

Stray Bits – September 2021



Welcome to Harrogate u3a with this new start of our year. It is very exciting to be able to have an Open meeting in reality, and the new, very central venue will hopefully be easier for people to attend.

Many thanks to all the Group Leaders who have sent me information to be added to this Stray Bits – and please keep on telling me about your groups throughout the year. If you haven't let me have information about your group – let me have it for next month. The copy date is 14th October. We have managed to keep going this far after a difficult 18 months – so lets all come together again. **Val Cooke, Editor.**



Communications. After 10 years of dedication, our **Webmaster Chris Rush** has relinquished his role and passed the chalice on **Ian Munday**. Chris joined the Harrogate U3A around 2007 and as a member of the Communication Team, took responsibility of email distribution. In 2011 he changed roles to be Webmaster and has maintained and updated our website since then. In 2018 he boldly volunteered to lead our U3A into the Beacon database system which holds members information. Currently he retains that demanding responsibility but feels that it is time reduce his workload. **We, as an organisation, have much to thank him for.**

Quiz Group Sadly **David (our ex-Chair)** has decided that there is not enough support to run the group currently in its present format, even if we move venue. Therefore, he has decided to close the group down until things return more to normal, and he feels comfortable running it. So maybe sometime next year it may be possible to restart it. However, if anyone else would like to have a go.... Maybe in a different format...? Many thanks to David for all his brilliant questions that confounded us!! **VC Ed.**



Looking at Churches



The Group ended the 2020-21 session with two visits. The first, to St John's, Knaresborough, was better supported than that to two Leeds churches, St John the Evangelist and Leeds Minster. Are members still being cautious? **Rob Tipler** resigned as Group Leader at the end of August, but not before he had handed over to his grateful successor, **Peter Hirschmann**, the programme of talks through to December 2022. We are all very grateful to Rob for his management of the group for the past 3 years, not least during the fifteen months on Zoom. We wish him well.

We start the new session by resuming in-person meetings on September 21st with a guest speaker. There are at present 80 members in the group. We will find out then how many think this is worth the risk.

Italian Conversation

At present our Italian Conversation Class is composed of 11 members who every month meet once fortnight for a face to face lesson at the Cairn, and an online session on WhatsApp/FaceTime once a fortnight. In theory there is one vacancy to be filled.

Contact **Mike Streeton** if you are interested on:

mike_steeton@yahoo.co.uk

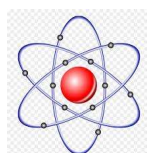


German Groups. We have started German classes on Monday September 6th with the Advanced class, and on the 13th with the intermediate class, with 10 to 12 biweekly at the Community House, 50 East Parade.

Sister Evelyn does various language classes via zoom.

A second intermediate German class is being taught by Alan Manship biweekly on Friday mornings, also at the Community House.

For further information, call **Siggie Mattison at 01423 524271**



Science and Technology is up and running again from Monday 11 October and, all being well, will continue on the 2nd Monday of every month, until further notice. We meet at Community House, 46 -50 East Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5RR, between 2.30 and 3.30pm. Meetings planned to date cover physics, the environment, geology, botany, physiology and electrifying women (aren't we all?!!!). For further info, contact **Val Michie** at:

valmichie@btinternet.com

Open Meeting at Wesley Chapel

The next meeting will be on Friday October 29th when the talk will be given by Richard Taylor of the Ripon Civic Society entitled 'No Rest for the Wicked'. Coffee/tea will be served at 10.30, followed by the talk at 11.15am.

New and Prospective Members Welcome Coffee Morning. 10.30-12. October 19th.at Wesley Chapel - It would also be good to see our Group Leaders to welcome new members.



Christmas Social with entertainment! 12-2pm December 3rd. At the Wesley Chapel. **Details to follow but please make a note of the date.**

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meetings are held towards the end of each month. Minutes are available by email on request from the Secretary, **Stella Barclay**, at secretary@harrogateu3a.org.uk

The Family History group are still meeting on zoom jointly with the Ripon U3A Family History group. October 14th we are back to a joint zoom meet where our member's talk is titled "Explorers and Troublemakers."



Over the summer we have returned to our pre-covid timings of meeting on the afternoon of the second Thursday of the month. During this time, we have had 2 social face-to-face meetings with our fellow Ripon members, in Ripon Spa Gardens and Valley Gardens. It has been great to meet our liked minded "zoomers" in real time to chat and enjoy each other company.

You may be interested in finding out more of what our group does or may want to join, so please email us at u3a.hgtfamhistgroup@gmail.com **Carole, Wendy & Bridget.**



The Harrogate U3A Singing for Pleasure Group meets on a Wednesday morning at St Roberts Centre, Roberts Street, Harrogate, to enjoy choral singing of a wide-ranging repertoire of music. Under the direction of Elizabeth Turner, a variety of songs old and new, are sung for both enjoyment and challenge. In addition, a programme of music is rehearsed for performance at concerts or events staged locally once or twice per year.

