



Design by Karen Stone

Committee 2022 - 2023

Chairman:	David Barnett ☎683114
Membership:	Jenny Bagworth ☎07548992144
Groups:	Rose Cuthbertson ☎07776131834
Treasurer:	Sally Hedges ☎07857201276
Website and IT:	Roy Biggs ☎683353;
Business Secretary:	Helen Wilberforce ☎689624
Members Meeting Manager:	Ian McCulloch ☎680295;
Committee member:	Rena Souten ☎07799895350.
Committee member:	Keith Wilberforce ☎689624
Committee member:	Andrea Goodall ☎07815422888
Non Committee Member	
Speaker finder:	Peter Drake ☎663678

Email: hvu3a1@gmail.com

Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/holme-valley/home>

Facebook : for members only: Holme Valley U3A

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/434128977300240>

Holme Valley U3A is a registered charity and part of the Third Age Trust

Season's Greetings

From Holme Valley USA Committee

David Barnett, Chairman
Helen Wilberforce, Business secretary
Sally Hedges, Treasurer
Jenny Bagworth, Membership secretary
Roy Biggs, IT admin
Rose Cuthbertson, Groups coordinator
Ian McCulloch, Committee member
Rena Souten, Committee member
Keith Wilberforce, Committee member
Andrea Goodall, Committee member

Learn, Laugh, Live into 2023

Chairman's Christmas Greeting

Hi everyone,

doesn't Christmas come around quickly? It's probably an age thing. I hope you all feel the same as I do, that membership of the u3a is helping us stay active in body and mind and not dwelling on our age. This last period we have had a steady increase to membership, our General Meetings on the second Friday of each month with some interesting speakers has certainly helped to promote the u3a.

You will see in this newsletter that we have now booked a speaker for all the meetings for next year, put the dates and speaker details in your diaries.

Our days Out group have had some interesting visits in the UK and had a very successful first European trip to Tuscany. They have one trip remaining this December to Thursford Christmas Show and soon to be released a full program for next year.

I must mention again that any member can attend a Committee Meeting, the last Friday of each month. Extra help is welcomed and again I remind you that your current committee members will retire at some point and a committee always need new blood to keep it fresh. Some members have served since the beginning of the Holme Valley u3a; that's 8 years. We need new blood so please consider and join us. I must once again thank all our Group Leaders for their hard work and dedication to the success of our u3a.

I hope to see a great many of you at our last meeting this year being our Christmas special with entertainment and a finger buffet

I am sure your committee will continue to fulfil its responsibilities to you all so you can Learn, Laugh Live.

David Barnett

Dates for your Diary 2022- 2023

Friday 9 December 2022 Christmas Celebration. 10.00am

Friday 13 January Freeman and Craft Guilds of London
Dr J W D Allen
Eco Matters

Friday 10 February A funny thing Happened
Philip Horn

Friday 10 March The Mary Rose
David Cockman

Friday 14 April R. Brown
A Wildlife Photographer in Africa

Friday 12 May Ms. H. Randall
An Introduction to The Holocaust

Friday 9 June P. Stubbs
Crime, Courts & Capital Punishment

Friday 14 July TBA

Friday 11 August C. Helme
The World of Brass Bands

Friday 8 September Mrs. G. Hughes
Ceramic Restoration & Conservation

Friday 13 October D. Hinchliff
Sudden & Violent Death,
Memories of a Retired Coroner

Friday 10 November A. Wilson
The Role of a Parish Councillor

Friday 9 December No Speaker

Reports from Our Groups.

A Taste of Tuscany – our U3A Trip

It was early on a damp autumnal morning, even as the younger generation continued to populate the local hostelrys, that around thirty slightly older U3A members met in Holmfirth to leave on Holme Valley U3A's first ever Trip Abroad. Having traversed the Pennines and passed without mishap through all check in procedures at Manchester Airport even an airline cooked breakfast proved appetising before landing in Pisa, Italy, at around 1100 local time.

Met by Guiliano, our tour guide for the next six days, we were then driven into the hills and a rustic farmhouse with the most delightful vistas for a light two-course lunch accompanied by what was to feature much throughout the holiday, being the local Chianti wine. Suitably fortified we then climbed the steep streets of the hilltop fortified village of San Gimignano known as the "Manhattan of the Middle Ages" due to its many historic towers and following which we made our first acquaintance with our hotel located in the traditional spa town of Montecatini Terme.

