

A message from Angie Grain

Greetings to all members, especially those who have joined us since the Covid pandemic started in spring last year. It has been a very different and difficult year for us all. We have had to learn new ways of doing things to keep our u3a active, vibrant and supporting each other through these historic and challenging times.

Throughout the pandemic we have worked to keep our u3a as lively as possible, by harnessing virtual communications for group meetings and an impressive programme of talks through the lockdown. From the fun of the festive Christmas Cracker event, to our many Zooming Interest Groups, to our sharing of resources and talks with other u3a's, your u3a has been busy and never hibernated as some did. At this time Ilkley & District u3a showed its mettle.



done with utmost care and due regard for members' safety as the main priority. We can only progress when Government and national u3a guidelines permit. No Group Leader or any member should feel any pressure to re-start engaging with others until they are totally comfortable about doing so. Each group and event will be considered on an individual basis and re-starting will be a slow, gradual process – not a 'big bang'.

Various Trustees will be involved with planning this, and if you feel that you can help with any of the events and activities post-lockdown, just get in touch with any of the Trustees.

No-one would pretend that online activities have the same value as meeting in person. One of the prime functions of u3a is to encourage sociability. We all know that social isolation and loneliness is a curse, and one that u3a is expressly designed to combat. But by moving online where ever possible, Ilkley & District u3a has kept up morale, has kept groups functioning. So that as lockdown lifts we will be found to be a healthy and flourishing institution.

Now that we are coming out of lockdown, we are making tentative plans towards re- starting various activities and group meetings etc. This will be

These QR codes indicate that more information is available on our website.



To reach the correct web page, just view the QR code through the camera on your smart phone or tablet.

Summer is coming for the Railway Group

Having had regular attendances of over 50 for each of their Zoom meetings during lockdown, the Railway Group are looking forward to actually travelling by train during the summer.

First up will be a mystery day trip using a Rover ticket. Nothing too adventurous. These tickets are cheap to purchase and take very little organisation to arrange. Travelling the Settle to Carlisle line and returning via Newcastle is one possibility. Or maybe a visit to Manchester to see the recent extension to the tram system. Then in September the plan is to visit the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. A coach to Pickering and then a choice of riding the train to Whitby (fish and chips?) or visiting the engine and carriage works. Something for everyone.

Plans are being made for a National u3a Day on Wednesday 2nd June this year. We are hoping to mark the day with an event for all members in Ilkley and around our District on other days that week. We have to keep things flexible but will keep you informed via the News Flash.

I hope that you enjoy reading The Eye and about some of the things our u3a gets up to – do remember that it all has to be organised by someone – there are no 'u3a fairies' – so the more you contribute, the more you will get out of it. We cannot survive, or thrive, without our wonderful and much-appreciated volunteers. We just always need more of them!



For more information please visit: <https://ilkleyu3a.org/Forthcoming-Talks>



The group expects to start its regular series of meetings (at Clarke Foley or via Zoom) on Tuesday 5th October 2021. New members will be welcome.



For more information about the Railway Group visit: <https://ilkleyu3a.org/Railways-group/>

Joining u3a – worth waiting for

Like many people I find it very difficult to relinquish the work I've done for decades, because it is very pleasurable and has taken me back and forth to Florence, Paris and Milan several times a year as a freelance journalist.

A few years ago, entering yet another decade, I realised that it was time to seek new experiences in my own area. So, I obtained the u3a catalogue, looked up the classes on offer – it was as exciting as choosing a university course 50 years ago and just as serendipitous.

I first chose Italian, since I go to Italy a lot for work and although I can understand what's said at a press conference, I remain mute. So, I ticked it.

Next, I turned to music, my ice breaker when I first came to Ilkley almost 30 years ago, playing the timpani and percussion in various groups. I alighted on Piano Duets, I loved playing with my daughters, although always given the bass.

I was tempted by the many walking groups. Some of the double figure distances seemed to be rather ambitious – and the others full up. It felt like Goldilocks tasting porridge.

