

Double anniversary issue

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QR codes indicate that more information is available on our website. To reach the correct web page, view the QR code through the camera on your smart phone or tablet.

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Dear fellow members,

Now Spring is here, this is a time for shaking off any seasonal depression and looking forward to better weather and more u3a opportunities on offer through the seasons.

All our new members are most welcome to your local u3a and we hope that you enjoy what is on offer and can meet new friends and appreciate experiences, through the u3a, to help you enjoy your retirement. Recently our membership reached over 1,800, which is a challenge, but even more of a great opportunity to explore new avenues, groups and experiences.

The vast majority of our many Interest Groups are back meeting again, in whatever format (on-line, hybrid or face-to-face) suits them best. We have also been able to start quite a number of new groups recently, which is vital if we



are to maintain our levels of activities and also to meet increasing demand from our growing membership. New groups can be started at any time and it is good to see that some of the new ones are operating outside the Ilkley area, to help to satisfy demand from our wider district.

At November's AGM we welcomed four new Trustees who have taken up their leadership roles with enthusiasm and in February we also co-opted Neil Stevens as a Trustee. He brings lots of u3a experience to our meetings. We are fortunate to have the support of six excellent Action Teams who work with the Trustees to ensure that all the many different aspects of our u3a are running smoothly and exploring new opportunities where time and resources allow. If you would like to get involved, there is information about our Action Teams on our website.

Over the summer, whilst some of our (mainly outdoor) groups start up, others will cease meeting for a while and have a break. To fill any gap in our members' diaries we will offer our usual Summer Programme of activities; this will include a wide range of activities with, hopefully, something to suit everyone. The team, under the leadership of Sue Butler has devised

a programme that is in this edition of The Eye.

Last year, we celebrated the 'National u3a Day' in early June, but in 2022 that first weekend in June will be an extended bank holiday with national celebrations recognising the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. So, our 'National u3a Day' is being moved to September and we already making plans for it. We are hoping to have a Showcase event which will be open to all our members plus guests and potential members. More information to come later.

All the Trustees strive to ensure that we have a lively, sociable and supportive u3a that continues to offer an impressive range of activities for its members, both long-term and new ones. As always, as an educational co-operative, we cannot do this without the help and support of lots of members – we are lucky to have this already, but any growing organisation always needs new ideas and energy, so if you would like to get involved in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me on the usual e-mail address (chair@ilkleyu3a.org).

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months.

Best wishes, Angie Grain

Our Anniversary Tree

Members who took part in the tree trail event during the Summer Programme of 2021 will have been intrigued to learn that the lime tree near the west entrance to the memorial gardens was planted by u3a in 2007, to be a permanent reminder of the first ten years of the organization. At the time, it was felt unwise to place a plaque near the tree. However, with thanks to both Bradford Council and the Friends of Ilkley Riverside Parks, in 2022 a suitable plaque has now been installed.



- ▲ The lime tree in summer 2021.
- ▼ The original tree planting ceremony in 2007.

Group news

The last two years have been difficult in so many ways and one of these, in a comparative minor way, has been keeping the u3a groups together. How much they were affected has depended on the subject, but admiration must go to the way in which everyone responded. Many used Zoom, some used emails and many more started meeting again as soon as was possible. Now we can enjoy the exciting new developments as we have come out of lockdown.

On the Ilkley & District u3a website, ilkleyu3a.org there is an up-to-date list of the huge variety of established groups on offer. There is something for everyone – sports (from badminton to table tennis), different levels of languages, walking, various forms of music, board and card games, reading, dining, crafting, poetry, writing, art, wine circles, science, discussion groups, vehicles (classic cars, motorbikes, aviation), films, and touring locally or further afield. We have well over 100 groups increasing all the time. The most recent new group is Jazz Appreciation.

