



York **U3A** Newsletter

Number 182 December 2019



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Front Cover Picture

Continuing with the theme of bridges over the Ouse in York, here we find one of the most recent additions joining Fulford and Rowntree Park. Built to celebrate the Millennium, it depicts the wheel of a bicycle reflecting the habits of the park users and indeed a large portion of York inhabitants.

Printed on recycled paper



Chairman's remarks

I am writing these remarks in the Spring sunshine in Cape Town where the drought has broken for the time being, the reservoirs are almost full, and the draconian water restrictions have been lifted – but people are still acutely conscious of the need to avoid wasting water. There's nothing like finding themselves six weeks away from having their taps run completely dry (those in the fortunate position of having taps to run dry) to make a city of four million people wake up to the reality of climate change.

In the normal course of events 'democratic' political systems only require political parties to pay close attention and respond to what their members want once every four or five years when general elections roll round. Other organizations need to try to be much more responsive. To this end your committee has moved to having more interactive new members meetings, and has initiated a process of follow-up phone-calls to ask new members about their experience to date and to invite suggestions as to how we might serve their needs better. We hope that long-standing members will always feel free to offer suggestions without our needing to solicit them.

My warm thanks go to Lorrae Atkins, our Vice Chair, for standing in for me in my absence. While I'm handing out virtual bouquets, a very large one must also go to Jennie Pugsley to thank her on behalf of us all as she stands down from the committee after her many years as Group Leader of our Travel Group. Particular thanks also to Paul Howarth and Eve Birch for their endurance of, and efforts to address, the problems with the office telephone which are reported on elsewhere in this newsletter.

With all good wishes for a happy and peaceful festive season.

David Maughan Brown, Chairman

Editorial

You are invited to send your items to newsletter@yorku3a.com on or before 12.00am Monday 17th Jan for the February issue for publishing on Friday 28th Jan. Alternatively, post/hand your copy to Newsletter, York U3A, 15a Clifford Street, York, YO1 9RG, same deadline. If you were of a mind to contribute a 13x13 cryptic crossword in order to tease the readership, please do so.

Groups Co-ordinator

New opportunities

JIVE

We are a very friendly group of people who enjoy jiving/learning to jive. The 'problem' is, we have a waiting list for ladies and we were wondering if there were any men who would like to give jiving a try? We start our new term on the 13th January 2020. Please contact jive@yorku3a.com to hear more about these dancing opportunities.

CRIME FICTION GROUP

An extra group as this is such a popular activity.

CRIME FICTION 1ST THURSDAY

Read and discuss crime fiction – new best sellers, old favourites, new discoveries. Each member in turn chooses and introduces a book.

Two groups meet, members are 'regulars' in one group but can swap to the other to suit diaries when needed

Group Leader: Aileen Hingston

Contact phone: 01904 656385

Contact email: crimefiction1@yorku3a.com

Venue: Leader's house, near The Mount

Day of week, time and frequency: 10.30 am 1st Thursday

Start date: 7th November 2019

End date: 6th August 2020

Cost: Cost of books

BRIDGE FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

My Bridge course for absolute beginners has not started this year as I do not have sufficient numbers to run it. I need at least four and I take a maximum of six. At the moment I have three so I need two or three more students. If I can get these numbers then I would look at starting the course in March or April. If you think this might be for you then please contact me for more information.Sambridge@yorku3a.com or 01904500462

Groups NOT running

Opera 2 (Friday afternoon)

Embroidery Encore (Monday afternoon)

Wine Appreciation – Dates and Themes

Friday 13 December 'Sparkling' and Xmas fare

Friday 17 January 'Far and Away' New Zealand

Wine appreciation takes place in the leader's home in South Bank until March 2020. Please contact Maureen Smith on 01904631785 or 07810048393 for more details.

In April there will be a "Summer Wine Appreciation Group" that will run until September 2020 at venues to be arranged. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

New Group – Travel Abroad

Travel Abroad is changing the way it operates so as to reach members more easily and open up more opportunities for travel. We are planning to operate by email! Register NOW to be one of the first to hear about our next European or long-haul visits!!

The people who currently organise Travel Abroad are going to become a committee responsible for organising a Travel Abroad Group with a membership like any other U3A group. To join the new group, simply register with your email address. However, if you do not have an email address, you can register with a landline number and a postal address.

We invite U3A members to join one or more of the following subgroups of the new Travel Abroad Group:

- those interested in European visits as currently organised;
- those interested in long-haul visits as currently organised;
- those interested in Small Group Travel as explained below.

The idea of Small Group Travel is a new idea aimed especially at extending the range of visits possible for U3A members travelling together. We will hold a six-monthly meeting when members come together with travel company brochures or website printouts of places they want to visit.

Any member can come together with others wishing to visit the same place. Any number can choose to use an existing itinerary available from a travel company and book as a U3A group. The differences from visits as currently organised would be:

- the visit would not have a tailor-made itinerary, but one currently available from a travel company;
- there would be no involvement of the Travel Abroad Treasurer, since all money would be paid directly to the travel company;
- there would be no Travel Abroad Committee involvement in running the visit, but the group would have to register a minimum number of details with the committee before travel;
- existing constraints on cost and location need not apply since the group is free to choose their travel company and location.
-

Locations for visits already suggested are Classical Spain, Classical Greece, Cuba, the Okavango delta and the Rocky Mountaineer train journey in Canada.