What next? Ah, Tai Chi. I had seen groups under trees, serene people delicately moving their arms and balancing in a sort of stationary ballet, in parks across the world. Another tick on the list.

And one more, I thought. Creative writing seemed too much like the day job. And then I saw poetry writing. It seems a bit presumptuous now, to have thought I could write poems. I did it, and choices complete, paid a very reasonable fee and waited for replies. But answer came there none.

I was not accepted for any of those choices, and did not manage it for three years, though I stayed paid up. I had inadvertently chosen classes that were either very small or very popular. Very polite messages explained that there were long waiting lists and one person I spoke to suggested that I start an Italian group myself.

But in the summer of 2019 when the Tai Chi group came out of their church hall into the park I was invited, as a

member on the waiting list, to join them. I stood and felt the sun on my face, tried to make beautiful shapes with my arms and outstretched hands. The next week we stood there in a light shower and it was bliss to feel rain as I attempted the slow and disciplined moves. We were led by Jim with a quiet and gentle manner, while tiny children tried to join in and teenagers sniggered at us, but it was great. Only a little later I heard I had reached the top of the waiting list and could join the winter quarters of the Tai Chi group – but then came lockdown.

Last September 2020 I was invited to Italian by our charming Italian teacher, rigorous in persuading you to speak and construct sentences. It was a Zoom affair of course. A small group who obviously knew each other, slowly becoming familiar faces. I had no opportunity to chat before or after, because the lesson ended, the nuclear button was pushed, the screen darkened and whoosh, it was gone! Zoom!

Shortly afterwards I was accepted into poetry writing; the six members had

gathered round a bohemian cafe table before Covid. It is an accomplished group. But I was in. What a treat. I shall improve. I love it for its gentle encouragement after the long silence which comes after reading your poem. I hope to get to know them after Covid.

Piano duets are still not allowed, for obvious, undistanced reasons though plans are well in train for a resumption. It looks as though my fellow musicians are highly qualified, many with letters after their names, I bet. I am already eyeing my scales book.

For me u3a has been a really good experience even in this stressful year and my choices have been well worth waiting for. I hadn't anticipated that many in these hard-to-enter small groups had known each other for some time, years in some cases. People are welcoming but Zoom doesn't lend itself to idle chatter. I am confident that 'normal' circumstances will.

Perhaps that's as it should be. Community is not built in a day but it's obvious that u3a, in itself run by volunteers, is a powerful force in these strange times. Our area is very lucky.

End meeting, Zoom, Darkness.
The sun will come out tomorrow,
or very soon.

Janet Garland

Cryptic crossword

Across

- 8 Baker Mary twice reported for disease (8)
- 9 Skin problem? Phone u3a! (6)
- 10 Student leaves play equipment for team (4)
- 11 Leading man accidentally mauled by a snake (5)
- 12 Diamond's music? (4)
- 13 Card game played without affection in wintry weather (4,4)
- 16 Rabble roused after change of sides by noted resident of Seville (6)
- 18 Scottish side playing bare (4)
- 20 As the French group say, six to finish! (5)
- 21 u3a group heard to complain (4)
- 22 Stink caused by misreading 'Sam I am' (6)
- 23 Ilkley u3a backed two females' anger over voting rights (8)
- 26 Cotton wool dressing was British (4)
- 28 Characters in 5 exchanging shellfish for a fur (5)
- 30 Wave or be damned (4)
- 31 Occult content of explicit symbolism from the East (6)
- 32 Park Fiat for judge (8)

Down

- 1 One of the flock in more trouble (6)
- 2 March poetry recital you missed (4)
- 3 National anger leading Merkel astray (6)
- 4 Rocky surface? (4)
- 5 Specific extremities common people scratch (8)
- 6 Slight noise drinking tea endlessly? (4)
- 7 Uncle bent on receiving hot meal (8)
- 14 Strains for two expected twins without success (5)
- 15 At first, people laugh at your stage performances (5)
- 17 Craftsman wore woven robe initially (5)
- 19 Trains here with bar routines (8)
- 20 As written in form of Latin and Greek (8)
- 24 Country pays for this u3a group (6)
- 25 Ranged round plot for plant development (6)
- 27 Black hat thrown in container for cleaning (4)
- 29 Poet almost appearing to sting (4)
- 30 Something partly visible, in the main (4)

