



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET!?



RIPON AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

And finally my Swansong!..... I feel fortunate to have been able to meet so many of you over the past three years and to learn so much about the things you enjoy in your groups. I've had loyal, hardworking committee members who have been innovative and problem solving, giving a lot of their time and creating a many laughs along the way. I know that the U3A will continue to flourish under the new officers and committee. Thank you all for your support and friendship.

Kate Swann – kateswann47@me.com or 01765 600068



Spring is sprung, the grass is riz – I wonder where the birdies iz? – well here's one beauty to be going on with.

(Brilliant picture by Ian Chamberlain – Photography Group)



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And so we say, “Thanks and Farewell” to Kate Swann!

(an interview with the editor in anticipation of Kate relinquishing the Chairmanship on 20th May 2019).

Sitting on a window sill in the Town Hall in 2012 at the inaugural meeting of Ripon U3A, Kate realised that here was something very important for the folk of Ripon. So how did she end up as Chairman?

“I did it because I believe in the U3A, having watched it grow from the start. I saw how much people valued it and the difference it made to their lives. I saw the membership grow from 150 to over 500, so I thought I would take my turn at the helm”

Had she achieved all she had hoped in her time as Chairman?

“Not quite done everything, but I am pleased the Dementia Friendly initiative has been implemented, I felt that was important. What I don’t think we have got to the bottom of is the view of the U3A as elitist. When talking to the public, as I manned the U3A stand in the library, I would get a reaction to the name “University” of the Third Age. That made me sad and cross and I wanted to try and change that. I think we have a bit – we have monthly speakers that appeal to a wide range of people and have a variety of group activities”.

What about plans for life after chairmanship of the U3A?

“I have decided that when I give up the chairmanship, I will leave all the external working groups. However, I will continue to enjoy to my own interest groups. I have a collection of poetry, and now a publisher, so my immediate plan is to make sure that the collection is edited and published. I want to spend more time in the garden and perhaps more time entertaining.”

Are you pleased about having your poems published?

“Oh, I am thrilled! I have had poems published in other magazines and anthologies (*Kate belongs to a poetry society in Helperby which has just published an anthology*) but to get my own book of poems published will be lovely! I also intend to write, purely for the family, a family history in story form – a celebration of the many tales my mother used to tell.”

And a final reflection?

“I’ve enjoyed doing all the roles I have had in the U3A - I was groups coordinator to start with, then publicity officer and Vice Chairman.

“I have enjoyed the Chairman’s role and the opportunity to attend regional and national meetings. I have had a good committee with hardworking people who have put 100% into what they do. That’s very gratifying and I am sure the new committee will be the same. I know committee meetings are sometimes noisy and chatty but that’s the enthusiasm to improve what we do. I owe a huge thanks to all group leaders who continue to do so much hard work - that make our U3A really successful.”

(The editorial committee would like to say a very big thank you to Kate for her unstinting support, creativity and direction, which will be much missed.)



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET!?



Monthly Meeting at the Spa Hotel

AGM
Annual General Meeting

2pm MONDAY 20TH MAY!!
Important decisions to be
made – please be there.

Group events and information

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

Family History Group

Anne Reid: 01765 650077 or annereid220@hotmail.com

At our March meeting one of our members transported us back in time to 19th century London- a really interesting story with many challenges for the family historian. **On 30th April** at 2pm in the Old Deanery guest speaker Marion Moverley will give us a talk entitled “Caught in Chancery” which will tell the tale of an 18th century Dales girl. Our meeting on **28th May** will be a talk by one of our own members.

Sunday Lunch Group.

Sue Eddleston: 01765 601812

We had a lovely lunch, Palm Sunday, at the Blackamoor and will be returning there on the 28th April. In May we are only having lunch once due to the two Bank Holidays. We are hoping to meet on the Sunday 19th May at the newly refurbished Water Rat. Any members who would like to join us, please give me a ring. Enjoy good food, good company and of course, leave the washing up to someone else! Please ring Sue on 01765 601812. Look forward to hearing from you.



Archaeology Group

Keith Surman: 01765 605055 or riponcap@hotmail.co.uk

The Ripon Archaeology Research group will have a stand at the Local History Fair in Ripon Library on Thursday 16th May, between 11.00am & 2.00pm. Do come along, see just what we do and how we carry out our research. For more information contact Keith Surman or visit our page on the U3A website.



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET!?



Collectables Group

Gwyn Sagar: 01765 677550

Our next meeting will be on 9th May from 2-4pm at the Old Deanery – come along and meet a friendly and eclectic collection of folk!