Groups we are hoping to get started soon include

- Walking With Dogs
- New Fiction
- Poetry and Art
- New Sewing Group (Otley)
- Living Well in the Third Age (Otley)

Other suggested new groups include

- Camping and Caravanning
- Electric Bikes
- Basic Information Technology

Do any of these courses interest you or maybe you want more information? Then go on the ilkleyu3a.org site, whether you are a member or not, and see the great choice there is. Everyone is welcome to wander through the list and also to see the many other events such as summer school, Drop-ins, single events. When you have found your interest just leave your telephone number or email on newgroups@ilkleyu3a.org. If you would rather see a hard copy, go to a Drop-in session at Clarke Foley Centre, Cunliffe Road, Ilkley LS29 9DZ, on the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings of most months. Everyone is welcome to talk to trustees and Group Leaders over a cuppa.

STOP PRESS

Lee and Jacqui Wellbrook are new members who have recently moved to Otley. They previously belonged to Thanet u3a where Lee ran four courses for Thanet members and then nationally on Zoom. The four courses are:

- Pre-War Blues
- Post-War Blues
- The Art of the Rock Album
- The Story of Motown

Spreading the word

Ilkley & District u3a covers a wide geographical area that includes several small towns and villages. We recently realised that Otley, a town of similar size to Ilkley, had only just over 100 members whilst Ilkley supported over 1000. It seemed obvious that there was a need to raise awareness of u3a in the Otley area.

And so we created 'Otley u3a Ambassadors', a group of Otley members keen to support and enhance u3a in their town. The initial aim was to ensure that Otley people had heard of our brilliant organisation. So, during the celebrations for Otley u3a Day, fifteen or so ambassadors donned hi-vis tabards. Accompanied by u3a musicians and supported by the Otley Town Mayor and Otley Bell Man, they entertained and chatted to members of the public who passed by the Market Square. We certainly created an impact!

An unexpected and delightful development was the offer from some of the Ambassadors to start new groups using Otley venues. So, we are now able to offer Patchwork and Quilting,



Walking for Fitness, Hand Bell Ringing, Art, a Book Club, Family History, Country Dancing and Circle Dancing!

The success of this project has encouraged us to begin to enlist Ambassadors in all areas of our District. We are currently targeting Addingham and have met with great enthusiasm and many impressive ideas from our inspi-

Each course is four sessions long and Lee will be running these courses for Ilkley u3a later in the year. As he will also be running them again for National u3a we are most fortunate that he and his wife have joined our group. I am sure it will be a matter of 'get your names down quickly' when the dates are announced.

rational members there. We held highly successful Drop-in on 1st April followed by extensive publicity of all kinds.

We have been overwhelmed by the incredible support of our web team and social media activists who have left no stone unturned in their desire to give their support in every possible way. We have had articles in local newspapers, on local radio stations and social media. There is a quiz on the Homepage of our website with the offer of a £25 draw. We have even created an 'Around our District' page on the website so that our ambassadors can publicize news and events. If there is a single person in Addingham who hasn't heard of our fantastic u3a, I would be very surprised.

Oh!... And, yes... we now have 175 u3a members in the Otley area, and growing on a weekly basis!

Members in the Spotlight

Ann and Mike Johnson – 'an invaluable couple'

The name Johnson occurs frequently in u3a. Ann is one of the three founders of the Ilkley organisation that we are celebrating in this issue. Both Ann and Mike Johnson have their separate spheres, leading separate groups, some of them long standing, and they overlap too. Mike also attends groups Ann runs out of interest; 'perhaps I'm not as adventurous as I should be, but I have always found Ann's groups very interesting,' he says.

The Johnsons have been together since they met in Liverpool University in the 1960s Ann studying pure English and Mike, General Studies with English. They moved to Ilkley 50 years ago after careers took them to various parts of the country, Ann as an English teacher, Mike in industry.

Ann said after the initial idea for the u3a, it took off rapidly. She obviously has an indefatigable energy and enjoyment in using her love of teaching. 'I started a group Plays and Theatres, beginning with The History of Drama. In those early years there were few courses on offer and as I kept my groups fairly small, I would repeat mine the next year.' Ann recounts that one member leaving told her she would return the next year 'as soon as I leave the room I have forgotten

what you said'. Eventually Ann handed on to the late David Morton, who ran it very successfully and it is still going strong. Ann also started Crime Readers, including discussion of the development of the crime novel, here and in the USA.

