

Ripon and District U3A Newsletter

October
2026

Thanks to Rodney
Towers for the
photos



Vice Chair's Report

Spotlight 2026 was held on Thursday, 3rd September in the wonderfully central and accessible venue of Allhallowgate Methodist Church Hall.

Ripon u3a just about took over the whole building and the place was buzzing as our group leaders set their stalls ready for the huge number of established members who came along.

Lots of prospective new members called in too just to check us out and see what we are about. And that's the whole point of Spotlight, to showcase our range of interest groups and to encourage people to join us.

Hopefully, some of our members will be inspired to try out some new groups and the membership forms which we gave out will result in many new members joining our u3a.

As the afternoon progressed there was lots of chat, lots of smiles and lots of laughter. A great atmosphere.

A huge Thank You is due to Roger Rose and Karen Clark for all their hard work over the past few weeks in planning and organising the event. From table planning to actual tables, they had it all under control.

Thank you too to all the Group Leaders who prepared their displays and gave up their afternoon to chat to existing members and to prospective new members. It was a huge success with everyone pitching in and doing their bit with great enthusiasm

A very special thank you too to Karen's 'A' team of ladies who worked so hard both in and out of the kitchen. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you and we simply couldn't have done it without your generous help.

If you came along, I'm sure you enjoyed this year's Spotlight event.

And if you didn't well... there's always next year!

Kindest regards

Janet Sutton, Vice Chair Ripon u3a

Dates for your diary:

September Monthly Meeting Monday 28th September

This will take the form of a welcome meeting for members who have joined us in the last year.

At our usual venue in the Rugby Club at 2pm. Ample free parking.

There will be committee members talking about groups, publicity, finance etc.

Also attending will be some longstanding members who are useful to chat to and pick their brains.

Come along, meet each other and some of the committee, ask questions, make suggestions and enjoy delicious cakes from Wakemans.

Looking forward to seeing you there
Meg Wilcox, Membership Secretary



October Monthly Meeting

Hello Everyone

Our monthly meetings will make their welcome return after an extended summer break on Monday, 26th October with a talk by Charlotte Newbold entitled, **“Scam Awareness”**.

Charlotte is a Prevent/Protect Delivery Officer with the Yorkshire and Humber Economic Crime Unit. So, as you can see, she really knows her stuff.

She will be bringing us bang up to date with all the completely ruthless and frankly sneaky ways in which scammers try to relieve us of our lifesavings. And yes, I do mean our lifesavings so you really can't afford to miss this session.



[This Photo](#) by

And you think you'd never fall for a scam? Well, think again as our demographic is the one which scammers target the most and the sad fact is that the vast majority of us will have already been scammed and/or we will know someone who has.

So come along to get as scam-proofed as possible, ask Charlotte questions and enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit.

Doors will open at our usual venue, Ripon Rugby Club at 1.30pm on Monday, 26th October.

See you there!
Janet Sutton, Vice-Chair, Ripon and District u3a

NEW GROUPS

New Wednesday Lunch Group



This is a new group as the group that meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month is full.

SO, if you would like to join me as part of this group meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month eating good food at lunchtime in local village pubs then please contact me,

Margaret (group leader) via the Ripon u3a website

If you would like to meet on Wednesday 7th October please contact me asap.

Musical Appreciation Group



A new group has been formed for members who enjoy listening to music. It is an Appreciation group and so we will not be playing any instruments - just recordings!

meetings will be monthly at a member's house and different people will give a brief introduction, then play their own choice of music.

The first meeting will be on:

Monday 5th October at 2.30p.m.

The programme will include Elgar's 1st Symphony and Max Bruch's Violin Fantasy.

For any interested members, please email:
Karen Clark via Ripon and District u3a website.

Science for All Group

For our September meeting we had Karen Coombes on the amazing abilities of Medical Detection Dogs. Various breeds can be trained but Labradors are the most common because of their generally placid nature and their willingness to complete tasks for a small titbit as a reward. For example, with their highly sensitive sense of smell, a dog can detect a specific cancer from urine samples. Those with a personal “detection dog” the dog can warn of a change in that person’s health, eg diabetes.

