

Ripon & District u3a

April 2024 Newsletter

Chairman's Foreward

Hello Members,



Do remember that we have no general meeting this month because of the showcase. I don't want anyone sitting hopefully outside the rugby club on the 25th waiting for something to happen. April however will be back to normal and May will be the AGM.

Speaking of which, we could still use some volunteers for the committee. The U3A does not run itself, and the more people we have volunteering, the less is required of any one person. In the words of the old saying - many hands make light work. If you want to come to a committee meeting and see what goes on, our next (and probably last before the AGM) is on April 12th, and you would be very welcome to come along.

Meanwhile it is officially spring next week. So, I hope someone reminds the weather of that.

Joyce

Help to create the u3a you want

- Publicity at a few events per year
- Organising a few outings by coach each year
- Chairing the committee meetings

The above are just examples of some of the assistance that we need. If you feel you can contribute ideas or help in the running of our branch, we would like to hear from you. You can contact any committee member to find out the numerous ways you can be of assistance. You can nominate yourself or another person by completing the nomination form available on our website under Events. Please consider volunteering for a few hours and I am sure you will find it very rewarding.

Third Age Matters Magazine

The distribution of the Third Age Matters magazine is currently problematic. This is due to the fact that a new company responsible for distribution is in the process of being appointed. We are sorry if this has meant that some copies have been incorrectly posted, or not received. This matter is not in our control, but hopefully it will soon be resolved.

Membership

Subscriptions for the year 2024/25 are now due and should be paid by the end of March. The membership form is available on our website. If your membership is not renewed you will not be able to attend future meetings. I am sure you will have noticed that we have been able to contain our costs and that the increase in fees envisaged, has not materialized.

Dates for your diary

March 21 st , 1.30 until 3.00	Showcase	Allhallowgate Methodist Church
April 22 nd , 2 until 4	David Sibbald will introduce us to Sir Bernard Slingsby	Ripon Rugby Club
April 26 th	Outing to Beamish Museum (see details attached)	
May 16 th , 10 until 12	Group Leaders Meeting	Ripon Rugby Club
May 20 th , 2 until 4	AGM followed with a talk by the Venerable Clive Mansell who will tell us about some of his experiences in the ministry	Ripon Rugby Club
June 24 th , 2 until 4	Brian Daniels will enlighten us of the trials and tribulations of a theatre producer	Ripon Rugby Club

Group News

Art Appreciation - Mike Collins - mike_anne_collins@hotmail.com

We normally meet at St Wilfrid's Community Hall from 2 to 4 on the third Thursday of every month, unless we are taking a trip away to see an art collection.

Our programme evolves from the artistic subjects that members wish to talk to the group about, although it is not a requirement of being a member to do this. The presentations, usually two per session, can cover a wide variety of themes depending on members' own interests or research. Recently we have explored paintings from the Dutch Golden Age, Welsh landscape depictions, graphic art, portraits from the Northern Renaissance and the lithographic art of railway posters.

Discussions, quizzes and seasonal social events also have a place on our calendar. There is no expertise required to join the group, just enthusiasm for art in any form.

Contact with the group can be made by using the local u3a page, <https://u3asites.org.uk/ripon/home>, clicking on the Groups section and then on the Art Appreciation title, which offers the facility of being able to send an enquiry using the Blue Pigeon link or phone Mike on 01423 322458.

The Book Readers Group - Karen Clark - kdalgliesh57@gmail.com

The book Group meet every second Thursday at 2.00 p.m. in The Old Deanery.

We read a range of books all selected by group members.

For our April meeting we are reading "Still Life" by Sarah Winman.

Lawn Bowls - Joan Hainsworth - joanhain11@gmail.com



The season starts on the 24th April for all old and new members of the U3A Lawn Bowls group. We play at West Tanfield Bowls Club each Wednesday from 10.00 until 12 noon.

The average attendance is around 16 but we always welcome new members. No experience is necessary and bowls may be borrowed.

For further information please contact Joan Hainsworth joanhain11@gmail.com 01765 605856 or 07393 430847

Collectables - Gwyn Sagar - Tel – 01765 677650

We are a group of like-minded people who have a wide interest in old and new collectable items. This could be a hobby, or something from your house which you would like to tell other members about, and which they would find interesting.