Following the first "day" of around thirty-six hours we were then rewarded by a day at leisure in our host town. Whilst some of our ladies seemed attracted by the lycra cladding of the young men competing in the town's 75km bike race others discovered the funicular train which transported them upwards to the even older town of Montecatini Alto and whose gelateria outlets were much sampled and appreciated.

The next day saw the food and wine theme of the holiday further explored with a morning cookery class at the end of which everyone produced their own pasta, with varying degrees of success. Fears of having to eat their own products proved ill-founded as an outdoor chef-prepared lunch was accompanied by tastings of no fewer than three white, three red and one dessert Tuscan wines! For some reason there are few memories of our subsequent walking tour of nearby Lucca!

A day exploring the long history of Florence and its splendid architecture was followed the next day by a trip to Sienna, voted by most members as their favourite city of the entire holiday. A guided walking tour was

followed by free time for lunch in the square famous for its Palio horse race before we journeyed to the former home of Machiavelli and to be greeted by Pinot, whose poodle-like appearance disguised an uncanny ability to sniff out truffles.

Our final day in Italy saw us head back to Pisa, but this time to the city and not the airport. Voted our most entertaining city guide, comedian Roberto introduced us to the visual delights of the infamous leaning tower, the adjacent cathedral and the nearby baptisterie. After free time for lunch we headed back to our hotel but not before visiting Italy's smallest pasta factory and enjoying a cherry liquor tasting.

Leaving our hotel at 0645 on our final day proved challenging but the journey back to Holmfirth proved pleasingly uneventful for a tired but happy group who had thoroughly enjoyed six days of Tuscan culture, food and wine in possibly equal measure. In true U3A style new friendships had been formed whilst adhering to our national strap line by living (well), laughing (a lot) and learning (a little).

Where next?

Martin Shaw

Trips Abroad Group Leader



Advanced Spanish

The perhaps immodestly named Advanced Spanish group meets fortnightly in person and in the intervening week on Zoom; both on Wednesday mornings. There are currently ten members, with two people having joined recently who have already a reasonably high level of spoken and written Spanish.

The classes consist of regular listening exercises and a mixture of spoken and written Spanish. The level is notionally around first year A level, using a detailed grammar book as well as texts from newspapers and more literary Spanish. We will be starting an A level reader in November.



We welcome new members, but the work we do does require some experience of Spanish or a willingness to catch up quite quickly.

Bernard Redfern

Badminton

We have a 'healthy' group of 17 on the books at present and it's great to see both courts in use on a Monday afternoon (It gives the likes of me a chance to sit out a game and breathe). We play for fun and exercise of course but for those who want to improve their game, we have regular coaching sessions. Like the other U3A groups, we are a friendly bunch and no previous experience is necessary. Just turn up, preferably with a racquet, at 2pm on a Monday to the Civic Hall. The cost is £4 per session.

Chris Best

Ambling.



Ambling continues to walk every Tuesday morning. These tend to be focused more in the Holme Valley. Some members of the group have also been walking on an adhoc basis on Thursday afternoons.



These walks have been themed around the local reservoirs and are set to change to morning when the clocks go back. Recently we have had an offshoot of temporarily less able doing shorter, easier walks on a Wednesday am. We still operate a car sharing arrangement when needed.

Denise McLindon

Indoor Sports

We have just resumed “indoor sports” for the winter. We intend to meet weekly, on Thursday between 2 and 4 at Meltham sports club. We have a lively group of between 12 and 15 people who meet for a tea and a chat as well as playing table tennis, carpet bowls and something resembling curling. We do have to take turns to play though, if too many people turn up. We intend to run until December 15 and then resume sometime in January, until the outdoor bowls and boules season starts again.

Wendy Dale

Ukulele Group

The Ukulele Group are now in their 8th year, we meet fortnightly at St John's Church Upperthong and are now at our maximum for the venue having 24 members.

During the summer we performed at:
Holmfirth Folk Festival
Ukulele jam with other groups



Highburton Open Gardens playing at 4 venues during the day and helping to raise funds for 4 well-known local Charities.

Flockton Open Garden event as part of the National Open Garden Scheme.

Berry Brow Methodist Church which we did in October.

We have a booking for New Mill Church Christmas Fair at the end of November.

We pass on our subs direct to the Church and have now donated in excess of £4500 during our 8-year tenure.

