

News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 24.05 1st March 2024

The latest short courses

Botanical Art and Illustration is a new short course for those interested in being creative with botanical material. The fortnightly two-hour sessions will start at the Riverside Hotel, near the old bridge in Ilkley, on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 starting 27th March. For more information, and to book, [select this link](#).

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 2:00 Tuesday 19th March in The Flying Duck Pub on Church Street in Ilkley. Due to a cancellation, there is one vacancy. [Select here to book your place](#). Once this place has been taken, please register your interest by joining the waiting list so we may contact you if anyone else withdraws.

Art of the Album Cover Originally announced in the last News Flash, this four-week course is now available to book. [Select this link for course details and to register attendance](#). The venue is close to Ben Rhydding Station and the course starts on Tuesday morning 9th April at 9:30. Just £15.

Introduction to Croquet Due to demand, there will now be an extra session added but there are only a few places left. The four-week course costs £30 and is led by qualified croquet coaches 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. If you're interested, please contact Penny Clark by email at penclark45@gmail.com or phone 01943 468584. But be quick!

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](#).

We are also looking for a member to help with the administration of these courses. Just write to shortcourses@ilkleyu3a.org and someone will be in touch for an informal chat.

Possible New Groups

Smart Phones & Tablets – Learning together

We hope to establish a new group for users of smart phones and tablets, probably meeting once a month for a couple of hours on a Tuesday. It's likely to appeal to members who are:

- regular, almost daily, users of their device and so confident to experiment
- happy to share their knowledge and experience with other members of the group
- supportive of an environment where everyone learns together.

Each month time will be devoted to a topic researched by one of the group. For instance, 'Using a phone or tablet when travelling abroad'; 'Getting the best out of online shopping apps'; 'Monitoring health'; 'Getting the best out of the camera'. The list is almost endless.

In addition, there will be time for everyone to share their discoveries and questions and see if we can problem solve together.

We can't take the planning much further without knowing the level of interest. So, if this appeals and you would like to join a group like this, please email John Parker on parkeralhambra@aol.com before **Friday 15th March** stating your device model (iPhone, Samsung Galaxy etc) and its operating system (Android, iOS etc).

Backgammon We hope to restart this group. An initial meeting will be held **10 am Wednesday 27th March** in Wetherspoons (Lister Arms) which is across the road from Clarke Foley. If interested, please email establishedgroups@ilkleyu3a.org

We have the kit to play. Just need the players!

Existing group news

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

Otley Circle Dance class has now three places available. They meet **Thursday mornings** 10.30am until noon. [Details of the group on this link](#). For more information contact jan.4thway@gmail.com

Local Landmarks and Lunch group has vacancies for new members. A small friendly group that visits outdoor local landmarks and villages. We meet on **alternate Tuesdays during the summer starting 4th June**. Visits, all within an hour of Ilkley, are researched and led by our members. Walking is limited to a total of three miles in a day. Tour guide system and headphones used. Access to email necessary for details of arrangements. [Select this link for more information and contact details to express an interest in joining](#)

Presentations online

Our parent body, the Third Age Trust, organises a series of online lectures by zoom which are open to all members. In the coming weeks topics include the history of theme parks and pleasure gardens and a look at Artificial Intelligence. [Select this link for more information.](#)

From our social media postings

Our combined Facebook and Twitter (now X) postings reach over 1,000 people, 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.

The following links open on our Facebook page. Anyone can access them. You don't need an account.

Northern Towns holds meetings indoors during the winter months so that friends can meet throughout the year. The February talk on a visit to Chile, Argentina and Brazil attracted an audience of over sixty. [Details and pictures on this link](#)

The February Saturday talk was also really well attended. A picture of Lee Wellbrook in presentation mode can be seen [by selecting here.](#)

Railway Group attracted an audience of 70 at its recent meeting to learn about the missed opportunity to construct a through line linking the two stations in Bradford. A tale of power, company rivalry and much else dating back to the 19th century. [Read more on this link.](#)

Helping members get on line

Dave Power from the charity Ability Net will be available to offer IT advice and support to our members at a special drop in from 10:30 am to 12 noon on **Friday 19th April at Clarke Foley.**

We need to know in advance if demand means extra support will be required on the day so please email newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org if you think you may want to take advantage of this opportunity and what sort of assistance you may require.

