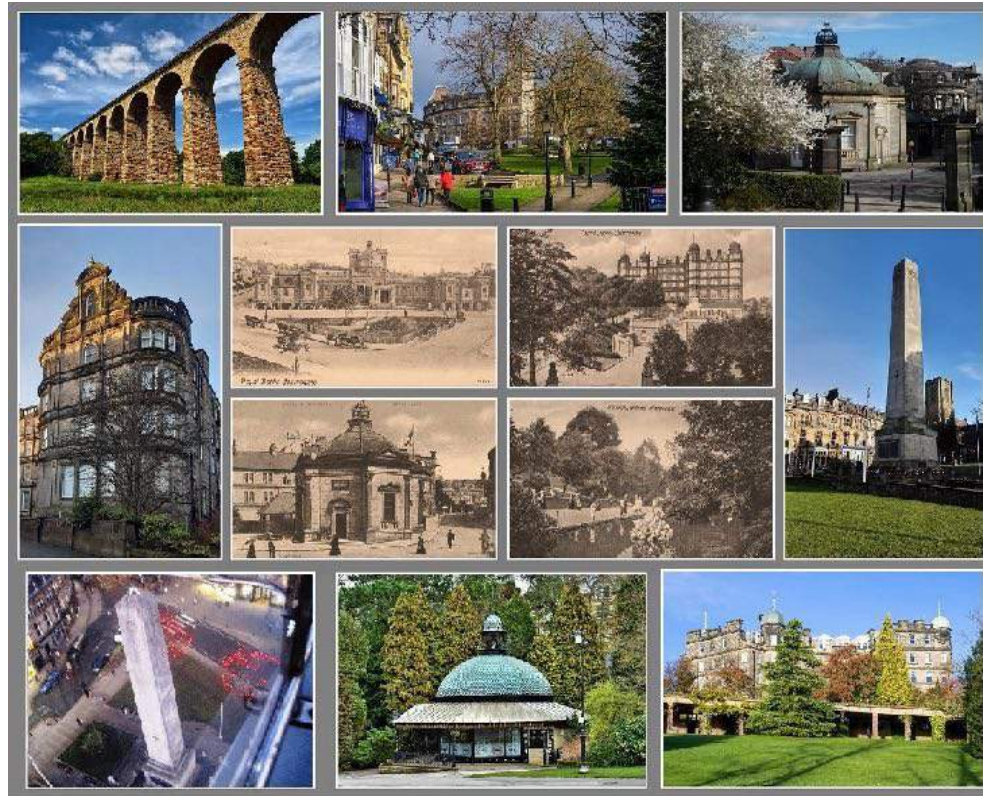


u3a

Harrogate

S tray News



April 2024

Registered Charity: 1038457




"Carpe diem!"

Beacon Site and Website Management



"Just give me a minute"

"Interest groups are the life blood of the u3a"



Speaker Finder

"Let us entertain (and inform) you"



"The teachers learn and the learners teach"



always ready to welcome new members
✓



"the coach will be leaving very soon!"

Governance advice



950+ members
60 groups



annual membership £16

Welcome to Harrogate u3a Committee



"What would you like to know?"

<p>Ian Munday Chair <i>Beacon Site & Website Management</i></p>	<p>Nicola Kendall Secretary</p>	<p>Stephen Hutchison Vice Chair <i>Speaker Finder</i></p>
<p>Lorraine Lawson <i>Membership Secretary</i></p>	<p>Phil Johnston <i>Group Coordinator</i></p>	<p>Stella Barclay <i>Governance</i></p>
<p>Jeff Jones Treasurer</p>	<p>Cheryl Johnston <i>Social Activities</i></p>	<p>Beulah Chatten <i>Information Officer</i></p>

Technology does not stand still even in third age!" *Ian Munday*



Many years ago, when I first joined **Harrogate u3a**, such things as smart phones were still being invented and mobile phones were the size of small bricks. In those days written communication with members was limited to postal dispatches sent out two or three times a year.

These days however, with the spiralling costs of postage and printing, the availability of the internet has made it inevitable that **Harrogate u3a** should seek alternative ways of communicating with its members.

In some respects the internet has brought benefits. Today, almost 97% of our members are able to receive emails with the regular, monthly updates of our activities and events. Group leaders are able to message their members in an easy fashion. **Harrogate u3a** sends out thousands of emails in a year. A comprehensive **website** and a **Facebook** presence are what is now expected and demanded from an organisation such as ours.

Those members who are unable, for whatever reason, to use this new technology will not be forgotten in this 'contactless age'.

Harrogate u3a may not have the resources to go back to the old postal arrangements, but it aims to provide at the Open meetings written information of forthcoming events in the form of a printed newsletter. The membership secretary will also continue to post membership renewal details to those members without email.

It may also be that some groups would consider setting up a 'buddy' system whereby information could be passed on by a member with email to one without.

Harrogate u3a is about groups and their activities. it is NOT, and never will be, just an online experience. We must use the internet, just as we did the postal system, to serve our activities but not to replace them.

