

RIPON AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Committee members for 2019-20

Despite the fact that it is only February the committee is already planning for the AGM which takes place on Monday, May 20th. You, the members, will have to propose and elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary at the AGM, so I am asking you all to consider whether you could fill one of these roles or whether you know someone else who would.

Without these key roles being filled, Ripon and District U3A cannot

continue to operate. All the members of the current committee would be more than happy to discuss the roles with you and if you are interested you are welcome to attend a committee meeting as an observer. Nomination forms will be sent out next month for completion and return before the end of April. This organisation is important to us all and it needs us all to contribute to its future success and development.



Please contact Kate Swann on kateswann47@me.com or on 01765 600068 if you would like to join us.



IS HE MAD, OR JUST WISTFUL? I THINK HE MAY BE SEARCHING FOR.....

A Chairman for Ripon & District U3A

In accordance with the constitution our current chairman will step down in May 2019. The role needs someone:

- to provide direction, support and advice to an enthusiastic committee and helpers.
- to be a point of contact for current members and new members.
- to maintain links with the Yorkshire Regional Committee and the local U3A network.

There is no salary but you will get expenses. This is a highly rewarding post in which you will have the chance to influence the future of a successful organisation.

A Secretary for Ripon & District U3A

We also need a new Secretary, as the current one must step down at the AGM in May under the terms of the Constitution. You need not know shorthand or have any special expertise, but you will need an internet connection and some familiarity with word processing and document storage. There is no salary, but all expenses will be paid. Your reward will be new friendships and the chance to take part in our decision-making. If you want to know more, please contact Kate – details above.

(painting by Katherine Mays inspired by the Art of Helen Clark)

Monthly Speakers at the Spa Hotel

Monday March 25th at 2pm,
"FRIENDS AGAINST SCAMS."

CATHERINE ROBERTSHAW (Community Banker) WILL TELL US HOW TO
SAFEGUARD OUR BANK ACCOUNTS!



Group events and information

Please note as always, submissions for the next newsletter (April 2019) should be with one of the editors by the 15th March. Paul Finch pagfinch@hotmail.com or Caroline Marston carolinedmarston@gmail.com

Bowling group

On Wednesday, 13th February the U3A bowling group, members of West Tanfield Bowling Club and some residents of Sunnyfield Lodge joined together for delicious cream teas and a pre-season chat. We met at Sunnyfield Lodge, Fennel Road with kind permission of the manager and enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon with old friends, looking forward to a new season.

Our thanks go to Irene Saxton for organising the event. A bonus will be that U3A bowlers will be able to enjoy new mats on the bowling green as a result of the money raised through Irene's efforts.

The Ripon U3A Bowling Group meets each Wednesday morning at 10am on the beautiful bowling green in West Tanfield. Our season, weather permitting, starts in the week beginning 8th April.

We have a few places available in the group, so if you are interested in joining, please contact John Collins 01677 708732 or Joan Hainsworth 01765 605856

(The Editors would like to point out that any likeness in the very amusing cartoon to any member of the bowling group is purely intentional)



Family History Group

Anne Reid 01765 650077 or annereid220@hotmail.com

We had a great start to the New Year when one of our members gave us a presentation on an interesting member of her own family tree, which provided pointers to us all for finding more information on soldiers who fought in WW1. Our next two meetings are also led by members and take place on 26th February and 26th March at 2pm in The Old Deanery.

Sunday Lunch Group.

Sue Eddleston 01765 601812

We are going to the Old Station Cafe Bistro, just outside Masham, and we will meet on Sundays 10th March and 24th March. We would like you to join us for lunch in a lovely setting with fantastic food. Come and relax and leave someone else to do the washing up!

Midweek Lunch Group

Barbara Robertson 01765 604318

The March meeting of the group will be held on Wednesday 20th at 12.30 at The Ship Inn, Aldborough. Please let me know by Sunday 17th March, if you would like to join us. We are a friendly mixed group and very chatty! Barbara Tel: 01765 604318.

