

Garforth, Kippax & District u3a Bulletin

April 2026

Messages From Your Chair

Hello once again. It's nice to see most of the foul weather behind us – fingers crossed! Spring is underway and now it is renewal time. If you have not already renewed then please do so this month, we will take cash if necessary however we would prefer payment by bank transfer at any time, or by cheque at the membership desk in April.

After renewals are complete, we – the committee - will be working towards to our AGM which is held at the June meeting. As in previous years we will be calling on members of our u3a to consider joining our committee, which is here to support all our members and groups. We will be losing another member of the committee, and we are looking to new volunteers to join us with a view to filling some of the roles required to maintain this support.

Some of these include, but not limited to, a Treasurer to work with our Financial Team, Vice Chair and possibly Chair. Currently members of the committee are running with two or three roles at a time, which can result in some of their tasks not being given the full attention they deserve. Please just give it some thought, thank you.

May we take a moment to remind all our members that the ethos of the u3a is that we are **'run by members for the members'**! Thank you.

Dates For Your Diary:

Members Meeting: Wednesday 1st April 2026: Garforth Working Men's Club 1.00 for 1.30

Monthly social meeting: Meet the Convenors and renewal meeting, with a quiz available for those who wish to take part.

The membership desk will open for any queries throughout the meeting. Committee members will also be available – just look for their yellow name badges.

A general invite will be sent to all U3A members. Please attend with your membership card/number

Members Meeting: Wednesday 6th May 2026: Garforth Working Men's Club 1.00 for 1.30

Monthly social meeting: Our speaker will be Dave Carlos talking about Online Awareness

The membership desk will be open for any queries before and after the speaker but not **during** their presentation. Please show respect to our speaker by not chatting loudly as it can cause distraction for all other members and some cannot hear through the chatter, thank you. Committee members will also be available – just look for their yellow name badges.

A general invite will be sent to all U3A members. Please attend with your membership card/number

All guests or prospective new members to our monthly meetings will be required to sign our Guest Visitor Sheet.

Schedule of Group Activities

Group	When & Where	Convenor
Activities Group	Next activity: see below	Chrissy M Catherine D Carol G
Art group	Tuesday fortnightly at 10:30am. The Elders, Great Preston	Jenny E
Art Appreciation	3rd Thurs at GWMC, 10.00 to 12 noon	Dave W
Bookworms	3rd Wed at 10.30am in members' homes, at capacity - waiting list for new members or 2nd group	Judith H
Chess	1st & 3rd Monday afternoons 2:00 pm-4:00pm, Garforth Library	Jenny T Genise G
Cinema Group	Tuesdays at The Odeon, The Springs for matinee film, followed by coffee discussion	Jane P
Classical Ensemble	Meet fortnightly in members' homes, actively looking for new members	Joe B
Conversational German	Thursdays 2:30 pm-4:00 pm, Garforth Library Café	Wendy B-E
Craft New Venue	2nd & 4th Mondays 2.00 – 4.00pm Garforth Guide Hut Barley Fields Close: from April	Janice G
Crochet & Knitting Group	2nd Wednesday 1.00 – 3.00, The Gaping Goose, Selby Road, Garforth	Heather M Penny B
Easy Cycling & Potterer's	2nd & 4th Tuesdays, see website for details Contact Convenor for details of Potterer's	Gary S
French	1.30 - 3.00pm, 2nd & 4th Monday, Garforth Library	Glenys M
Garden visits	Ad hoc visits, please see our website for details, and instructions	Susan I Judith R
History:	2nd Wednesday 1.00 - 3.00pm. Ad Hoc outdoor locations. See website for details	Catherine D Diane McE Carol W
Italian	2pm each Wednesday except 1st Wednesday at 3.00pm	Peter J
Italian For Beginners	Friday mornings 10:30 am-12:00 pm Garforth Library café	Wendy B-E
Keep Fit	Tuesdays between 10.00 & 11.30 am. Guides HQ, Barley Fields Close	Lynne H
Motor homes	On WhatsApp only	Sue La