Some £260 was raised at the meeting For Karen’s charity.

The meeting was very well attended and **proved we sadly cannot admit any new members** for the time being. There is a waiting list for potential new members.

Our next meeting, Sharow Village Hall, 2pm 12 October, will be a talk by

Dr Parveen Smith on Science, non-Science and the Unseen World.

Keith

Walking Cricket

The group continues to grow with several showing interest at the Spotlight event. We will be playing outdoors on the multi-use court on Kearsley Road until 13th October. On 20th October we move to the Jack Laugher Sports Centre on Dalamires Lane but also start an hour earlier at 9am. As we only have a 1-hour slot we assemble in the foyer by no later than 8:45am to sort out teams and fees. The fee will remain at £5 per session.



We recently celebrated one of our members 90th birthday with a visit to the Walled Garden for a birthday cake and drinks. Michael played cricket until his mid 30’s, returned as an umpire for 20 years before retiring at 65. He claims that walking cricket has given him a 3rd innings with the game. He definitely still has the ability to play well, hopefully for some years to come, maybe get his century.



Happy Birthday, where’s my piece!!

Collectables



Trust you enjoyed the Collectables stall at the Spotlight event. If you would like to join our group then our next meeting is on 8th October at 2.00pm. We hold our meetings at Sunnyfield Lodge, which is on the Old Ripon College Campus, off College Rd, turn into Darnborough Gate and the left into Fennel Grove, Sunnyfield Lodge is at the end, and we are in the Dining Room.

We set a general subject each month and you bring along an item from home and talk about it and perhaps how it came into your possession. We get family heirlooms, presents and found in a charity shop. If you don't have anything for that month's theme, then you bring along another item that you can show.

This month's theme is vinaigrettes and snuff boxes. But if you don't have any of these, then surprise us with your choice.

If you would like to join us, please go to the Ripon U3A Website.

Local History Group



The 24th September presentation, at 10.00am at Ripon Rugby Club, will be given by **Mike Collins** from Boroughbridge who will take us on '**An Historical Tour of Boroughbridge – On Slides**'. The town's 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.

At 10.00am on **Thursday 22nd October** we will welcome Chris Tapster, a military history speaker and living history re-enactor who is based in Harrogate. Chris will give a presentation entitled '**Always a Little Further**'. He will focus on the role of **45 Commando Royal Marines** during the 1982 Falklands Conflict, appearing in authentic period uniform and with plenty of original equipment and artefacts. Chris is a very entertaining speaker!



[Click here for more information](#)

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 available 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.

N.B. Please also read the message below from David Roberts, from the Friends of Roman Aldborough.

Subject: Aldborough Roman Site Excavation

Some of the members of Ripon U3A History Group may be interested to know that Professor Martin Millett and Dr Rose Ferraby are carrying out this year's excavation near to the Helicon mosaic at Aldborough Roman Site and it is going very well.

I am letting you know that the dig is open for visits on the following dates from 11.00 - 4.00:

Sunday 20th September (Heritage Open Day)

Sunday 27th September Site open for visits 11.00 - 4.00, but the dig will have finished by this point.

Martin and Rose will also be talking about the results of the dig in St Andrew's Church on Thursday 24th September at 7.30pm (cushions advisable!) Visitors £7.50.

It would be lovely to see some of your members there!



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Walking Group

Here is the list of walks for October. Please contact the Group Leader if you want more information on walks or wish to join the Group. We hope to see you on a walk this month.

Kath Beeken Walks co-ordinator

Tuesday 6th October

Julian A will lead a walk around **Grimwith Reservoir**.