Members bring along each month a variety of items, like a book, china, documents or a collection. We are not all experts and just enjoy chatting about the object and it's memories.

In the past people have brought tools, instruments, cutlery, glassware, Coronation memorabilia, and Ripon memories,

If you would like to join us, we meet from 2 – 4pm on the second Thursday in the month at The Magdalene pub. We are a very welcoming and amiable group and are always pleased when new people join us.

If you would like to come along, then ring Gwen on 01765 677550



Fun with Watercolours – Kathy Wivell – kathywivel@gmail.com

We meet on the first and third Friday of each month at St Wilfrid's Centre, Trinity Lane from 2.00 to 4.00.

Beginners to this exciting medium are welcome, as are those with some experience. After learning the basics, we can experiment with some of the many techniques available.

Contact Kathy for further information. Only a few places remaining.

Family History Group - Anne Reid - annereid220@hotmail.com

The fantastic aspect of this U3a group is that we have amalgamated with the Harrogate U3a. This has had many advantages for us: we are able to put our money together to be able to invite speakers who would be otherwise beyond our reach, we are able to afford a Zoom subscription so that we can invite experts from anywhere in the country, and we benefit from having two sets of enthusiastic knowledgeable members and leaders. In particular some of our Harrogate members are members of the Church of Latter Day Saints, and we have benefitted from their knowledge of the excellent Family Search website.

Regarding external speakers, Jackie Depelle told us the fascinating story of a WW2 internee whose life she was able to piece together with only a name to start her off. Lorna Kinnaird guided us through an introduction to Scotland's people. The wonderful advantage of being able to invite these experts is that any one of us is able to ask questions relevant to our own research. Lorna in particular has offered to help various individual members.

On alternate months we have been meeting in person, and this gives us an opportunity to get to meet socially. At one such meeting members discussed their DNA adventures and shared their experiences of testing – some positive, others with unexpected outcomes and cautionary tales. Undoubtedly, one of the highlights was our October 'Show & Tell' meeting at the Workhouse, when members brought in artefacts relating to their ancestors in the Armed Forces, and revealed the stories behind them. It was reassuring to see how many treasured possessions are being safeguarded for future generations.

Our April meeting will be on Zoom when one of our own members will speak about the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. If any of the above sounds interesting

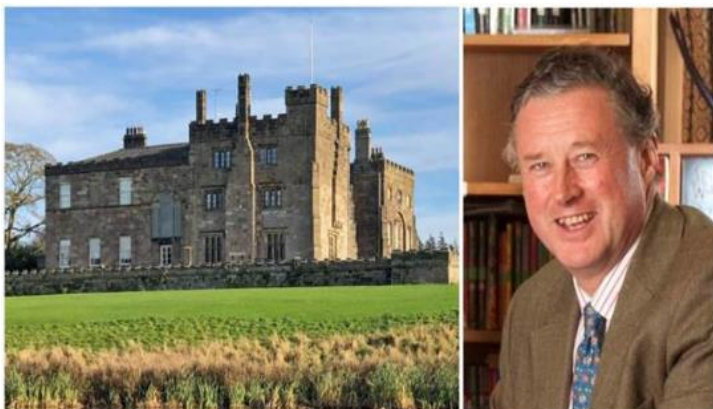
please email me for further details about our group. New members always welcome!



Keep Fit - Caroline Marston - carolinedmarston@gmail.com

Please note that both classes are fully subscribed and will not be enrolling any new members until June

Local History Group - Robert Metcalfe - rj.metcalfe@gmail.com



On Thursday 28th March our speaker will be Sir Thomas Ingilby who will talk to us about **'The Ingilbys of Ripley Castle'**.

"The talk charts the extraordinary challenges that this family has faced during the last 700+ years (and 27 generations) since our

move to Ripley. It is thought-provoking but rich in anecdote, illustrating how one family has variously been impacted by plague, religious persecution, two civil wars and a failed regicide conspiracy. Above all it's a tale of survival with messages that are as relevant in today's troubled world as they were at the time".