Open meetings moved to St Marks Church

see pages 25–26 for some details of open meetings held in 2023

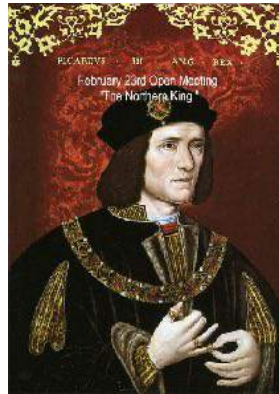
2024



26 January

Any introduction needed?

An addicted weather forecaster since before the age of 10, **Paul Hudson** proved to be an extremely entertaining talker keeping his audience riveted, as he darted between serious weather issues and amusing episodes in his career (and no written prompt sheet in sight!).



23 February



The Northern King

Graham Mitchell, the Yorkshire President of the Richard III Society, gave an illustrated talk about this generally misunderstood monarch (much maligned by Shakespeare among others).

He not only emphasised Richard's connections with Northern England, but also demonstrated how the popularly held fiction was not supported by factual evidence.

A fascinating talk!

... and an excellent website if you want to find out more -

<https://richardiii.net>



*"Andy spoke to the Harrogate U3A Open Meeting in March 2024, outlining **Médecins Sans Frontières'** work and sharing his fundraising adventures. He kept an audience of 150 Yorkshire pensioners entranced for an hour. We were in awe of **MSF's** work and thoroughly enjoyed the tales and photos of his travels, told with humour in a lovely self-deprecating style. His passion and commitment shone through.*

It was a very worthwhile session, and the generous donations at the end confirmed the audience's appreciation". Steve Hutchison

more details on Andy's website

“Red guards didn’t shoot Alison “



In 1956 this dramatic headline appeared in our local paper when they heard of my inadvertent incursion behind the Iron Curtain.

Four of us, students who were taking part in a work camp project in Upper Austria, decided to spend one of our free Sundays making a trip to view the border between Austria and Czechoslovakia. We had experienced few borders in our lifetime so this frontier between democracy and dictatorship was particularly intriguing to us.

We set off on a fine sunny summer morning and took the train to the last station before the frontier. Naively, as it turned out, we assumed the frontier must be the barbed wire fence we could see in the distance. How wrong we were! The frontier was actually an invisible line, not marked on the ground.

Suddenly we were aware of a man carrying what we took to be a machine gun and addressing us in Czech, which none of us spoke. However we didn't misunderstand his intention which was that we should walk in front of him and go inside the fence. Well, we realized we probably wouldn't be catching the last train back to the camp and in the days before mobile phones there wasn't going to be any way of communicating our situation.

We were taken to the guard post, still not knowing what our fate might be. It was around midday and our 'friendly' captors kindly produced some food for us. It seemed they were not quite sure what to do with us and when, through sign language and some pidgin German, they asked if anyone of us could play chess we realized this was going to be a long wait!

One of our group took on one of the guards but I don't remember who won. We gathered that they had to consult a higher authority in Prague. Finally someone higher up the chain of command arrived and after much discussion they decided that they didn't really want to keep us, so contact was made with the nearest Austrian frontier guard who was rather surprised to receive four visitors from England in the dead of night.

Our captors bade us farewell and hoped we would visit Czechoslovakia again but in rather different circumstances. Once our 'host' had got over the surprise, he admitted this was the most exciting thing that had happened on his part of the frontier, but he said we had been lucky. A few weeks previously an Austrian family, who had been having a picnic and then strayed over the invisible border, had been shot at and injured.

Alison Harris (until recently a Committee Member)

Brian Souter gives his 200th talk!

He started the group 18 years ago and it is still thriving with a current membership of 118 and an average attendance of 83.



On 14 February Chairman Ian came to mark the occasion and presented Brian with a voucher for the Ivy so Brian and Chris were able to celebrate his achievement with a slap up meal.

“For the past year we have been looking at Impressionism, Post Impressionism and the developments that followed.

In May our 'away day' will be to Port Sunlight (coach already full!).

“We continue to meet at Gracious Street Methodist Church in Knaresborough at 2pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from September to April; the annual subscription is £10 which includes a post talk tea / coffee and biscuit.”

Fauvism
 Matisse Derain Vlaminck
 Marquet Camoin
 Manguin Chagall Dufy
 van Dongen Friesz Puy
 Flandrin Marval Auguste
 Chabaud Rouault
 Braque

Seeds of Modern Art
 From September we will be looking at the Art of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Cubism
 Picasso Braque. Herbin Gris
 Metzinger Gleizes Delaunay
 Delaunay-Terk, Le Fauconnier
 Kermadec Léger

U3A NATURALISTS GROUP 2023

Isobel Beard

Our indoor meetings during the winter months are always well attended with about 40 members. Last year's subjects included 'Land of the Tigers', 'Rewilding the Isle of Rum', and 'Nidd Gorge and the Greenway'.