Local History Group

Maurice Taylor at maurice.taylor@ripcoms.net

This group meets at Thorpe Prebend House from 10 – 12 noon.

On Thursday 28th February Maurice Taylor will do a presentation on Ripon in the First World War starting with a summary of the military presence in Ripon before the 20th century, followed by the arrival of the Territorials at Hell Wath which led to the establishment of Ripon Camp in 1915, and the effect this had on the city during the war and afterwards.

Dorothy Taylor will extract part of her presentation from the U3A study day on 12th November - focusing on some of the women directly involved in WW1 and including a reading of some WW1 poems written in Ripon at the time.

On Thursday 28 March Barry Drury will show slides from his large collection of historic postcards of the Ripon Hornblower, highlighting changes in the horn and the attire of the Hornblower, and revealing interesting facts about the people who have maintained the tradition over the years. A horn has been sounded four times in Ripon's Market Place every night at 9.00pm since AD886 to "set the watch".

Craft Group – (a view from Lesley Taylor – our roving reporter)

This group is seeking new members! If you are a creative person and enjoy sewing, knitting, crochet or tapestry, or any other handmade activity, this group may be for you. The members are friendly and welcoming, and would love you to join them. They have been meeting in the South Lodge pub, on Harrogate Rd, but have decided to go to Gill McArdle's house for future meetings. Gill lives at 112 Oak Rd, Ripon where meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. The group is informal and relaxed, and ideal for working and chatting together. On my visit, Barbara was making knitted knee blankets for Ripon hospital. Greta was knitting a sweater for herself and Jill was sewing a cover for a paper hanky box. Barbara was hoping for another member to come to help her with crochet edging. Group leader Gill McArdle, pictured right, email gillmcardle.gm@gmail.com or 07454 720979



Theatre Visits Group

Rodney Towers – rhtowers@btinternet.com



Fifteen members went to York on Jan 31st to see a memorable stage production of the 1977 TV comedy *Abigail's Party* at the Grand Opera House. Jodie Prenger's portrayal of Beverley, the overbearing middle-class party host, contrasted brilliantly with her wholly subservient husband and was perfected by her constant game of one-upmanship over their 'trying to be so polite' guests. The Beverley role needed a large dominant character into which Jodie Prenger seemed to fit effortlessly, so well in fact that she might have been playing the part for years. Good theatre, great day out.

Future activities planned - **March 9th** - *Hello Dolly* - Harrogate Theatre. There will be around one planned visit every month throughout the year.

Singing Group

David Swann 01765 600068 or John Colston 01765 600747

The Singing Group will meet on the 4th, 11th, 18th of March at Allhallowgate Methodist Church on Monday afternoons at 2pm. Any new members please contact David Swann (01765 600068) or John Colston (01765 600747)

Walking Group

Christine Bennet 01423 324011 or dromomania2@outlook.com

Spring is almost here and the walking gets better! There are 4 walks offered for March:

Friday 8th March – Barbara is leading the 5.5 mile circular Dacre Wall Walk, across fields with stiles and a few inclines. Meet at High Cleugh at 9.15am to share transport. The start is at 10am at the Wellington Inn at Darley, where lunch is an option afterwards. For further information, **contact Barbara tel. 07858 588338**

Thursday 14th March – Claire is leading a 7 mile mainly flat circular walk from Jervaulx, via Thornton Steward and Cover Bridge, across fields and on riverside paths. Meet at High Cleugh at 9.30am to share transport. The start is at 10am at the Jervaulx tearooms. A packed lunch will be required. For further information, **contact Claire tel. 07932 776016**

Tuesday 19th March – Peter and Carole are leading a 5 mile pleasant flat circular walk with six stiles at Beningborough, with optional lunch at the end. Meet at High Cleugh at 9.15am to share transport. The start is at 10am at Beningborough farm shop. A 40p toll will be required for Aldwark Bridge. For further information, **contact Peter and Carole tel. 07960 264428**