We have good attendances at our sessions and due to the break-up of another Holmfirth Group, now have a waiting list.

Looking forward to playing for you at the Christmas meeting on 9th December.

John Senior

INDOOR GAMES

Following a closure for the summer, *Indoor Games* is back in full swing. We meet on first and third Tuesday of the month in the Wesley room of the Methodist Hall, where we play *Rummikubs*, why? because nobody wants to play any other game!

We have had 2 new members this 'term' who were new to the game. They have been so impressed that their respective families will be receiving the game for Christmas and no we do not have shares. Everyone is most welcome; tea and biscuits are also part of the experience.

Come along and give it a try in the warmest of surroundings.

Ian McCulloch

Tuesday Book Group.

The Tuesday Book Group enjoy having friendly discussions on our book choices.

This year we have read and discussed a variety of material, all chosen by the group members Our choices have included *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, *The Nations Favourite Poets*, and *the Diary of a Young Naturalist* Joining the reading group has widened my reading range and encouraged me to appreciate different genres and authors. It's great to have my mind changed by listening to the views of others in the group Our December meeting is a Christmas meal, so no book discussion. We also do a review of the year and make any adjustments necessary for the following year

We are not a large group (at the moment 7 of us meet). We would welcome any u3a member coming to join us. We meet at 2pm on the second Tuesday of every month at Thongsbridge Tennis Club. If you think you might like to come and give us a try call me (Tricia) on 07835947248

Tricia Hemming

Spanish

After the summer break we came back every other week for Spanish lessons. We are 9 members. Our format includes dictations, reading of texts and doing homework from the book that we are following. We are doing the lessons on ZOOM as we found this way the most effective. We have had a couple of social events in local restaurants, usually for lunch. It is nice to get together every now and then.

We hope to get to weekly lessons soon. We have moved on from the 'beginners' category after about 3 years.

I'm afraid we are full in numbers. We try to make it as active as possible with plenty of opportunities for all to practice.

Julio Nunez

Walking/Coffee Group

We are a small group meeting weekly on a Thursday morning. We usually end with a coffee somewhere and if the weather is not helpful, we have been known to just meet for a coffee and a chat (and of course a scone or two). We walk throughout the winter but adapt our routes to avoid wet or muddy paths. We are a friendly group and talk as we walk, though not so much on the way up our many hills. Well behaved four legged friends are also welcome. We continue to welcome new members.

Our walks usually last 2 hours covering up to 4 miles. One of the great joys of the group is discovering new places and paths we have been unaware of despite them being local. We also venture further afield, this year we have discovered walks in the Barnsley and Wakefield areas.

We have lots of ideas already for future walks perhaps even venturing over the border into Lancashire!!!

Janice Wood

Wine Appreciation

The photo shows ten i.e. one half of the group in our hotel in Montecatini during the October U3a trip to Tuscany (minus the photographer, Opi). We have had an excellent year of tastings in Holmfirth Civic Hall with recent features on Portugal and Hidden Spain. Far from running out of ideas for tastings we now have a queue of four lots of bottles. Next up are 6 wines from Laurel Vineyard near Beverly. This will showcase what can be done in the north. Then we have a Wine Society tasting case of fine wines from the Languedoc, spotted by Mel Crann who ran tastings in my recent absences. Following that we have a tasting case brought back from Tuscany in members suitcases, happily without breakages. Finally, a case from my September holiday in the Southern Rhone Valley. So, lots to look forward to. The group is currently full, and we have a short waiting list.

Alan Calder



Music Appreciation Group

After the Summer break the Music Group met again on September 27th. Meetings take place once a month on the last Tuesday in the month, (although there will be no meeting in December.) There are some 22 names on the register of regular attenders, but usually 15/17 is the number present. We meet in the upstairs room at the Methodist Church, which the church caretaker, Elaine, always prepares perfectly for our audio-visual needs, and we are grateful to her.

In putting together a programme of music for our meetings I try to reflect the wide and varied musical interests in our group and I am delighted that several members have prepared and given their own presentations. YouTube is the major source of our musical material, and a very rich source it has now become, with archive material from the earliest 20th century to excerpts from the latest BBC Proms. I download these videos to my laptop and present them using my own projector, so that hopefully the experience is as close as possible to a live concert performance.

There are still some spare seats at our meetings and new members will be very welcome.