We were blessed with good weather for most of our outdoor meetings last spring and summer, usually with about 20 members present. These included a visit to **NOSTERFIELD NATURE RESERVE** and nearby **LINGHAM WATER** to see waterbirds.



In May we went to one of the group's favourite places – **WHARFE WOODS**; the variety and large numbers of spring flowers which can be seen in this beautiful limestone area is difficult to beat.





Our coach trip to **RSPB LEIGHTON MOSS** with a meal in Gargrave on the way home was a great success.

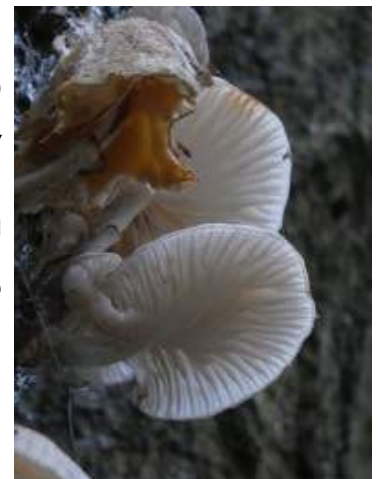


Other outdoor trips included to **COLDSTONE CUT** where we were given an informative talk by a member of staff, followed by a walk along the nearby geology trail which led us down to the **OLD LEAD MINES**; a

visit to

RIPON WETLANDS; and our usual **FUNGI FORAY** in October led by two of our members. On

outdoor visits we car share where possible.



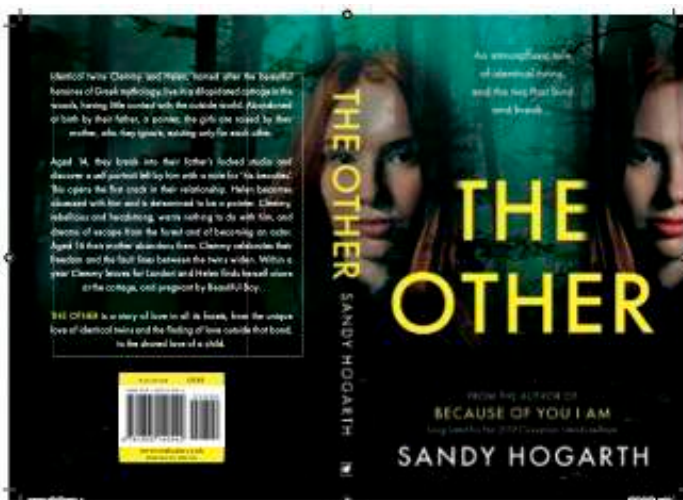
NO WAITING LIST
New members are always welcome
 Contact me at issybeard@hotmail.co.uk
 if you would like more details
 and this year's programme.

"I have wanted to write all my life"

Sandy Hogarth, u3a member

Each of us has moments of great joy, despair, a never-ending journey of working out who we are, and some of these creep into my writing. My first novel, hand-written, was stolen from my car with much else, in London, when I was in my thirties. I gave up for some time after that so have been late getting published.

My early efforts are hand written, the typed word looks too final. There are many drafts, limitless ideas and possibilities. And it is often the little things that are key. Each of my novels start with an idea, something I want to explore, although that is making it sound far more precise than it really is. The development of the main characters and an understanding of their world keeps me writing. It takes many iterations before I have a real sense of my story, who my main characters are, what they long for, their sense of self; that is what I have to find out. I seek an ending that is not too obvious, not too wrapped up but with enough clues to satisfy the reader.



People frequently ask why I wrote about identical twins in my latest novel, *The Other*. Perhaps it was an attempt to explore how difficult it must be for two identical girls, living primarily for each other, isolated in a deep forest with no father and a mother they reject, to find their individual selves.

Once my novel is finished I have to let it go. Then comes the stress: finding an agent and a publisher in a very busy market.

So writers need to be prepared to receive many rejections.

The really vulnerable time begins when the book is out there for all to read. Sales a worry, but worse, reviews on Amazon and elsewhere. However good the book, it will not suit everyone. Your exposure is complete and you can change nothing.

The thing you have spent years living with, agonising over, is handed over to friends and strangers and you await judgement.

Worldwide about 4 million new books are published annually, roughly 180,000 in the UK. Odds of being published are about 2%. Publishers only accept 1 or 2 manuscripts out of every 100 they receive.

Sales for an author's novel can be only 250 to 500 copies in a novel's lifetime. Of course that is an average and there are authors who sell millions.



The Family Tree Group

is for all those wanting to start researching their family tree through to those whom have started and want to expand their knowledge. Within the group we are not just interested in “how far you have gone back” but to find out how our ancestors lived, worked and eventually died.

We continue to meet once a month with either a live meeting in Harrogate at the invitation of the Family History Centre or, on the alternate month, via zoom jointly with the Ripon FHG.

For our **zoom meetings** we usually have a speaker either from within the Harrogate or Ripon group or we have an expert within a set field. Zoom has opened up the number of available speakers on diverse and fascinating topics. This year we had an excellent and helpful speaker from Scotland who has guided those with Scottish ancestry.