Tuesday 26th March – John is leading a 6 mile circular walk from Snape via Well and Snape Park, passing Snape Castle, over fields and roads and through woodlands. Meet at High Cleugh at 9.30am to share transport. The start is at 10.15am opposite the village hall in Snape. For further information, **contact John tel. 07763 391843**

Monday 1st April – our next group meeting will take place at 10am at the Old Deanery, with the usual cost of £2.50 each for refreshments. The plan is to put together a walks programme for the 6 months, May to October inclusive,

even if it's only to put a name to a date with walk details to follow nearer the time. If you can't come to the meeting but would be prepared to lead a walk or more during those months, could you please let me know your preferred date(s) before 1st April and they can be included in the programme. The walking group is only able to function because people offer to lead walks and I would like to thank everyone who assists in this way. In the meeting, we can also discuss any ideas, suggestions, complaints and anything else! Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions etc. Chris - details above.

Readers' Group

Sue Hutchinson 01765 601302 or Hil Hunter hilhunter@live.com

Hi, here is the list of books for our next four meetings which are always on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm in the Old Deanery. The only charge is the usual £2.50 for the Old Deanery.

March 14th - *Winter in Madrid* by CJ Sansom.

April 11th - *Diary of an Ordinary Woman* by Margaret Forster.

May 9th - *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

June 13th - *He Said She Said* by Erin Kelly.

Science for All

Keith Surman 01765 605055 or kjsurman@outlook.com

On Monday 11th February, some 30 members enjoyed a talk by Maureen Simon on glass. This ranged from what is believed to be the discovery of glass pellets, when soda ash was "accidentally" heated, through gradual improvements in glass production to the various types of glass now available, to Maureen's speciality – coloured glass & glass blowing. On Monday 11th March, for the monthly meeting we have Peter Manser on Plastics. Monday 8th April is the follow up visit to Uredale Glass in Masham. Places are limited to 10 per tour for this visit; the first tour is at 11am & the second 2pm. If you have not done so already, let me know your preference am or pm. The S4A group has become so popular we are running out of space in the Old Deanery, so for the time any new applicants will be placed on a waiting list until a vacancy arises. For the latest information check our Ripon U3A Science for All webpage.

Have your say

Dorothy Taylor 01765 604778

This group meets on Friday March 8th at 2pm in the Old Deanery. We will be discussing Immigration, in particular recent problems. Come along if you would like to discuss this interesting topic.

Poetry for Pleasure

Dorothy Taylor 01765 604778

Our next meeting will be on March 18th 2pm at the Old Deanery when we will read poetry with links to The Environment. If you enjoy poetry come and join this lively group.

Musical Fusion

Please note that this event will return to the Golden Lion on Sunday 10th March at 7.30. Any enquiries to Peter Manser pmanser2@gmail.com

NEW!! A U3A Motorcycle Group?

Do you own a motorbike (any make, type, age)? If so, and you have a full motorcycle licence, then this new group could be for you. The proposal is to provide an opportunity for members to get together and organise outings to various locations throughout the area. If this sounds like a group you would like to be part of, then contact Stuart Ward by email: stuart.ward8@btopenworld.com



MORE ABOUT UKULELES

The ukulele (pronounced oo-koo-lay-lay) originated in Hawaii and can have four, six or eight strings. Ukuleles come in several sizes, the smallest being the soprano (pictured below) then going up in size there is the concert, the tenor and then the baritone. A concert or tenor size is probably more suitable than the smaller soprano for older, broader fingers. Ripon & District U3A has two ukulele groups that have grown from small beginnings at the January showcase in 2017.



Each group gets together to learn and play tunes and sing (if you want) Wednesday mornings. Most people may not have played before but within a short time are playing and singing tunes along with the rest of the group. We already have a big selection of modern and more traditional songs that we play. I help you read ukulele “tabs”, a sort of shorthand way to notate music, and send tunes out via email so that you can print them off and practise at home before coming along and playing with the group.

Ukulele playing is so popular that both groups have grown and we now practise in St Wilfrids Community Centre.