Sir Thomas does not use slides. "I am a storyteller who subliminally encourages the audience to imagine that they are present witnessing the scene that I am describing. The talk is rich in anecdote and anecdotes are so much better when related by a skilled raconteur".

The talk will last approximately 50 minutes followed by a refreshments break, after which Sir Thomas is willing to take as many questions as we can fire at him!

Sir Thomas refused our fee, as such, and will instead give the money to **Myeloma UK**. "Multiple Myeloma, sometimes referred to as cancer of the bone marrow, is an incurable blood cancer that kills 5,500 people a year: average life expectancy is six years from diagnosis and it's a horrible way to go – for the sufferer and their distraught family.

"Research has advanced our knowledge of the disease and the light at the end of the tunnel is closer than it was. Some of your members will have experienced MM within their family and circle of friends. With your group's assistance we can bring that light another step closer", he told us.

Refreshments will be available upon arrival, as well as at the interval. We collect £2 refreshment payment from each person attending, which goes directly to the club, in return for help-yourself unlimited tea/filter coffee – and biscuits.

The Rugby Club has plenty of free parking, comfortable seating and very good facilities in their modern clubhouse.

Members Advance Notice:

We will be collecting membership renewal payments at the **April** meeting. We will ask for £10 a person, as we did last year, payable by cash or cheque (to 'Ripon & District u3a'). This will then admit you free of charge to all of the 8 meetings at the Rugby Club between April 2024 and March 2025 – we're sure you will agree that this is very good value! We will, in addition, collect the Rugby Club charge of £2 for refreshments at each meeting.

If you are not a member of this group but are a member of Ripon u3a, and would like to come to one of our meetings, please do so as a guest, and see if you like it! We currently make a small admission charge of £2 a meeting for guests.

For your GPS, the Rugby Club is at Mallorie Park Drive, Ripon HG4 2QD.

If you are definitely interested in joining the Local History Group, and are a member of Ripon u3a, please just come to a meeting!

Painting & Drawing for Pleasure - Launa Woodruff - stalkerofsheep@hotmail.com

This group has been running at St John's Church for many years, but recently we moved to Sharow Village Hall.

We are a friendly, self-help group, mainly working in watercolours. We have occasional workshops provided by other artists.

We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 10am to 12 noon

We will be at the open day, so please come along and see us.

If you would like to join us, or have any questions, please contact **Launa Woodruff on 01765 635216 or by email**

Photography Group – Julia Bertenshaw – juliabertenshaw@yahoo.com

Our Photography Meetings this month will be 10th – when we will have an Outdoor Visit to Brimham Rocks, and on 24th we will have a Holiday Tour shown by Mike Clunes, one of our members. This will be held in Littlethorpe Village Hall at 2.00pm as usual. Should you wish to know more about the group please contact me.



Science for All Group – Keith Surman – kjsurman@outlook.com

Our next meeting, 2pm in Sharow VH, is on the 8th April when Ted Threapleton (ex RAF) will be talking about Electronic Warfare, and then on 13th May it is Tony Thornham on Genealogy

Singing for Fun – Karen Clark – kdalgliesh57@gmail.com

Singing for Fun is a group of enthusiastic singers who enjoy singing a range of music - folk, classical, world music and pop. We work on rounds, simple harmonies and unison arrangements.

We meet at Allhallowgate on the first Friday of the month at 11.00a.m. for one hour.

Contact Karen Clark on kdalgliesh57@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday Lunch Group – Susan Eddleston – susaneddleston@outlook.com

Please may I clarify matters for the U3A members, both the original Sunday Lunch Group and a statement for the proposed Fine Dining Group.

As you know they are two very different groups. However, following the last month's newsletter, quite a few ladies assumed both the groups were one and the same thing and wanted to come to the lunch on the 24th March. This was impossible, as that is the normal lunch Group and is already fully subscribed. So, I am going to attempt to write 2 separate pieces for the 2 separate groups.

Sunday Lunch Group

Our small, but well-established Sunday Lunch Group, is meeting on the 24th March for lunch at Storehouse Kitchen on North Street. The venue for April has yet to be decided.