It is proposed to have a meeting for the Small Group Travel subgroup in January 2020, location and date to be fixed according to the numbers to be accommodated.

If you are interested in membership of any of the subgroups of the new Travel Abroad Group as described above, please send an email with the subgroup(s) you are interested in, together with your name and U3A number to:

Sheila McKilligan, sheilatravel@yorku3a.com .

For those with no email address, please send a note of the subgroup(s) that you are interested in, with your name, U3A number, address and landline number to:

Sheila McKilligan, 46 Lucombe Way, New Earswick, York YO32 4DS.

NEW MEMBERS' MEETINGS

During the coming months there will be several meetings for new members of York U3A. All new members are encouraged to attend one of these meetings. The meetings will give new members an opportunity to find out more about York U3A and meet some of the committee members.

All meetings will be held at the Friends' Meeting House, refreshments will be available 30 minutes before the meeting. The dates, times and locations of the meetings are as follows:-

Wednesday Jan 15, 2020	1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Penn Room
Thursday Mar 19, 2020	10 a.m. to noon	Penn Room

Sandra Mason Membership Secretary

Novels, Poems and Plays 1700-1914

We would welcome new members to this small, friendly group. We discuss fairly well-known novels, occasionally poems or plays, British, European (in translation) and American, written before the First World War. All our choices are available either on Kindle or Audible which is helpful for those with sight difficulties. On Thursday 30th January 2020 we will be discussing 'O! Pioneers' by Willa Cather and on 26th March 'Pamela' by Samuel Richardson. You are welcome to join as a regular member, or if you find the prospect of reading a book each month too demanding, to join us occasionally. We meet on Thursday afternoons each month, generally the last Thursday at 2.30pm at the convener's home, 66 Yarburgh Way, Badger Hill, York YO10 5HG. Tel 01904 438976. Email novelspoemsplays@yorku3a.com.

Elisa Main

How going on holiday can help our U3A!

Please remember if you are planning to take a holiday, organised by Riviera Travel, then please mention York U3A when making your booking. If you do this, then Riviera will donate 10% of the total basic holiday cost for your whole party to York U3A. This is at no cost to yourself. After one of our members did this recently, we received over £800!

The process is very straightforward. Simply mention York U3A when making the booking. Then at the end of your holiday, Riviera will send you an email, asking that an invoice be sent to them to claim the donation.

Please forward this email to myself, treasurer@yorku3a.com. I shall send an invoice to Riviera and within a few days the money will arrive in our bank account. Please be reassured, I do not receive any personal information about your trip. I will not know where you went or who with.

Any funds that are donated by Riviera will be used to support the running of U3A and our Groups, for the benefit of all members.

There are three important points to note

- York U3A is not endorsing Riviera Travel as a supplier of holidays;
- Neither York U3A nor any of the committee/trustees have received, or will receive any benefit or incentive from Riviera other than the donations to York U3A from the Affinity Scheme as described above.
- Donations from the Affinity Scheme are paid direct to York U3A, and are not payable to the individual who made the booking.

More details are available on the members' pages of our website. If you have any questions, or concerns, then please contact me.

Sheila Wilson, York U3A Treasurer treasurer@yorku3a.com

Vacancy - Secretary for York U3A

If you attended our AGM in October, you will know that I have completed the maximum term (six years) set out in our constitution for serving on our committee and should have stepped down from being the branch's Secretary. At present I am continuing to act in this role because no-one has yet come forward to replace me and, although I am happy to be co-opted on to the committee, this must be a temporary measure and a new Secretary really does have to be found.

Please get in touch with me if you would like further information and I will be more than happy to have a chat with you. I have prepared "handover" notes and will be around to help with any queries, so will be able to support whoever takes on the job if any help is needed.

Jean Haywood (secretary@yorku3a.com)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN THE C20

As a theme for one of my social history walks, I thought it would be interesting to look at the work opportunities for women in the C20. I asked the ladies in my group about their own experiences and also that of the mothers and grandmothers of all the group. The group did not let me down as stories came in recounting the lives of female relatives going back to the C19.

I was aware of the fact that women had put in a shift during the First World War and covered for men in factories, farms, public transport and Home Defence. They also discovered beer to the extent that the Government had to restrict opening hours which carried on until the 1980s as many will remember. THANK YOU, Granny, for that! However, in terms of employment, it was a false dawn as many women had to give their jobs back to the returning men. What work was now available?

