

Ripon and District u3a

February 2024 Newsletter

Chairmans Foreward

Dear All,

Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all. May 2024 be healthy, happy and prosperous year.

We resume our usual activities this month and look forward to seeing you at the Rugby Club on January 22nd for our next talk. This will be an account of walking the Camino road in Northern Spain. The pictures may make us envious of the weather, if it goes on at today's temperatures. Next month's speaker lives well south of London so the meeting will be 'hybrid' with the speaker on screen while we watch and listen in the Rugby Club.

We anticipate our usual showcase meetings this year so watch this space for details and we will this year also be part of the Sight and Sounds event at the Cathedral. We have no great detail on that yet but the objective will be publicity and 'PR' for the U3A.

See you soon,

Joyce

The Book Reading Group – Karen Clark – kdalgliesh57@gmail.com

The Book Readers Group is a lively, enthusiastic and friendly ensemble of avid readers. Each month the book is chosen by a different member, so over a year we read quite an eclectic collection. The meeting is on every second Thursday of the month from 2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m.

Please contact :

Karen Rimmer on karenjones388@hotmail.com for Membership details.

Karen Clark on kdalgliesh57@gmail.com for general information.

Welcome to New Contributors to the u3a Newsletter

Bonsai Group – Peter Coveney – peter.coveney@sky.com

You don't need a 300 year old Japanese black pine to attend a bonsai group meeting. You can visit us without a tree, to find out what we are about. Trees can be developed from seed, from seed dispersal in a garden or from purchasing a tree or shrub in a garden centre. Expert help will be offered on trees of all styles, sizes and ages.

You will find us at Sharow Village Hall, on the second Monday of each month, between 10 and 12am. We look forward to seeing you.

Reply to Peter Coveney peter.coveney@sky.com

The Geology Group – Peter Coveney – petercoveney@sky.com

Do you collect pebbles from a beach on holiday?

Have you ever found a fossil and wonder where to find more?

Well, the geology group may be for you. We are a small group of rock and fossil collectors who search the beaches and hills of North Yorkshire, mainly near old mine workings.

Fossil finds have included sea shells, corals and tree parts. We have found Galena, Fluorite and many different forms of Baryte to name a few.

If you are interested, please contact the group leader.

Reply to Peter Coveney peter.coveney@sky.com

Collectables Group – Gwyn Sagar – Tel 01765 677650

The February meeting is at the Old Deanery on Thursday the 8th February – 2 to 4 pm. New members welcome.

Please note the new venue – The Old Deanery Ripon

Family History Group – Anne Reid – annereid220@btinternet.com

Our February meeting will take place at the Workhouse Museum in Ripon at 2pm on 13th, when one of our experienced members will talk about “Causes of Death”. This sounds like an interesting session, relevant to all of us.



Email me for further details about our group if you'd like to join us. New members always welcome!

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

We meet at Ripon Rugby Club on Mallorie Park Drive (HG4 2QD for your GPS) for a 10.00am start, on the fourth Thursday of the month.



Our Thursday 25th January speaker will be **Mark Newman**, Archaeological Consultant for the Yorkshire and North East region of the **National Trust**. Mark will talk about the lost mansion of ‘**Studley House**’ in Studley Royal Park, and will include the findings of the most recent excavations on the site!

On **Thursday 22nd February** we will welcome **Justin Scully** of The National Trust, who is the General Manager at Fountains Abbey and Brimham Rocks. Justin has suggested a talk about something a little different to the usual history of Fountains, having noted that his colleague Mark Newman will have given a presentation rich in history a month earlier.

The title will be – ‘**Balancing the growth in visitors with the Spirit of Place of Fountains Abbey**’. We want more people to enjoy the beauty of Fountain, but how can that happen

without disturbing its peace & tranquillity – how do the team strike this balance and what can we learn from the history of Fountains to help us?

Refreshments will be available from when we arrive as well as at the interval. The Rugby Club has plenty of free parking and comfortable seating.

We collect £2 from each person attending, which goes directly to the club, in return for help-yourself unlimited tea/filter coffee/cool water – and biscuits.

If you are not a member of this group but would like to come to one of our meetings, please do so as a guest. We currently make a small admission charge of £2 a meeting for non-members.

Photography Group – Julia Bertenshaw – juliabertenshaw@yahoo.com

Our meetings this month are 14th February when we will look at Photograph Printing , and on 28th there will be a Tutorial about Mono Images. If you are interested in knowing more about the group, please contact me. The attached photo is “Blue Shadows” at Symi Island in Greece by Lee Chadwick, which will perhaps prompt our holiday planning!?



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

Singing for Fun continues to be on the second Friday of the month at 11.00a.m. at Allhallowgate Church, in the Centre room. It is a friendly and enthusiastic group of singers who tackle unison songs and songs with some simple harmonies. No experience is needed. There is £3 charge per session to cover the cost of room hire. For more information contact Karen Clark on kdalgliesh57@gmail.com

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

The TVG committee hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish you a very Happy New Year.

February's theatre trip is to York Theatre Royal on Thursday 22nd at 1 pm to see "A Song for Ella Grey". A retelling of the Orpheus myth: his ability to charm all living things and even stones with his music. The play is full of music, sound and storytelling. Members will soon be receiving the booking form and play flyer.



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

Here's a list of our winter walks for the rest of January and February. They vary in length and days of the week so hopefully there is something for all.

Don't forget we have a planning meeting on **Tuesday 13 February** from 11.00 am at the South Lodge pub on Harrogate Road, Ripon HG4 1ST. They are opening up early especially for us, so hope many of you can make it as it's a good opportunity to chat to other members and enjoy a coffee/drink even if you're not a regular walker.