Currently we are especially keen to welcome more tenors and basses. Any members of U3A who would like to join the group should contact **Elizabeth Turner** (01423 709737). The first meeting this year will be 6th October.

Dolls Houses & Miniatures Group

Before Covid our group began work on a market stall selling fruit, veg and flowers; the idea being that we would put it on display at the AGM Showcase. As you can see, we still have a long way to go so if you own a dolls house or are thinking of getting one then please come along and join us. We normally meet on the 2nd Monday of the month although that can vary due to holidays. If interested, please contact jeanmtweddle@btopenworld.com or telephone 01423 523332.



Reading for Pleasure



Our reading group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10.15 in St. Luke's Church off Kings Road (this is the hall behind the old church and is approached from Franklin Mount). There is ample parking in the area using your HBC parking permit.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 14 October, and we will be discussing "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. We would welcome new members, so **contact Kathryn**

O'Loughlin on 888359 if you need more information.



Painting for Pleasure Group is restarting on Monday 4th October at Bilton Community Centre 1pm.

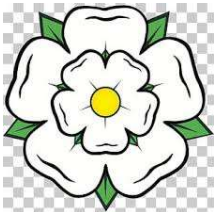
The group numbers have reduced due to COVID and other issues. A limited number of places are available, therefore if interested please come to Bilton Community Centre on one of the following dates: 4th or 18th October, 1st or 15th November, 6th December.

Please note this is not a tutor led group and has no formal tuition on any art medium. The group comes together to paint in their own art medium and socialise.

Tea Party – September 9th.

This very successful event to start the new year of u3a activities was held at the Wesley Centre, our new meetings venue, on September 9th. About 80 people attended and were able to chat to old friends and meet people who had recently joined Harrogate u3a, whilst also enjoying delicious cakes. It is hoped that this will be the first of many social events being planned by the committee and our thanks go to those who made endless cups of tea and tirelessly washed up.

Discovering Yorkshire's Heritage:



This new group is proving very popular and started with a guided visit to Ripon and another to Leeds in July, led by local historians. The next visit will be to Saltaire to be guided round the UNESCO village, and given an insight into living and working in the village when the mill was fully functioning. Other visits planned are walks round Bradford and York and a visit to the rhubarb farms and festival near Wakefield as well as visits to Wentworth Woodhouse, Scarborough etc.



The Country Club is a new lunch group and met for the first time in August. We meet on the last Thursday of the month, at 12.45pm. Meetings are held in members' homes, which creates a relaxed and sociable environment. A different country provides the theme each month. Members prepare dishes from the country and we share them, with appropriate drinks. The country for August was Australia and the one for September will be Belgium.

We have 10 members at present. We want to be an inclusive group, but homes vary in size and many people would find it hard to accommodate a large group. Hence, we would welcome new

members and could then move to a 'mix and match' basis for meetings, with more than one meeting each month and each subgroup's size being appropriate to the space available.

Contact **Philip Johnston** on: pcjludlow@yahoo.com

New Group You have all heard of a "dog's dinner" but this is a **Boys' Breakfast**. We are setting up a small breakfast group with the idea of having breakfast at a different restaurant in Harrogate once a month or so and then giving a score/review of the meal. We are not excluding females, but the lunch groups seem to be a predominantly female gathering so why should we not join in the foodie scene? This should be a fairly small group so, if you are interested, contact either **Phil** on pcjludlow@yahoo.com or **Barry** on Barry@mantonian.co.uk



Lunch Groups.

Both the Tuesday and Thursday Lunch Groups have been meeting since restrictions were lifted.

I have room in my Thursday Lunch Group for two people, but if the demand is there, I would help someone start another one. Contact **Lorraine Lawson** on: lorrynelawson19@gmail.com if you are free to join the Thursday group or would like her help.

The Wine Appreciation Group

The wine group restarted in July and is meeting at St Mark's Church on Leeds Road. The members have already learnt about the basics of grape-growing and wine production and have tasted wines from Burgundy, Alsace, Germany and Austria and this will be followed by the wines of the U.S.A.



Walking Cricket Harrogate, although not affiliated to the U3A, has 90% U3A members taking part. We have had a wonderful season of learning the game, competition and comradeship playing cricket. Rounded off with a mention by Jonathan Agnew on Test Match Special.

We will resume again next May. Anybody interested please contact email: rhwhiteley@btinternet.com

COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Website address - www.harrogateu3a.org.uk

Group Leaders - please give updates to Website Editor, Ian Munday at:
website.editor@harrogateu3a.org.uk

Stray Bits for your immediate notices and information. Copy by 14th October 2021 please to:
Val Cooke, Editor, Stray Bits – Tel. 506837 or: valerie@cooke989.plus.com

Harrogate U3A email address: harrogateu3a.mail@gmail.com

Membership Enquiries - 07389 733164 and leave a contact number.