'I wanted to do something else, and there was an interest in English Literature, people really wanted to do it. We have over the years discussed novels like Emma, Great Expectations, talking about film and how it was developed So I started Books and Film. I also started the History of the English Language, which has been reprised several times.'

Mike joined u3a when he retired some time after Ann and jokes that in the beginning, he 'knew very little about it, not even what the letters stood for'. However, he threw himself into the idea; 'I got involved in a self-taught Italian group, three ladies and me. We went as far as we could working through the textbook. It worked as a technique, it broke the ice and certainly worked to give us confidence in speaking, but there was a limit,' he chuckled.

Mike is widely known as the organiser of the very popular Film Study Group, from which he is now reluctantly resigning. He had developed a great interest in commercial cinema in childhood; 'my uncle was an actor and he got me a holiday job at Pinewood



Studios, on two occasions working in the Publicity Department of the Rank Organisation; very exciting for a film-mad youngster particularly at a time when Marilyn Monroe was working there with Olivier!

For his first solo u3a group he started a History of the Cinema. His first film course was using British Film Institute tapes, a history of the birth and development of the earliest cinema. 'The membership slowly grew from six or so in a small room, projecting on to a wall! to 125 in the season before lockdown.'

'We now meet in St Margaret's Hall where there is an overhead projector and sound system – almost like having one's own cinema! We were very proud because we managed to keep going through most of the Pandemic, except, like everyone, missing one whole season.'

Janet Garland

The new member

Hilda Bowler recently came to live in Ilkley from Cheshire, after moving to be nearer a daughter after her husband died.



u3a is often seen as a good way to meet a wide range of new contacts as well as trying new experiences and skills. Hilda is a lively person,

proactive although over 80. We started off by talking of the excellent standard of photos in the Wharfedale Wildlife Group Facebook (not u3A) and she mentioned that she used to be involved

in botanical recording when she lived in Cheshire.

What has struck her about the Ilkley and District u3a? 'All the groups are quite different, from book clubs to outdoor activities, all quite different, with a wide range of choice.'

Hilda was interested by Art Appreciation and Architectural Appreciation, a non-fiction book group, and a walking group that involves 2 or 3 miles. There was no room in the Ilkley one, so she tried the Otley group: 'they were so welcoming, so I have been going there. It suits me very well and everyone is very friendly.'

'I went to a talk about India, I enjoyed very much. I'm interested

in places. The speaker was excellent. There was an event about Yorkshire at the Playhouse with different speakers, it was fascinating – there is another day, on Castles, this month.'

'One thing I found a little off putting, in some groups the emphasis is that members have to take part. Some groups you are encouraged come forward and do it, and in others you have to. But that's the only downside I have come across. But the groups are quite different and there's such a wide range of choice.'

Anything you'd like to add? 'Oh yes, I still haven't found a craft group. That would be good.'

Janet Garland

Walking with u3a

Walking is such a pleasure and can be enjoyed by u3a members regardless of most fitness levels – all that's required is a stout pair of shoes and a little motivation, oh and a waterproof jacket of course!

The Wharfe Valley and surrounding countryside is accessed by all the u3a walking groups and joining in offers the opportunity for lots of fresh air and friendship.

Nordic Walking is the newest group, and is inspired by the Finnish total body version of walking and uses specially designed walking poles not unlike ski poles. The Nordic Walkers meet every other week and they spend a couple of hours alternatively laughing and concentrating as they negotiate the footpaths along the river propelled along by their poles, exercising both their upper and lower body at the same time.



Less exacting, is eating a delicious pub lunch and the **Stroll to Lunch** group provides this option. A leisurely wander of about 3 miles avoiding hills and awkward stiles results in an arrival at a pub or cafe for some tasty refreshments.

On a similar theme is the **Walking 10 to Tea** group, which ends a more strenuous walk of up to 9 miles at a tea room or coffee house. The members of this group take turns in leading the walks and the name of the each of the walk's leader is published in advance.