In the eye of the beholder

Our Art Appreciation Group has about 70 members, most of whom do not have any initial expertise in art and its history – we just love art and enjoy looking at art (in all sorts of formats) and sharing that passion with others.

By learning about art, we get to appreciate it more, and also are exposed to types of art we may never have seen before. We have also welcomed new members, that always helps to keep the group fresh with an influx of new ideas.

December last year saw us resuming our meetings via Zoom as an experiment and we are now meeting fortnightly. In order to avoid Zoom-fatigue, where audience members can lose concentration and switch off

from their screens, we aim to make our sessions as interactive as possible.

Following a 'normal' talk or presentation and after a short tea/coffee break we come back for the second part of our meetings with 'Show and Tell' sessions. Each meeting has a theme so that members can give it advanced thought and send their favourite images to Angie to gather into one presentation. These images are then explained and discussed, with anyone free to add comments and views. We definitely

don't all like the same stuff. Themes this year have included: New Beginnings, Yorkshire, Humour, Nocturnes, Iconic Art and Exploring the World.

Reflecting our wide range of interests (and avoiding being an 'Art History' group) our main presentations have included: Botanical Art, Ilkley Moor's Rock Art, Spanish Art, and a demonstration about Lace as Art. All very interesting and the preparation time has been appreciated by other members of the group.

We keep in touch with regular e-mails plus our WhatsApp group, often sharing flyers and information from galleries and other online opportunities. There is so much material being created online, we have no excuse to be bored.