The dominating feature of the grandmothers' section was domestic work. The 'big house' was often mentioned but it was more likely work in the house of a well off middle class family. The other main alternative was work in a factory if there was one. The contrast between the two types of work was set out by one grandmother who certainly thought her job of decorating chocolates at Rowntree's was much more enjoyable and more lucrative than cleaning houses. Others might not have agreed as they worked in factories away from York making gloves, hats, glass, buttons and asbestos and how dangerous had that been? They also worked for the Post Office, fish and chip shops, pawnbrokers and two played the piano for silent films. Given the opportunity, our grandmothers went for it! Moving on into the 1930s, work in the retail area began to appear with some getting promotion off the shop floor to be in charge of the haberdashery section or to be a buyer for a large departmental store in Newcastle. A number of grandmothers were seamstresses, milliners, tailors or they had sock making or knitting machines to cater for changing fashion. This work had gone in the mothers' section of the survey, probably due to the rise of readymade fashionable clothes available at the thriving M and S. I am sure these skills were still available and useful during the make do and mend era although darning socks seems to have gone forever- and a good job to you might say.

One growth area after the Great War was for typists and secretaries as companies like NER generated large amounts of office work. It was not

traditional work that men did and it also offered a career path and a number of grandmothers and certainly mothers, moved up from copy typists to Personal Assistants in large companies all around the country. York with its local government work, solicitors, doctors, insurance companies and the confectionery businesses, must have generated many openings for girls who wanted this sort of occupation. I wonder if these girls felt good about themselves in this sort of work? Grays, the solicitors, appointed their first female secretary in 1917 but you could not have been a female solicitor until 1922 and the York Law Society did not have a female member until 1947. It would not be until 1987, that Grays had their first female partner. Getting a job in the professions was another matter and education was a vital part of the process.

When LEAs took over from School Boards in 1902, the two tier system of Elementary Schools and Secondary Grammar School was introduced. Although York doubled the places available in the 1920s, there were not that many places for scholarship pupils as two thirds went to fee paying pupils. My survey revealed heart breaking stories of girls not allowed to take the scholarship in the first place or passed and were not allowed to go or did go only to be pulled out before taking the Matriculation exams. This left many bitter with thoughts of what might have been. My own mother was very much part of this group. Only three women in the mother's section went on to University before the Second World War and all their very successful careers were hijacked on getting married. Others did go on to become teachers and one did it through the Pupil Teacher system, probably one of the last to do so as this method of qualifying was phased out by the end of the 1920s.

However, even after all this hard work and effort, when you got married you left your job. Teachers, nurses, Civil Servants and others all had to give up their work. The convention, (it was never the law from what I gather), came about as it was deemed unfair for a man to be out of work with married women still in employment. (It does not make sense to me because an unemployed ship builder in the north east was never going to teach in York.) My survey shows time and again, women leaving work on getting married. Many were left very frustrated by all of this and one of my group said that" even me coming along did not compensate my mother for losing her wonderful job when she got married". One mother remained engaged for 7 years to avoid the ban and another opened her own school. It did not help that many men wanted their wives to leave work on marriage. Was it a sense of pride or social standing? It certainly caused family rows for some of my group as fathers objected to mothers going

back to work. "It was OK if mother was back in time to cook the meal", one member reported. The marriage bar was dropped during the Second World War as 7 million women rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into war work again. The bar seemed to disappear after the war finished but not totally.

Certainly by the 1950s, with the start of the NHS and the expansion of the welfare system and education, more jobs in the service section were generated and this was not traditional work for men leaving the door open for women. The younger mothers moved into this type of work even though not formally qualified but using their experience in the voluntary sector such as the WRVS, to get their foot in the door. In the 1960s, the expansion of Universities meant that many of my group did go on to Higher Education and had more opportunities not available to their mothers. However, on marriage, some were still expected to leave or had to reapply for their jobs or were questioned about child minding arrangements before being offered a job. (Laws had changed but perhaps not attitudes)

For the younger members of the group, the 1970s and 1980s seemed another leap forward as work in the service sector increased and has carried on to dominated society today. The Pill must have helped to give a sense of independence but there are still reports in the survey of members of my group coming up against the Old Boys network or even the boys network in certain industries like computing. Of course, as the end of the C20 approached, it was our daughters who were seeking employment and now our granddaughters- the me too generation travelling on their gap year before even looking for work. I wonder what mother and grandmother would have made of it all?

My survey was never meant to be a scientific one but it has given me and my group a glimpse into our past and a chance to pay homage to the distaff side of our family who had to overcome many obstacles to find their feet in the work place. If you would like to get in touch and offer your memories or tales of family history, it would be most appreciated and add to the bank of information started by my group.

You can contact me through the group email address of socialhistorywalks@yorku3a.com

Mike Doss

Exercises in Water Group

At last there is no waiting list for the Group. Now is your chance. We are a friendly and supportive group enjoying the feeling we are keeping our bodies as flexible and strong as possible. Some of us have benefitted from being members for years.

First there is time for a swim or a chat, then we start exercises in a circle or near the wall. We do not go out of our depth for these.

The exercises were designed by 2 physiotherapists to exercise the whole body, so we stay with the plan. There is usually a little more time for swimming at the end if you wish. Afterwards some members meet in the café for refreshments.

You are all welcome to join us. Come and try one free session to see if you would like to join us. Bring your U3A card. We meet on Monday afternoon 1.30 to 2.30 all year round except Bank Holidays. Unfortunately, our co-ordinator Julie Murphy has become ill, is in hospital and in consequence not likely to continue with her co-ordinator role. Gail on 01904 783212 has taken over the co-ordinator role. There are more details in the course booklet.

