

Ripon & District u3a

March 2024 Newsletter



Chairmans Foreward

Hello everyone,

The pace is picking up now. We have what promises to be a very interesting talk about sailing in the Antarctic this month, and next month we have another showcase on Thursday 21st March at Allhallowgate Methodists. This will start a little earlier than usual at 1.30 so that the group using the room the following day can set up for the children they entertain. All hands-on deck to set up and ready for opening. Before that we will also have a table at the Cathedral's Sights and Sounds event, so if you know of someone who is considering joining, or looking for something new to do, these are good places to get an introduction to u3a.

The AGM will be in May and for this we have the meeting and a coffee break before the speaker takes the floor, but it will be worth the wait. By that time, I hope that we will have some sunshine.

See you at the general meeting I hope

Joyce.

New Groups

Ripon U3a Walking Cricket Group

Yorkshire Cricket Foundation are supplying all the equipment to enable us to start a walking cricket group on Tuesday 9th April, weather permitting, at the artificial multi use court at the top of Kearsley Road, HG4 2SG starting at 10a.m. and will last for 90 minutes. There will be a representative of the Foundation in attendance on the first day. 5 people expressed an interest at the last monthly meeting but we need more to sign up to make it viable.



I was a member of the inaugural group that started walking cricket with Barnsley u3a in 2019. It has expanded massively over the last 5 years. Since it started the rules have been amended to make it the game it is now. It is like junior quick cricket but you can only walk, so nothing quick about it. It is open to all ages and genders no matter what their ability. I have played with people of 55 and some in their 90's. It does not matter if you have played cricket before or not. It is noncompetitive, fun but a good form of exercise whilst you socialise.

Everyone bats, bowls and fields. You can join in by being a scorer or umpire. Bowling can be under arm or over arm. Nothing is compulsory. Plastic stumps and a soft ball are used and the bats are composition. No gloves or pads are required.

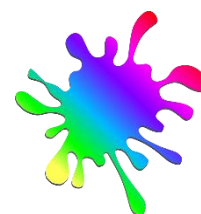
The intention is to play outside in the summer and hopefully in a sports hall in the winter months.

Please let me know if you are interested and I will send a copy of the rules or just call me for a chat. You can contact me on rose562@btinternet.com or my mobile number is 07957 858746.

Roger Rose

Fun with Watercolours

I am interested in starting a group for all of those who are interested in exploring the exciting medium of watercolour. No experience is necessary, but it will also be fun for those who just want to broaden their technique. We could meet at St Wilfrid's Community Centre on the first and third Friday afternoons from 2.00 until 4.00. What better way to start your weekend than a relaxing play with colour and water?



If you are interested, please contact me, Kathy Wivell on kathywivel@gmail.com

Group News

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

Collectables Group – Gwyn Sagar – Tel 01765 677650

The March meeting is at the Magdalen Pub on Thursday the 14th March – 2 to 4 pm. New members always welcome

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

Next month on 14th March at 2pm we meet on Zoom together with the Harrogate group, when one of our own members will give a talk entitled “What the Butler Saw”, about a life in service. Many of us had an ancestor who worked in a “big house”- this promises to be another interesting afternoon.

Email me for further details about our group if you'd like to join us.



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.



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 Fountains Abbey, 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?” said Justin.

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.

On **Thursday 28th March** our speaker will be **Sir Thomas Ingilby** who will talk to us about ‘**The Ingilbys of Ripley Castle**’. Sir Thomas does not use slides. As he told us “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”.

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 groups assistance we can bring that light another step closer”, he told us.

Photography Group – Julia Bertenshaw – juliabertenshaw@yahoo.com

Our meetings this March will be 13th - a Workshop on Portraits, and on 27th – a Presentation of our Prints. Should you need to know more about the group please contact me.

The photograph below was taken by Rodney Towers at Keighley Station (terminal end of the line between Keighley and Worth Valley Railway – 5 mile stretch) For those more particularly interested this was a Special Summer Time train for 6 weeks with 3 preserved carriages of The Lancs and Yorks Railway plus one or two carriages from the Vintage Carriages Trust at Ingrow. The branch line was closed in 1962 but in 1970 was known to be the first fully intact section of the railway to be purchased from British Railways.



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

On the 11 March at 2pm in Sharow VH we have Duncan Fyffe on Natural Flood Defences - the Laver, Skell, Ure & Ouse.

At 6m, for those who have booked, it is the visit to Lime Tree Observatory. There is a lot of useful information on their website, including directions to the farm.

Then on the 8 April Ted Threapleton (ex RAF) will be talking about Electronic Warfare.

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

Singing for Fun is on the first Friday of the month at Allhallowsgate Methodist Church in central Ripon. The session begins at 11.00a.m. and runs for one hour. There is a small charge of £3 to cover the cost of the room hire. It is a friendly group of enthusiastic singers who make a lovely sound both in unison and in harmony. There are a few vacancies at the moment - so join now!