Unfortunately, at present the Group is as big as it can be, but anyone interested in joining, can apply to be on a waiting list, or there is a consideration of joining the newly formed Fine Dining Group

Details of that Group can be found in the separate entry below.

Fine Dining Group – Susan Eddleston – susaneddleston@outlook.com

Thank you to those showing continued interest in this new Group. It would be great if we could get this new Group underway now that the light nights are on their way. Let's hope the weather decides to improve!!

I am thinking that Sunday Lunch at The Old Deanery in April would be ideal. I have spoken with the Old Deanery and it could appear that they would have availability to our small Group. However, at the time of this going to the newsletter, confirmation of a possible date in April is not yet available, but it would either be the 14th or 21st April.

The menu looks delicious. Reports are very favourable. I look forward to hearing from anyone interested in this new Group along with members who have already expressed interest.

Theatre Visits Group – Arlene Coulston – dvrarlene@btinternet.com



The TVG committee hope all members are well and looking forward to the next chapters of the 2024 exciting programme. A backstage tour of The Georgian Theatre Royal Richmond has been booked for Tuesday 23rd April. Members have already received the booking form and flyers. This has proved so popular that members rushed to secure their tickets and now there is a waiting

Looking back over the last year members have experienced a wide variety of plays in York and Leeds. From classical “Julius Caesar” performed by Royal Shakespeare Company to comical farce within a farce “Noises Off” direct from the West End. Other dramas included an audacious retelling of “Pride & Prejudice”, “Quality Street” a farce based on a book by J M Barrie, a thriller with a final chilling twist “Murder in the Dark”, “Life of Pi” the West End spectacular on its first ever UK tour, “A Song for Ella Grey” a magical retelling of the Orpheus myth and “Cluedo 2-The Next Chapter” a hilarious whodunit. Musicals were not left out and in December members were treated to an outstanding production of “Oliver” at Leeds Playhouse.

But perhaps the highlight of the year was the day trip to Keswick in July. “The Blonde Bombshells of 1943” was being performed at The Theatre by the Lake. The outbound coach journey, in the pouring rain, did not dampen the wonderful experience of seeing the witty musical play. Glorious live swing of 1940’s Glenn Miller performed by a group of outstanding actors/musicians.



Members have also enjoyed a social lunch in October. Adding a yearly lunch has proved popular for meeting and chatting to fellow theatre goers. There has also been several coffee mornings. These have taken the format of a mixture of informative updating of members plus a social element. The mornings have provided a platform for members to share their views to each other and to the committee members. The latter has proved very successful and enjoyed by all participating.

The committee aims to give members a taste of all types of the “limelight” but in addition the means for social networking and member feedback.

For more information on the group’s membership and events, please contact Arlene Coulson at dvrarlene@btinternet.com or visit the website pages.

The Walking Group – Liz Gilbank – lizgilbank15@btinternet.com

We all know that walking ticks all the boxes for fitness, well-being and socializing, so why not join us on the many and varied walks we have scheduled for the months ahead. Come and find out more at the Showcase event on 21 March.

Our members have led winter walks from different locations despite mud being a common feature but we’re now looking forward to better conditions and hopefully brighter weather and more participants. The Ripon Sanctuary walk on 29 February started off with 7 walkers but some



left the walk along the way, as expected, it was a bit like an the Agatha Christie mystery then there were three gallant walkers who completed the 10 mile circuit. Well done to them.

The schedule below for April has a range of distances and days of the week, so something for everyone. Members of the group should look out for emails, a regular one at the beginning of each month giving updates and more walks offered and planned for May and June.

Monday 18 March

Kath Beeken will lead a 3 mile walk from Masham, along the river, through Marfield Nature Reserve and then returning to Masham. An easy walk, with one or two stiles, could be muddy! Bring a drink and snack if you want, and we can go into Masham for a coffee/lunch afterwards. Meet at the car park at the Recreation Ground on the left after the bridge as you approach Masham, at 10.00.