Motoring	2.00pm 2nd Tuesday, The Gaping Goose, Selby Rd.	Nick H
Photography	Last Monday, 11.00 – 13.00 The Gaping Goose, Selby Road, Garforth	Graham I
Play Reading	3rd Thursday of month in members' homes, at capacity, waiting list for places/2nd group	Sue Lo
Quiz afternoon	Last Wednesday of the month, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Garforth Working Men's Club	Judith R
Saturday Lunch Club	Last Saturday each month, venue chosen by members at previous month meeting	Joan B
SciTech	Ad Hoc visits: but taking a break Contact convenor or see website for details	Carol J
Spanish	Fortnightly on Mon, 10.30 – 12.00, Garforth Library Contact convenor to check weeks	Eric A
Strings & Swing	1st & 3rd Thurs, 1.30pm, Scout Hut and 2nd & 4th Tues, 1.30pm, Gaping Goose.	Les G
Strollers	1st Mon & 3rd Wed each month. Details posted on the website & our fb group.	Sue La
Tech it Easy	1st & 3rd Monday, 10am at Kippax Library, occasional Zoom presentations	Sue La Chrissie M
Theatre group	2nd Tuesday of the month 2.00pm The Commercial, Kippax High Street	Virginia W
Ukulele	Tuesday mornings 10.30 -12.00 Welfare Hall, Main Street, Garforth	Martin B
Walking Netball	Wednesdays 3pm – 4.00 pm Kippax Sports Centre, Still Active	
Walking over 5 miles	2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month	Wendy B-E
Walking Under 5 miles	Alternate Thursdays. Contact convenor for full details.	Diane McE
Wellbeing with Nature	Full details are available via the Group Convenor on website	Tina R

Groups Roundup/New Groups and/or Next Visits

Can we first of all thank everyone for providing the following reports, this what a majority of our members have missed! Can I now ask all convenors to think about keeping our members up-to-date with your past or future activities by contacting us via our designated email address: newsletters@garforthkippaxu3a.org/uk. The contributions can be sent at any time and will be included in the next issue.

Activities:

Tuesday 21 April - Pontefract Races for OAP Free Day: Open 12 noon, 1st race 2 pm:

Venue: Pontefract Racecourse, Pontefract Park, Park Road, Pontefract WF8 4QD.

Grandstand & Paddock enclosures free for aged 60 and over. £10.50 for under 60's. Parking free. Pontefract Racecourse website has lots of useful information about their venue and what to expect on race day. Other details re booking from C March via their website link

Art:

Topics for April 2026 are:

14th April Two Colours Only

28th April Calligraphy

Chess:



The Chess Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday each month at 2pm in Garforth Library. Find us in the downstairs Community Room. If you don't play but you'd like to learn, we will be happy to teach you – after all, some of us taught ourselves.

Chess is an interesting and challenging game. It's like gymnastics for the brain – which is the reason some of us play – as it exercises the 'little grey cells'. Some of the Grand

Masters of chess have been playing since they were three years of age, so we have a bit of catching up to do!

We are a non-competitive group playing for our own enjoyment and interest. However, chess is taken very seriously in u3a. Nationally, there are two chess advisers who are currently rebuilding the chess website. They organise leagues and tournaments - but we're not sure we are ready for all that yet. When we started, we had a lot of help and advice from Lytham St. Anne's u3a who run a successful non-competitive group.

Our nearest u3a chess group is Selby who meet twice a week. They may be a bit in front of our skills as it known that play with clocks! As they are in our CYGNET group, I am hoping to make contact with them to see how they organise and maybe meet up later this year.

Feel free to drop in and see us sometime or look us up on our u3a website.

Cinema:

Jane thought it would be interesting to look at how the Silver Screeners films performed at the BAFTAS. Six of the films were nominated a total of 29 times in 19 categories.

The films are:

F1 - Bridget Jones Diary: Mad About the Boy - The Ballad of Wallis Island - I Swear - One Battle After Another - Wicked: For Good. (Screening towards the end of March)

From the nominations the films achieved 9 wins:

One Battle After Another had 6 wins for Best Film, Director, Supporting Actor (Sean Penn), Adapted Screenplay, Editing and Cinematography.

I Swear had 2 wins for Leading Actor (Robert Aramayo) and Rising Star (Robert Aramayo) and Casting.

F1 won for Sound.

Hamnet*, which has not yet been shown as a Silver Screen, had wins for Leading Actress category (Jessie Buckley) and Outstanding British Film.

I've also had a look at the star ratings which we awarded the films. I Swear was unanimously awarded 5* compared to One Battle After Another which had an average of 4*.

The following films have been listed as future Silver Screenings on the Odeon website:

31 March - Song Sung Blue

21 April - Eternity

28 April - Rental Family

5 May – **Hamnet***

There are no Silver Screenings on 7 or 14 April due to school holidays.

All films start at 1.00 pm and the maximum cost is £2.00 per ticket. Please contact convenor Jane via their website link.

Craft:

Please be aware that the craft group are changing venue:

Garforth Guide Hut, Barley Fields Close, Off Barley Hill Road, Garforth LS25 1DT

Meeting times: 2nd & 4th Mondays. 2pm - 4pm

Next meeting 13th April, Crafty chat Garforth Garden Centre

Next Craft Meet 27th April 2pm at Garforth guide Hut, Barley Fields Close

Please contact their convenor Janice for further details, or to join.

