

Newsletter November 2017

Chairman's letter

On behalf of the committee I would like to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas. I think we have all had a good term enjoying the many and varied courses on offer, so thanks once again to all the course leaders. I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking Nancy Hutchinson, our secretary, for her hard work before she stepped down because of increasing commitments elsewhere. We are pleased to welcome Jessica Sargent in her place. Another member who will be stepping down at the AGM after a number of years of sterling service is Dorothy Berry, who has been in charge of providing refreshments at the Friends' Meeting House. She will be a hard act to follow. And last but not least in our list of people to thank is Ray. He has been organising our Monday morning speakers since September, and has very kindly agreed to become the leader of this group, thus taking on the role formerly occupied by committee members. We look forward to continuing in the new year with all the interesting and enjoyable courses which our U3A offers.



Monday 4th December

Festive Singing and Drama

Friends Meeting House, 10.30 to 11.45

Refreshments available from 9.30am



Please come along to support the Scarborough U3A Singing and Drama groups. There will be the opportunity to join in some community carol singing too!

Monday Morning Speaker Group Spring 2018

These take place fortnightly at the Friends' Meeting House at 10.30am. Coffee is available from 9.30am. Talks are open to ALL members of Scarborough U3A.

January 8 th	Jermyn Cooper - My Hero	Alan Stanforth
January 22 th	Gardeners' Question Time - Q&A	Wyn Baldwin/Sheila Hawkeswell
February 5 th	Local Governance	Mark Vesey
February 19 th	Scarborough & Ryedale Mountain Rescue	Rob Obeid
March 5 th	Ravenscar Radar	Brian Mulvana
March 19 th	A Fisherman's Tale	Tom Rowley
March 26 th	Arts and Craft Exhibition	U3A Arts & Craft Groups

Group Leader: Ray Clarke.

If you attend these session regularly please give Ray all the support you can, for example by volunteering for the refreshment rota.

* Please note that there will be no Coffee Mornings in the alternate weeks between talks from January 2018.

News from the groups

Creative Writing

Lesley Clargo is a member of the Creative Writing Group and published her first book in September.

'Loose Leaves' contains over 100 pages of short stories (from 'A Dog's Life' to 'Gordon the Reluctant Ghost'), poems (both light-hearted and sad) and humour including 'Alternative First Verses' (irreverent re-writes of well-known poetry).

Her books will be available at Craft Fairs on 25th November from 1200 – 1400 at Rivelyn Hotel, South Cliff (in aid of Martin's House Hospice) and on 3rd December from 1200 – 1600 at Burniston Village Hall (in aid of Willows Lull charity).

Copies cost £9.99 plus p & p and can also be purchased direct from lesley.clargo1@btinternet.com or from David Fowler at www.farthings-publishing.com

Walking groups

Do you want to walk on the Wolds Way? There are few cafés on that walk but if any walkers would like to book a visit to Ganton Village Hall where there is ample parking and coffee, cakes and toilet facilities, they should make contact with Christine Gretton on 01944 710275

Greek Odyssey

This October members of the Scarborough U3A Modern Greek class decided to put their language skills to the test by spending a week in Greece. Amanda Nunns, Joyce Paley-Nash, Kieran Lundy and Suzanne Braithwaite flew to Athens and then took the ferry to the island of Kea where Amanda's brother owns a well appointed property suitable for 4-6 people with wonderful views over the sea. The weather was dry and sunny with temperatures in the twenties. Buying coffees in the *kafenio*, *spanakopita* (spinach pie) at the bakers, stamps in the post-office, ferry tickets at the port, not to mention checking in to the hotel and ordering meals in the *taverna* brought words and phrases from the textbook to life and proved that Greek learnt in the classroom really does work and is much more fun.

The last day was spent in Athens, taking the metro first to Attiki station, changing lines and getting out at Akropoli for a visit to the wonderful museum there, then a sunny walk in the old Plaka district in the shade of the Acropolis and the Parthenon followed by a lovely outdoor lunch. Alas, all good things must come to an end ... in this case with the first train back to Scarborough shrouded in early morning mist! All being well the Modern Greek class will run again next year and there will be a beginner's class if there is demand so check the next prospectus if this has whetted your appetite. Any keen walkers interested in renting the property on the island of Kea can contact Amanda Nunns for further information (Tel 01723 447412).