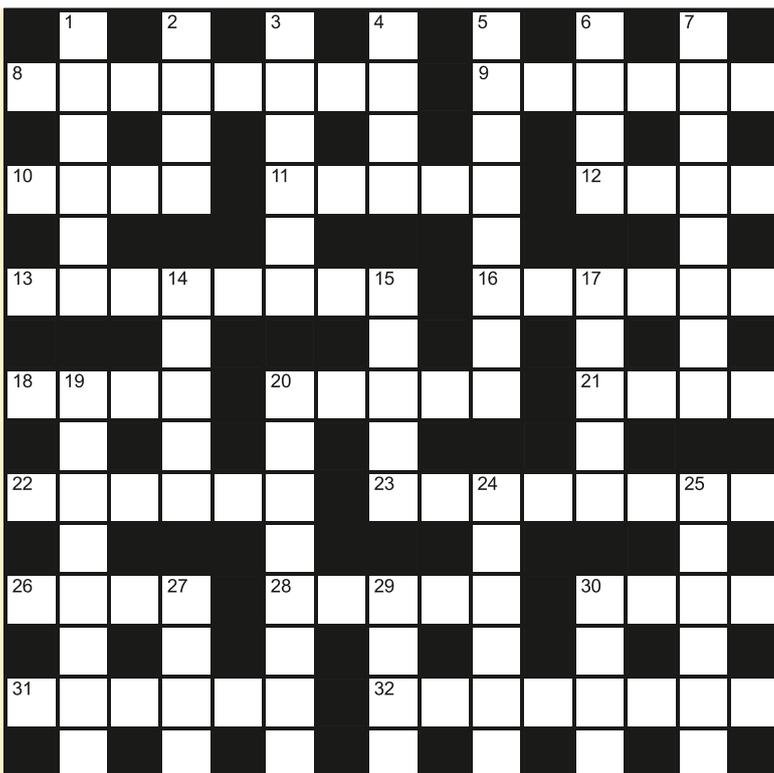
Angie Grain



Art Appreciation Group visits in 'normal' times: the Bowes Museum



'Botanical Illustration' presentation by Angie Grain



Quick crossword

Across

- 8 Tear jaggedly (8)
- 9 Vinegar acid (6)
- 10 Skim swiftly (4)
- 11 Resting? (2,3)
- 12 Besmirch (4)
- 13 Faithless (8)
- 16 Liveliness (6)
- 18 Quarrel (4)
- 20 Outspoken (5)
- 21 Jason's ship (4)
- 22 Deep ditch (6)
- 23 Port (archaic) (8)
- 26 Creative subjects (4)
- 28 Singing group (5)
- 30 Boring documents (slang) (4)
- 31 Illusion (6)
- 32 Hair problem (5,3)

Down

- 1 Chinese exercises (3,3)
- 2 Curve (4)
- 3 Relations (6)
- 4 Culinary plant (4)
- 5 Percussion instrument (8)
- 6 Intelligence (4)
- 7 Paying a call (8)
- 14 Ancient language (5)
- 15 Nearby pub (5)
- 17 Soft musically (5)
- 19 Description (8)
- 20 Conveyances (8)
- 24 Seldom (6)
- 25 Speakers of 14 (6)
- 27 Strip of wood, plastic or metal (4)
- 29 Expel (4)
- 30 Greek letter (4)



For solution visit – <https://ilkleyu3a.org/EYE-2>, click on this edition of The Eye, go to the Crossword and click on it.

Wild & winter swimming

Would you be interested in a 'Wild & Winter Swimming Group'? The complete closure of the Lido for the whole 2020 season, and the publicity resulting from the Ilkley Clean River Campaign, has led to a huge increase in the number of people swimming – not paddling, not playing, but swimming – in the Wharfe.

There have always been a small number of people who have swum regularly in the river (one or two all year around). But now they are much more numerous. There is, for example, an Ilkley River Swimmers WhatsApp group so that people can co-ordinate their swims.

There are always some hazards in wild swimming, where there are no lifeguards. These should not be exaggerated. The Wharfe at Ilkley is much the safest place I have ever swum regularly. In fact, the main danger is still the so called 'storm discharges' from the



Addingham Combined Sewer Outfalls. Measurement of *E. Coli*, at Addingham after a 'storm discharge' has shown it to be 700 times higher than the safe limit. When the river is low (and this is when there are no sewage discharges) the water in Ilkley is quite safe.

The two most favoured local swimming spots are above the High Weir in Addingham (sewage is never a problem here as the site is upstream of the Addingham CSOs) and at the bend in Ilkley, just above the Old Bridge. At both places there is good deep water for swimming.

There is a straightforward magic in wild swimming; fresh air, the tree lined river bank, and (if you are really lucky) a kingfisher flying overhead.

The accepted safety advice from all people concerned with wild swimming, is that it is always preferable to swim in company. As the temperature falls this advice becomes much stronger. When swimming in really cold water (and in winter it may well be 6 degrees

or less), hypothermia is a real risk, so swimming with a friend who can help if a swimmer gets into difficulty is always sensible. The other, very firm advice is, when the water is cold, always walk in, never jump in (that can produce a fatal shock reaction).

So, are there u3a members who would like to join me in a wild and winter swimmers group, so that we can encourage regular, year round swimming, not necessarily just in the

Wharfe? Perhaps we could investigate other local outdoor swimming spots? The group could only be open to competent swimmers, who would accept that they were swimming at their own risk and that u3a could not accept liability for any mischance. Interested? Please contact me.

Owen Wells
o.r.wells@gmail.com



Pathfinders: Ilkley & District u3a recognition

'We are in a great place now and for the future.'

Sue Butler, Summer 2017

Who could ever have conceived that our world would be turned upside down in 2020 with the onset of Covid 19? However, Ilkley & District u3a with its record of success, quickly rose to the challenge. Individuals recognised the need to support each other. Group leaders retained the interest of their groups in so many ways; the summer school with its taster sessions was transferred into an online programme and its success led to Zoom presentations continuing through Spring 2021. Our website, ever changing and ever engaging, was at the hub of the operation.