Anne Fox <anne25fox@gmail.com>

Scrabble

Christmas Lunch on Thursday December 12th
at "The Woodman Inn", Main Street, Bishopthorpe.
Meet 12.30 p.m. for lunch at 1.00 p.m.
Cost is £19.95 for 2 courses, £24.95 for 3 courses

Social Play
9 January at Bishopthorpe Village Hall
Play begins at 1.45 p.m.

Club Play
23 January at St Sampson's Centre, Church Street, near Shambles Market.
Play commences at 1.45 p.m.
Please ring Bernard on 01904 629027, if wishing to attend.

For any other queries please contact me on the above number.

New hearing equipment available for U3A groups

In response to requests from members who have difficulty hearing, we have bought some excellent new equipment which should enable all members of a group to join in discussion around a table, whether or not they wear a hearing aid. Hearing-impaired members wear a loop around their necks which connects either to their hearing aid or to headphones, and which transmits sound from a very clever mike (the Phonak Roger Pen) in the middle of the table. This mike cuts out the boom and clarifies the sound, and it can be amplified as needed by a control on the neck loop.

Leaders and members of groups which meet in the Meeting House (Fell, Woolman, Garden, Penn and Fox rooms) should be aware that this is available and can be accessed in the same way as all our other equipment. It is kept in a charging case in the inner office. If a leader is asked by a member to provide it s/he should ideally attend the training session which is being run on Tuesday 7 January at 11.00am by Paul Howarth, our Technical Co-ordinator.

You may use the equipment in the meantime but it is important that the equipment is used correctly. We have already had some damage caused by incorrect use so please make sure you familiarise yourself with the instructions which are available next to the equipment just inside the door to the back office.

If you need further assistance, please contact either of us.

Anna Baldwin

baldwinyork@btinternet.com

Paul Howarth

technical@yorku3a.com

The Cycle Group

The cycle group managed to avoid the rain in November and went out to Stamford Bridge. We had a good turnout and the ride was very pleasant. We went through Dunnington and across the fields by Hagg Wood on Sustrans route 66. I thought the mud might be a problem especially by the wood - but it wasn't too bad and the autumn colours were beautiful.

Lunch took a bit longer than usual because there seemed to be a new computer system which didn't allow for the fact that some of us just wanted soup (which counted as a starter) while others wanted a main meal. There didn't seem to be a way of getting the mains and the starters from the kitchen at the same time so consequently the main meal people had to sit and watch while the soup people ate their lunch and then the soup people had to sit and watch the main meal people devouring theirs. Oh well. The food was very good - just a bit prolonged.

It has been suggested in the past that I should re-name this group "Lunch Club (by bike)" and that would certainly have been a good description of our November outing!



Report on Leeds Recycling / Energy Recovery Facility (RERF)

18th September 2019. Yorkshire & Humber Regional U3A

This impressive building, on the outskirts of Leeds, is one of the most advanced recycling facilities in the North. As you approach you notice the vast green, living wall covering an area of 1,800m², one of the largest in Europe.

We were welcomed into the education centre and given a talk on the workings of the plant.

The facility only deals with black waste bins from the Leeds area, 165,000 tonnes a year. Recycling is done elsewhere, though approximately 10% of the waste can be recycled.

A steady flow of lorries brings in the rubbish which is emptied onto the floor of the building.

This is then shredded and passes along a conveyor belt through state-of-the-art technology that identifies recyclable materials which are removed. The remainder is incinerated at a minimum temperature of 850 C. The heat turns water, from a boiler above the furnace, into steam and the steam drives a turbine to generate electricity. This electricity is exported to the National Grid and is enough to power 22,000 homes. The leftover ash is recycled and used as construction aggregate. Any flue gases are treated and cleaned before coming out of the chimney.

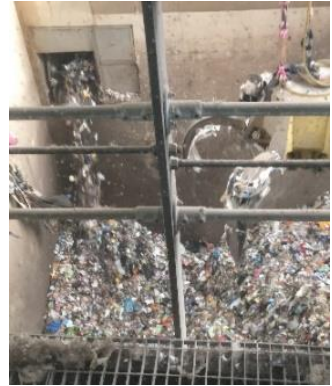
We were then given a guided tour. From the viewing area we watched the shredded waste continuously pour from the conveyor belt into a holding area. There, a grabber, capable of holding 6 tonnes, moved the waste into bays which feed the incinerator. Wearing protective hats, boots and gloves we climbed metal stairs and walkways through the cavernous interior of the building following the waste to energy process. We even peeked inside the incinerator, separated by a small glass window through which we could feel the intense heat. Moving outside, we stood on a balcony, 7 storeys high, where we got a close-up view of the living wall. It has its own watering system and it takes one man 6 weeks, 4 times a year, to maintain the 111,000 native plants. Back inside we were given more facts and figures. Did you know the energy saved from recycling one plastic bottle is enough to light a 60W bulb for 6 hours?

This visit was very informative and who knew rubbish could be so interesting! We came away with the reinforcement of the important message that we must reduce waste and recycle more.

Rosemary Kitchman



RERF with green, living wall.
grabber on the right.