David Cockman.

Discussion Group

There is no doubt 2022 has generated several current topics for the Monday morning discussion group. Sometimes, especially on the political issues of the day, events moved so quickly we would share a topic less than a week in advance, only to change our mind at the last minute as something else made the headlines. We devoted one session reflecting on our memories, some of them very personal, of Her late Majesty, the Queen. We do try to keep a balance in our discussions, so having several tricky big issues to get our heads around recently we will be spending our final discussion of 2022 looking at something lighter – perhaps ‘our favourite Christmas treat’ or ‘the essential Xmas film’.

There are currently 20 participants in the discussion group with an average of 10-12 attending each session. Do get in touch if you might enjoy contributing to our wide-ranging views.

Ann Baldwin

Garden Group

We have been meeting monthly visiting garden. They have included RHS Bridgewater, members'



gardens, Penistone community gardens and allotments, NGS gardens. We always include refreshments and cake !

Rosemary Norbury

French, Language and Culture

Our Wednesday afternoon French Language and Culture group continues to meet on alternate Wednesdays from 2pm to 3.30.

We meet in individual houses and take it in turns to organise the content of the meeting. At the moment it is a small group.

We have a wide range of subjects, and activities include reading, listening, and speaking in French. Material comes from stories, articles from books, information from the Internet and people's personal experience of travels in France.

From time to time, we look at some aspect of French grammar, with explanations and then practical use, and vocabulary on a particular topic, such as cookery, trees and plants, excursions, to name a few.

We sometimes use YouTube, News in Slow French, both of which stimulate general conversation in French and we also organise quizzes, puzzles and games.

Hopefully, everyone enjoys the meetings and feels that they have learned something from them!

Andrea Hawes

Local History Group

An attendance of around 20 members at our inaugural meeting in March this year held at our base in the upstairs room at the Methodist Church in Holmfirth saw us launch the group in a positive way. Although early attendances were only just getting into double figures our attendance at the November meeting was a very encouraging 23.

A low-key start in May saw a small group do the blue plaque walk in Meltham and again in June 10 members visited the Skelmanthorpe textile heritage museum with a cake and a coffee afterwards at a local café, this gave the feeling we were up and running as a group. The June meeting was in the Methodist Church in Holmfirth where we were

treated to a very interesting talk with a Power point presentation from David Cockman who talked about the Blue plaque sites in Holmfirth.

Another interesting morning at Wooldale friends meeting house in July saw the numbers increase once more to 12, again with a coffee and cake to follow, this time at Totties Garden centre.

In September we visited the Golcar museum for another enjoyable Wednesday morning this time having tea and biscuits included in our visit. The team at the museum made us very welcome and Mrs Susan Whitwam is coming to the Methodist church in January to, in her own words "to finish my talk".

In October Dr Tom Ashworth delivered an interesting talk on conscription and the appeals against conscription in the Holme Valley 1916 to 1918 to a dozen members present.

Our most recent presentation was by Julia Hinchliffe who spoke about Magnum the village that disappeared from a book she wrote by the same name. Julia gave us the benefit of power point presentation and gave a very interesting talk to our previously mentioned top number of 23 members.

In December we again welcome David Cockman who will this time be talking about railways to Holmfirth and Meltham and Richard Beaching's closure of over 2,000 stations in the mid-sixties. I have already mentioned the talk in January from Mrs Susan Whitwam.

In February we are having an open meeting to discuss projects visits and presentations for the coming year. The group is financially sound, and I propose that this meeting will be a non-pay meeting.

Gerald Parr

Moderate Walking Group

Despite some reports to the contrary, the moderate walking group continues to both run a weekly programme of walks of six to eight miles in length and to welcome a steady stream of new members to our group.

Our group has taken full advantage of the good summer that we've recently enjoyed by arranging walks covering a wide area including the Peak District NP, Saddleworth & Cawthorne as well as more local ones in the Holme Valley, Meltham & Marsden. However, now that the days are becoming shorter, we'll probably be restricting our geographical spread to the more local area until Spring.

Our current programme can be seen on the U3A website at u3asites.org.uk/holme-valley/page/112572 so if you fancy giving it a try, why not come along any Thursday at 1000 to the start point shown on the web page? You don't have to book in advance and what you'll find is a friendly enthusiastic bunch always keen to welcome new members wanting to explore the beautiful area in which we are privileged to live.

