

# Ripon u3a Newsletter – November 2023

## Chairman's Foreward

Hello members,

Our November speaker, Eric Jackson, will be telling us about some lesser well-known facts of the Gunpowder Plot this month. A timely talk as November 5<sup>th</sup> rapidly approaches. They may be searching the parliamentary cellars with particular care this year given the trouble in the middle east.

And now a **Scam warning!** I hope you are all aware that the copper cable phone network is to be switched off in 2025 and all calls will then be digital. The scammers know about it too – and they are trying to cash in. This seems to be reported as a telephone scam but it could be done by email as well and it appears that they are asking for payment to upgrade - either the phone system itself, or for any health alarm you might have which uses the phone system. Please remember that:

**a) the actual switch over is free**, even if you need some sort of new phone or wiring to do it,

**b) any costs relating to your health alarm should be pre-agreed and properly invoiced.**

Never give out your credit card/bank details to a caller, however persuasive they seem, and if they threaten to cut your phone off tell them exactly what you think of them and hang up. If you have a health care alarm you might feel better if you contact the suppliers and ask how it will work with the digital system and if it doesn't - what they are doing about it. This is also true if you own rather than lease the alarm. It may not be free for you, but it should be happening.

This information comes from Computer Active magazine and they recently produced a longer article about the switch off. I will ask for permission to reproduce some of this in a future newsletter.

---

## Group Activities

### Collectables Group Contact – Gwyn Sagar – Tel – 01765 677650

The November meeting is at the Magdalene Pub on Thursday the 9th November – 2 to 4 pm. New members welcome.

---

**Culture Club – Karen Clark - [kdalgliesh57@gmail.com](mailto:kdalgliesh57@gmail.com)**



Coming up in November: **St Cecilia Orchestral** Concert £20 - 7.30p.m. on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November Holy Trinity, Ripon and 'The Man Who Hated Musicals' by Burton Leonard Dramatic Society on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Burton Leonard Village Hall at 7.30p.m. Tickets are £8.

Looking ahead to December and January: We have a Latin concert, a trip to Markenfield Hall, The Magic

of Music as well as an Art and Antiques event.

Please email [kdalgliesh57@gmail.com](mailto:kdalgliesh57@gmail.com) to join 'Culture Club' and to receive details about the events.

---

**Local History Group – Maurice Taylor – [mauricehtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:mauricehtaylor@gmail.com)**

On Thursday **26th October** we will be at Ripon Rugby Club from 10.00am when **David Wimpenny**, Co-Chairman of the Ripon Civic Society, will present:

**‘Science & Sand – Charles Piazzi Smyth’.**



Smyth lived at ‘Clova’, Clothierholme Road, Ripon on his retirement, and is buried under a pyramid in Sharow Church graveyard.

Charles Piazzi Smyth (3 January 1819 – 21 February 1900) was an Italian-born British astronomer who was the second Astronomer Royal for Scotland, one of the great Victorian polymaths, and a colourful and controversial character.

He created the idea of astronomy from mountain tops; started the Edinburgh Time Ball and One O’Clock Gun; painted and sketched wherever he went on his travels

around the world; was a pioneer of photography and especially stereo imaging; and surveyed the pyramids, proposing strange theories about their mystical importance.

The Rugby Club has plenty of free parking, comfortable seats, and the help-yourself coffee/tea/cool water and biscuits are available from when we arrive – as well as at the interval. We pay £2 each to the club for unlimited drinks.

If you are not a member of this group, but would like to become one, please email Maurice Taylor at [mauricehtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:mauricehtaylor@gmail.com)

Advance Notice: Our 23rd November presentation will be 'Mill Race', with our own Joyce Walmsley and Peter Hills.

---

### **Singing for Fun – Karen Clark – [kdalgliesh57@gmail.com](mailto:kdalgliesh57@gmail.com)**



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

'Singing for Fun' is for enthusiastic singers of all abilities and no experience is needed. We sing a range of styles from pop to classical, folk and world music too. The aim is to simply enjoy singing together - sometimes in unison and sometimes tackling more challenging songs and dividing into part singing.

Currently we have a lovely group of friendly, harmonious singers who are great fun to work with. The session is on the first Friday of the month at 11.00a.m. at Allhallowgate Church in the Centre Room. Come and join us! Contact the group leader Karen Clark on [kdalgliesh57@gmail.com](mailto:kdalgliesh57@gmail.com) for more information.