Waste entering on the left,
grabber on the right.

U3A Yorkshire & The Humber Region (YAHR)

York U3A, along with about fifty other U3A branches, belongs to YAHR. Brian Frodsham is our Regional Representative and attends regular meetings where he has an opportunity to meet people from other U3As to exchange ideas and information about events. At the last regional meeting Brian was presented with a certificate to celebrate the fact that York U3A has now been a member of YAHR for thirty years.

Here is Brian receiving our certificate from Sue Stokes, Regional Trustee



Cryptic Crossword

Created by Mike Heddon

Solution Page 20

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
				8								
9								10				
11						12						
												13
14								15				
	16	17		18				19		20		
21												
22						23						
24									25			

Across

- 1 Low velocity berry (4)
- 3 Languid & classified (8)
- 9 Exaggeratedly perform (7)
- 10 Bidless bridge (5)
- 11 Run credited to batsman (8)
- 12 Royal Academy container for root plant (6)
- 14 Attitude of 3 across (13)
- 16 Stella twins (6)
- 19 Spanish exclamation plus four makes oil (5)
- 22 Permission to absent oneself (5)
- 23 Up for the post (7)
- 24 Absolutely all in (8)
- 25 Ocular flower (4)

Down

- 1 Careless & unmethodical (8)
- 2 Unconcealed sort treasure (9)
- 4 For all peoples (13)
- 5 Drawn, sounds like amphibian's Hall (5)
- 6 Someone with a 22 across does this (5)
- 7 Domicile in granite (4)
- 8 Uneconomic fruity republic (6)
- 13 Unable to solve this puzzle? Not so! (8)
- 15 Musical turbulent weather (6)
- 17 Adam's mate joins National Trust. Quite an occasion (5)
- 18 Bury Milan soccer team (5)
- 20 Tube for bicycle (5)
- 21 Admit newspaper boss in anglican church (4)

York U3A Committee

David Maughan Brown

*Jean Hayward

Sheila Wilson

*Brian Frodsham

Eve Birch

Chris Sykes

Sandra Mason

Alison Holmes

John Powderley

Lorrae Atkins

Paul Howarth

Peter Jarman / Anna Baldwin

*Jennie Pugsley

*co-opted on to committee

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Regional Representative

Office Co-ordinator

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Membership & Communications

Groups Co-ordinator

Newsletter Editor

Website

IT & Audio Visual

Joint Talk Secretaries

Travel

Contacting the Committee

Messages can be left at the office or by using email

chair@yorku3a.com	membership@yorku3a.com
secretary@yorku3a.com	talks@yorku3a.com
treasurer@yorku3a.com	technical@yorku3a.com
office@yorku3a.com	communications@yorku3a.com
vols@yorku3a.com	groups@yorku3a.com
newsletter@yorku3a.com	travel@yorku3a.com
web@yorku3a.com	

Office Opening Hours:

10-12 am Mondays, Tuesdays Thursday & Fridays. **NOT** Wednesday

Groups cannot operate in the building on Bank holidays.

Fell Room and Woolman Room are **NOT** accessible when the Friends' Meeting House is closed.

Website

Our new look website in place since early August, can be viewed at www.yorku3a.com

OFFICE TEMPORARY PHONE NUMBER

Our office has a temporary mobile number, while efforts are made to restore the land line. The number is **07925 291 534**. Messages can be left out of normal office hours, and text messages can be used.

CHANGE TO LONG SERVICE AWARDS

It has been our practice since 2011 to recognise ten years of service by a group leader, by presenting them with a gift voucher at the following AGM. The committee have discussed the fact that there are many members of our U3A that volunteer their time over a period of years or in shorter concentrated bursts, not just as group leaders but also in many other roles.

This discussion has resulted in our decision to stop such awards from now on, as we feel that it is impossible to acknowledge levels of time and effort put in by volunteers in any sort of fair way. So many members volunteer their time for the enjoyment they gain as well as for the good of the organisation. I'm sure all those that benefit by others' committed time to the U3A have given, and will continue to give, verbal thanks to those volunteers.

A heartfelt thank you goes a long way to helping volunteers feel appreciated.

Lorrae Atkins
Website Manager, York U3A 07967 128 321

Saturday Morning Talks December and January

A full list of talks can now be found on the Events section of our website, www.yorku3a.com

December 14th 10.30

Our annual Christmas Concert in the Methodist Church Hall, preceded by coffee and mince pies from 9.15. The concert will include part songs and carols performed by our U3A Choir, appropriate numbers performed by the Ukulele Group, and community singing of a few well-known carols. Come early and enjoy the fun!

January 11th 10.30

Dr. Calum Lyon

A LIFE IN SKIN

'What happens to your skin in later life?'

Dr. Lyon is a senior Consultant at York Hospital where he deals with skin at all ages. He graduated from the university of Cambridge in 1991 and was appointed dermatologist in York Hospital in 2001, developing a special interest in skin lesions including cancer, skin surgery, and stoma dermatology. He is an honorary clinical lecturer in York and Manchester and lectures nationally and internationally on skin conditions, apparently with flair and dynamism.