The Wine Appreciation Group

John Byrom: jbyrom447@aol.co.uk or on 07539 579 176

This group was one of the first in Ripon & District U3A. There are now two groups meeting on the 1st and 2nd Wednesday of each month. We meet between 2pm and 4pm in the homes of two of our members. Each month we taste between six and eight wines but don't worry we merely taste so our alcohol intake is limited! As a result, wine is always left in the bottles and members draw lots to choose a wine to take home. The cost to members is £10 per month and this is payable whether you attend or not. This may appear excessive, but the tastings follow a schedule that ensures that the meetings are educational not just a social event. This was the decision of the Group members and is reviewed annually. Each Group is restricted to 12 members so that discussion is not limited, and everybody can contribute.

There are now two vacancies, one in each Group. Should anyone wish to join us please contact John.

Midweek Lunch Group

Barbara Robertson: 01765 604318

The May meeting of the group will be held on Wednesday 15th May at 12.30 at the Station Hotel, Birstwith. Please let me know by Sunday 12th May, if you would like to join our friendly, mixed, chatty group.

Local History Group

Maurice Taylor: maurice.taylor@ripcoms.net

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

Thursday 25th April is our next meeting and Maurice Taylor will present “The Historic Inns, Hostelries, Pubs and Hotels of Ripon”. Just like so many country market towns, Ripon was well supplied with places to drink, eat, sleep and stable your horses, in Westgate and the Market Place notably, but not exclusively so. Maurice will pick out some of them during this illustrated presentation.

On Thursday 23rd May we will be visiting The Gazebo, Ripon's hidden treasure in the centre of the city. Joyce Walmsley will be leading the group and David Winpenny will meet us on site for a short tour. This will be followed by a visit to the nearby Saint Wilfrid's Catholic Church. This visit is still to be confirmed by the Church. The elegant interior of the church contains many items of interest, including a reredos by Edward Pugin. For further information please email Maurice Taylor.

Singing Group

David Swann: 01765 600068 or John Colston: 01765 600747

Due to Bank Holidays and the U3A AGM, the group will meet only once in May, on Monday 13th.

In June, we will meet on 3rd, 10th and 17th in preparation for our concert at Sycamore Lodge on Tuesday 2nd July.

Any potential new singers please contact David or John.



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Walking Group

Christine Bennet: 01423 324011 or dromomania2@outlook.com

At our meeting on 1st April, we were able to put together a provisional programme of walks for the next 6 months. The offer of more walks would be appreciated.

After a successful coastal walk in April, we are keeping to the countryside this month, and we are lucky to have such fantastic walking terrain in the vicinity.

The walks offered this month are:

Tuesday 7th May -John Bushell is leading a 5.5 mile walk from Grantley and across Lumley Moor. Meet at High Cleugh Ripon at 9.30am to share transport. The walk starts at Grantley at 10am, with a lunch option at the end. Please contact John for any further information, tel. 07763 391843

Thursday 9th May – Judy is leading a 4 mile flat walk from Aldwark, meeting at High Cleugh at 9.30am or at the car park at the Aldwark Arms at 10.15am, with a lunch option after the walk. Please contact Judy for further information, tel. 07843621428

Friday 17th May – Brian is leading a 6.3 mile walk from Boltby with some ascents and descents. Meet at High Cleugh to share transport at 9.45am or at Boltby village SE490866 at 10.30am. Take a packed lunch or stop at the High Paradise tearooms during the walk. For further information, contact Brian and Astrid tel. 01765 620359

Tuesday 28th May – Peter and Carole are leading a 5 mile flat walk, with a few stiles, from North Stainley. Meet at High Cleugh at 9.30am to share transport or at the pub car park at North Stainley at 10am. Lunch option afterwards. Contact Peter for more information, tel. 07960264428

Thank you to everyone who offers to lead walks – that is what the group is all about! Christine.

Readers' Group

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

Hi, here is the list of books for our next two 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.

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

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

Science for All

Keith Surman: 01765 605055 or kjsurman@outlook.com

Our programme as it is developing:

Monday 13th May – Simon Warwick will give a talk on Nosterfield Quarry & Bird Sanctuary.

Monday 10th June – Possibly a follow up visit to Nosterfield Bird Sanctuary.

Tuesday 11th June – An evening visit to Fylingdales.

For the latest information check our Ripon U3A Science for All webpage





HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET!?

Have your say

Dorothy Taylor: 01765 604778

Next meeting will be on 10th May at 2pm in the Old Deanery – subject for discussion, “What it means to be human”.

Poetry for Pleasure

Dorothy Taylor: 01765 604778

Next meeting will be on 13th May at 2pm in the Old Deanery. The theme will be “books, poetry and reading”.

Spotlight on talented U3A member Ian Hepburn – Balladeer.