Ilkley & District u3a has been identified nationally as a large, highly innovative and active organization, and as such we were invited to participate in a Pathfinders Group who would take the lead in devising imaginative

concepts for recruitment. At the outset, we agreed that the secret of our success over the years had been that recruitment was part of our normal activities through publicity, drop ins, recommendation etc.

We were asked to give a presentation on using our website as a shop window for recruitment. The team have made the website more engaging, integrated with other u3a communications, and used tracking systems to understand how visitors use the site. Our presentation also looked at work currently being undertaken to improve the chances of Ilkley & District u3a being quoted in search engine responses.

This has been an interesting and ongoing project and we look forward to the next stage in its development... the 'Trailblazers Group'.

Jean Smith for the Trailblazers Group

Tree Trails catch the eco mood

Local members and tree enthusiasts Neil and Sue Stevens have used their lockdown time to create Ilkley Tree Trails, together with a 12 page booklet Introduction to Trees. This has descriptions and photographs designed to help identification of different species. The trail includes 40 trees, starting at the Manor House and going round East Holmes Field and the Lido. It is available to pick up at no charge from the Grove Bookshop and the Manor House.

Neil believes that identifying trees makes them into individuals, changing with the seasons. He points out that we are lucky in Ilkley because previous generations appreciated the value of trees in the townscape and parks and have left a marvelous legacy.

Sue studied botany and also welcomes help from the Wharfedale Naturalists Botany group who provide expert advice on identifying 'tricky conifers'.

Next came their Trees in Winter trail using twigs and other winter features not seen in summer for identification. Neil explains that lime trees for example have zigzag twigs. He adds intriguingly that we can learn where the horse in horse chestnuts can be seen.* The Trees in Winter booklet

Moving on

The editorial team for this edition of The Eye has changed. Both Eileen Green, the former editor, and Stuart Campbell have stood down. Eileen is moving to Sheffield for family reasons and Stuart has retired to concentrate on his writing. Here's what they had to say.

Eileen:

I joined our u3a after moving to Otley on retirement five years ago and immediately volunteered to help with our communication endeavours.

During my career as a journalist, I spent more than 40 years working on local evening and weekly newspapers. I became editor of The Eye in 2017 and helped produce the first issue that



Eileen Green



The magnificent Black Poplars in East Holmes Field

autumn. It was only four pages but the response from members was immensely favourable and it was increased to eight pages. Over time The Eye has become more closely linked to our website and has encouraged members to visit the site, making the most of additional photographs or information there. I have now left this part of Yorkshire for family reasons, but I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the communications team and working on The Eye. It was wonderful to use my journalistic skills in such a positive endeavour and it enabled me to meet a host of interesting people and make good friends. I wish The Eye every success for the future.

Stuart:

From its inception, eight issues ago, The Eye was a labour of love for me, drawing on my long career in journalism, both in the provincial Press and BBC local radio. In 2017 we

was distributed over the internet and 250 copies have already been downloaded.

Their latest project is a town centre trail. This will visit the car park, the Grove and Spence's Gardens. Ilkley & District u3a, through the Environment Forum,

has agreed to pay the printing costs of 100 copies. It is expected that they will be available through the Grove Bookshop and members will be alerted via News Flash. The trail will also be available to download at ilkleytrees.org.uk/treetrails

*The shape left on the twig when the leaf falls is a perfect horseshoe and inside are the marks of the nails used to fix the horseshoe.

gathered together a small editorial team to produce a showpiece for the vibrancy and creativity of our members. With excellent design and talented writing, we harnessed members' contributions to create a newsletter which has been much admired within



Stuart Campbell

the u3a. But its success also depended on the efforts of many others when it came to 'all hands to the pump' to ensure it dropped through your letterbox. The autumn of 2019 even found me and my son stuffing 843 envelopes on our dining room table. As I say, a labour of love! I wish the new editorial team equal and continuing success with forthcoming issues.

