



Ripon & District U3A Newsletter

August 2026

Chairman's Report

Although a number of Groups have cut back on meetings in the Summer months, u3a as a whole does not seem to be taking much of a rest! The recent National Festival in York was a great success - and our Secretary, Glenys Bailey, made a major contribution, organising the various sporting events.

Our slowly emerging Regional Group is progressing with opportunities for new joint activities. Of course, all members of Ripon & District can be Associate Members of other (normally neighbouring) u3a's if they have groups that we do not.

I am starting to receive more and more notifications of tailor-made holidays for u3s members; and I know of people who have tried one of these for a week in Scotland and found it great value and a lot of fun. Typically, where the tour businesses are taking the lead, they offer seats to u3a members from all over the country. We could, locally, have an organised holiday for our own members (and their friends) if there was enough support to fill a small coach (better still, a large coach!!) - and a member willing to act as the Co-Ordinator with a tour company who have the expertise to sort out the destinations and hotels. If there is any real interest in us taking this forward, please let me, or any other member of the Committee, know.



John Thompson

Dates for your diary:

Reminders to Help Your Summer Go More Smoothly...

...yes, summer is well and truly upon us so here are some reminders to help the next couple of months or so go more smoothly.

We usually have a monthly meeting in July but sadly not this year.

Our wonderful speaker secretary had everything arranged for July when we were told that Ripon Rugby Club would have the decorators in that day!

So sorry – no monthly meeting this month.

As usual, there will not be a monthly meeting in August.

Our annual 'Spotlight' event will take place on Thursday, 3rd September, 1pm – 3.30pm at Allhallowgate Church Hall.

Some of you will be there to represent your group and others will be there to help out. Please come along to see what your u3a has to offer, bring your friends and stay to enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Maybe you'll be inspired enough to spread your wings a little and join another group (or two!).

Whatever you have planned for the summer months, enjoy yourself and remember the Third Age motto, "Learn, Laugh, Live". A lot!

Hope to see you soon.

Janet Sutton Vice-Chair Ripon u3a

Spotlight on Ripon & District u3a
Thursday 3 September 2026 1pm to 3:30pm
Allhallowgate Methodist Church Hall

We have organised the event to allow people to discover what u3a has to offer. You may be a member already, previously belonged to a group in another area, retired or just got time on your hands and want to find out what our u3a is all about. With over 50 groups to choose from there are lots of opportunities to learn, explore ideas and have fun in inclusive, friendly groups. Group leaders and committee members will be on hand to provide taster sessions, information and the answers to your questions. Light refreshments are available by donation with a chance to sit and chat. Everyone is welcome. Why not bring a friend or family along too.

More details are available on our website ripn.u3asite.uk

U3a Latin group 'Calle Oche' playing at this year's Ripon Theatre Festival.



Walking Group

Here we are again with another list of walks, this time for August. If you wish to join the Walking Group or try one of the walks before you decide, please contact the Walking Group Leader, who will give you the information you need.

Lets hope for good weather and good walking!



Monday 3rd August

Ian P will lead a walk of approximately 6½ miles from Bishop Monkton starting along the on the Ripon Rowell route before heading off to join the Ure at Westwick Lock then along the Ure with views of Newby Hall, to Oxclose Lock, and back to Bishop Monkton. The walk is mainly on good tracks and paths, with a bit of road walking and 2 or 3 stiles. Please park on the road near the Masons Arms, in time for a 10.00am start. Bring refreshments for 2 stops en route.

Please contact Ian if you intend to do this walk - his details can be obtained from the Leader of the Walking Group

Thursday 13th August



Julian A will lead a 4¾ mile circular walk from Brearton. Meet at the duck pond at the end of Brearton Main Street HG3 3BX at 9.45 for a 10.00 start. The walk is on paths and tracks - no stiles and mostly level terrain. Bring refreshments for two stops - lifts can be arranged from Ripon

Please contact Julian A - see above

Tuesday 18th August Mary D will be leading a 4 mile circular walk from Quarry Moor via Littlethorpe. Meet at Quarry Moor car park at 10.00am. Bring a drink and snack for one stop en route. There are stiles on the walk.