In our February **face to face meeting** we had a fascinating members presentation about two of their female relatives who went to France as members of the WAAC (The Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps) in 1918. At a previous meeting, from Wetherby u3a FHG, a member shared her “discovery” from a box of props. It consequently revealed that her grandmother’s family had been in the musical and entertainment world that was unknown to her. The presentation was illustrated with lots of photographs, theatre posters and one of her grandmother’s beautiful dresses.

A meeting on **“not believing all you see”** raised issues encountered by all family history researchers. What can you believe on official documents and on “other people’s” family history research? Family history research is like being a detective, sorting through all the information and evidence and making an informed decision, as it is so easy to follow the wrong path.



There are more presentations / discussions / meet ups organised for meetings yet to come. This year we have welcomed a number of new members to our new meetings; if you are interesting in joining please email on **u3a.hgtfamhistgroup@gmail.com**

Planning Ahead for Old Age and Afterwards

One thing that all of us will have to face eventually is our own mortality. Whether death comes suddenly or is signalled from afar, it will be easier for us and for those we leave behind if we can plan for its arrival. Although the u3a doesn't cater exclusively for older people, it has an ageing demographic, with many of its members in their 70s, 80s or even 90s. Yet preparing for the end is a subject largely conspicuous by its absence among Groups run by u3as across the country.

Drawing on the experience of those conducting a similar course in Wetherby u3a, here in Harrogate we decided to establish a Group to help members examine the issues involved in growing older and approaching the inevitable.

We have recently completed our third Going Gently course, with a fourth course due to begin on 10th May. Our final session comprised a Group visit to Stonefall Cemetery and Crematorium. We were shown round by Joshua, one of the Bereavement Officers in charge of ensuring those taking their final journey have a fitting send-off. This was followed by coffee and cakes at Fodders – our version of a Wake.

The course covers the following subjects:

- Planning for Death and Talking Through with Your Family
- The Question of Care
- Wills, Powers of Attorney & Advance Care Plans
- After Death and Probate
- Funeral Planning
- Visit to Stonefall Cemetery & Crematorium and a 'Wake'.

Please contact me if you'd like to join the Group or if you'd like to know more richardcyster@hotmail.com



Group Visit to Stonefall Crematorium

'The great thing about your last journey is that you don't have to pack!' Tony Benn

Discovering Yorkshire's Heritage

This group now comprises well over 200 members and, with the help of a small committee, we have had some very interesting visits over the last year. Some visits were very local such as a visit to the **Allerton Waste site** followed by lunch at the Bay Horse in Goldsborough, tea and a tour of **Goldsborough Hall** and a guided visit to **Ripon Cathedral**. A small group was surprised to find a windmill in the centre of a housing estate in York and to discover that it was still milling flour.

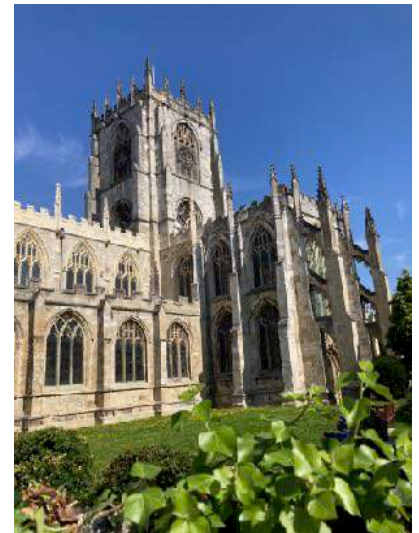
Our visit to **Ripley Castle** in October provided a wealth of historical information and **Harewood's** Christmas Past and Future was very different from preconceived ideas of Christmas decorations.

Other visits were further afield and travel was by coach. **Beverley** proved to be a real treat with its gem of a Minster, England's largest Parish Church, dating back 1300 years and the wonderful St Mary's Church. Our guided tour took in many of the installations representing 39 of the craft guilds that existed in the town. And who knew that the town was an important

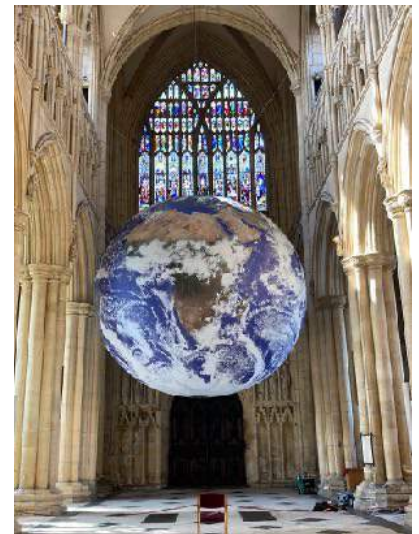
inland port with access to the North Sea? After our cultural tour we set off for Hornsea and a walk along the prom for fish and chips or ice-cream!