Long-standing u3a member Richard Lorimer talks to Alison McCloy about his involvement with setting up not one, but two u3a, and how his career and lifelong interest in the arts led him to meet some fascinating people.

Born in Northern Ireland, Richard's enthusiasm for the arts and love of music goes back to his childhood when he was a well-known boy soprano soloist. His mother was involved with the Ulster Unionist Party and had ambitions for her son to go into politics, but Richard had other ideas. He applied for the Civil Service, was accepted and moved to London.

Un appel pour un professeur de français

La majorité des groupes u3a vise les randonneurs et les linguistes, et il se peut que parmi ce dernier groupe, beaucoup soient francophones.

En ce moment nous avons 6 groupes en langue française : Les Tykes du mardi, les groupes de conversation française les lundis; les jeudis:matin, après-midi et soir, et en plus, pour les personnes qui parlent couramment, un groupe 'Fun French for Francophones'.

Malheureusement, tous les groupes francophones sont complets.

Mais il nous manque toujours un groupe de débutants en langue française. S'il y a parmi vous qui lisez cet article une personne francophone qui désire aider les débutants à apprendre la langue (et aussi la culture française), n'hésitez pas à nous contacter car nous avons besoin de vous!

Owen Wells
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For a while he shared accommodation at 9 Parkhill Road which happened to be next door to the London studio of the renowned sculptor, Henry Moore. Richard and his flat mate got to know Moore and often helped him to haul deliveries up to his first-floor studio. Moore shared the studio with Barbara Hepworth and several other noted sculptors.

Soon after marrying Judy in 1957, Richard and Judy moved to Broxbourne in Hertfordshire. Richard's interest in music led to friendship with the accompanist Ivor Newton. He frequently asked Richard to look after visiting foreign musical artists who were performing in London such as the soprano, Kirsten Flagstad. In 1986 Richard was instrumental in setting up the Broxbourne Mid Summer Arts Festival that attracted well known musicians and actors.

Richard climbed the rungs of the Civil Service and was responsible for overseeing the fulfilment of some major policy decisions such as the construction of the Thames Barrier. Soon after, Richard began working in Whitehall where, asked what should happen to the old docks area, he suggested they should build offices on it. Canary Wharf was born!

Working in Whitehall for over twenty years, Richard rubbed shoulders with many politicians such as Willie Whitelaw, Jim Prior, Robert Carr, Maurice Macmillan, Michael Foot, Barbara Castle and Norman Tebbit. Richard retired in 1990 but still found time to serve as a magistrate in the Magistrates' Court and Crown court in St Albans until 2000.

He and Judy were active in the local community and in 1992 a chance suggestion by the local council education officer prompted Judy to send off for information about a new organisation for retired people – the u3a. As a result they and their friends set up the Lea Valley u3a. It thrived



and was followed by two more local offshoots – Broxborough and Cheshunt u3a's.

Having moved to Ilkley in 2004 it was not surprising that the Lorimers were attracted along to the first meeting of our u3a and soon became involved. Richard is a good example of how a personal interest can be used to start up a successful group. He has initiated several – as a keen sportsman he established the croquet and bowls group, while a passion for gardening led to his suggestions for gardening and garden visits groups. As he had lived in the south of England for most of his life he wanted to know more about the north so he suggested a Northern Towns group. All are still going well today.

The couple took their volunteering with the u3a further as Richard was national adviser for Sports and Physical activities for a period while Judy was on the educational board of the u3a Trust's Sources magazine, (now incorporated into Third Age Matters) for many years.

Richard feels the strength of u3a is in the sharing of information. All members have a valuable contribution to make, no matter what their background, because 'We never stop learning and everyone has something valuable to say.'