If your fitness needs to be improved before a 9 mile walk becomes a distant possibility, the Otley based **Walk for Fitness** group meet every 2 weeks, cover about 3 miles in the local area and encourage the use of a bus pass.

Walking enthusiasts can meet and hike with like-minded explorers in the **Further and Faster Walking** group who cover up to 13 miles during a walk and also focus on enjoying the scenery, wildlife and history of the local countryside.



As we move forward into spring and summer joining one of these or any of the other u3a walking groups could be the next step for you.

Poems

Poems this issue contributed by members of the Poetry Writing Group, led by Roy Anderson, who compose to a fortnightly theme suggested by members, after discussion and free writing.

Respite after named storm Eunice (whilst Putin is still amassing his forces on the Ukrainian border).

And since then...

Sometimes the beauty of the skies
breaks out like this.
Flakes fall like this,

float free like feathers now, like
eagle down,
and flurried hearts can calm, and
fears can all abate like this.

Faces lift and glow, and breathing
slows as weightlessness
lies in repose and sways in silent
tryst like this,

and distant flakes, as high and pure
as stars and truth,
freefall soft in drifts like this.

With peace as lost as snow on tongue,
what has this one man done?

Jane Davies

An honoured guest from France visits u3a

Lockdown produced many different approaches to keeping the membership together and the plates spinning; many based themselves around Zoom meetings and regular get-togethers in a virtual setting.

In March, one of the several French groups which flourish in our u3a had the pleasure of welcoming and meeting in person Madame Annick Dufourg, who during the lockdown had led them in conversation, Zooming from her home in the Alps to the Ilkley and District u3a. This invaluable connection has taken place over the past two years. The French learners were delighted to welcome her to Ilkley so that she could meet some members in person.

I asked her how easy she found her role as an enabler. Being a professional educator Annick was very much at her ease with the group. 'I realised that what they wanted to do was to speak, rather than study in a conventional way, and that was really it. I corrected any mistakes and suggested vocabulary and being a teacher, I knew when to move the conversation on if some of the people were speaking much more than the others!

'Topics of conversation varied; whatever they liked, where they used to live, for example, one member is from Puglia in

The Dark—a ghazal

Curtains close at evening time,
Close the day and tighten the dark.

Night comes, with no moon,
The black sky heightens the dark.

Ghosts move quietly through the house,
Drapes flutter and frighten the dark.

The candles flicker and gutter,
The yellow flame brightens the dark.

Voices murmur, telling tall stories
That might amuse and lighten the dark.

Be Frank and face down your fears,
Then, Tom, you might end the dark,

Tom Franks
March 2022

Italy; talking about their dogs! discussing careers, pointing out aspects of the language, such as *faux amis*, those words which are not quite what they seem, spelling etc.' She added 'I give everyone some time for speaking.'

Annick was delighted to meet several of her learners in person in Addingham on a sunny day in mid-March. As well as guiding Annick and her partner Jean-Pierre on a walk around Addingham, the members showed them the blue plaques which adorn the village, marking the notable events and people which have occurred over the years.

'It was a real pleasure to visit the village and to see people I had been meeting so often,' she said. It was the first time Jean-Pierre had been to Yorkshire and he was impressed with the dry-stone walls, which are not seen in France, admiring the skill and handiwork of the workmen who had constructed them over the centuries.

Asked if there was an equivalent of u3a in France, they replied that there were a great many leisure schemes and facilities, sports, libraries, walking groups for varying distances, Tai Chi and cultural groups available for retired people. In France they tended to be organised on a *Département* or local government level, rather than one overarching organisation. It was agreed that we, both in the UK and France, are lucky to have such a wealthy of activities to participate in as we get older.

The couple were invited to join their hosts at the Ilkley Concert Club concert in the Kings Hall on the final day of their stay. They thoroughly enjoyed both the music and the atmosphere of the concert, remarking '*Quelle virtuosité*'.

All in all, this was a really encouraging example of the cultural links with France which still remain, even after Brexit, and how things which start off in a small way can become established and valued. The plethora of French language groups is a fitting testament to the enduring love of the British for the French way of life. Links which have existed in Ilkley for decades are obviously flourishing.



