the day. We hope to get local press coverage shortly.