



Issue 23.25 14th December 2023

Buddy scheme to share interests or hobbies

Help support those in the Bradford district who are lonely, isolated or lacking opportunities or confidence. [Details of the scheme on this link.](#) Or contact Sheila Brett on 01274 391190. Sheila will also be at our special Drop-in Plus at Clarke Foley on Friday 19th January to answer questions over a cup of coffee.

If you could improve any aspect of u3a, what would it be?

We really want your suggestions. Either email info@ilkleyu3a.org, or, if you would rather not be identified, just write to Ilkley & District u3a c/o Clarke Foley, Cunliffe Road, Ilkley, LS20 9DZ. To save yourself a postage stamp, our letterbox is at the foot of the stairs, near the toilets.

New Group News

Spanish Book Club If you enjoy speaking and reading Spanish, why not join a Spanish Book Group? Choose a Spanish language book to read and then meet up for a cup of tea and a chat about whether we enjoyed the book or not. The venue will be the Group Leader's house in Ilkley. If you're interested or want more details please contact newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org

French for Beginners 2 Our six French groups are full so we are starting a second French for Beginners group. This will follow the same lines as our original French for Beginners group and work through 'Beginner French Workbook'. Members will need to buy this. It's available as a paperback for £7.99 and written by Imane Diouri.

If you're interested in joining, come along to the Drop-in Plus meeting in the Clarke Foley Centre in Ilkley on **Friday December 15th at 10.30am**. We'll discuss when, where and how often the group meets. If you're unable to attend this meeting but would like to join the group, email newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org

Family History (Experienced Membership) The next meeting for the experienced group will be **2 to 4 pm. Friday 5th January** at the Red Lion in Burley. New members are welcome, particularly if you attended the start-up meeting. Email newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org for more information.
Note this is a change of date from that published previously

Potential Groups

Folk Music from Around the World 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. Over a dozen expressed interest when promoted in News Flash earlier this month so it looks as if this might be another really successful group.

Short Courses

Get More from Your Smart Phone and Tablet [Bookings now open on this link](#). Please read the criteria carefully. There will be four sessions at 10:30 am to 12:30 pm on **Tuesday 16th / 23rd /30th January and 6th February** at Abbeyfield, a short walk behind the bandstand on The Grove, in Ilkley. Note there is no parking on site.

Are you a competent user of Amazon Fire Tablets? Then please email John Hancock (octopuss@btinternet.com) to offer support for one to one tuition on the above dates.

Share your passion for a topic. But without the commitment of running a full time group. Email shortcourses@ilkleyu3a.org and someone will be in touch to support you in getting organised.

Existing Group News

Quiz Online. This group has been running for a few months and completes in an online pub style quiz once per month with other u3a teams. We are now able to enter a second team to the quiz and so would welcome the opportunity to increase the number of members involved. A warning. It is surprisingly addictive. [More details on this link](#). NB Quiz night is 7 pm on the last Wednesday of each month.

Book Review Group. Welcome new members. Unlike most book review groups they do not read a set book, but members read what we want, fact or fiction, and review at the next meeting. An excellent way to find new authors to appreciate. The group meets every 4 to 6 weeks at the Red Lion, Burley in Wharfedale on a Monday from 2pm. [Contact details on this link](#).

Fitness Hub. Our partnership with the fitness centre at Ilkley Tennis Club is now well established with further courses planned for the New Year. [Select here to read a newsletter](#) recently sent to members of this group. Yoga and an extra session of Pilates has been added to the core offering. To find out more and make contact with the coordinator, [select this link](#).

Increasing awareness of u3a

Please send photos of your group's Christmas party or any other group activity (with permission) to Helen Stevens (helen@saltedit.co.uk) along with a three-line report that includes the name of the venue and other key data. We will then use these on our social media postings. Linking to the social media accounts of the venue helps spread awareness of u3a throughout the district.

Here are some examples received in the past few days. Note these open on our Facebook page where anyone can view. Just ignore any message that asks you to join FB unless you want to!

Travel Group. Recently returned from a short break in Edinburgh. [Select this link to read more](#).

Walking for Fitness. Held their Christmas party on 6th December, [Select this link for pictures](#).

Decorated Christmas trees by u3a. Part of the festival at Otley Parish Church. The tree decorated by the [u3a Otley Sewing Collective](#) came second in a visitor vote as their favourite. [Select here to view](#).

Christmas Concert by our Singing for Pleasure Group at St Johns Church in Ben Rhydding on Tuesday 5th December. ([Select here to view pictures](#))

New content on our website

Our News and Publications page has a new look. [Select here to see how it is improved.](#)

Testimonials from our members [Select here to read them.](#)

The Ilkley Gazette scrap book reaches 1995. Always an interesting read. [Select this link to read the whole collection.](#)

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

- 5 litre screw top water containers, useful for camping etc.
- Aire Valley Arts Christmas Exhibition 9th to 17th December at Castle Yard Ilkley
- A plea for assistance in helping at Oxfam shops in Otley and Ilkley.
- A member looking for advise on purchasing a harmonium
- A computer keyboard looking for a new home.

Diary Dates

Drop-in Plus 10:30am Friday 15th December at Clarke Foley when there is also an opportunity to meet with others who want to start a new French for Beginners Group. [Select here for details.](#)

Christmas Cracker 10 am Saturday 16th December. 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 Martin House Hospice so remember to bring cash. [Register attendance by selecting this link.](#) Spare places now quite limited.

Walking for Fitness Christmas Party cracker jokes

What goes Whoosh, Ho Ho, Whoosh? **Santa going through a revolving door**

Where do snowmen go to dance? **A snowball**

What to reindeer hang on their Christmas trees? **Horn-aments**

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? **Stick with me and we'll go places**

Season's greetings

John & Christine

Email: Newsflash@ikleyu3a.org

u3a national poetry completion closes on 26th January 2024. [Select here for details.](#)

Clarke Foley financial appeal. You may have read the front page story in the local paper about the financial plight facing Clarke Foley. They're launching an appeal for members of the community to become friends of the centre. [Select here to read more about this initiative](#) and how you can help.

Warm spaces. [Select here](#) for Bradford and District. [Select here](#) for venues in Otley

Why do people wait until January to keep fit? An interesting article on the BBC News website. [Select here to read.](#) If you are one of those who wait until January to think about fitness, now is a good time to look at what our u3a offers. [Select here to visit our Fitness Hub.](#)