It is clear that the bond made with the group during the lock down has started a new chapter in co-operation.

Vive l'entente cordiale, et merci beaucoup, Annick! – pictured above, far right.

Caring for carers

It is a sad truth that nearly half of us, who live with a long term partner, may end up as a carer at some time, whether that is through terminal illness or a long term debilitating condition such as Alzheimer's. I know, from personal experience that Ilkley (at least through the Ilkley Moor Medical Practice) provides excellent end of life care. There is the Goldline 'phone number that enables a carer to speak to an experienced palliative care specialist at any time of the day or night. A wonderful resource when pain or distress strikes in the middle of the night.

There are the fabulous District Nurses who come, at any time of the day or night to give calm, unflustered care. There is the 'hospice at home' service from Manorlands Hospice that enabled my wife to die at home, surrounded by her children and the family dog. And for us there was our great GP who gave us his personal mobile 'phone number so we could ring him at any time.

At the time, I did not recognise myself as a 'carer' until a visitor from Carers' Resource told me that there were small grants available to carers, on condition that one spent it on oneself. I opted for ▶

Cryptic crossword

Across

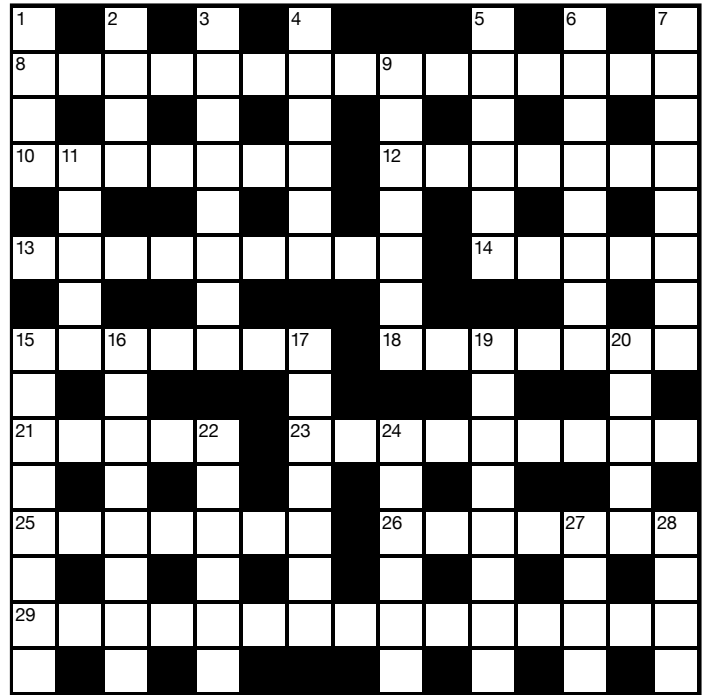
- 8 Precious metal found by London line – something to celebrate (8,7)
 10 A knot undone in words (7)
 12 Cummings' fantasy of ruling the land? (7)
 13 Edward whose father was unready, he admits (9)
 14 Eat fire around the start of November (5)
 15 Included in bequest: a testator's properties (7)
 18 One recommending commercial face protection (7)
 21 Political group seen regularly in Downing Street? (5)
 23 Did Camilla heartlessly abet criminal, as Queen's uncle did? (9)
 25 At sea last December, briefly redeployed two men on board (7)
 26 Royal family issues: Andrew is one of them (7)
 29 Eighteen brazil nuts set before a queen (9,6)

Down

- 1 Discharge starts from sewage pipe entering Wharfe (4)
 2 Toady shade of brown (4)
 3 Recommend short afternoon nap for the most squiffy (8)
 4 Finally, Lord Sugar broadcast looks over (6)
 5 Sharpens muscles, grabbing barbell initially, to get some beef (1-5)

Down...