Saturday 20 January

A walk from Gargrave to Skipton, about 5 miles. Led by Margaret Smith. Using 36 bus to Harrogate, Dales Bus to Skipton, and another bus to Gargrave. Lunch in Skipton. This is a full day's outing! Contact Margaret on 01765 608566

Thursday 25 January

Duncon and Ruth are leading the Sanctuary Way walk around Ripon. See Janice's email The full walk is 10 miles, but there are several opportunities to return to Ripon if you wish to shorten it. Meet at 9.30am at the front of the Cathedral.

Bring a drink and a snack, but there is the possibility of lunch at Tate's Garden Centre Café where there are toilets. A mainly flat walk with a mixture of field paths and footpaths. Please telephone Duncon and Ruth on 07780 591500.

Wednesday 7 February

A short walk of about 4 miles from High Cleugh, to Clothierholme Barracks, and back to High Cleugh, led by Margaret Smith. Meet at High Cleugh at 10.00am

Please contact Margaret on 01765 608566.

Thursday 15 February

Margaret Smith will lead another walk of about 4.5 miles around Grimwith Reservoir. Meet at the car park, (postcode BD23 5ED) at 10.30am. The walk is on good paths. Lunch will be at either Stump Cross or a café in Pateley Bridge. If you need a lift, please contact Margaret in good time so that a lift can be arranged. Please telephone Margaret on 01765 608566.

Monday 19 February

Linda Mason will lead a walk of 5.5 miles round the south side of Ripon, taking in Littlethorpe, Quarry Moor, Hell Wath and returning into Ripon via the Spa Gardens. Mostly good tracks, but may be muddy in parts. There are 4 solid stiles. Meet at Ripon Bus Station at 10.00 am, bring a drink and a snack for one stop during the walk. Refreshments in Ripon if anyone wanted. Contact Linda on 01765 605890 or 07894 829960

Thursday 22 February

Margaret Chadwick will lead a walk from Wormald Green to Bishop Monkton, then on the canal to Littlethorpe and Ripon. It will be about 6 miles. Take the 36 bus at 9.20am from Ripon to Burton Leonard bus stop. Bring a packed lunch and a drink. Coffee etc. at Ripon. Please contact Margaret on 01423 500685

Looking further ahead, the following dates and walks have been offered, some details will be confirmed in next month's newsletter or in the walking group emails sent out monthly.

Friday 1 March

Janice Shearman will lead a 5 mile walk from Langthorpe via Kirby Hill and Milby- more details later

Tuesday 5 March

Linda Mason will lead a walk of 6 miles from Thirsk. Meet at 10.00am at Millgate car park pay and display, or find your own street parking. No stiles, good tracks, bring a drink and snack for elevenses. There are cafes/pubs in Thirsk for lunch if desired after the walk. Contact Linda 01765 605890 or 07984 829960

Wednesday 13 March

Chris Bennett will lead a walk - details later.

Monday 18 March

Kath Beeken will lead a 3-4 mile walk from Masham - details later.

Thursday 21 March

Jo and John Mitchell will lead a walk from Roecliffe - details later.

Wednesday 27 March

Maggie Jacques will lead a walk from Pateley Bridge - details later.

Dates for your diary

2024 is shaping up to be one full of activity and new ventures for members of Ripon & District u3a.

- In March we will have a table at the **Sights and Sounds of Ripon** exhibition in the Cathedral alongside other local charity groups. Please come along to support us and bring any friends or relations who may also be interested.

At the end of March, we will once again be holding a **Showcase** at Allhallowgate Church where various groups will show members what they are busy doing.

- July 18 to 20 – the u3a will be holding their **first national festival**. This event is to take place at York University when lots of events will be held over the three days. More details will be sent out later.

A new venture – for our April Newsletter we would like to try out a new enlarged version – the first of a regular 6 or 12 monthly issue. Our usual newsletter does not include any retrospective information, but in this new enlarged version we would like to include special events or highlights any groups have enjoyed over the past few months. As we have over 30 groups, items submitted will need to be succinct and a photograph could be included. These articles will be like a showcase to interest members who may be thinking of joining a new group. Items for this new venture should be submitted to the editor by March 15th.

- **Our AGM** will be held in May. Anyone thinking of joining our friendly and busy committee should contact Joyce Walmsley or any committee member. Your branch will not continue to survive unless we have willing volunteers. Please consider if you could help in any way.

Of course, our **monthly General Meetings** will continue at the Ripon Rugby Club and The Old Deanery is once again opening its doors for group meetings. This should ease the problem of finding suitable venues for meetings.

- Our **Outings to Places of interest Group** will continue to take members a little further afield – watch out for details.

In addition, we hope to hold a **Study Day** during the year and there will be the annual **Summer School** in Easingwold plus monthly online free activities with The Third Age Trust (see you Third Age Matters magazines for details of these – the best way is to register an interest and then you will receive regular details of some very interesting topics).

January 22nd	Monthly General Meeting at Ripon Rugby Club Andrea Tse – walking the Camino
February 26 th	Monthly General meeting – NB: this will be a hybrid meeting when the speaker will be present on zoom. You can come and watch on the screen at the Ripon Rugby Club or register to watch at home Geoff Saunders – sailing the Antarctic
March 15th	Final date for submission of articles for the enlarged newsletter
March 21 st	Showcase at Allhallowgate Church
April 22 nd	Monthly General Meeting at Ripon Rugby Club – speaker details later
May 27 th	AGM at Ripon Rugby Club – speaker to be announced
July 18 – 20 th	National Festival at York University

