Garforth, Kippax & District u3a Bulletin Plus October 2026

Messages From Your Chair

Groups news first: **MahJong** starts on 28 September, and our **Tai Chi** group is almost here too, with their taster session is being held on 01 October. Two new groups are proposed, please see news of all these after the schedule.

Now a couple of requests regarding the committee; unfortunately, our Secretary Jane has stood down for personal reasons, and we wish to thank Jane very much for her contributions during her tenure. This means there are opportunities to join us as our new secretary and/or minute taker. While the secretary role is a committee officer role, a minute taker does not have to be a committee member, however, will need to be mindful that topics discussed at committee can be confidential.

The committee is also looking at having a presence at local Remembrance services in Kippax and/or Garforth, for which we welcome volunteers to come forward if they feel they could attend either service on our behalf, alongside committee members. For either of these requests please feel free to approach any committee member to discuss.

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 7th October 2026**: Garforth Working Men's Club 1.00 for 1.30

Monthly social meeting with speaker Peter Slater called 'My Life as a BBC Sports Reporter'.

Please respect our speaker by not chatting unnecessarily during their talk, thank you.

The membership desk will open for any queries before and after the speaker but not **during** their presentation. 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 4th November 2026**: Garforth Working Men's Club 1.00 for 1.30

Monthly social meeting with a talk called The Eccentric Brontes by Sasha Hill. Most people know of the famous sisters Charlotte Emily and Anne, but this talk encompasses all eight members of Patrick Brontë's family

Please respect our speaker by not chatting unnecessarily during their talk, thank you.

The membership desk will be open for any queries before and after the speaker but not **during** their presentation. 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
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 – term time only	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	2nd & 4th Mondays 2.00-4.00, Guide Hut, off Barleyhill Road	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	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
Mahjong **NEW**	**1st meeting 28th September**. Waiting list in operation Garforth Library 2nd & 4th Mondays; 1.30 – 3.30	Sue Lackenby
Motor homes	On WhatsApp only	Sue La
Motoring	2.00pm 2nd Tuesday, at The Gaping Goose, Selby Road	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 Via landline
SciTech	Ad Hoc visits: but taking a break Contact convenor or see website for details	Carol J
Spanish	Each Mon, 10.30 – 12.00, Garforth Library Contact convenor for further details	Eric A
Strings & Swing	1st & 3rd Tues,1.30pm, Guide 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
Tai Chi **NEW**	**See group message below regarding details** Thurs 1-2pm at Firthfields, Garforth, LS25 2HD	Jane P Cathy D
Tech it Easy	1st & 3rd Monday, 10am at Kippax Library See website for full details	Sue La Chrissie M
Theatre group	2nd Tuesday of the month 2.00pm The Commercial, Kippax High Street	Virginia W
Ukulele	Tuesday mornings, 10.30-12.30 Welfare Hall, Main Street, Garforth	Martin B
Walking Netball	Wednesdays 3pm – 4.00 pm Kippax Sports Centre	Group Co-ordinators
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

Possible New Groups

Whist

For anyone who enjoys a game of Whist plus those wishing to learn. This is in very early stages and available to all members. If interested, please contact our Group Co-ordinators on their email groupcoord@garforthkippaxu3a.org.uk who will provide further details in due course.

New format singing Group

One of our newest members would like to start a group of ladies and gentlemen who are interested in singing for joy. The initial idea is to be able to sing a harmony version of 'Mr Blue

Skies' to performance level, for entertainment purposes, however this may evolve. Please contact our Group Co-ordinators (as above) to add your name to a list of interested members.

Groups Roundup and/or Next Visits

Activities Group

Our October Visit is to the British Library on Monday 5 October, we have had to provide prebooked registration numbers but look forward to posting about this visit soon. Car sharing details between booked members are being discussed on our WhatApp group.

Our November venture is making Christmas Wreaths. This proved very popular last year that we decided to revisit this year. However, this year we will be going to Eversley Park Centre, Low Street, Sherburn in Elmet, LS25 6BA on Friday 27 November from 10am to noon. Cost: £25 (compared to last year at £40). You will need to bring your own secateurs/pruners and gardening gloves.

We need 15 for this to be viable with a maximum of 25. Note: we have also offered this to our CYGNET u3a's as well. Please contact Chrissie March for further updates on this.

Art Group

Meeting on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am-12:30 pm, at The Elders, our topics for October are:

13th October In the Style of Jack Vettriano

27th October Design a Set of Coasters

Contact Convenor Jenny E for further details.

Art Appreciation Group

Meeting or out visiting on 3rdThursday of each month, our next two events are:

15th October Outing to Salts Mill, Saltaire.

19th November Meeting with a speaker Paula Harmer, with an Illustrated talk entitled - Why has nobody heard of Jean-Etienne Liotard?

Contact Convenor Dave W for further details.