We look forward to seeing you.

Peter Schofield

French

Nothing much has changed with the French group. We meet once a month for coffee and a chat. Has been a bit sparse this year due to various factors – illness of members, people taking up different things due to Covid- but we are carrying on. Next meeting will be Dec 8th. New members would be very welcome.

Shirley Boardman

Reading Group 1



Wednesday afternoon group. Our reading group of nine have met monthly during the year and have read a wide variety of books from some very different authors. These have included five novels, a set of short stories, historical and classic fiction plus travel and science. We have shared our reading experiences (good and bad) plus we have also shared media links

to articles, book reviews and other literature related material. We have tried meeting in some alternative venues but will now be returning to the Holmfirth Methodist Church.

Ann Bettys

Gentle Movement

This term we are taking the different decades from the 1920s to the 1960s to inspire our gentle movement class, using the music, dance, and history as the basis for each week. Our numbers have increased, and we have a lively group each week moving and grooving, sharing memories, laughing, and chatting. As always, we have live music from Robin Bowles, our talented house musician.

Ann Bettys

Early Birds

Early Birds, where I do not write a report, I like to keep it secret! Now with over 60 members, I do not like to broadcast this group, but I have never turned anyone away! Finding venues has become a real problem.

Ian McCulloch

Latin with Laughter

This is our new name coined by our latest recruit and I think we live up to the name

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the small room upstairs in Holmfirth Methodist Church from 2.30 until 3.30pm

We have chosen to follow the Cambridge Latin course since we are a small self-taught group Our experience varies from our “expert” who took A level Latin, to those with O level and those with no qualifications in the subject at all BUT please remember all qualifications were more years ago than we all care to remember!

The group only resumed in January after the pandemic and so decided to begin again with book 2 so it is still possible for people to join us and not feel overwhelmed If you have any background in languages including English and/or can think logically you ought to be able to cope whatever your ability

We will supply the books after a kind donation from a former Latin teacher who unfortunately is not in the group

If you need further information please contact Fiona Platt on 01484661739 or email 1fionaplatt@gmail.com

Tennis

In February 2023 the U3A Tennis Group will have been running for 6 years, at Holmfirth Tennis Club, which has 3 outdoor all-weather courts and a Clubhouse. Group numbers have gradually increased to 36, most of whom play regularly. Sadly a few people have recently had to leave the group, due to relocation, problems with knees and such like, but we have also gained new members. The current age range in the group is from mid-50s to mid-80s, which is wonderful!



Because there are so many people in the group, we pre-organise doubles games on Monday and Thursday mornings via WhatsApp groups, which seems to work well. The U3A Group session is on

Monday mornings. But on Thursday mornings, at the request of the Tennis Club, there is a session open to both U3A members and Club veterans. Then, on Fridays, there is a group coaching session with a Club coach, which is mainly U3A members, but open to all. There is now a lot of overlapping membership of the 3 groups; most U3A Group members have also become Tennis Club members, some Tennis Club members have joined U3A, and some 'outside' people from the coaching group have joined both U3A and the Tennis Club!

Over the last few months, as Covid has receded, we have really enjoyed having social events again, with coffee, cake, and a chat on some Monday mornings. We hope to have more of these 'socials' going forwards into 2023, perhaps on a regular monthly basis; it's good to have time for a chat with partners and opponents!

The group usually plays throughout the winter, only cancelling if there is unpleasant weather, or if play would be dangerous to limbs. But recently a new problem with the drainage on the courts has emerged, which the Club is working hard to rectify. Until this is fully resolved, we may not be able to play as regularly as usual.

Linda Hollingworth (lead) and Sue Hobley

Maths is Fun

We meet in the Wesley room in Holmfirth Methodist Church on alternate Tuesdays 11 until 12.

I am a former maths teacher and a true believer in the title of my group despite what most people think about the subject

If you are one of the myriads of people who hated maths at school, please come to one of our sessions and give us a try I think you will be pleasantly surprised

I will cover whatever people want to learn or failing that I will come up with ideas.

Recently we have learned how to use a scientific calculator and looked at a variety of ways of doing long multiplication some of which need to be seen to be believed. Have you heard of Russian or Egyptian multiplication?