The events take place in the Central Methodist Church Hall in St Saviourgate and are open to all members (£1.50) and their guests (£3). Coffee is served from 9.15 until 10.10 and more volunteers to help with

Solution to Crossword on Page 17

Across

! Sloe 3 Listless 9 Overact 10 Whist 11 Extra 12 Radish
14 Lackadaisical 16 Gemini 9 Olive 22 Exeat 23 Nominee 24 Entirely
25 Iris

Down

1 Slovenly 2 Overt 4 International 5 Towed 6 Exits 7 Sett 8 Banana
13 Clueless 15 Stormy 17 Event 18 Inter 20 Inner 21 Cede

Travel

WANTED!! TREASURER for the TRAVEL UK GROUP

After many years' diligent and conscientious service (15 years as Treasurer and then several years as both Chair and Treasurer!) Jennie Pugsley will be standing down from both roles in the near future.

Accordingly, there is an urgent need to recruit a new volunteer for the key role of Treasurer for the UK Travel Group committee. The committee meets every 2 months and organises an extensive programme for all York U3A members – typically up to 11-day trips, the Christmas lunch, a couple of overnight trips and usually a 5 day UK trip as well. The Treasurer is fundamental to the running of this programme so please consider if you could take this on – the chief requirement being an eye for detail although some experience of bookkeeping may not come amiss. The trips are all organised and led by the other committee members but to do this the support of the Treasurer is vital.

If you feel you may be able to take this on please in the first instance e-mail Jennie Pugsley at travel@yorku3a.com who will be able to tell more about the role.

Visit to the Southern Caucasus 6th-21st October 2019

The bus left York in the pouring rain with a party of 21 members bound for the Southern Caucasus region - three small countries, each with its own language (and alphabet), culture and complex history, situated between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, on the boundary between Europe and Asia. None of us knew quite what to expect.

We arrived into Baku and were immediately swept up into the hurly burly of this oil-rich capital city of Azerbaijan. We explored its carefully

preserved old town, took in its impressive cityscape of ultra-modern buildings, including



the three soaring 'flame towers' that dominate the skyline and made a more detailed exploration of the newly opened Cultural Centre, designed by Zaha Hadid.

The hinterland proved to be equally fascinating. An hour's coach ride to the south took us to Gobustan, an extensive rocky outcrop where Neolithic petroglyphs were discovered in the 1950s, depicting a wide range of animal and human forms. A similar distance to the east, on the Absheron Peninsula, we passed through extensive oil fields, with multitudinous 'nodding donkeys', on our way to see the Burning Mountain, where natural methane gas vents burn with a perpetual flame, and a Zoroastrian Fire Temple - all this providing ample evidence that the petroleum resources in this part of the Caspian Basin have been known, worshiped and exploited for millennia. And, to the west, on our way to the border with Georgia, we walked through an area of semi-arid grassland where upwelling water and methane gas produce bubbling mud volcanoes, creating weird forms that would make a good sci-fi film location.

After the border crossing, which involved a long walk through no-man's land with our luggage, we were taken to a small, family-run vineyard where wine is made using the traditional Georgian method, fermenting the grape juice naturally, with no additives, in Qvevri - huge terracotta pots buried in the ground. This was followed by a tasting session, during which our host gave us many warm-hearted toasts with his red and white wines, and later with shots of his cha-cha, a fiery spirit distilled from grape skins and pips left over from the pressing - the Georgian equivalent of grappa.

Our onward journey through Georgia included a long drive north along the tortuous Old Military Highway, to a popular mountain and ski resort within a few kilometres of the border with Russia, where our hotel rooms gave us uninterrupted views of the Caucasus Mountains; a visit to the museum in Gori, built in 1953 around the childhood home of Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, better known as Josef Stalin, and an exploration of the vibrant capital city, Tbilisi.

Whilst the changes in the topography up to this point had been gradual, the crossing into Armenia brought us at once into an altogether wilder landscape, the effect exaggerated by a marked deterioration in the roads. Our route took us through the spectacular Debed Canyon, with a complexity of rock strata on view at every twist and turn; around the silvery expanse of Lake Sevan; over the Selim Pass, at 2400m, and down into the capital city, Yerevan, with hazy but unmistakable glimpses of Mt Ararat, across the border in Turkey.

The guidebooks make a point of highlighting Yerevan's nightlife and whilst the café culture was immediately apparent, there was also much on offer by way of historical interest, not least the Matenadaran, a vast library of ancient manuscripts standing impressively at the top of Mesrop Mashtots Avenue, the city's main boulevard. We were also able to visit the Armenian Genocide Memorial and Museum and learn more about the tragic events that took place in the early 20th century.

Throughout the two weeks, our itinerary was peppered with visits to an exquisite selection of monasteries and other holy places, memorable as much for their spectacular situations as for their architecture, monuments and religious significance. But it was in Armenia, where all of these things seemed to be especially remarkable, that the importance of the region in the early development of Christianity became apparent.

We returned to York, where at least it had (just) stopped raining, each with our own special memories and highlights of the past two weeks, having dipped into for just a brief moment, this fascinating region, at the meeting point of Christianity, Islam, Communism and the modern world of the 21st century.