---

## Photography Group - Julia Bertenshaw [-juliabertenshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:juliabertenshaw@yahoo.com)

Our meetings this month will be Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup>, when we plan to have an Outdoor Visit, and the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> is yet to be decided, but the critique will be 'Wheels'. We normally meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Littlethorpe Village Hall.

If you wish to know more, please contact [juliabertenshaw@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juliabertenshaw@yahoo.co.uk).



*Lake Mono, California by John Thompson*

---

## Lawn Bowls – Joan Hainsworth – [joanhain11@gmail.com](mailto:joanhain11@gmail.com)

The u3a lawn bowls season at West Tanfield Bowling green has now closed.

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to making our group such a successful one. The weather mostly has been kind to us this year and I have thoroughly enjoyed each session. I hope you have too.

I find I have 40 names on our list of members and feel there are some of you who will not wish to play in the future. Would you please let me know if you no longer want to receive these emails. Maybe we can reduce the stress on the air waves!

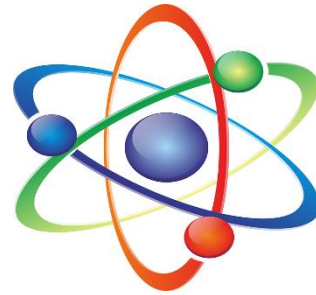
Meanwhile, as someone recently said to me, I hope you winter well and see you next April.





**Science for All Group -Keith Surman - [kjsurman@outlook.com](mailto:kjsurman@outlook.com)**

Our next meeting is Monday 13 November, Sharow VH 2pm,  
when we have -  
Dr Robert Forber on "Front Line Field Army Medical Services".



---

**Book Readers Group – Karen Clark - [kdalgliesh57@gmail.com](mailto:kdalgliesh57@gmail.com)**

The Book Reader's Group meets every second Thursday at 2.00p.m. at the Wakeman's House Cafe in Ripon. In November, each group member is selecting to read their own choice book and then will 'sell ' it to other members of the group. From this session we will compile our 2024 calendar. Usually, we choose one book for all, which results in a wide variety of genres and topics. Most books provoke a lively debate!

For more information, especially about vacancies and waiting lists please contact Karen.

---

**Family History Group – Anne Reid - [annereid220@hotmail.com](mailto:annereid220@hotmail.com)**



Two of the many artefacts brought to our October Show and Tell meeting on the subject of the two World Wars.

On 9<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm we will Zoom again. There has been a change to the programme for this meeting. We will be discussing our experiences of doing family history and also the important subject of privacy when researching.

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

## Theatre Visits Group

The TVG committee hope all members are well and have enjoyed the 2023 programmes. Plans are now in place for 2024 and reservations being made for plays in January, February and March. Members will soon be updated for their 2024 diaries.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> November play, “Noises Off” at York Theatre Royal, and “Oliver” on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at Leeds Playhouse, are now fully booked. But waiting lists are available. Please contact group leader, Arlene Coulson, for a place on the waiting lists.



For more information on the group's membership and events, please contact Arlene Coulson at [dvrarlene@btinternet.com](mailto:dvrarlene@btinternet.com) or visit the website pages.

---

## Walking group

Here's the remaining Autumn walks. Today it seems we finally have real Autumn weather. So, pull on the boots and hats and join our walk leaders in our lovely countryside. Don't forget to let them know you'll be joining them in advance. Any friends who are not u3a members can come along for one walk to give us a try.

Special mention of our next coffee morning/planning meeting at Margaret Smith's on 29 November. Please come along to have the opportunity to shape the future ideas and plans of the group. All are welcome.

### Monday 23 October

Meet 10.00 am Sharow village car park - opposite the church. The walk will go via Sharow, Copt Hewick and Hutton Conyers - No stiles, good tracks, minor road and field paths.

5.75 miles. Bring a drink and snack for elevenses

Contact Linda [01765 605890](tel:01765605890) or 07894829960

### Tuesday 31 October

Wormald Green walk. Catch the 09.57 am 36 bus from Ripon, and get off at the end of Burton Leonard Lane or meet at the bus stop.

Contact Barbara or Margaret Smith on 01765 608566

### Thursday 9 November

Kath Beeken will lead a Nidderdale walk. Meet at the long stay car park by the river in Pateley Bridge at 10.00 am. The walk is approximately 5 miles. The route goes up Panorama Walk, very steep, but then eases off and we go downhill to Wath, then back to Pateley along the river. Bring a drink and a snack; ample opportunities for lunch in Pateley.

