

News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 24.04 15th February 2024

Our membership now exceeds 2,000

Something to celebrate! Read about our 2,000th member and how we marked the occasion by [selecting this link](#) to our press report. If you want to know why we are encouraging more people to join our wonderful organisation, [select this link](#) to read again the New Year message from our chair. We are expecting the story to be in both the Ilkley Gazette and Wharfedale Observer tomorrow (Thursday 15th February)

The latest short courses

Indoor bowling taster session in Otley 1:30 pm Wednesday 20th March is now available to book. Open members of u3a and their friends. [Select here for information and registration.](#)

Introduction to Croquet this annual four-week course costs £30 and is led by qualified croquet coaches. The course will take place on consecutive **Thursday afternoons 2pm to 4pm, 18th April to 9th May** at the Ben Rhydding Sports Club, Coutances Way, LS29 8AW.

You will need to be able to walk unaided around the croquet lawn (28 x 35 yards) two or three times over the two-hour period, with rests and a tea break mid-session. You will also need flat closed-toe shoes and a waterproof hip length jacket as play continues in the rain.

All other equipment is provided and participants are well supported throughout these sociable sessions. **Only a few places left.** If you're interested, please contact Penny Clark by email at penclark45@gmail.com or phone 01943 468584.

Botanical Art and Illustration is a new short course for those interested being creative with botanical material. The fortnightly 2 hour sessions will start at the Riverside Hotel, near the old bridge in Ilkley on Wednesday afternoons starting 27th March. More details and the ability to book a place will be on the website shortly.

Art of the Album Cover is another short course currently in the planning stage. More details and the ability to book a place will be on the website shortly.

NB. Short courses provide an ideal alternative to running a full-time group. The advice page has recently been updated. So if you have a passion for a topic you would like to share with other members, [select here to find out how we can help to get you started.](#)

Help required to update the Group Leader handbook

Yes there is one but rarely referenced. The content needs urgent review, ensuring it is relevant, highlighting important issues such as undertaking risk assessments, maintaining financial records and signposting where additional guidance can be obtained online or via the Group Coordinators.

Updating the handbook is part of a wider ambition to better support those who take a leading role in running our various groups. Email chair@ilkleyu3a.org to offer help or ask questions, even if you know little of the way we manage our groups. Jacqui will be pleased to hear from you.

Support required for our summer programme

Angie Grain is organising the summer programme for 2024, running from mid-June through to the end of August. This is an opportunity for you 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. [Select here for more information](#). 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.

Potential new group

Italian for Beginners. Are you be interested in joining several others in starting up this new group? Location and times to be decided - probably meeting weekly. To add your name to the waiting list and notification of initial meeting, email waitinglists@ilkleyu3a.org

Existing group news

Anyone for Scrabble will be pleased to hear from any member wanting to join this group. They meet on a Wednesday afternoon in Clarke Foley. More information and contact details [on this link](#).

Otley sewing collective had an enjoyable post-Christmas meal. [Select here for a picture](#). Link opens on our Facebook page. Note the lack of party hats and crackers!

Smart phone course has been running over four weekly sessions from mid-January. [Select here to see pictures](#) of members trying to make sense of their devices.

We did hope to turn this into an ongoing course, perhaps run like a book club, meeting monthly with a different topic each month researched by one of the members. Quite a few interested but no one was prepared to coordinate the group. So if anyone is reading this and would like to lead a group covering capabilities of smart phones and tablets, just email shortcourses@ilkleyu3a.org and someone will get back to you.

Did you know? Our combined social media accounts reach over 1,000 people with each post, many of whom are not members of our local u3a. So this is an ideal way to promote what we do and link with other local organisations. Send a few pictures of a group activity and a couple of sentences to Helen (helen@saltedit.co.uk) who will arrange everything. Thank you.

Spare places for visiting York Saturday 9 March 2024

The Plays and Drama Group are planning a trip to York for a theatre show by minibus which has spare places. There are no theatre tickets available but if you'd like to visit York for around 4 hours of sightseeing or retail therapy for just £12, this is your opportunity.

Leaving Ilkley Clarke Foley Centre at 10.50 am and Burley Red Lion at 11 am, returning from York at 4.45 pm. Contact Derek Richards by email (drichards50@gmail.com) or phone **07535 029337**.

Computer help for older people

In our last News Flash we mentioned an organisation called AbilityNet. They describe themselves as a pioneering UK charity that believes digital technology should be accessible to everyone.

Over 60 members clicked on the link so any feedback on how you got on will be helpful. Did their response meet your needs? Should we be seeing if we can arrange something bespoke for u3a members? Just reply to this edition of News Flash. [See this link for further information.](#)

New content on our website

Registered charity number This has been added to the bottom of each main website page. An important reminder of our organisation's status, which enables us to claim Gift Aid on our subscription income from the Government. To do this, if you are a UK tax payer, [please print off this form](#) and mail back to u3a c/o Clarke Foley, Cunliffe Road, Ilkley, LS29 9DZ or drop it off in the u3a mailbox near the toilets in Clarke Foley. Thank you.

The local paper archive this month covers various articles from 1987 to 1989. A really interesting read covering demolition of the Essoldo cinema and the spa building, changes at Ilkley railway station and elephants in Brook Street. [Select here to read all the details.](#)

The Market Place [select this link](#) and then login to the website to read the latest entries. Click on the name of the poster to reveal their details and make contact. This is a member only facility.

Diary Dates

Drop-in 10:30am Friday 16th February (Clarke Foley).

Saturday Talk 10 am Saturday 17th February. All about Singapore. [Select here for details.](#)

What future for waste? Wednesday February 21st at 7:30 pm. A free talk and presentation at Clarke Foley organised by our good friends at Climate Action Ilkley. Martin Hyde will explain how the current situation has developed and what policy choices lie ahead for national and local government. [More information and register attendance here.](#)

English Longbows A talk with examples at **Ilkley Manor House, Friday February 23rd at 10.15 for 10.30 am**. Professor Callum Youngson will talk with examples about English longbows. More information and to register your interest [on this link](#).

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

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

Thanks to Denise Marsden for these jokes.

Which cars do elves drive around Lapland? **Toy-otas**.

My daughter just talked to me for an hour about fish, but I didn't understand a word of it. **I might need a herring-aid**.

I used to be a postman but I quit my job after I was handed my first letter to deliver. **It just wasn't for me**.

Never look down on anyone. **Unless you're helping them up!**

Best wishes

John & Christine

Email: Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org

Want to read newspapers and magazines for free? That is the offer for those with an internet connection and a Bradford Libraries membership card. [Details on this link to the Bradford Libraries website](#).

PS. We are part of the Yorkshire and Humber Region of u3a. The local chair has just written to all u3a groups in the region asking for support to fill the following roles:

- Newsletter editor
- Secretary
- Minutes Secretary
- Study days
- Publicity
- Start-ups for new u3as
- Website support

If you are interested in any of these areas, please email our own representative to the local region who is Angie Grain (angiegrain@aol.com). She will be happy to discuss how the regional team support local groups and in particular the sort of commitment required to fill these roles.