Go on the B6265 through Pateley Bridge - past Stump Cross Caverns - as you go down a long steep hill look for an take the right turn for the Reservoir access road. Meet in the back row of the car park at the reservoir at 10.15am. Car sharing available if required. Bring refreshments for 2 stops elevenses and lunch. The walk is a 4.5 miles circular route round the reservoir mostly level on good paths with no stiles



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Friday 16th October

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 on 07772 115084

Tuesday 20th October



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Washburn Valley Circular (6 miles) - Paul S. We will meet at 10.00 on Lindley Bridge. There are two small car parks either side of the bridge and they are free. The post code for the location is LS21 2QN. The What3Words location is muscular.newsreel.remote. From the bridge we follow a gentle walk around the reservoir and along the river. We then climb along the packhorse road to a high point. The descriptions states that the effort is rewarded with great views over the Wharf valley, Almscliffe Crag and towards Harrogate. Parts of the walk may be muddy, and the overall climb is 260m.

Wednesday 28th October

Gill Be will lead a 6 mile circular walk from **Nosterfield via Thornborough**, where it will be possible to see the Henges. The walk is along paths and some short stretches of road. Could be muddy in parts, depending on previous rain. Meet at Nosterfield Nature Reserve car park at 10.00am. Go over the bridge at West Tanfield, and turn right at the mini roundabout, then left at the next mini roundabout. The Reserve car park is about ½ mile on the left. Bring a packed lunch.



Mahjong Group



I am pleased to report that our new Mahjong group is up and running and we usually have a fairly consistent number of regulars so usually manage to have 3 tables of either 3 or 4 players per table. However, we are still growing and would certainly welcome more people to join us whether you're already an experienced player or a complete beginner. You'll receive a warm welcome and will soon know your pungs and chows and the joy of calling out Mahjong when that last tile suddenly appears to complete your hand.

We have a very enjoyable afternoon that only costs £3 per person and is a great way to meet new people, socialise and keep your mind sharp. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at St Wilfrid's Community Hall in the Jervaulx Room at 1.30 pm and finish at 3.30 pm. Bring your own refreshments if desired.

Contact details are on the Ripon u3a website under the groups heading.
Alison Sutcliffe (Group Leader)

Singing for Fun

'Next month, Singing for Fun will be Friday **Week 3** - October 16th. Allhallowgate has been booked for 11.20a.m. and the session will last the usual hour or so.....See you there, Karen'



Book Group

Grey Bees by Andrey Kurkov was this month's topic. It is a slow starting book but gains pace as it progresses. We all felt that it gave us an insight into life in a war-torn zone in Ukraine.

Thanks to the Spotlight event, which attracted much interest, we have welcomed some new members. As a result, the group must now be closed to new members and a waiting list will be opened.

I am pleased that the new venue at The Ripon Inn is proving to be popular. Next month's book is *Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad* by Daniel Finklestein.



Our August's project to create a recommended list of Good Reads is now complete and is available, in hard copy or by email, to all members of Ripon U3A on application to the leader, via the website or personally.

This Month's Profile is Roger Rose, Committee Member and Group Leader



Born in Bradford (and therefore eligible for the county team – no call yet though) but spent my formative years in East Midlands counties. After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in Leicester, I tried industry but left to set up my own practice specialising in start-ups and making sure small businesses paid the “right amount of tax”, neither too little nor too much. I moved my practice to Sheffield where I fell in love with the Peak District. I have always had a love of nature and natural things and now feel very much at home here in Ripon.

After retiring I joined several groups in Barnsley u3a. I was soon asked to lead the garden group by someone 15 years my senior, so how could I turn it down? When walking cricket was introduced, I jumped at the chance to be involved as I had not played for over 40 years. I have enjoyed spreading the popularity around Yorkshire and beyond.

By the time Val & I moved to Ripon in December 2023 we had already joined Ripon u3a, as we both believe in the benefits of the organisation. My priority was to set up a walking cricket group which continues to grow.

U3a is great organisation for making new friends, meeting like-minded people, learning new skills, sharing knowledge and having a good time. It is run by volunteers with over 50 groups to choose from. I am a big believer in volunteering as I get great pleasure out of giving as much as taking. I have always done it. That is why I joined the Committee.

Deadline for the November Newsletter

Please can I have all copy for the November Newsletter to me no later than the 21st October
Thank you, Yvonne