

Stray Bits March 2024



Easter is nearly upon us! Hopefully we are all prepared....! Family visiting or vice versa. Some warmer weather and to be dry and sunny would be a bonus. Then many of us will be out gardening – or visiting sights and places around Harrogate and the environs. Enjoy! Sometime soon – **Stray News, the Harrogate U3A Annual**

Magazine, will be posted online – so keep an eye out for that. Meanwhile enjoy Stray Bits and keep me posted with your group news. **Val Cooke – Ed.**



History of Art.

Brian Souter gave his **200th** talk to the History of Art group on 14th Feb. He started the group 18 years ago and it is thriving with a current membership of 118, meeting in Knaresborough fortnightly. **Chairman Ian Munday** came to mark the occasion and presented Brian with a voucher for the Ivy, so Brian and Chris can celebrate his achievement with a slap-up meal.



Painting & Drawing Group. Our busy and productive spring term will end on Tuesday 19th March, and we will meet again at Community House for another 11-week term from Tuesday 16th April until Tuesday 25th June. Suggested topics for the summer term will include boats, seaside, holiday memories, carnival, and flower show to be tackled using a variety of media as usual. **Sue Huskins**

(Gillian's bird & June's Meadowscape)



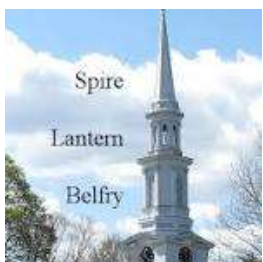
Looking at Churches. Group Leader **Bridget Page**

*Are you a **Steeple Chaser** or a **Church Crawler**? These names describe those of us who can't pass a village church or a Cathedral without popping in to wonder at the architecture of the building.*

We have ten meetings a year when members or guest speakers present all sorts of interesting features of churches. This year we have looked at St Oswald's churches, Church Vestments, Identifying Saints, Joan of Arc Churches and Waterloo Churches and we look forward to talks on the Abbeys of Yorkshire, the manufacture

of medieval documents and the Walk to Santiago de Compostela.

We meet on the third Tuesday morning of each month (not August) at 10 am in St Paul's Church Hall, Belford Road, opposite Harrogate Library. Come and try us!



Painting at Pannal We have separate morning and afternoon sessions, meeting each Tuesday in the Chapter House at St Roberts. We can comfortably accommodate 15 members at each session. Currently there are two vacancies in the afternoon. Our (voluntary) topics for April are Harrogate views and Spring Flowers. If interested, contact **Brian Graham**

(Field Mouse by Barbara and Frog on Rock)



Discovering Yorkshire's Heritage Group

Forty members of the visited the **Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield** for a guided tour of the galleries devoted to Barbara Hepworth followed by time to visit the temporary exhibitions such as Andrew Cranston's What Made You Stop Here, featuring paintings on old book covers as well as large-scale canvases. We then went into the city to the Rhubarb Festival and returned with armloads of rhubarb.

Sunday Morning Coffee Group meets once a month at Hopkins, the cafe at Horticap. We keep the numbers to around twenty so that members can feel more at ease in a small group and just pay for what we order. Occasionally a few of us go out for Saturday lunch which gives us even more time to talk! There is currently a waiting list for this popular group but if it sounds right for you, then put your name down and see what happens. Please contact **Jenny Thompson**



“Going Gently: Planning for Old Age and Afterwards”. We are currently recruiting for the next course which begins on Friday 10th May. We meet on Friday afternoons at Harrogate Library for six sessions. The course covers the following subjects:

- Planning for Death and Talking Through with Your Family
- The Question of Care
- Wills, Powers of Attorney & Advance Decisions
- After Death and Probate
- Funeral Planning
- Visit to Stonefall cemetery & crematorium
- and our own version of a ‘Wake’

This will be the **fourth** course that has been planned by Richard and they have proved very popular. It is a helpful guide to all the things we need to know when we get older – but we always think there is tomorrow.....! More details from **Richard Cyster**

Discovering Yorkshire’s Heritage Group Tuesday May 21 – Barnsley Leaving Harrogate at 9 am, this



is a chance to visit Barnsley with its historic market and rebuilt town centre, while enjoying a great contemporary museum and extended adjacent art gallery. The **Barnsley Experience Museum** shows “the history of the borough from 360 million years ago through its industrial and coal-mining

After a break for lunch we will walk a short distance to the **Cooper Art Gallery**, for a conducted tour of over 400 works from the 17th to the 20th century, including drawings by Turner and Ruskin and two paintings by John Atkinson Grimshaw.. The cost for this visit is £25. **Please contact Cheryl** if you would like to go.

Harrogate U3A Gardening Trip to Scampston Walled Garden, nr. Malton Friday June 14th 2024. This trip is open to all U3A members. The coach will collect from Harrogate Library, Victoria Avenue at 9.30am arriving at the gardens around 11.15am, leaving around 3pm and returning to the library. The cost of the coach is £18 per person. Admission to the garden is free for RHS members on a Friday. Non-members will need to pay the £9.50 entrance fee on the day. If you would like to go on the trip, please contact **Anne Brown** preferably before the end of April



The Photography Group will be exhibiting their work in **Harrogate Central Library over Easter** and during the month of April 2024. Here are some images from our latest project titled 'Triangles'. We now have a near full membership but still welcome enquiries from prospective new members. **Gary Gudgin**



York Art Experience - an excellent outing. **Barbara Peel**

Van Gogh Immersive Experience in York. Opened recently and runs until May.

Situated in St Mary’s Church, Coppergate next to the Jorvik Centre it is art as you have never seen it before. Lose yourself in wonderful images, colours, sound and some animation.

Amazing. The exhibition is open every day except Tuesday and Wednesday. Admission for concessions is £12, the Virtual Reality experience is £3 extra which is well worth paying for.

I don’t think you will be disappointed, I know we weren’t (3 different generations) – even my 19 year old Grandson was impressed

COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Stray News Harrogate U3A Magazine 2024, will be published at end of April.

Please submit your **Stories, Information, News and Views** to **Catherine Sauzier, Editor**, straynews@harrogateu3a.org.uk

Website address – <https://u3asites.org.uk/harrogate/home>

Stray Bits will be back at the end of May. **Val Cooke, Editor** – valerie@cooke989.plus.com