Hugh on volunteering

The pandemic has brought the best out of people who have volunteered to help their communities in so many ways, so we make no apologies in asking you to rise to the occasion to help our u3a. Our current volunteers – the Website backroom boys and girls, those who have given or organised talks, group leaders, the News Flash editors, the communications volunteers and, most of all, the Trustees – they have given their all to keep our u3a going during the pandemic. As a result, our u3a has survived but it will not continue to grow and thrive unless more members come forward to offer their help.

To find out what is needed Alison McCloy talked to Hugh Bevington, a Trustee who has served as Treasurer and is currently Groups Coordinator. Hugh started his volunteering helping with the iPad scheme. Although he had no special qualifications, Hugh knew how to use an iPad and what a useful communications tool it was. The iPad scheme was a great success and even now he still gets members thanking him for his help.

When he became Treasurer, Hugh had no prior financial training. It was daunting, but he was well supported. ‘I always emphasise the learning part,’ he commented, ‘Where else would you get the chance to be Treasurer of a large organisation? The u3a ethos actively encourages people to take part in things that they don’t have expertise in.’

Hugh says that we currently need volunteers around groups because

it will be a big challenge to get the groups up and running again. ‘Our u3a needs new members and to keep them satisfied, we need to start new groups. All suggestions for new groups are welcome and there is no obligation to be part of a group that’s suggested.’

At present the management committee is operating with a shortfall. New Trustee volunteers are needed now. No particular skills or background are needed to be a Trustee, just a willingness to bring new ideas and be prepared to learn as you go along – part of the ethos of the u3a.

The conversation ended with ‘Trustees are in a position to make a real difference. I know there are members who can help, we just need to find them.’

Could that be you? Please give it some thought and contact Angie Grain on chair@ilkleyu3a.org

Stepping up

Our u3a is a complex network. At its heart are the Trustees, each of whom has responsibility for a different area of activity:

- Membership, welcoming and engaging
- Governance and compliance
- Communications
- Learning together
- Events
- Social action

These cover all aspects of what goes on in our u3a. Our Trustees rely on an army of volunteers to support them. Self-help is one of the core values of the u3a and, with over 1500 members, we need every member to play a part. At the most basic level every member needs to take their turn in leading group meetings but there is so much more that needs to be done.

Think of what you get out of being a member in more normal times. There are the tangible things like the Drop-ins, The Eye, News Flash, the Annual

Programme of Activities, events, Saturday talks, and the Summer Programme. But what about the intangibles – the friendships and camaraderie, the laughter, the learning and pure enjoyment? The u3a is an antidote to loneliness – it is a way of connecting with like-minded people and widening your horizons.

You only get out what you are prepared to put in. It’s time to step up now. Contact Angie Grain on chair@ilkleyu3a.org



ILKLEY & DISTRICT U3A

ACTION TEAMS

TASKS

MARCH 2021

LEARNING TOGETHER (HUGH BEVINGTON)

- New Groups
- Established Groups/Waiting Lists
- Programme Booklet
- Talks Programme
- Study Days
- Shared Learning Projects
- AV Equipment
- Venues

MEMBERSHIP, WELCOMING & ENGAGING (JEAN SMITH)

- Membership
- Drop Ins
- New Members
- Recruitment
- Accessibility/Inclusion

GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE (SECRETARY/ANGIE GRAIN)

- Strategic Planning
- Constitution
- Procedures/Policies
- Gift Aid
- Financial Management
- Repⁿ on Outside Bodies
- TAT/Charity Commission

COMMUNICATIONS (PETER MATE)

- News Flash & The Eye
- Press & Media/PR
- Publicity Materials
- Presentations ex-U3A

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES

EVENTS (MARTEN KOOPMANS)

- Monthly meetings
- Meet Leaders
- Leaders’ Supper
- AGM
- Christmas Concert
- National U3A Day

SOCIAL ACTION (PETER MATE)

- Community Care
- Dementia Friends
- Reading in Schools
- Social Prescribing

IT Team

- Website Development
- Internal Communications
- Social Media
- Technical Support

All teams are not ‘silos’ and will need good communications to work together and/or seek assistance where needed; this may include overlapping membership

The Shed Group

This is a good time to flag up the activities of the Ilkley Shed Group. As for others, this has been a difficult year for us, complicated by the loss of premises. We have spent much of the year searching for a new home and as you can imagine finding new workshop space in Ilkley has been a challenge.