Contact Kath on 01765 600528 or 07770 233253

Thursday 21 March

Jo and John Mitchell will lead a walk from Roecliffe. meet at the Church gates at 10am ready to set off at 10.15. The walk is along the river to Westwick Lodge, returning on higher ground. There are a few soggy patches, and 4 easy stiles, about 5 miles. Bring a drink and snack, coffee available at the end. If the weather deteriorates, Jo and John will cancel the walk, but will tell any members who have already booked in.

Please contact Jo and John on 01423 322896

Saturday 23 March

Cathedral to Castle walk. Janice will lead a linear walk from Ripon to Ripley, returning by bus. Bring packed lunch and a drink. Meet outside the Cathedral at 9.30am. This walk is 9.5 miles, but can be shortened to about 5.5 mile by leaving at Markenfield and catching the bus back.. Don't forget your bus pass or bus fare money!

Contact Janice, 07930316107 or 01423873330

Wednesday 27 March

Maggie Jacques will lead 5 mile walk from Pateley Bridge. Meet at the bottom entrance of Southlands Car park at 10.00am. The walk goes via Glasshouses to Castlestead and Blazefield Grange on to Wath Road, descending via Carl Edge Reservoir back to Pateley Bridge. There are a number of stiles and gates to negotiate, and in parts the ground is muddy, so a walking pole is recommended. Bring a drink and a snack. There are places in Pateley Bridge for lunch or coffee.

Contact Maggie on 01423 712976

Thursday 4 April

Kath Beeken will lead a 5 mile walk from Pateley Bridge. There is a steep climb to start the walk (Panorama Walk), through the old churchyard and then a climb up on the road to a

footpath through the quarry and on to Top Wath road. Back to Pateley Bridge along the river. Meet at the long stay car park by the river at 10.00am. Bring a snack/packed lunch and a drink. There are places in Pateley Bridge for lunch etc.

Contact Kath on 01765 600528 or 07770 233253

Tuesday 9 April

Janice Shearman will lead a 4.5 mile walk from North Stainley. Meet at North Stainley Village Hall car park at 10.00. Walking on the Ripon Rowell route alongside the River Ure to West Tanfield. Bring drink and snack for a stop here. The return is along field paths, hopefully not too muddy; easy walking. Janice can give a lift from Ripon to three people.

Contact Janice on 07930316107 or 01423873330

Thursday 11 April

Margaret Chadwick will lead a 7 mile walk from M&S, Leeds Road, Harrogate, through Follifoot, Crimble Valley and Rudding Park, returning to M&S. Take the 09.20am 36 bus from Ripon to M&S on Leeds Road. Take a packed lunch and drink, coffee opportunity at the end.

Contact Margaret on 01423500685

Monday 15 April

Linda Mason will lead a 7.5 mile walk from Coxwold - more details later.

Thursday 25th April

Duncan and Ruth will lead a 7 mile walk from Aysgarth via Bolton Castle and Carperby. Meet at the National Car Park Aysgarth at 10.30. Bring a packed lunch and drink. There is a coffee shop at Bolton Castle.

Contact Duncan on 07849744793



We wish all our members a very happy Easter.



RIPON AND DISTRICT U3A

TRIP BOOKING FORM

Please book the following places on the trip dated Friday April 26th 2024

To [Beamish Living Museum](#)

Name(s) u3a membership
no.....

..... u3a membership no
.....

Contact Tel No e-mail address

The Trip will leave Ripon Coach Park at 9.30am returning by 5.00pm.

Cost: Coach Plus Beamish Museum Entry, £30.00 per person

Please note we have limited numbers, so book early to reserve your place.

Bookings close on the 19th April 2024

Payment can be made via (Please tick method of payment)

- Cheque made out to Ripon and District u3a
- BACS giving the reference Beamish – sort code 05-07-17, A/c no. 35718850

Please forward the booking form and cheque to Glenys Bailey via email

frankandglenys1@btconnect.com or by post Glenys Bailey Stonehaven North Stainley Ripon HG4

3HT Money is non-refundable unless your place can be re-sold.

In case of an emergency whilst on this trip, please provide details of a person to contact (not necessarily a member of your family)

Name of contact Tel no of contact

NB: This information will not be retained beyond this trip

We recommend that this information should be included, but if you do not wish to give these details, please sign below

I do not wish to give an emergency contact (sign).....