

News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 24.02 17th January 2024

The latest short 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 Tuesday 19th March in The Flying Duck Pub on Church Street in Ilkley.

Meetings start at 2pm and expect to last until 3:30 pm. No charge but members are expected to buy a drink or two in the pub! If you're interested, write to shortcourses@ilkleyu3a.org. Bookings open shortly via our website.

Fancy running your own short course? [Select here for guidance.](#)

Advance notice of the summer programme

We are delighted that Angie Grain has volunteered to organise the summer programme for 2024, running from mid-June through to the end of August.

This is an opportunity to organise an event that will showcase your group. Or maybe you have a passion for a topic that you would like to share with others just for a few hours. To get all this organised, Angie needs to receive offers to run events as soon as possible, but by no later than the end of March.

Further details shortly but in the meantime, write to summerprogramme@ilkleyu3a.org and someone will be in touch to answer any questions you may have.

On line courses

A reminder that the Third Age Trust (our parent body) runs regular online courses and presentations. Everything from Air Fryer recipes to David Hockney. [Details on this link.](#)

Improve your use of WORD. Our good friends at Barnsley u3a are running another online course aimed at those who regularly use Word but want to understand more about its capabilities for a wide range of tasks. Rather short notice but the six week course starts tomorrow (18th January) from 0945 to ~1200. Just use this link and indicate to course leader David that you are from Ilkley & District u3a. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87886354626>

Any questions, contact David Andrews (01226 654798) or email him david.andrews.it2@gmail.com

Existing Group News

Tai Chi group. The group, is in need of an experienced practitioner to lead the group sessions. If you know of anyone within or outside of u3a who might fit the bill, contact Liz whose details can be found on the group information page. ([Select this link](#)).

Walk to lunch group Christmas Party details as listed on our Facebook page. [See this link](#).

Motorbike group A Post-Christmas lunch. [See this link](#). This group is so popular, we have started up a second group. [Details here](#).

Please keep submitting photos and brief explanations of any group activity to Helen Stevens for our social media accounts. Her email is helen@saltedit.co.uk

Otley Sewing Collective. Read all about their surprise final window in their advent calendar. [Select here](#) to read the story on our Facebook page. Interested about the group? [Select here to find out more](#).

Book Review Group. Welcomes new members. Unlike most book review groups they do not read a set book, but members read what they 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](#).

Disco Dancing. Fond memories of disco dancing in times gone by but now only at the occasional wedding or party? Want some enjoyable light exercise to some great music? The Disco 1960s-80s group will be back on the floor at **2pm on a Monday**. New members welcome for a trial session. [More details here](#).

Walking Cricket. A really interesting article submitted to our Facebook page. [Use this link](#) to read all about a member of the group who is a retired psychiatric nurse and therefore understands the importance of good mental health. She says walking cricket helps with hers. A lesson for us all.

Quiz online. We are now going to enter a second 4 person team to this monthly completion with other u3a groups throughout the UK. [Learn more about the group on this link](#). Expressions of interest to be a reserve team player very welcome.

Do you enjoy chatting to people about u3a?

We would love you to join our 'Welcoming Team, a group of volunteer members who take on the role of 'Welcomer' whenever they attend events such as Saturday talks, Christmas Cracker, AGM etc. Generally these are held on the 3rd Saturday each month at Clarke Foley.

Whenever you are available for an event, arrive a little early and greet our members, looking out especially for new members or those arriving alone and chat to them, give directions and most of all give a welcoming smile! It is very satisfying and much appreciated by our members.

Please email membership@ilkleyu3a.org and Jean Smith will be pleased to hear from you and answer any questions.

New content on our website

The contact us page updated. Now shows image of Clarke Foley that reflects their new signage and a change of title from Community Centre to Community Hub. [See this link](#).

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

Diary Dates

Drop-in 10:30am Friday 19th January when there is also an opportunity to meet with Sheila Brett to discuss how you can 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.

Saturday Talk 10 am Saturday 20th January. History of British Aircraft Corporation. [More details on this link.](#)

Meet for coffee in Otley 10 am Monday 22nd January. [More information here.](#)

u3a festival at York 18th to 20th July. [Latest update here](#)

YAHR Summer School 22nd to 25th July. [Details here](#)

Do you have password trouble trying to access our website?

You are not alone. We use a software package and have no control over the criteria they set for passwords. However, we do know they check the following when choosing your own password.

- Must be a minimum of 12 characters, containing at least one capital letter and one lower case letter. In addition there must be at least one digit and at least one special character.
- The special character list is quite restrictive. They only recognise: #?!@\$%^&*-

One member suggests using a favourite address from their past that no one else is likely to guess. So Harold Steptoe might use **26aOilDrumLane?** That caters for the character and digit list. All you then need is to remember a special character to add into the mix. Usual advice applies. Do not write it down, do not share and change regularly.

Thanks to Denise Marsden, Alan Breese and Diane Hirst for these

What did they call a portly knight, in medieval times? **Sir Cumference.**

Why did the students eat their homework? **The professor told them it was a piece of cake.**

Which jam is the most disappointing? **Traffic.**

Who invented fire? **Some bright spark**

What did the policeman say to his tummy? **You're under a vest**

Apparently owls can't mate when it's raining. **It's too wet to woo**

Best wishes

John & Christine

Email: Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org

Did you miss News Flash on 1st January? We know that fewer opened the last News Flash than normal, probably because of the festivities. [Select here to read a back copy](#), especially the New Year message from our Chair and a warning about dodgy emails that have been received by our members in recent weeks.

Thinking of not renewing your u3a subscription in the summer? Please tell us by emailing membership@ilkleyu3a.org. If you feel able to do so, also give us a reason. By telling us now, we can stop communications being sent unnecessarily. And it might also give us a chance to remedy any concerns you may have.

Have you tried the Artificial Intelligence program Chat GPT? We asked it for the benefits of joining u3a. Here is the response:

Joining the University of the Third Age (U3A) can offer several benefits, including intellectual stimulation, social interaction, skill development, and a sense of community among older adults. U3A provides a platform for lifelong learning, allowing members to engage in various courses, activities, and events tailored to their interests and abilities. It fosters personal growth and a supportive environment for individuals in their later years.

Not a bad summary for a computer program!

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.](#)