As a group, some of us have already played our ukuleles together at several charitable or community events but this is entirely optional. We have more events to play at this year so we are practising hard!

If anyone is interested in joining either the beginners or the improvers then please contact me and we can have a chat before you come along, to see which groups suit you best. Keep strumming!

Sue Griggs 01765 603958

SWANLAND U3A EVENT DAY 2019

Swanland U3A invites you to its 10th Event Day - "To the Manor Born."

Thursday, 2nd May 2019

at Lazaat Hotel, Woodhill Drive, Cottingham HU16 5SX

The Hon. Mrs. Susan Cunliffe-Lister, Lord Lieutenant of East Yorkshire, will talk about life above stairs based on her experiences at Burton Agnes Hall.

Caroline Hawley, an expert on the BBC's "Bargain Hunt" and "Flog It!" will talk about some of the antique contents to be found in the country houses of Yorkshire.

David Winpenny, freelance lecturer and writer, will be "Opening the Doors", describing the history of country house visiting as guests changed to tourists.

Tickets £25 including lunch. Non-U3A members welcome as guests. Details available from John Peck, 01482 634615

U3Bay

I have an exercise bike (Davina McCall model) which I have stopped using. Free to anyone who might like to collect it.

Lesley Taylor 01765 606458

Study Day – "The Thirties, the Threshold of Change."

February 2nd dawned cold and snowy and as I took courage to drive up the icy hill to the main road I wondered if members would come and would the speakers arrive . I need not have worried. Most people came and the speakers arrived safely. The speakers were very good, the venue warm and welcoming and we learnt about this period with interest . Although there had been times of depression, the period did show an increase in employment and four and a half million brick semi-detached houses were built and prosperity improved the standard of living for most people . We also found that the art deco design of the period is reflected in many buildings and objects we see today . I certainly did not realise that our toaster is of that design . Finally we were treated to a costumed presentation by the History Wardrobe with authentic clothes and accessories.

I think we all went home feeling that we had had a good day and learnt many new things and it had been worth braving the winter weather .

Dorothy Taylor



Bonds and Bonding – by our own intrepid reporter

“A rest home for retired teachers” – the description of the U3A, later vigorously disputed, by a recent correspondent in the U3A magazine *Third Age Matters*. We certainly don’t keep records of our members’ former careers, but we just “know” that we have a substantial number of teachers and tutors, principals and pedagogues, school secretaries and support staff. In the same way we have our repertoire of priests and preachers, guides and greeters, producers of parish magazines – and our very own Launa in the cathedral bookshop. Though groups like these have their own feelings of like-mindedness, they are still part of us as an entity sharing the clear, common interests and aims of all U3As. There is also a sort of regional fraternity, nurtured by the chairman, strengthening that sometimes indefinable but unassailable bond which ties us all together, rather like that of a religion – whose Latin origin means “binding together”. U3A members have developed their own wider identity, again drawing like towards like. Example: three recent tourists from Durham U3A stopped one of our members inquiring about Ripon’s workhouse museum. “We just knew that you were U3A”, they said, “so we picked on you.” Likewise, on one of our own organised visits, - to Hull as European City of Culture - five rather hungry members just happened to light upon somebody from Hull U3A – who recommended the market “as providing the best lunch in town”. (It was!) So, something, somehow exists among us which we sniff out by mysterious means binding us together and linking our common interests – and not just for munching and museums. With over fifty different group activities to choose from, each with its different way of linking members together, our Ripon U3A is no rest home for retired teachers – or anyone else.

PUZZLE CORNER

The solution to last month’s prize puzzle was:-

- a) Words all describing a period of time.
- b) “NOTABLE” was the seven letter word, so...

“A NOTABLE surgeon was NOT ABLE to operate as there was NO TABLE.”

First correct answer out of the hat and winner of £5 was Derek Jenkins –

CONGRATULATIONS!!



This month’s puzzle – which five letter word reads the same upside down?

Answers on a **postcard only** to Caroline Marston, 24 Glovers Crescent, Ripon, HG4 2TB