

# News Flash

Your regular newsletter from Ilkley & District u3a

Issue 23.22 1st November 2023

## AGM voting

We need 10% of our membership to vote to be quorate. [Select here](#) to sign in and vote online. [Select here](#) to sign in and read the reports from the chair, treasurer and other supporting documentation.

We can take nominations to join our management committee right up to the AGM. So, if you're still thinking about it, please email [chair@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:chair@ilkleyu3a.org) and our chair, Jacqui Wellbrook, will be pleased to hear from you. There are different jobs to suit different skills.

## Are you free 11:30 to 12 noon Saturday 11th November?

If so, meet for a free coffee in the Wright Room of Clarke Foley before following the Town Crier to the bandstand where she will pick the winning entries in the EYE prize draw. If you can be there, please drop a note to John Hancock ([octopuss@btinternet.com](mailto:octopuss@btinternet.com)) or text him on 07976 803220.

## Getting the most out of your smart phone or tablet

Quite a few responses to this item in the last News Flash so we're thinking how we can meet the demand. The challenge is that everyone needs us to cover different topics!

## New Group News

**AHOY THERE!** What a great video in the last News Flash from Hayling Island u3a! It showed how successful their sea shanty group is, which inspired Jeannie Caunce to form a new group - **SING SEA SHANTIES...in landlocked Ilkley!** This will be a fun group. Feel free to wear your stripey tops and colourful neckerchiefs, Jeannie will be wearing hers!

Fortnightly, starting on Monday 15th January, 2-4pm at Christ Church on the Grove (tbc). The cost will be determined by numbers. Please contact Jeannie Caunce ([jeanniecaunce@gmail.com](mailto:jeanniecaunce@gmail.com)) for more information and to express an interest in joining the group. If you missed the video or want to watch it again [Select this link](#).

## Existing Group News

**E-bike try before you buy** If you have ever thought of upgrading from push bike to e-bike, then [select here to visit the E Bike group page](#). There you will find details of a link to the Ilkley

Active Travel Hub that runs an e-bike loan scheme so you can try before you buy. And if you do decide to purchase, there is a group within u3a that you can join to share the experience.

**The Archive Group** In the latest edition of the **Ilkley Gazette scrap book**, we reach 1992. Roman altar altercation inside All Saints Church and electrification of the Wharfedale Line. Our own u3a member Bill Smith will have fond memories stirred in this edition as it features the publication of his book on local railway history. [Select here to read all about it.](#)

**Science & Technology visit to Cheshire** [Pictures and report on this link.](#)

**Northern Towns visit to York** [Pictures and report on this link.](#)

## Short Courses

**African Children In Peril - can we make a difference?** Following the reception that his 'African Children in Peril' talk got during the Summer Programme, Brian Waller is looking to go one step forward and set up a short-term discussion group for anyone interested or already involved in work to help African children in need.

The discussion group would be limited in size to eight people and is expected to run for around six sessions, using a free venue. The purpose of the discussion group is to raise awareness of the predicament of African children and to share ideas about how local groups such as churches or voluntary organisations might best help.

As a further incentive for anyone to join the group, Brian has kindly offered a free copy of his book 'African Children in Peril' to members of the group. If you're interested in taking part in this, or would like to find out more before committing to taking part, please contact Brian directly at [wallerbrian@btinternet.com](mailto:wallerbrian@btinternet.com).

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers** Advance information about a new short course planned to start weekly on Fridays from 2pm to 4pm, starting 5th January 2024 and finishing on 16th February 2024. The venue is the Flying Duck in Church Street Ilkley and will be free but you will be expected to buy a drink from the bar. Bookings open shortly.

The course will cover this complex issue which has caused polarisation in a fractured world. In the UK, the right to seek safety from war and persecution is being undermined. Offering sanctuary should be at the core of the approach to helping refugees. If interested, or want to understand more about the course material, contact Richard Thackrah [richardthackrah222@gmail.com](mailto:richardthackrah222@gmail.com) or on 01943 831032.

## On line courses

**A full list of online courses** (provided by Third Age Trust) can be found [on this link.](#)

## Members' Market Place

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

## Is your group organising a Christmas lunch?

**Photos:** Please send yours (with permission) to Helen Stevens ([helen@saltedit.co.uk](mailto:helen@saltedit.co.uk)) along with a three-line report that includes the name of the venue. We will then use these on our social media postings and, by linking to the social media accounts of the venue, help spread awareness of u3a throughout the district.

**Cracker jokes:** Send your best ones to [newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org). The more groan worthy the better. Take a vote on each table and send the best.

**Making your own table centres:** A kind offer from Pam Harris ([olicanapam@gmail.com](mailto:olicanapam@gmail.com)). Voyagers are making saucers full of oasis with a candle in the middle surrounded by Christmas trinkets and greenery for table decorations. They're happy to let any other group borrow them after their own lunch on Tuesday 12th December.

## Diary Dates

**Town Crier 12 noon Saturday 11th November** will pick the winning entries in the EYE Prize Draw. See above with a request for support.

**Drop-in 10:30 am Friday 3rd and 17th November** at Clarke Foley

**AGM 10 am Saturday 18th November** at All Saints Church Ilkley. You should already have received formal notification by email, or by post if you're not on the internet.

**Christmas Concert 10 am Tuesday 5th December** St. John's Church, Ben Rhydding when our Singing for Pleasure group will be joined by Trans Pennine Harps for a wide range of music, both carols and secular, with opportunities for audience participation and refreshments. More information in next News Flash.

**Christmas Cracker 10 am Saturday 16th December.** The arrangements for this event are slightly different this year. As we haven't had an Events Organiser, we were faced with the possibility of not having any Christmas event. Bookings will be opening soon on the website but this will be a member only event (no guests) with a limit of 80 registrations. 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 St Martins Hospice so remember to bring cash.

What do you call a pile of coins in the rain? **Climate change.**

Why do fishermen eat shellfish when rain is forecast? **It's the clam before the storm.**

Why do hurricanes move so fast? **Because if they moved slowly, we'd call them 'slow-i-canes'.**

Regards

**John & Christine**

**Email: [Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:Newsflash@ilkleyu3a.org)**

**Find out some interesting facts about our membership:** Every year around this time the website team prepare a report for the trustees. **[Select here to read the report as at October 2023](#)**. Want to know the average age of our members or how many live in Otley? This gives you the answers. NB. You need to be a member of u3a to access this information and be logged into the website to view it.

**The latest u3a national newsletter [can be read on this link](#).**

**An audit of group information on the website** Thanks to those Group Leaders who have already responded and updated their records. If everyone can respond by 18th November, that will be really helpful and saves the website team from chasing replies.

Last year we identified more than 20 people regularly attending group meetings but who had simply not paid their £15 u3a subscription. Not on purpose. Just confused!