Please contact Mary - see above

Wednesday 26th August

Linda M will lead a 7m circular walk from the NYM NP visitor centre at the top of Sutton Bank. On a clear day excellent views across the North York Moors on our way to Cold Kirby and then across the Vale of York on our return along the Cleveland Way, top of Sutton Bank. A fairly flat walk, field paths, quiet lanes and tracks, no stiles.

Meet 10.15am at the visitor centre near the bus stop / toilets. Pay and display £6 all day. Please bring refreshments for 2 stops - elevenses and lunch.

Please contact Linda - see above

Local History



There are no Local History Group meetings in July or August, but we will gather again at Ripon rugby Club on Thursday **September 24th** when **Mike Collins** will present '**An Historical Tour of Boroughbridge – On Slides**'.

Boroughbridge is an historic market town in North Yorkshire, 9 miles from Ripon. It has a rich past defined by its strategic position on the River Ure and the Great North Road. Its origins trace back to Roman times, and it has played a prominent role in national events, including a

major medieval battle in 1322 on and around the bridge over the river Ure.

The Rugby Club is situated on Mallorie Park Drive, Ripon HG4 2QD. It has its own car park, and the clubhouse and all of its facilities are on level ground. Club Steward Sam will ensure that the tea/filter coffee/cool water and biscuits will be flowing from our time of arrival - as well as during a short interval part-way through the talk. The cost of unlimited refreshments is currently only £2 a person – which we pay to our hosts at the Rugby Club.

Guests are welcome to come along to one of our meetings, for which there will be a further payment of £2 - which goes towards the hire of the clubhouse and any speaker expenses. To attend subsequent meetings a guest must also be a member of Ripon u3a.

if you would like any more details, or clarification, our contact information can be found on the Ripon u3a website under the 'Groups' heading on the opening page.

Scrabble Group

We meet every third Wednesday of the month from 2-5pm, including August, in Ripon Library. There is no charge and equipment is provided.

Attendance is very small - typically 3-5 players (people cannot manage to be at every session, of course). So we would welcome a few more people - could cope with 10 or so and have two Scrabble sets and dictionaries.



This Photo by Unknown Author is

Abilities vary and the rules are taken seriously, but not too seriously... (e.g. sympathetic groans when too many consonants or vowels blight your chances ☹️). Hence the always relaxed and cordial atmosphere.

If that appeals please get in touch, join in and enjoy !

Brian Styler

Theatre Group – A Report and Photo from Rodney Towers

'Thrills & Spills of My Life in Television'

On July 15th Theatre Visits Group members were well entertained by visiting speaker Nicola Down who gave a very engaging talk on the above subject. For someone who had left school at 17, did not take A Levels and did not go to University, Nicola's story was about someone who, as a young person and without any qualification, had a clear idea about where she wanted to go and by her own sheer determination, did just that. Being already passionate about theatre, the stage, acting and drama, she wanted to somehow get involved with those kinds of activities.



Nicola decided to just show up one day at a recording studio and ask if there was any way in which she could help. She even said she would be happy to work for nothing! At the time, ITV were in their start-up phase and preparing to launch a new programme 'Don't say a Word' and to her amazement, was taken on for some minor tasks behind the scenes. But she was involved. It was programme production. She talked to people, listened, learned quickly, became useful and loved it.

Nicola's natural ability, self-confidence, can-do approach were characteristics which brought her rapid promotion right to the top of production management where she singly stood out as a woman in a heavily male dominated management function. She seemed to have met everyone who was anybody in television. TVG members were astonished to hear the extraordinary list of personalities and actors with whom she had worked and who also came to know her. On a rather special assignment with her production team to film at Balmoral, it was part of her management role that she would meet the late Queen Elizabeth and other members of the Royal family.