In February we visited the **Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield** followed by a visit to the town's Rhubarb Festival and this month, March, we visited the **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** where two very informative guides helped us understand and look more closely at many of the sculptures. Blessed by a sunny day and sustained by a very good lunch, many of us tramped across the muddy grass to view works by Erwin Wurm, Barbara Hepworth, Elizabeth Frink, Henry Moore and Damien Hirst among others.

Future visits this year will include visits to **Barnsley, Brodsworth Hall, Norton Conyers** and **Bridlington**. We certainly keep very busy and we stick to Yorkshire. I don't think we will run out of places to visit!!



Beverley Minster



Gaia



Sculpture Park



“Trying out different media with a lot of enthusiasm!”

The **Painting and Drawing Group** has been very creative this year and 6 members had work in the exhibition held in the Central Library throughout November and December 2023 (**Barbara, Gillian, Julie, Margaret H, Rosemary and Sue**).

Some members have tried out unfamiliar materials such as using oil pastels for the first time or tried unusual techniques such as **sgraffito**, where different coloured layers of oil pastel are scratched into to create an image.

Others have tried **mixed media** or **painting with acrylics using a palate knife** rather than a brush.

Dahlia *Rosemary*



drawn with
pastel pencils

Reed beds acrylic

Sue



Painted with acrylics using a
palate knife

Cloudy Sky

Kate



Painted with acrylics and brush

Reed beds soft pastel

Sue



using **soft pastel sticks** and
pastel pencils



Oil pastel sgraffito

Margaret H

People on the beach

Gillian



using pencil and watercolour on paper

Harvest mouse

James



Viaduct

James



Even **watercolour** has had more unusual treatment being flicked onto the paper. Such happy experimentation has taken place against a background of quiet concentration frequently interrupted by lots of conversation!

Trees

Gillian



Where inspiration has been lacking, we have referred to work by other artists and books of techniques to help us on our way. As usual these talking points have led to lots of

lively discussion and exchange of ideas, particularly over our tea break.

Looking forward, we will continue for another 11-week term after Easter until the end of June then will take a long break until mid-September when we hope to start up again for another year. The group is currently up to capacity, and we have 4 people on the waiting list, but things may change by September so look out for details in September's Stray Bits.

Plums

Sue



Sunrise



Sue



Sue

Sunset

A valuable piece of oral history

John Barton, Group Leader

The German group was delighted to welcome Hildegard Kendall when she came to talk to us in German about her childhood in the Sudetenland and Bavaria before, during and after the Second World War.

Most people know about Hitler's determined efforts to "reintegrate" into the Third Reich the Sudeten Germans, who had been living in Bohemia ("Böhmen") since the middle ages. This led to an international crisis which was temporarily 'resolved' in 1938 by the Munich Agreement.

What is less well-known is that, at the end of the war, **all** German speakers, **whatever their political views**, had all their property confiscated and were expelled from their homes with no more than 48 hours' notice. This occurred in 2 waves: – the "wild deportation" in 1945 into the Russian occupied region and a more organised deportation into the south-western area of Germany.

To listen to Hildegard talking about her early life and how she managed to face the series of crises experienced by her family with a combination of resilience, determination and even at times humour was a sobering experience for an audience who, for the most part, had never experienced serious discrimination let alone the horrors of occupation by a victorious foreign power.

What became clear to me from Hildegard's recollections was that this community of German speakers had become victims in much the same way as had the citizens of the countries occupied by the Nazis. The Sudeten Germans were treated by the Russians as enemies not as friends who were being liberated (the Russian regime was of course on the side of the Czechs). They were they not well received either by the people of the East or Bavaria in the West, the region to which Hildegard was deported.

Years later, when Vaclav Havel became president, the Czech government acknowledged the injustice that had been done to them, but they received only minimal compensation for the loss of their property.

Hildegard's recollections were full of interest and very informative. It was, for example, fascinating to see some of the original artefacts she brought with her, for example her school reports issued during the Second World War. In the end we ran out of time and her story had to pause with her deportation to Bavaria. We look forward to hearing more about her life at some future date.

SCRABBLE

Stella Searle

We meet at the Everyman cinema in the lounge at 2pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.

To justify our presence we each buy a drink ...



... which is brought to our table wherever we choose to sit!



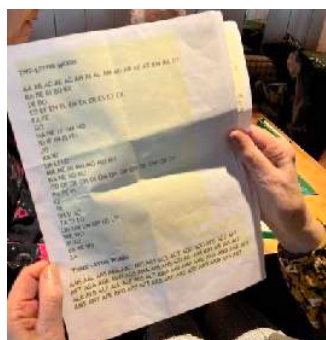
but we do chat as well!

We play for a couple of hours and then go home.

If you have a Scrabble set please do bring it along as we are never sure how many people will turn up.



But you are all welcome!



We are fairly relaxed about the rules and usually give people a second chance (or help) if there is a query about spelling.



ScienceTech = VISITS + SPEAKER MEETINGS

We are an enthusiastic bunch, most of us with a wealth of experience gained through working in the sciences, technology, engineering and maths.