None of this would have been possible without the excellent local guides who managed our busy itineraries and brought to life for us their respective countries' histories and cultures in such an interesting and openly honest way. And, a special mention must be made of our three coach drivers who safely negotiated the local roads, all of them challenging in one way or

another, with such aplomb.

A final word of thanks must be given to Sheila McKilligan whose idea it was to put together this ambitious tour. She managed all the planning and preparation and led each day's programme in such a way that we were all able to experience these three awe-inspiring countries according to our own particular interests.

Alan Marples.

Get ready for Spring!

On Sunday 15th March 2020, the Travel group are planning a visit to the World Heritage site of Ironbridge near Telford, our ticket will give us time in Bliss Mills Victorian Village and visits to the bridge itself along with the Tile museum and Coalbrookdale museum of Iron.

We have an overnight stay at the Mercure Albrighton Hall Hotel near Shrewsbury on a dinner, bed and breakfast rate. On Monday we shall have some free time to explore the city with it's Tudor centre and half-timbered houses. We shall enjoy a guided tour of the Abbey before leaving for home about 3.00 p.m.

Pick up points will be Fulford (opposite the Pavilion Hotel) 8.00 am,
Memorial Gardens 8.15 am
Middlethorpe Grove 8.30 a.m.

The cost **per person** if sharing a room will be £103 and single rooms will be £136

Please complete the booking form at the end of the newsletter and send it with a cheque to Hilary Davies, 16 Dikelands Close, Upper Poppleton, York YO26 6HY. Please write "Shrewsbury" on the outside of the envelope.

If a place is not allocated to you, you will be contacted and put on a waiting list.

Organiser Hilary Davies email: paul@talgarthbb.plus.uk

Organiser Tina Dearle . Contact number on the day only 0743 2793641

Overnight trip to Kynren, Kiplin Hall and the Middlesbrough Transporter.

Saturday August 15th 2020

Pickups: Main Street, Fulford opposite the. Pavilion Hotel:	10 am
Memorial Gardens:	10.15 am
Tadcaster Rd, junction with Middlethorpe Grove:	10.30 am

We first visit Kiplin Hall, built as a hunting lodge in the early 17th century and now a unique Jacobean country house, managed by Historic Houses Association. The spectacular gardens feature a lake, pastureland, a restored walled kitchen garden as well as a formal section. Plenty of opportunity for you to bring a picnic, a marquee is provided, or to eat in the café in the panelled Great Hall after or before wandering round the house.

We drive on to check in at the Holiday Inn Express in the centre of Middlesbrough where an early three course dinner (options ordered on the coach) will be provided. Afterwards the coach will take us on to the spectacular outdoor performance of Kynren in Bishop Auckland. The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for family, hence other derived words such as kin and kindred. It has been voted one of England's top five live experiences and is a heart-warming retelling of the history of England involving 1000 actors and crew on a seven and a half acre stage. It tells the story of invasions, wars, royal splendour, heroic sacrifices and the daily life of British people across the ages against the stunning backdrop of Durham Castle, covering the Roman Conquest, King Arthur's search for the Holy Grail and even Churchill's "We shall fight on the beaches" speech. Be prepared for dazzling pyrotechnics, amazing stunts and horsemanship all backed by an original soundtrack. We have booked "superior" seats but advise you still to bring a cushion and sensible clothes even though it's August!

We return to the hotel for the night and after breakfast the next morning, the coach will take us to the landmark Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge, built in 1911 to replace the steam ferries across the Tees.. Here you will be treated to a Visitors' Experience, where you travel up in a new scenic glass lift to the upper walkway across the Tees and have a guided visit of the Winding House where the motors that power the gondolas can be

seen. It is due to reopen in 2020 after major refurbishing works with the aid of Lottery funding. Be aware that high winds might make the walkway across the Tees impassable.

After that experience, the coach will take us into the centre of Durham for some well-earned free time before making our way home to York early evening.

Places on this trip are strictly limited so please don't delay!

£143 p.p. including gratuities, entrance to the Transporter, superior seats at Kynren, dinner, bed and breakfast and all coach transfers. £20 single supplement for the hotel. Those with HHA membership will have free entrance to Kiplin Hall. If not please add £7.50

Please complete the booking form and send with a cheque made payable to "York U3A Travel UK" to

Lis Jackson, 3 Thorp Arch Mill, Mill Lane, Thorp Arch, Wetherby LS23 7DZ
tel: 01937 842477 email:

listravel@yorku3a.com

We will let you know if the trip is fully booked and you are only on the waiting list.



Middlesbrough
Transporter Bridge

SALTAIRE WORLD HERITAGE SITE, BRADFORD

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19TH 2020

Depart Fulford Main Street (opp Pavilion Hotel) 9.00am Memorial Gardens
9.15am, the corner of Middlethorpe Grove and Tadcaster Road 9.30am
Saltaire owes its name to Sir Titus Salt, a textile magnate and philanthropist who built the mill and village in 1853. At its height it turned out 18miles of worsted cloth a day.

The mill closed in 1986 and became a place of art and commerce. The 1853 Gallery displays the largest permanent collection of work by David Hockney. "The Arrival of Spring", a detailed study of the changing seasons on Woldgate is on Gallery Three.