Crochet & Knitting:

We continue to meet on the 2nd Wednesday from 1.00 – 3.00. We are always happy help new members if they wish to learn either skill or improve their current skills.



We still undertake our post box toppers, and both have been re-invented for Easter this year; please see them on Gibson Lane, Kippax across from the Medical Centre or on Springfield Drive, Grange Estate Garforth, outside the Vets.

Please contact either convenor, Heather or Penny, via their website links

Quiz:

The quiz group still meets on the last Wednesday of each month in the Lounge at GWMC from 2.00 – 4.00. We are a busy but fun group and have had to add one or two guidelines; each team should have no more than 5 or 6 members as a maximum; and there will be no half points given for partly correct answers unless our quiz leader indicates this. So, if you love doing quizzes feel free to come along! Our April meeting is on Wednesday 29th. The winners of our February quiz were Infamous Four with a closely fought score of 54! Please feel free to contact convenor Judith for more details.

Saturday Lunch Club:

Our group still meets on the last Saturday of each month; however, we have decided to introduce a new system for bookings within this group with effect from April 2026. This will work similar to how the Cinema group does their bookings, ie anyone wanting to attend makes their own booking and we meet at the designate time.

Therefore, from April: we will put on the Whatsapp group the name of the venue we are going to eat in that month and that anyone wishing to attend can ring the venue and say they wish to be added to the U3A booking. This system should give a more accurate number of attendees. I will have a table at the next members meeting explaining the new changes. Many thanks.
Joan Brown, Convenor.

Tech it Easy:

Meetings are held at Kippax Library on 1st & 3rd Mondays 10.00 – 12.00

There will be no meeting on 6th April, as this is a bank holiday (enjoy your eggs!)

20th April Photos Housekeeping & Creating Legacy

Walking: over 5-miles:

The over 5-mile walking group has continued to grow over the past year. We now have 24 members and welcome new members to come and join us. We offer walks on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday per month with a shorter walk early in the month and the longer one towards the end, both locally and a little further afield.



On 25th February John and Julie led a great new 8.7-mile circular walk around Tadcaster, which 9 of us and 2 dogs enjoyed. There were lots to see as we followed the river, including a Grey Heron feeding at the water's edge and the lovely village of Newton Kyme.





On 11th March, Gary led 7 members on the Thorner via Pompocali and surrounding area 7-mile walk. From the Mexborough Arms we headed first via the outskirts of Thorner and fields to Thorner Moor Plantation, eventually crossing Milner Beck, which proved to be a team building/challenge exercise trying to cross the now swollen waters without anyone falling in! We eventually entered the area known as Pompocali, an intriguing area of overgrown mounds of earth that are thought to have been part of a Roman quarry prompting much Googling to develop our history knowledge.

Walking: under 5-miles:



On 19th March, we had a beautiful spring walk, 17 of us, with two new members. We started in Aberford and walked out of the village, crossing the road with the help of a council litter picker! Under the motorway, then we passed by the wind turbines, very graceful but I personally am not a



fan. We had a discussion about the merits of all houses being fitted with solar panels and also felt that our tides were not being utilised. Lots of spring flowers appeared, cowslips, celandines violets etc. and finding only a small patch of mud which was a welcome change after a very wet winter. A coffee/tea in the cafe gave us a chance to sit and chat even more! We then briskly made our way back to Aberford.

Although I generally choose the walk, it is nice when we have a different leader, thank you Dave for volunteering.



Other walks this year have been Ledston to Fairburn, Temple Newsam to Skelton Lake, Allerton Bywater to Queens Mill Cafe Castleford, Brecks Lane to Strikes. From the list it shows we are always quite local, usually 4ish miles and always a coffee stop halfway.

CYGNET:

CYGNET links:

Selby: www.selby.u3asite.uk

Sherburn: www.sherburnu3a.org

Tadcaster: www.tadcasterandvillages.u3asite.uk

Leeds: www.u3aleeds.com

If you wish to visit, or join, any interest groups under CYGNET, please remember to make contact via our CYGNET Liaisons in the first instance, via the website or to cygnet@garforthkippaxu3a.org.uk; **please do not just turn up!**

Keeping up to Date

Keep checking our website for news updates:

<https://garforthkippaxdistrict.u3asite.uk>

Check out our Facebook Group/Page:

Facebook members group: Garforth, Kippax & District U3A

<https://www.facebook.com/garforthkippaxu3a>

Facebook open page: We are Garforth Kippax & District u3a

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61562379895610>

From u3a's National Learning Programme

Further information on the following free talks is available on

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>

If you check the above website, you'll see there are also many other ideas, themes and topics you can apply to join in with. Please note events which require members to book are at

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Thank you for reading,

Posted on behalf of Garforth, Kippax & District u3a:

Run by our members for our members!