Waiting for the Ferry back to the mainland

Your Ideas for New Groups

We are always keen to get new courses started so that we are able to offer members the broadest possible choice and we appeal to the widest range of interests. The following ideas for new courses have been suggested by members. They are:-

Languages- German, French, Russian and Italian for beginners;

Games - Canasta; Beginners' Bridge; Beginners' Backgammon and Chess;

Dance - Line dancing; ; English Folk Dancing and Pilates;

Gardening - Garden Design;

Art history; Architecture;

Theatre visits; Shakespeare;

Skills - Decorating painted furniture and boxes; Felting; Rag rug making; Cake decorating; House maintenance, Working with wood; Car maintenance and Mig welding for car repairs;

Publisher skills and Tablet for beginners.

If you would like to lead a group on any of these ideas or any others you might have, please let me know and we can discuss how it could be taken forward. Whilst some of these subjects clearly require experience and expertise, many groups may work on a self help basis with the group learning together. A number of our innovative new subjects have proved very successful and enjoyable for the leader and the group members. I can be contacted on 01723 353585 or malcolm_maloney@msn.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Malcolm Maloney
Group Liaison Officer

Course Attendance

Several Group Leaders have commented to me recently that members who have enrolled on their courses are not attending regularly. This has already resulted in one course closing as the leader felt, quite reasonably, that, despite the course being fully subscribed, having only two people turn up each week (and not the same two) it was not worth running the course.

Course leaders put a great deal of time and effort into preparing their courses, and they do so voluntarily, so if you have signed up for a course, please make every effort to attend every session. If the course is one of progressive learning, e.g. a language course, by missing sessions you are also holding up the rest of the group members if the leader has to go over previous work to enable you to catch up.

Some members are also enrolling on courses which clash with each other (either deliberately or accidentally) and attend each one alternately. This is very unfair to those who are on waiting lists and would be able to attend every session. Where I have spotted this on enrolment I have asked that only one course is chosen, but it is individual member's responsibility NOT to choose courses which clash, so if this is the case for you, please consider relinquishing your place on one of them, particularly if there is a waiting list.

If you are unwell, and really can't make it try and let the leader know, and also give some indication of how long you will be missing for, as depending on the course, this could allow someone from the waiting list to be offered some sessions.

Sue Petyt
Membership Secretary

Events and other items of interest

New Year Concerts in Harrogate. Saturday 6 January 2018 and Sunday 7 January 2018, presented by the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival at the start of their special 25th Anniversary Year:
Saturday 6 January 2018 at 7.30 pm, in the Royal Hall, Harrogate “The Musical Delights of Vienna”

Ticket prices from £25 - £34 per person including complimentary Bucks Fizz at 6.30pm

Concessions for over 60 years at £2 off each ticket.

Sunday 7 January 2018 at 2.30 pm in the Crown Hotel, Harrogate “The Great British Song Book Concert”

Ticket price (free seating) at £15 per person.

Concessions for over 60 years at £1 off per ticket.

Box Office: Tel: 01422-323252. Or online: www.gsfestivals.org

Holidays and Tours

Cookridge & Horsforth U3A are planning a **Great Gardens of Ireland** tour 28 May 2018 and still have a few places left. They would like to offer this out to other U3A members. This is a 5 day tour. For further details contact claire.buckley@greatdays.co.uk

Ampleforth Abbey and Church offer several tours. For more details contact the tours team on 01439 766085 or email tours@ampleforth.org.uk

HOST is a small UK-wide charity, set up in 1987, which promotes international friendship and cultural exchange. We arrange for adult international students to spend a short time in a British home, enjoying a warm welcome and experiencing company, conversation, different foods and traditions. We are constantly looking to welcome friendly people on board who would like to act as volunteer hosts to these students, and who are interested in sharing their culture and customs for a day, weekend, or a few days at Christmas. If interested go to www.hostuk.org.uk

A local voluntary group is looking for someone to give financial advice on forecasting and planning and wondered if we have anyone with the necessary expertise in our ranks. They already have a treasurer and an auditor. If you are interested, please speak to any member of the committee.

Scarborough U3A Arts and Crafts Exhibition Monday 26th March 2018

This will showcase the work of our talented arts and crafts groups.
There will be paintings, photos, knitting, embroidery, ceramics and stained glass.

National and regional information

U3A National Office. 52 Lant Street, London. SE1 1RB

For events, subject advice and news visit: www.u3a.org.uk

The Resource Centre has a wealth of resources for groups: resouce.centre@u3a.org.uk

Yorkshire and the Humber Region U3A has a bulletin which is available to view on the website www.yahru.co.uk.