Ady Dawson and **Radio Too**

we're looking forward to learning about AI and its application, the ear and hearing assistive technology, and the Woodland Trust's work

We enjoy a mixture of speaker meetings and visits, all with a focus on our areas of interest and expertise. Speaker topics over the last year were **radio, earworms, Zero Carbon, forms in projective geometry, flight, the interpretation of data and statistics, WaterAid and drug development:** and at the time of writing,



Mark Seymour and **drug development**



Chris Freeman from **WaterAid**

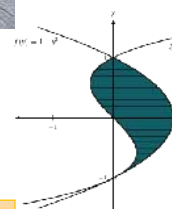


Keith Wilkinson MBE
Nidd Gorge

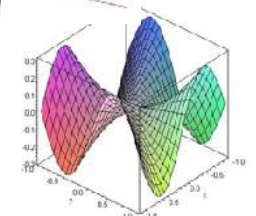
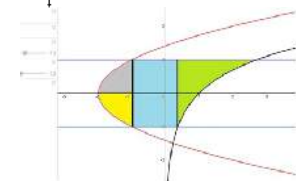
that is currently proceeding at Snaizeholme. Not to mention a talk on volcanos and what they have ever done for us ... ???



Last summer we visited **Leeds Industrial Museum** and **Yorkshire Water's water treatment plant** in **Headingley**. And in June, we're heading off to **Allerton Waste Recovery Park**.



Tony Wren and seXY curves



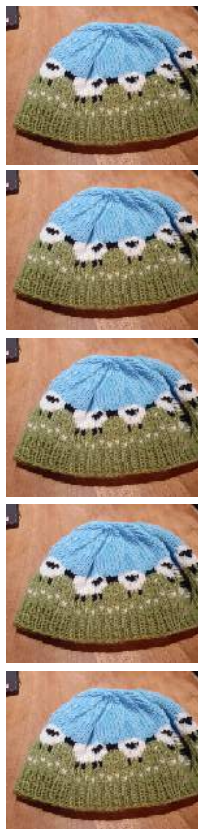
We meet between 2pm and 4pm on the 2nd Monday of the month at West Park United Reform Church, West Park, Harrogate HG1 1BL, to which we pay £2 pp for room hire. **For further information, contact Val Michie** valmichie@btinternet.com

"I am not a knitter so to me these items are all very creative!"

Our group has been meeting for 2 years now and this morning 8 of us had another very joyous meeting upstairs in the Everyman cinema - it is a very enjoyable social fun group as we always have a lot to say about all sorts of things.

Here are some examples of the craft items that our very clever ladies are able to make whilst they are

watching TV of an evening ... just like that.! They prefer not to add their names, - ***"just say we are craft group members"***...



knitted waistcoat

Skirt sewn by Val Colley using a pattern she had designed herself



"I like couture fashion, including goth type young fashion."

"This was great fun, and my one and only excursion into the world of weaving ... So far!"



Scarf woven by Beulah Chatten using a conventional loom, when she attended a workshop called "Weave a Scarf in a Day".

MURDER MYSTERY

Cheryl Johnston and Lorraine Lawson

Last October, the Social Committee decided to try something different and held a **murder mystery Evening**. Fifty people attended and we had lots of fun trying to work out who the murderer was. We hired a group of professional actors who we interrogated in turn and they awarded



us points according to how clever our questions were and how loud we cheered and booed the actors.

We also had a delicious buffet provided by **Indulge of Hornbeam Park** and finished with a variety of desserts. A couple of glasses of wine was also included. Because of the success of this event, we are already planning another one which will be on November 1st this year. Details will be sent later in the summer.

50 people joined Heather, Lorraine and Cheryl for a festive Reindeer Drive accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies



Wesley Centre

December 15th, 13:30 - 15:30



Cheers!

*from members of the
Cheese and Wine Group
Why not come and
join us?*

Anything but Grey

The group started 2024 with a visit to **ClueHQ escape rooms** where we attempted one of two challenges on offer – either

“The Betrayal of Cluetankhamun” or **“The Dungeon of Doom”**.



A good time was had by all but unfortunately the puzzles defeated us and neither group managed to escape before the allotted time was up.

In February, we tackled the climbing wall at **Parthian Climbing on Hornbeam Park**.



Having scaled the heights we are now planning to go underground with a visit to **Gaping Gill** in August.

Less physical but no less challenging was a lesson on the potter's wheel from **Billy Cave** at **Meanwood Valley Farm**. Our pots have

still to be fired and glazed and we're looking forward to seeing how they have turned out.

“Anything but Grey” welcomes all u3a members who are interested in trying out new experiences. For more information please contact harrogate.howes@btinternet.com

“Welcome to the Harrogate u3a”

Did you know that around 100 new members have joined the harrogate u3a this year?