In the Mill there are a number of cafes for coffee and lunch. Outside is a park with Salt's statue and the Congregational Church which will be open between 2.00pm and 3.30pm.

We will leave at 3.30pm arriving back in York approx. 5.00pm

Cost including coach and gratuities is £7.00pp

Organiser Maureen Barter Tel. 01904 628598

(Mobile for use on the day only 07432793641)

Booking Jennie Pugsley

Tel. 01904 449090

Booking form is later

Manchester Science and Industry Museum Tuesday January 14th 2020

£14 per person.

This large museum, which has recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, is devoted to the development of science, technology and industry particularly with regard to Manchester.

<https://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk>

There are many galleries to explore including the Experimental, Revolution Manchester, Air and Space Hall with demonstrations throughout the day. The museum is located in central Manchester within a ten minute walk of John Rylands Library and Manchester shopping centre. (map provided)

The cost includes coach, driver's tip, museum donation, tea/coffee and biscuits upon arrival. We aim to leave at 4p.m.

SAVE THE DAYS. 21st – 25th JUNE, 2020.

Based at the Best Western plus Heever Hotel near Edenbridge, do join us for an exploration of the Garden of England. We will visit Rochester, Chatham Dockyard, Great Dixter, Knole and other delights, not forgetting a heritage railway trip and a tour of Denbies celebrated vineyard. More details and booking form will be in the February Newsletter.



Manchester Science &
Industry Museum,

Booking Form**Please complete legibly!****Manchester Science & Industry Museum Jan 14th 2020**Please reserve. place(s) at £14.00 per person.I/we enclose a cheque for £ payable to York U3A Travel UK

I/we will join the coach at (please circle as appropriate):

Fulford 08.30 Memorial Gardens. 08.45 Middlethorpe Grove 09.00

Name(s)	
Membership Number(s)	
Address	
Special Dietary Needs	
Telephone Number	
Email address	
Emergency Contact Name & Tel No	

If the trip is fully booked, you will be contacted by phone or email and put on a waiting list. If a place becomes available, you will be contacted again by phone or email.

Please send booking form and cheque to: Tina Dearle, 33 Windmill Way, Haxby, York, YO32 3NH in an envelope marked 'Manchester'

uktravel@yorku3a.com

Trip organiser Tina Dearle telephone on the day 0743 2793641



Saltaire Village

Booking Form

Visit to Saltaire World Heritage Site, Bradford

Wednesday February 19th 2020

Please complete LEGIBLY!

Please reserve. place(s) at £7.00 per person

I/We enclose a cheque for £ payable to York U3A Travel UK

I/We will join the coach at (please circle as appropriate).

Fulford Main Street (opp Pavilion Hotel) 9.00am Memorial Gardens

9.15am Middlethorpe Grove corner of Tadcaster Road 9.30am

Name(s)	
Membership Number(s)	
Address	
Telephone Number	
E mail address	
Emergency Contact Name & Tel No	

If the trip is fully booked, you will be contacted and put on a waiting list. If a place becomes available, you will be contacted again.

Please send booking form and cheque to: Maureen Barter 36, Anson Drive, Fulford York YO10 4LH in an envelope marked SALTAIRE



Bliss Hill
Museum

Booking Form

**Get ready For Spring U3A Trip to Shrewsbury
March 2020**

Cost of trip: shared room pp £103 Single room pp £136

Please reserve a Double/ twin/ single room

I/We will join the coach at Fulford 8.00am

 Memorial Gardens 8.15 am

 Middlethorpe Grove 8.30 am

Name/s.....

Address.....

Post code.....U3A Number/s.....

Email address.....

Any mobility concerns

Dietary requirements.....

Emergency contact

Phone

Please send a cheque for the full amount to Hilary Davies, 16 Dikelands Close, Upper Poppleton, York YO26 6HY. Please write "Shrewsbury "on the outside of the envelope.

You will be notified if the list is full and you are on the waiting list

Booking Form

Overnight trip to Kynren, Kiplin Hall and the Middlesbrough Transporter August 15th

PLEASE COMPLETE LEGIBLY!

Delete as appropriate. I/we will join the coach at:

Fulford Main St.	10.00 am
Memorial Gdns	10.15 am
Tadcaster Rd.	10.30 am

Please reserve..... twin/double room orsingle (£20 suppl.) room.

Twin to share with

I have added Kiplin House entrance £7.50 p.

I have HHA membership and will bring my card

I/We enclose a cheque payable to York U3A Travel UK for £.....

Name(s).....

Membership Number(s)

Address

Telephone number

Email

Emergency contact name/phone number

Dietary needs

If the trip is fully booked you will be contacted by phone and put on a waiting list. If a place becomes available, you will be contacted again. Please send booking form and cheque (payable to York U3A Travel UK) to: Lis Jackson, 3 Thorp Arch Mill, Mill Lane, Thorp Arch, Wetherby, LS23 7DZ



When first erected amorous couples would attach padlocks indicating their love for each other just like the bridges over the Seine in Paris. The York authorities fearing the weight would cause damage to the bridge removed them and now only a few remain.