Sunday Lunch Group – Susan Eddlestone – susaneddlestone@outlook.com

Our next lunch is on the 24th March and will hopefully be dining at Storehouse Kitchen. We always meet for 12.30. A small but friendly Group, enjoying good company and leaving the washing up to someone else to do.

For further details contact Sue Eddlestone. 01765 650070 or 07445 839784

Sunday Fine Dining – Susan Eddlestone – susaneddlestone@outlook.com

Hello everyone, and happy new year to you all. Just to let members know that this new Group went for Sunday Lunch at Ridding Park on the 5th November. A small friendly Group attended and it was hoped another lunch would be forthcoming in December. However, Swinton Park let me down. Subsequent emails and texts to existing members went unanswered. I think there were many Internet gremlins doing their rounds at the time. I can only presume the busyness of Christmas got in the way.

January is always a quiet month, but this is just to put feelers out to the people who expressed interest in this Group, and to the people who attended the lunch in November, to see whether you wish to start the year with this Group. If so email me with your email details or phone number.

I look forward to hearing from you all and for you to make suggestions of places you may like to visit for a special Sunday Lunch.

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

The TVG committee hope you all have survived, or enjoyed the February snow. Now we have spring to look forward to, which officially begins on Wednesday 20th March 2024. But before this is a fun trip to York Theatre Royal. On Thursday 14th March 2024 at 2 pm a trip to see “Cluedo 2-The Next Chapter” has been arranged. This is a brand new whodunit story, set to keep us guessing until the last moment. Members have already received the booking form and play flyer.



Please can members also remember the coffee morning on Wednesday 28th February 10.30 am at the Ripon Rugby Club.

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

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

Walking group

At our well attended (but slightly challenging) coffee morning on 13 February, we had lots of offers of walks going forward to June. We hope that the weather will allow them to go ahead as we've had several changes to scheduled walks, in recent weeks, due to the very wet and muddy conditions. We thank everyone who volunteered to lead walks and also welcome some new members to the group, who we hope to see walking very soon. Thanks also to Janice Shearman for keeping us updated via emails. Do continue to keep a lookout for emails advising of any necessary changes to the schedule.



In the meantime, here's the walks on offer, and more could be added. This is a varied programme to whet the appetite and allow us to appreciate our lovely surrounding countryside.

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 10.00am, bring a drink and a snack for one stop during the walk. Refreshments in Ripon if anyone wants.

Contact Linda on 01765 605890 or 07894 829960

Thursday 29 February *

Duncon and Ruth are leading the Sanctuary Way walk around Ripon. 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 Cafe, where there are toilets. A mainly flat walk with a mixture of field paths and footpaths.

Please telephone Duncon and Ruth on 07780 591500

* Rescheduled from January

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

Friday 8 March *

Margaret Chadwick will lead a walk from Wormald Green to Bishop Monkton, 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. Take a packed lunch and a drink. Coffee etc. at Ripon.

Please contact Margaret on 01423 500685

* Rescheduled from 22 February

Wednesday 13 March

Chris Bennett will lead a walk on the Brontë trail from Great Ouseburn, starting at 10.00am at Great Ouseburn. A snack/refreshments recommended. There is an opportunity to stop at Boroughbridge for further refreshments/lunch at the end of the walk. This is an easy 5 mile walk, along country lanes and across fields.

Contact Chris on 07518 376881

Saturday 16 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 09.30am. This walk is 10 miles, but can be shortened to about 5.5 miles.

Contact Janice, [07930316107](tel:07930316107) or 01423 873330

Monday 18 March

Kath Beeken will lead a 3-4 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, and we can go into Masham for a coffee etc. afterwards.

Meet at the car park at the Recreation Ground on the left after the bridge as you approach Masham centre at 10.00am. 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 10.00 am ready to set off at 10.15. The walk is about 5 miles. Bring a drink and snack, coffee available at the end. Please contact Jo and John on 01423 322896

Wednesday 27 March

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

Dates for Your Diary

February 26 th 2.00 At Ripon Rugby Club	Geoff Saunders will tell us about sailing in the Antarctic.
March 9 th 11.00 until 1.30 At the Cathedral – just inside on the right hand side	We will have a table at Ripon Sights and Sounds Exhibition – please support us and bring anyone who may be interested in joining the u3a
March 21 st – 1.30 until 3.00	Showcase at Allhallowgate Methodist Church -bring friends who would like to learn more about our activities
July 18 th – 20 th U3a Summer Festival in York	Watch for further details of an action packed programme
July 22 nd – 25 th in Easingwold	Yorkshire and Humber Summer School offering various courses – see Third Age Matters magazine for details

Future date for your diary - Study Day, October 26th

A very interesting day is planned once again by Dorothy Taylor. We will find out more about Brunel, the famous engineer. Then in contrast to celebrate the centenary of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, the ever popular, Lucy Adlington will give her new presentation "Vision in Blue".

Booking form and details will follow soon.



Why do owls not court in the rain?

Because it's too wet to wit to woo