Ring Kath on 01765 600528 or 07770 233253

**Tuesday 14 November**

6 mile walk from Thirsk. Meet 10.00 am at Millgate car park - pay and display or find your own street parking. No stiles, good tracks, bring drink and snack for elevenses - cafes/ pubs in Thirsk for lunch if desired after the walk.

Contact Linda 01765 605890 or 07894829960

**Monday 20 November**

Get the 09.57 am 36 bus, from Ripon to the Inn at South Stainley, which will arrive at about 10.15.

This is a fairly gentle 6mile walk, which can be cut to 4 and a half if wanted. Bring a packed lunch and we can have drinks at the Inn at the end.

Contact Astrid 01423 561497

**Monday 27 November**

A 5.5mile circular walk from Spofforth, via Kirkby Overblow - an easy walk across fields and along country tracks, with a few simple to negotiate step stiles.

Snack and drink at least are recommended, with the possibility of refreshments on the walk.

Meet at Spofforth at 10.30am.

Contact Chris on [01423 324011](tel:01423324011) or [07518376881](tel:07518376881) if you wish to go, and for further information.

**Wednesday 29 November Coffee morning**

We propose a further planning meeting over coffee. Again Margaret Smith has kindly offered to host this. Look out for more details or contact Margaret on 01765 608566.

December walks are on **Tuesday 5 December** Ripon Canal walk, about 5 miles led by Liz Gilbank.

Meet outside the Forge Cafe at the Canal Basin at 10.00 am. We will walk to the end of the canal and return via Littlethorpe and canal bank.

---

**Sunday Lunch Group – Sue Eddlestone – [susaneddlestone@outluck.com](mailto:susaneddlestone@outluck.com)**

Happy friendly group enjoying Sunday Lunch at various locations in and around Ripon. On 22nd October we will be going to the Sawley Arms at Sawley. November date and place yet to be decided. December our Christmas Meal is at the White Bear, Masham. Another successful year over!!

Sue 01765 650070 or 07445 839 784

**Lunch Fine Dining - Sue Eddlestone – [susaneddlestone@outluck.com](mailto:susaneddlestone@outluck.com)**

First of all, thank you so much to everyone who contacted me with regards to this new venture. I hope it is going to be a success. I am happy to say that we will be going to Ridding Park for Sunday Lunch on 5th November at 12.30 at the Clocktower Restaurant. Look forward to meeting you all then. Anyone else interested please contact me, Sue on 01765 650070 in or 07445 839 784.

Afternoon Tea at Ridding Park and other venues - again interest in this, yet another new venture but finer details to be sorted out.

Sue on 01765 650070 or 07445 839 784

---

## Dates for your Diary

Please note that we have managed to negotiate with the Ripon Rugby Club to continue our monthly General Meetings during 2024 at the usual time of Monday at 14h00. Our thanks to Mike, the Manager for going the extra mile to accommodate us.

## Monthly General Meetings

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Ripon Rugby Club – Eric Jackson will give an interesting insight into the Gunpowder Plot

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** – Ripon Rugby club – Jeremy Hutchinson from Kiplin Hall will tell us about the portraits displayed at the hall

## Upcoming events

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Lunch with turkey (or vegetarian option) and trifle at the Ripon Rugby Club. There are still some vacancies and a few booking forms will be available at the next General Meeting if you still wish to book.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** – an outing to see the Christmas Décor at Harewood House with the option to have a cream tea. Booking now open.

---

## Feedback from the September General Meeting

At this meeting we had a general discussion about the Ripon u3a Branch and asked for suggestions going forward. We received many good ideas which are all being considered and the committee is grateful for the help. It is necessary to keep our Branch providing the activities our members want and appreciate. Any future suggestions and ideas are always welcome.

## Feedback from our Showcase Table in the Sainsbury's entrance

During the morning we had a lot of interest in our showtable, and our stock of membership forms had to be quickly replenished. We have had at least 6 new members from this event and more enquiries that may result in membership.

**Did you know** that u3a is not just for retired people? It is for anyone of any age, who has left full time work and no longer has family commitments. So, encourage any friends or family who may fall into that category to come along and **Use their Third Age**. They can attend any interest group and a General Meeting as a guest to see if they think our organisation would suit them.