- 6 Happy kids in party clothes (4,4)
 7 College servant embarked on new course (8)
 9 In answer to overheard question, no, she went by plane to the capital of Indonesia (7)
 11 Seeing stars from sonic boom (5)
 15 Looked forward to in a way, except by journalist (8)
 16 Turnips cooked on tabletop rotisserie (8)
 17 Wrap up warmly: it's two degrees in Yorkshire river! (7)
 19 Shots of when Hoover appears in film, by the sound of it (8)
 20 Daisy's neat look (5)
 22 Abuse thrown back in ill-lit alleyway (4,2)
 24 Deer path has regular parts missing at lowest points (6)
 27 Prune extract (4)
 28 Neighbours could be OAPs (4)



Quick crossword

Across

- 8 This year's anniversary (8,7)
 10 Berkshire town (7)
 12 Royal realm (7)
 13 One who acknowledges sins (9)
 14 Light meal (5)
 15 Landed properties (7)
 18 Informant or counsellor (7)
 21 Social gathering (5)
 23 Renounced (9)
 25 Made chess move (7)
 26 Male members of the Royal family (7)
 29 The Queen (9,6)

Down

- 1 Vomit (4)
 2 Young deer (4)
 3 Most intoxicated (8)
 4 Keeps watch over (6)
 5 Large steaks (1-5)
 6 Best clothes (4,4)
 7 Domestic servant (often at university) (8)
 9 Capital of Indonesia (7)
 11 Saintly figures (5)
 15 Likely to happen (8)
 16 A rotating skewer for roasting (8)
 17 Wrap in strips of cloth (7)
 19 Substances giving immunity against disease (8)
 20 A type of daisy (5)
 22 Address noisily (4,2)
 24 Innermost or lowest parts (6)
 27 Device for holding things together (4)
 28 Cleaning agent (4)

► one to pay for swimming lessons. When I started I could not manage one length of the pool, doing the crawl. I needed a target and the one I choose was to swim a half a mile in the Great North Swim in Lake Windermere. That was achieved 13 months later, and the year after that I did the mile. On each occasion raising £5,000 for Manorlands as a 'thank you' for all they had done for my wife.

This illustrates one vital fact for any carer. It is essential to organise every day to have some time for oneself. For me that was a visit to the Lido where I could swim and then sit and chat with others about any subject other than illness or death. This time to oneself is not selfishness. It is an essential means of self protection, to enable one to carry on. Any carer must take care of themselves as well as the person that they love and care for.

An essential resource is information,

and there are a number of organisations who can provide invaluable support. We would never have thought to apply for a Blue Badge until someone from Carers' Resource in Skipton suggested that we would qualify. Our palliative care nurse from Manorlands suggested modifications to our house and (entirely free of charge) arranged for a stairlift to be fitted. She made the suggestion on a Monday and by Thursday, my wife was able once again to go up and down stairs, without effort.

In the Leeds area the relevant organisation is Carers Leeds. They have groups in Yeadon, Garforth and Morley. In Bradford it is Carers' Resource and they have local offices in Bradford, Skipton and Harrogate. Local Authority Welfare Rights Units will be able to give advice about such matters as Attendance Allowance etc.

Owen Wells

For solutions scan this QR code or go to ilkleyu3a.org and follow the links to News and The Eye.



Ilkley & District u3a Summer Programme

This year the Summer Programme will be all over the place. Booking is essential and opens May 25th. All events are free except where the cost is listed. Further details to come: our website, paper programme or at Drop-ins.

Tai Chi in the Park Try Tai Chi any Monday morning from 10.30am in the Riverside Park, Ilkley

Book Folding Recycle old books into beautiful sculptures. July 4th, 10am at the leader's home. Cost £6.00

Singing Together taster All welcome. July 5th, 10am, St John's Church, Ben Rhydding

Walking Tour of Guiseley Old Town and Parish Church July 6th, 10.30am or 1.15pm

A half hour taster of Padel The new 'tennis-lite' sport. Skipton Tennis Centre, slots available July 7th and 14th, 10.30am-12.30pm

Card Making Recycle your old cards into beautiful new ones. Includes demonstration of die cutting and embossing machine. July 11th, 10am at leader's home. Cost £3.00

