

# News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 23.17 16th August 2023

## Update on off peak gym membership

We are delighted that Nikki Falconer has become the coordinator of our Fitness Hub, managing the day-to-day relationship with the Ilkley Lawn Tennis & Squash Club. Nikki has been attending the regular u3a Pilates classes so already understands our links with the club.

Members of Ilkley & District u3a now have the opportunity to become an off peak member of the gym. This will be at a reduced rate of £30 per month from 1st September in a pilot scheme set to run until 31st March 2024. For more information [select this link](#).

Although the scheme doesn't start until 1st September, applications to join are now being accepted. If you would like application forms and have not received them already, please email [fitnesshub@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:fitnesshub@ilkleyu3a.org) and copies will be sent to you.

Members are also invited to our special launch event at the gym from **5 pm Friday 1st September**. There will be a free savoury buffet with soft drinks and a cash bar. This is an opportunity to see the extensive facilities of the gym. [Register on this link](#).

## Short Courses

To find out more about organising a short course, [select this link](#). We look forward to hearing from you. Here is the current list of groups with vacancies:

**Living Well in the 3rd Age** Six sessions of two hours, meeting weekly at 10 am from **Friday 8th September** upstairs at the Labour Rooms, Walkergate, Otley, LS21 1EZ. £20 for all six sessions which is to cover room hire. [Select here for more information and to book](#).

**Ilkley in the Second World War** at 2 pm from **Thursday 26th October** for 7 weeks. Just buy a drink at the venue. For more information and to register, [select here](#).

**Peacebuilding** 2 pm **Friday 27th October** for 7 weeks. Just buy a drink at the venue. For more information and to register, [select here](#).

When a course is full, you can still register to join a waiting list. You then get priority to book if these courses are ever repeated at a future date.

## On line courses

As part of the annual subscription, Ilkley & District u3a members have access to online tutorials and lectures provided by our parent body the Third Age Trust. [Select here for more information](#).

## Do you like quizzes?

A small group are going to the u3a WestNet quiz at Gargrave on Thursday evening, 7th September. If you would like to join the Ilkley group, just reply to this email. We can then think about car share etc. [Details of the event on this link.](#)

## Keeping the show on the road

If you have experience that you think will be valuable in running an organisation like ours with 1,800 members and getting on for 140 different groups and activities, we really do need to hear from you.

If you can't make the drop-in but want to talk about volunteering, then email [info@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:info@ilkleyu3a.org).

## Group News

**Jazz Appreciation** [Select here](#) to read more about this group. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month alternating between the Bar T'at (opposite Clarke Foley) in Ilkley and online. The first meeting of the new term is at Bar T'at at 2 pm Monday 11th September so do pop in and say hello. Just remember to buy a drink (coffee, tea or something stronger) at the bar. Contact details for the group leader [here](#). (You'll need to login to the website to access this link.)

**Play reading** Explore fantastic drama without having to memorise a script! The group restarts in October through to December, reading plays serious and plays light-hearted. A chance to read a part and maybe enter into the feel of a play! They meet fortnightly at 1.45 – 4.15 (with a tea break) at the Methodist Church Hall, Ben Rhydding Drive, LS29 8PN. Only five minutes from Ben Rhydding station. Fees are £16 for six sessions to meet costs of hire of the hall and play scripts. For further information please contact Ed Carne [ed\\_carne@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ed_carne@blueyonder.co.uk) / 01943 600612. [Select here to read more.](#)

**Trad Climbing** Are you an experienced climber? Andrew Drury is interested in establishing a group for experienced climbers. This is not for people wishing to learn. Members will need to be competent trad climbers capable of leading VDiff routes and managing walk-ins of up to an hour. Members will need helmet, harness, suitable footwear and at least a partial rack.

As is normal for climbers attending group activities, there will be a disclaimer to sign provided by the British Mountaineering Council. This is to the effect that they acknowledge that it's a potentially dangerous activity and that they are responsible for their own safety.

If interested, please email Andrew Drury on [Andrew.drury@outlook.com](mailto:Andrew.drury@outlook.com)

*(We are assured that the target audience for this announcement will understand everything printed above. Grammatical errors do creep in every so often but not here!)*

**Ancestry group.** There will be a start-up meeting at **2 pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September** at the Red Lion, Burley. We may need to run two groups, one for those with a good deal of experience and one for those just getting started. To express an interest in attending this exploratory meeting, email [newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org) indicating whether you feel you are a relative novice or an experienced researcher.

## Members' Market Place

[Select here to visit the Market Place](#) to read about:

- Part time job vacancies at the Court House in Otley
- Knitting Machine Tables
- Bard in the Yard. A series of 30 minute plays by you know who.

Also, it's worth looking at earlier postings because they might still be available. To visit the Market Place without waiting for News Flash, just look under the News tab on the website.

## Diary Dates

**Drop-in** An opportunity to chat to a member of the committee and other experienced members about u3a. Next session **10:30 am Friday 11th August** at the Core in Otley. Also **10:30 am Friday 1st September** at Clarke Foley.

**Sir Rodney Brooke at the Saturday Talk 10 am Saturday 19th August.** Part two of a fascinating talk. Sir Rodney explains how he was appointed Chief Executive of Westminster City Council and saw its Leader, Dame Shirley Porter, surcharged £42.5m. He left Westminster in a blaze of publicity with the national press camped out on his Ilkley lawn. He also explains his part in Mrs Thatcher's downfall. [Details on this link.](#)

**u3a at the Burley summer festival** [Details on this link.](#) Come along and say hello. If able to help at the event, email [membership@ikleyu3a.org](mailto:membership@ikleyu3a.org).

**WestNet Quiz 6 pm for 6:30 pm Thursday 7th September** at Gargrave Village Hall BD23 3PT. Pie & peas supper. £5. [Booking details here](#)

## Pages from the Ilkley Gazette Archive

Turning the pages of the scrapbook, we are now up to 1987. [Select here.](#) Did you know that Ilkley Railway station was the last in the country to be lit by gas lamps? This edition records when they were turned off for the last time.

## Daft jokes:

**I'm friends with 25 letters of the alphabet. I don't know why.**

**My friend said to me "What rhymes with orange?" I said: "No it doesn't."**

**My granddad has the heart of a lion. And a lifetime ban from London Zoo.**

Regards

John & Christine

Email: [Newsflash@ikleyu3a.org](mailto:Newsflash@ikleyu3a.org)

**Why are you glad you joined u3a?** We all know personal recommendations go a long way when deciding to see a play, employ a decorator or go for a meal. Much the same applies when joining an organisation like u3a.

We would like to give some personal testimonies on our website and social media posts that might encourage others to get the same benefits of membership that we all enjoy. Please reply to this News Flash with a sentence or two. The plan is to publish your replies with just your first name and rough location (Otley, Silsden, Ilkley etc.)