Nicola now lives in North Yorkshire and is a member of the Wetherby & District u3a.

Collectables Group



The Collectables group would welcome you to our monthly meeting. You just bring along an item(s) and tell the group about it and about how you got it. Then show it to the group for about 5 mins. If you want to know about something the other members will bring their knowledge and expertise.

If this sounds like you, you can come along to our next meeting which is September 10th.

We meet at Sunnyfield Lodge, Fennel Grove, HG4 2SZ which is on the Old Ripon College Campus, off College Rd at 2.00pm.

If you would like to join us come along to the Spotlight on Ripon event and talk to the members on our stall. Mike

Walking Cricket

Looking resplendent in their new kit!!!



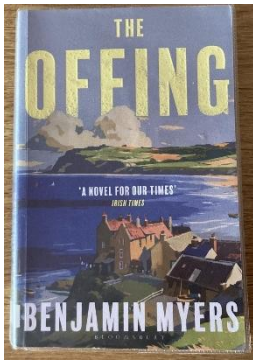
We are still on the lookout for new members. It is a mixed group of ladies and men and we play with the aim of enjoying ourselves, having a bit of banter and a little bit of competitiveness as with all sport. You do not have to have played cricket before, or maybe not played since school days but you are welcome to give it a try.

Please contact Roger Rose via the Ripon u3a website.

Book Readers

Whether you are an occasional or avid reader, you might be interested in our group. We are not experts, just enthusiasts who read a prescribed book and meet to discuss/argue about it. Rarely do we all agree on what constitutes a good read. Lively arguments ensue but we still part friends.

If you would like to get into reading but are not sure where to start, I am hoping the group can produce a recommended reading list in time for the Spotlight event in September. It will be available to all members of Ripon and District U3A, if requested.



August's title is *The Offing* by Benjamin Myers. September's is *Grey Bees* by Andrey Kurkov. Currently, we have spaces. I am delighted to say we have some men, which often puts a different perspective on our discussions, so all are welcome.

The group, meets on 2nd Thursdays at the Ripon Inn. If you would like to come along for a taster session, please get in touch with Val Mason via the website or personally at the Spotlight event.

Walktalktails

Our next meeting with dogs (or without) is on Monday 3rd August .. we will choose a location suitable for the majority starting at 9.15am and subject to the weather.

If you'd like to join please email Alison Reed with a mobile number so you can be added to the WhatsApp group for details .. the walk is typically an hour or so with a coffee stop at the end depending on the route!

Please do join us .. we are a small friendly group!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

Photography

The next meeting is in Ripon Library at 2.00pm on Wednesday August 19th.

We will be discussing the pictures taken at Ampleforth Abbey in July, a successful and enjoyable day out in very kind weather. Members used various levels of cameras, with some relying entirely on their phones. Potential new members - who simply enjoy taking photographs and are interested to develop more skills and confidence - are always welcome to come along to any of our meetings.

The Group will be displaying various images at the Spotlight event in early September, so please come along and talk to us there.

Psychology

The next meeting is Monday 3 August in the Ripon Library Meeting Room.

Psychology was not started to be a group with a specific teaching and learning focus, but rather a group that provides the opportunity to discuss, largely informally, various aspects of human behaviour

- attempting to make more sense of life in general in today's uncertain and turbulent world. We have a friendly, sharing, non-threatening ethos. New members are welcome.

As well as our open, member-led, discussions we are starting to feature a number of on-line talks by experts, using these to fuel discussion. Sometimes it is easier to disagree and argue against a declared expert when the speaker is not in the room!!

Poetry Group – enjoying a recent meeting at St John's Church on Bondgate, thanks to Rodney Towers for this picture.



This Month's Bio

Sadly no bios this month. I'd like to include our committee in some format, perhaps they can give me a group shot (or individuals if they prefer) from their next meeting and/or a list of their specific roles – if any. Over to your committee!!

Deadline for the August Newsletter

Please can I have all copy for the August Newsletter no later than the 21st August.
Thank you

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