If you would like help, especially geared to those of our generation, and can't make this drop in, [select here for more information](#) including a Freephone contact number.

New content on our website

A guide to accessing the u3a website. A set by step guide is now available. [Select this link to access.](#) Please do try to log in. You will need to do so when registering to attend events, including the summer programme. Also when renewing your subscription.

The local paper archive This month we publish a volume of the scrapbook that covers almost a decade from 1989 to 1998. [Select this link](#) to read about demolition of bus depot, a facelift at Ilkley Playhouse and a fascinating article from December 1989 that reports the introduction of bar

codes at Tesco. The article explains that eventually, the technology will allow everyone to pay by card rather than write out a cheque. Also featured is the Ilkley Gazette having its own website on the "Information Super Highway".

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. Recent postings are listed here. Click on the links.

- [Chip pans and saucepans](#)
- [Hostess Trolley](#)
- [Two Drawer Filing Cabinet](#)

Post your own items. Just use the above link or look under the News Tab on the website.

Diary Dates

Drop-in 10:30am Friday 1st and 15th March (Clarke Foley).

A talk on City of Liverpool 7:30 pm Wednesday 7th March at Ben Rhydding Methodist Church in aid of Parkinson's UK for which there will be a retiring collection. [Details on this link.](#)

Saturday Talk 10 am Saturday 16th March. Around the World with Nick Harding. [Details on this link.](#) As regular attenders know, our presenters use microphones and there are speakers sited throughout the hall. So, the acoustics are pretty good. However, following a query at the last meeting, we have checked with Clarke Foley and there is not a hearing loop facility. We hope that this doesn't detract too much from this important part of our social calendar.

The Great Escape: from Tsingtao to Skipton. A talk that recounts the little-known story of two German naval officers who escaped from the POW camp in Fukuoka, Japan in November 1915 and spent a year on the run. They almost circumnavigated the globe before being recaptured by the Royal Navy and spending the final part of the war in Skipton. **Clarke Foley 7:30 pm Thursday 21st March 2024.** [Select here for more information.](#) Part of a series of lectures by the Olicana Historical Society

Meet for coffee in Otley 10am Monday 25th March. [Select here for details](#)

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

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

Visit to Durham and Kynren 2024 A spectacular narrated pageant telling stories of the history mainly of the North East. **9th to 12th August.** A 4-day, 3-night coach tour organised by our good friends at Cookridge and Horsforth u3a. £450 for dinner, bed and breakfast. It is understood this involves quite a bit of walking so check out with the organisers just what is involved when enquiring.

[Select here for more information.](#) Contact Betty Pearson at cookridgeu3a@hotmail.co.uk

NB The talk on **English Longbows** at Ilkley Manor House, on February 23rd, was cancelled due to illness just as the last News Flash was being issued. So apologies to those who clicked the link and then were unable to book a ticket.

Some mum jokes in time for Mother's Day

Q. What did the mother horse say to her foal? **A. It's way pasture bedtime.**

Knock, knock. **Who's there?** Noah. **Noah who?** Noah any good jokes for Mother's Day?

A Mother's Recipe for Iced Coffee **Have children, Make coffee, Forget you made coffee, Drink it cold.**

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.](#)

Our 2,00th member celebration is featured as the main story in the Third Age Trust national newsletter. [Select this link to read all about us](#) and what else is happening in the world of u3a beyond our bit of West Yorkshire.

ST CUTHBERT'S LECTURE: 'An Architectural Mystery at Bolton Priory'

Professor Sir Ian Kershaw together with Professor David Stocker

Bolton Priory, **Saturday 9th March 4.30pm.** FREE ENTRY and free parking from 4 pm.

There is a strange recess at Bolton Priory with no conclusive record of what it is for. Two distinguished historians are bringing their expertise to try and find a solution to the mystery and will also look for ideas from members of the audience.

[More information on this link](#)