The recent spate of **coffee mornings** have been organised to offer opportunities for new members to meet other members, new and old, chat informally with committee members, ask questions, raise issues and generally feel welcome.

u3a
Harrogate

Our Committee

Chair: Mrs. Betty Storer	Secretary: Mrs. Betty Storer
Membership Secretary: Mrs. Betty Storer	Publicity Officer: Mrs. Betty Storer
Committee Secretary: Mrs. Betty Storer	Membership Secretary: Mrs. Betty Storer
Chair: Mrs. Betty Storer	Secretary: Mrs. Betty Storer

Committee News

Can you help? →

Publicity Officer

We are looking for a member to help us with our publicity. If you would like to help us with our publicity, please contact the committee secretary.

Membership Secretary

We are looking for a member to help us with our membership. If you would like to help us with our membership, please contact the committee secretary.

We are always looking for people to help with our meetings.

What is happening?

10th April 2024

u3a

OPEN MEETING

10th April 2024

Red Dimbleby

10th April 2024

u3a

Future Events

10th April 2024

Upcoming Events

Summer Luncheon & Talk

10th May 2024

Denis Sheehy

Future Events

10th May 2024

Annual Showcase in the Wesley Centre

An opportunity during one afternoon in September for new and existing members alike to find out more about the variety of interest groups on offer and how to join.



Open meetings at the Odeon cinema 2023

"I thoroughly enjoyed Roger Browne's talk and performances this morning. I certainly learned a lot. So good of him to drive across the Pennines despite the awful weather."

"Good afternoon, I have just got home from BRILLIANT GREAT AMERICAN SHOWCASE."

Emails from members who braved the atrocious weather on **23 October** to attend

'The Great American Songbook'

Fascinating Facts, Hilarious Anecdotes & Wonderful Music played, sung and presented by **Roger Browne**
the political, musical, and cultural roots -

Cotton Fields, Low Down Dives, Minstrel Shows, Ragtime, Blues, Vaudeville, Operetta, Music Hall, Tin Pan Alley.

the fascinating lives, memorable music and lyrics of
Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter, Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein, Harry



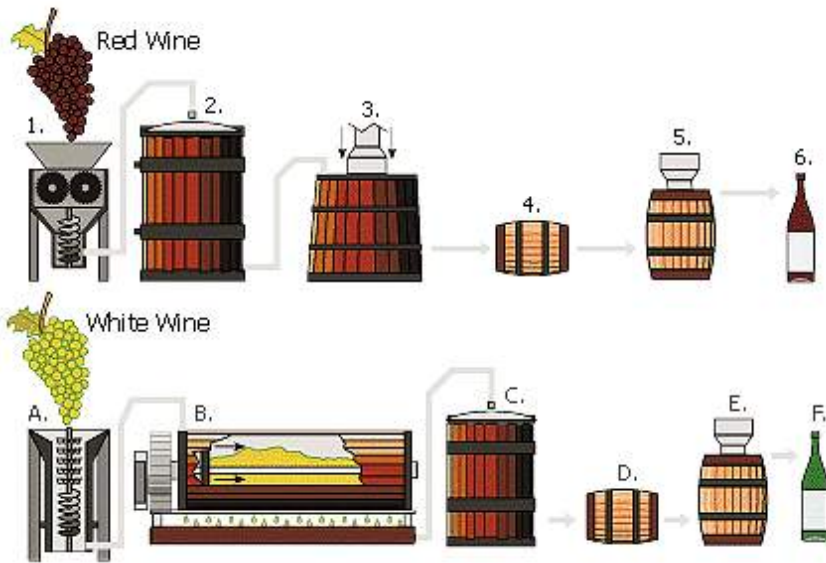
R.H.S. Harlow Carr

On **24 November** Paul Cook, Curator since 2013, talked about various aspects of his work at this iconic garden.



"FROM GRAPES TO WINE"