Archaeology Walk on Burley Moor July 12th, 10am
Ilkley Tree Walk 10.30am, July 3rd, 18th, or 21st

Summer Cracker Make up for missing our annual Christmas Cracker with our unique Ilkley & District u3a Summer Cracker, a morning of music and fun. July 16th, 10am, Clarke Foley, Ilkley

An afternoon with the Intermediate Guitar (& banjo & squeeze-box!) Group Come to listen or join in. July 21st, from 1pm at Ilkley Vaults (there are stairs to this venue)

Stroll through Lister Park, Bradford Its history, art and botany. July 27th, 2pm

Circle Dancing taster July 29th, 10am at the Clarke Foley

The Constitution of the USA Learn why pleading the 5th and more is referenced so often in film and TV. August 2nd, 2.30pm, the Clarke Foley

Six Cradles of Civilisation Talk. August 3rd, 10am, the Sanctuary, Christchurch, Ilkley

Walking Tour of Bradford August 4th. All day including

morning coffee and lunch. Cost £12 + train fare

Addingham Blue Plaque Walk A gentle 4½ miles August 11th, 10am
Film: Spellbound and short talk about the American obsession with spelling, August 12th, 2pm at St Margaret's Church Hall, Ilkley

Textile Adventures Study Day August 17th from 10am at Beech Hill Church Otley cost to be announced

The Entrepreneurs of York from Medieval Times to the Future day trip August 18th, cost to be announced

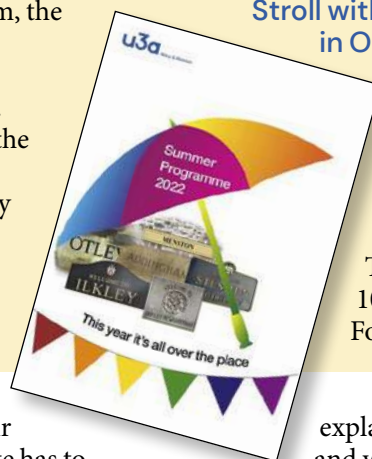
Ancestry 2-part course on getting to know how your family lived through the ages, so they become real people, not just dates on old documents. August 18th and 25th, 1.30pm

The Climate Crisis: Some Solutions Talk. August 19th, 10.30am at the Clarke Foley Centre
Stroll with a Sketchbook

in Otley August 23rd, 10am
Tour of Otley Parish Church

August 25th, 10am
The real story of the Discovery of Australia

Talk. August 26th, 10am at the Clarke Foley Centre



Our website

The Ilkley & District u3a website was originally established in 2012 to improve management of membership records. This is still its core function so why do about 150 people visit the site each day, often more?

There's always new stuff to see We show new content on the rolling news bar at the top of the Welcome page. This highlights items such as the regular changes to the mystery picture quiz and local newspaper scrap book. We also make sure that we keep the events list up to date and never show something that has already happened.

Our most popular page is Quirky Humour where we publish amusing cartoons, thanks to members supplying items seen on social media.

Relevant information is available and easily found Members already know what's

happening with their groups so the website has to provide something more.

You can use it to check the Saturday talk guest speaker, find details of the next Drop-in, and contact a trustee, read guidance on running a zoom event and lots more. On average someone will visit five pages and spend five minutes on our website.

If you can't find what you're looking for, you can use the Contact Us page or the Search tab.

The website looks dynamic and interesting

Long blocks of text, poor layout and limited graphics result in bored visitors and a quick exit from the site. So, we use short blocks of text and plenty of images to help keep your attention.

Have a look at the Home and Join Us pages and you'll see how we regularly change the onscreen images. You can also watch a lovely video of members

explaining why they joined u3a and what it means to them. This is all designed to catch the eye of the casual visitor and show them that Ilkley and District u3a is alive and thriving.

Our latest initiative is to present the pages of the EYE like a printed document. You can turn the pages one at a time and zoom in to read the articles.

It's our shop window to increase awareness of u3a

Over 80% of our new members in 2020 joined on line. We often use local and social media to attract the wider community to use the website, which raises our profile. So, it's good to know the website is still fulfilling its original function.

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