Ian is a singer, amongst other things, but singing is what he is known for. He falls into the category of tenor, and anyone who has heard him will tell you he has a strong melodic voice, and an impressive innate sense of rhythm. ***I asked him what his musical influences were:***



“I have always sung at every opportunity – although there is no music in the family. I was in the RAF for a number of years, based in North Africa in El Adem. A few of us got a group together and I sang and played drums. It was the time of the Beatles and all the 60s stuff, and things developed from there. Nowadays, I would call myself a balladeer, I like to sing songs with a bit of swing to them, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennet, Perry Como, but I love music of all genres including musicals”.

Have you always been a performer?

“During my time in El Adam, I was chief announcer for Tobruk El Adem Radio Station – TEARS for short, in conjunction with BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting Service) and I hosted a show called “Records I Like” on which I interviewed the likes of Brian Johnson (the famous “Jonners” of Test Match Special fame) and Marty Wilde. I had access to 16,000 tracks of music at the time.”

During his time in the RAF, Ian played football for a Combined Services team in Tobruk against the Libyan national side in the national stadium, and also represented the RAF at badminton and cricket. For 27 years he worked for both Vaux and Camerons breweries. Currently he is the Treasurer for the Ripon branch of the Ramblers, and still enjoys badminton with the U3A group. Ian also helps out entertaining people with learning disabilities through Community Link.

Ian is now taking his voice on the road, and performing for locals at venues such as The Coach House in Sharow, and Blossomgate and the Moors in Ripon. He knows that his easy listening presentation with jokes is something that goes down well with folks of a certain age, and as someone who has heard him sing on a number of occasions I see his “road show” becoming very popular. Good luck to you, Ian, yet another very talented member of our U3A.



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PUZZLE CORNER

The solution to last month's Dingbats prize puzzle.....

- 1. Bring up the Bodies 2. Under Milk Wood 3. Brighton Rock 4. War and Peace 5. The Invisible Man

There were sadly no correct answers! !



This month's puzzle:

DitLoID(s) (Day in the life of Ivan Denisovitch?)

- 35BK on a P
➤ 7S on a FPP
➤ 2H on a C
➤ 206B in the HB
➤ 0R in a MO

First correct answer out of the hat wins a fiver. Answers on a postcard only to Caroline Marston, 24 Glovers Crescent, Ripon, HG4 2TB

Hordes of hoarders – by our own intrepid reporter

We seem to be great hoarders of stuff : a Silver Cross pram retrieved from the dim recesses of the garage for the latest grandchild; an ancient typewriter with a dual keyboard separating lower and upper case letters, lurking in the roof; a still intermittently working 1924 Electrolux vacuum cleaner with its accessories resplendent in a mahogany box inherited from a grandparent and stowed away under the stairs..... all relics of the past – our personal past - whether nostalgic and functional, still having a definite purpose, even if they do end up in Nidderdale Museum. Many of us may have a disposal problem though, especially in Spring-time when the urge to clear out and clean up may well still come upon us with its childhood memories of enamel buckets of that strange-smelling sugar soap and bottles of lurid pink Windolene. This problem is now highlighted by a Japanese tidying-up guru called Marie Kondo who helps people deal, in her books and broadcasts, with those whose homes are cluttered up with stuff. Sometimes circumstances make us face up to the problem, like moving to a new house, down-sizing, getting children to shift their student gear, or sadly, bereavement. But we can also just cling unnecessarily to things, according to Kondo. There seem to be two particular problem areas for members. First, clothes – things we haven't worn for years and might just come in useful. (Discussing a 1970s evening dress, one member's daughter: "Mum, you can't possibly wear that old thing ." Another daughter: "1970's stuff is all the rage – you must wear it for that special





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occasion.” She did. And it fitted.) Another member usefully suggests having a rule of a new item in, an old one out. Others are frequent donors to charity shops though there is also the tendency to simultaneously replace. (One member admits to a passion for shoes!) Second problem is books, ranging from much-loved childhood Biggles and Rupert and Paddington to those revered, now out-of-date – often very expensive – student text books. The Oxfam shop, exclusively for books, in Oxford St, Harrogate can be useful here as is the sound advice of Kondo who has an all-embracing test for those of us who are inclined to hoard: get rid of items that no longer have for you that essential spark of joy. As for old typewriters and vacuum cleaners, they can always provide subjects of nostalgic interest for discussion - and spark joy in our Collectables group.

And finally -



(Picture by Irma Clarkson)

Don't get stuck in a rut and stagnate— start a new group and make new friends!!

AND DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

(PLEASE!)

AND A REMINDER THAT THE NEXT MUSICAL FUSION WILL BE AT THE GOLDEN LION ON SUNDAY 5TH MAY AT 7.30PM