Joining us on this search are shed groups from Wharfedale, Burley, Menston, Otley and Tools for Africa all in search of workshop space. We are optimistic that we will be able to find suitable premises and we have a number of possible leads. The new premises will require substantial modification but that's what Shed groups do. Once we have confirmed suitable premises, we plan to submit a joint grant application with the other Shed groups to the Lottery Fund to cover the cost of necessary modifications.

Once the premises are complete the Shed group activities will return to their original role of woodworking, building and repairing household and gardening furniture, making toys and ornaments, sharpening and repairing tools, DIY and domestic repairs. One of the most important functions of the

worldwide Shed organisation is having an opportunity to meet up and chat with people who have similar interests, to discuss new projects or techniques or have an opportunity to just gossip. So the kettle is our most important piece of kit. We hope to be able to tell you shortly where the new premises will be when you can come along and decide if Shedding is right for you.

To give you a flavour of what we do you can see a range of some of our recent projects on the u3a website/News and publications/Group updates and news/The Shed Group updates.

If you are interested in getting involved in developing the new premises or using the workshop when renovation is complete and you want to meet with like-minded shedders then please contact me, Steve Walker, at stephen.walker34@btinternet.com – no previous experience is required and full training and supervision will be provided.



The Archive Group

The u3a Archive Group is transcribing historic documents about Ilkley and district. An example is this account by Mr C Whitehead of his experience as a mill worker in Burley in the late 19th Century.

'In the year 1867 I went to work at the mill as a half timer. The hours of work were from 6–7.50 am when we had 40 minutes for breakfast. This was a pleasant interlude. We had time to walk home, enjoy breakfast and return to work at 8.30 am. We then worked on from 8.30–12.30 noon when our work at the mill ended for the day. At 2pm we were at school till 5 o'clock. This continued thro the week. The next week the order was changed to school in the morning and Mill in the afternoon. We commenced work at 1.30 and worked until 6 o'clock in the evening. My memories of this period are very happy it was not one of

drudgery and misery as spoken of by men, who have never had experience of it. The evenings were taken up with lessons in preparation for school work the next day. We had plenty of time for play. The early rising of 5.30 meant early to bed at night. The dark winter mornings were not so pleasant but we faced them as a task to be done and this habit of early rising does not desert one.'

For a full transcription, visit: <https://ilkleyu3a.org/Archiving-Group-Updates>



Summer Programme

Summer Programme is back! This time last year we were looking cautiously at our programme and wondering how much of it we could bring to members through this new thing called Zoom – and look how well that turned out. We have had three seasons of talks now and what seasons they have been – fascinating, diverse, a real showcase of the talents and interests of our members.

A month or so ago with restrictions slowly loosening and the vaccination programme gathering speed we wondered, cautiously once more, whether we might revisit some of the old face-to-face pleasures of our summer activities. Gathering events for a lively Summer Programme can be a challenge. Not this year. The alacrity with which our Group Leaders responded to our email inviting offers and suggestions for summer 2021 gave us confidence that the enthusiasm for getting together again is there, and gave us yet another varied and exciting programme to enable us to do so. Walking and Sketching, the Blue Plaques of Ilkley, the History of Lighting, the Paris of Dan Brown, a day out in Liverpool – just a few of the treats in store.

Alongside the enthusiasm we know there will be anxieties about getting together. We're pleased to be able to offer a variety of open air events and at this stage are planning numbers for our talks to allow for social distancing. As with the Talks Programme there will be regular updates in the News Flash highlighting forthcoming events as well as any change in national guidance and our response to it. Look out for further information about the programme in Newflashes – starting with the first June edition.

The Summer Programme Group

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