If you want to keep the little grey cells ticking over then please give us a try. It makes no difference whether you think you are good, bad or indifferent at the subject; all that is needed is a willingness to get rid of any pre conceived ideas you have about maths and be prepared to come and have a good time

Session will resume after Christmas break on Tuesday 10th January
For further information please contact Fiona Platt on 01484661739 or email me at 1fionaplatt@gmail.com

The Theatre Group

The Theatre Group has gradually returned to normal after lockdown and we are now seeing increased numbers signing up for our trips. We are welcoming new members every month and now have a total of 174 members who receive our monthly trip update (being a member does not carry any obligation to sign up for trips). Many people come on trips by themselves which is a great opportunity to meet other like-minded

people and we try to include a variety of trips to cover all tastes including musicals, drama, comedies, ballet, and opera. We have arranged 8 trips during 2022 to various venues in Leeds, Bradford, Manchester, and Halifax. These included The Lion King, The Commitments and Six - The Musical. We already have 8 trips planned for the spring of 2023 which are mostly proving very popular. These include Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Matthew Bourne's Ballet Sleeping Beauty, Puccini's Tosca, Brecht's Good Person of Szechuan, and Strictly Ballroom the Musical.

We always arrange transport for our trips, normally from the Sands Leisure Centre in Holmfirth. This is usually by minibus, and we sometimes need 1 or 2 shared cars to accommodate numbers. Due to the popularity of certain trips, we are increasingly looking at coach transport which is slightly more expensive but much more comfortable. Not surprisingly, we are seeing the general cost of all transport increase, but we hope that this will not deter people from getting out to enjoy the selection of theatre trips that we have on offer.

There is always someone from the Theatre Team at the monthly U3A meeting so if you want any information about how the group works or about upcoming trips please come and have a chat with us.

Pat Whalley

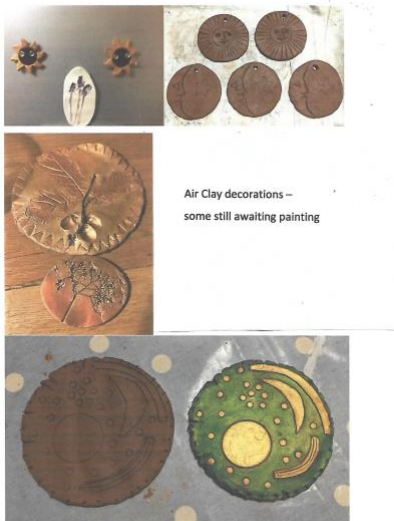
Messy Crafts

It's been a bit of a roller coaster for the Messy Crafts Group since we started up again after the summer. With people still on holiday, injuries etc numbers were well down and we couldn't cover the cost of the rent for Holmfirth Tech. After 2 sessions we'd used up all the cash left in the kitty and the only option was to cease meeting. The Tech is struggling to meet the vastly increased power bills and has had no alternative but to increase costs. We made extensive enquiries but haven't come up with any alternative venue yet. Our main problem is the storage of a wide range of quite heavy equipment – tiles, paints, tools etc. – Holmfirth Tech Art room is ideal.

Thanks to promotion of the group by Rose, we were delighted to eventually receive 6 new expressions of interest and on 17 October we met again with 12 members. During the autumn we have concentrated

on Air Clay and Lino cut Christmas cards. We have a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop planned for Monday 12 December and are inviting any member of the u3a to join us for this festive session.

We are hoping the new year will be more straightforward for us and that our numbers will remain steady to enable us to stay at the Tech. We would love to receive enquiries from anyone wishing to join the group. We meet on alternate Monday afternoons from 1.30 to 3.30pm at Holmfirth Tech



Pat Whalley

Lino cuts for Christmas

Art

We have been painting scenery for “A Christmas Carol” for the Farnley Tyas Community Group at Farnley Tyas Church.

They’ve made wonderful signs and scenery.

We have a great group, we have some new artists, and some which have come back after a year or so.

It’s been great working together doing the art work for the production. We still do our own thing otherwise.



Margaret Hicks

Folk Dancing

The Folk Dancing continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in Holmfirth Parish Church at noon. We have no special events lined up.

Elisabeth Watson (Nibs)

Digital Photography

The digital photography group has been very active with monthly themes attracting around 70 photos, which we discuss at our meetings. We announce the themes in advance and have a provisional plan for next year. Our exhibition in the Co-op café has attracted many complements and the Arts Festival and Co-op have indicated they would like to work with us again next year.

Vince Cunningham