Patrice Lipatti-Mesme

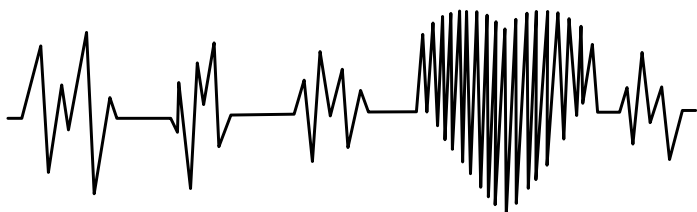
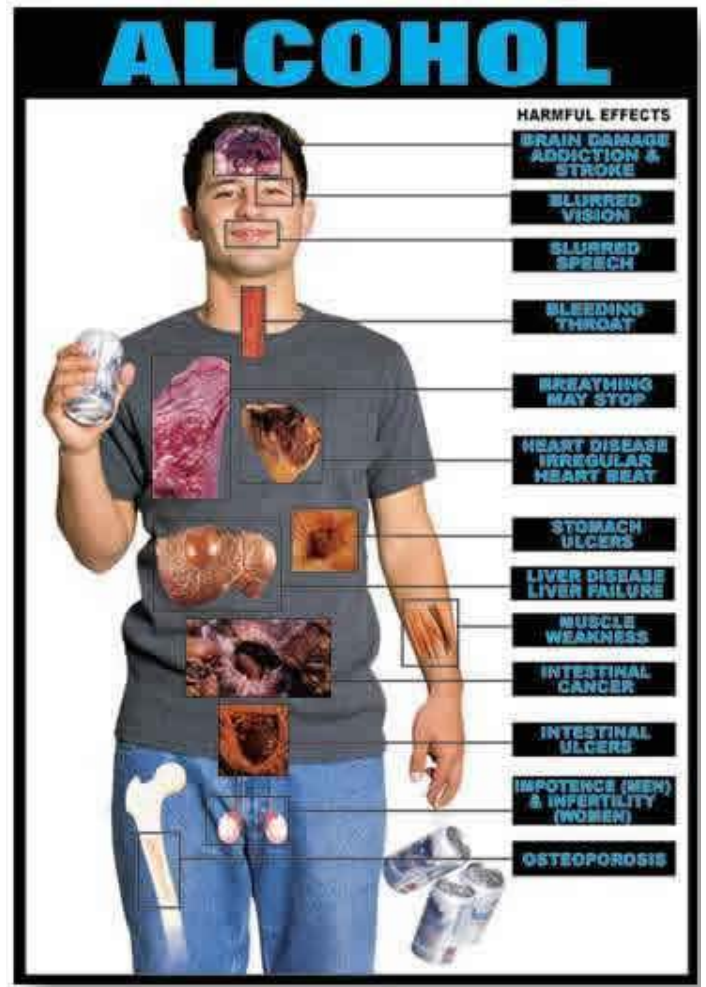


The Harrogate based French wine merchant shared his great knowledge of wine in July. His talk was illustrated with slides to demonstrate the various stages followed, for example in the making of red

and white wines, and more surprisingly, a slide designed to remind us all (and teenagers in particular) of the harmful effects of alcohol!

"KEEP IT TICKING"

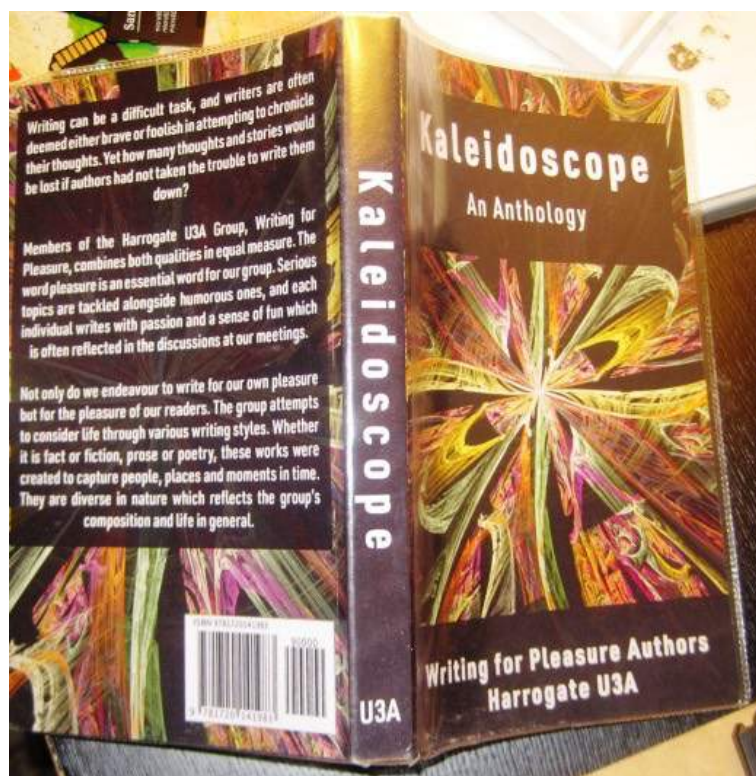
An informative and most entertaining talk given in **September** by **Steve Hutchison**, our invaluable "speaker finder". Drawing on his experience as a consultant cardiologist with NHS Wales, he was able to regale his audience with humorous anecdotes and cautionary tales.



“Storytellers disappear into their own story”

The Harrogate Carnegie Library is a gem with its facilities and services but the fiction book layout can be confusing.

In my search for the H authors, I found myself looking at the K's. There, next to Kafka was a book attributed to 'U3A'. It was entitled 'Kaleidoscope'. The front cover stated that it was an **anthology by The Harrogate U3A Writers Group**.



I have been involved with Communications and felt slightly remiss as I was unaware of its publication. It is a substantial book containing 80 articles by 20 of our members and published in 2018. Being among the K authors could account for its 'as-new condition' and I felt that I was the first person to open it. Now, it is back in the library, probably waiting for its second reader.

There is no longer a Writers Group in our U3A. Trawling through the Stray Bits Omnibus, the latest mention was March 2017. Looking at the authors I see that the majority are lapsed members.

So, why should an active group of 20 very creative members, publish a substantial anthology and then fade away? Perhaps there is another story waiting to be written.

Brian Graham

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Many thanks to all the u3a members who contributed such a variety of material - without your participation there would be no **Stray News!** *Catherine S. and Beulah C.*