Chess group



What do members of the Chess group have in common with Humphrey Bogart? We all love to play chess! Yes, Bogie was an excellent chess player, having honed his skills hustling players for dimes and quarters before he made money from acting. The chess scene in Casablanca was put in at his insistence and was based on one of his own games. He even achieved a draw when playing a US Grandmaster in 1955. Here he is in his famous role as Rick Blaine. If you would like to join us at Rick's Cafe...erm I mean Garforth Library, we are there, 1st and 3rd Mondays at 2pm. For more details on the Chess Group please see review or contact the Convenors via our website, details on the last page.

Crochet & Knitting group

We meet on each 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Gaping Goose, Garforth between 1.00 & 3.00. Any one with an interest to join us, either with experience or willing to investigate how to do either of these arts then please pop in to see us or contact either convenor via our website links.

Please note we also extend an invite to those who do needlework or other yarn/thread crafts.

Garden Visits Group



On Thursday 8th Sept 8 members visited the Sheffield Botanical Gardens. The weather was kind, sunny and warm. Although only 8 people attended it was an enjoyable visit, taking in beauty of so many different trees, flowers and cacti. Within the park there is a stunning greenhouse building well worth a viewing.



An unusual bear pit was hidden away in part of the grounds along with a water fountain and small stream. There was also a very well stocked cafe with savouries and cakes. Our next visit is planned for Thursday 8th October to Thorpe Perrow Arboretum at Bedale for the Halloween Experience. Any u3a member is welcome and if any new garden visit members are interested, please contact Jhrobinson55@yahoo.co.uk

MahJong NEW



This new group is starting on 28 September at Garforth Library, with 12 members, each looking forward to learning how to play.

Moving forwards, they will then be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

Any new members interested to learn how to play please contact Convenor Sue via the website link.

Play reading Group

We last met on the afternoon of Thursday the 17 September 2026

Our script was **An Afternoon by the Seaside**. A one act play by Agatha Christie: not one of her best-known works, perhaps for good reason.

There were multiple characters – at least 12 so we 'doubled up' manfully – not easy to do as we were only 6 women. Main characters included two married couples, a mother and her young adult son, Inspector Foley and the mysterious 'Beauty' who is hiding even more than she has on display!
The curtain rises on three beach huts in the fictional seaside resort of Little-Slippyng-On-Sea. The dialogue, vaguely reminiscent of Donald McGill seaside postcards, intensifies with the hunt for a stolen emerald necklace, multiple red herrings and pairs of mixed up/dropped trousers. There was also the Christie twist at the end which was quite a surprise to us all as we read it! Although this was a farce (definitely the way we played it) one has to admire Mrs Christie – she could certainly adapt her skills successfully to any genre. We all had a jolly good laugh!
Please note: The play reading group is full. so we are starting a waiting list. If 4 or 5 (or more!) people are interested, we could start a second group. The current group meet once a month and read a play; parts are allocated at random. We get copies of the play from Leeds Library, and they are usually old but good for a laugh - Shakespeare it is not!
So, if you think this might be for you, please contact me, Sue Lomas, via the website.

Quiz Group

We meet on the last Wednesday each month at GWMC from 2 – 4pm. Our October meeting will be on 28 October. With our September meeting on 30 September, please come along if you wish. Fee is just £1.00 per attendance for fees and printed supplies.
The winners of our August meeting were the Silver Screeners, well done!
Please contact Convenor Judith via the email quiz@garforthkippaxu3a.org.uk for further details.

Saturday Lunch Club

The next lunch is on Saturday 26 September and the venue is the Cobblers Public House which is on Knottingley Road Pontefract. They have a large menu with something to please everyone. October lunch will be at Garforth Garden Centre Garforth. Then the final one for the year is in November at Copleys Farm Restaurant in Pontefract.
If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact
Joan Brown email: joanbrown630@gmail.com; Mob: 07806713061; Landline: 01977 318023

Tai Chi NEW

Due to the high level of interest, it won't be possible to run as a permanent group but will initially run as short courses of six weekly sessions.
The sessions will run on Thursdays from 1- 2 pm and will be held at Firthfields Community Centre in Garforth (LS25 2HD). The cost for the full six weeks will be £30 per person, payable in advance via the U3A account, which will cover the cost of the trainer and room hire. We will not be able to offer refunds once the course has started. Please note that, for ease of accounting, and to save time at each session by avoiding collecting room hire contributions, we have slightly rounded up the cost - any surplus will be spent on treats at the end of the final session!

The first group will start on Thursday October 15th. We hope to run further groups of six weekly sessions in a rolling cycle until everyone interested has had the opportunity to take part in one course after which we will look at the feasibility of continuing classes for those who want to progress. At this stage we cannot offer alternative dates, times or venues.
If you are still interested, and can attend on the dates and times stated, please let us know by email as soon as possible. Places will be allocated in order of responses, and we do expect this course to fill up quickly.
We will also be setting up a WhatsApp chat for the Tai Chi group which makes it much easier to pass on information quickly. If you would like to be added to the WhatsApp, please include your mobile number which will be taken as your agreement to be added to the group as required under GDPR.
If you aren't sure whether or not this is for you we are also running a one off, one hour taster session on October 1st, 1 pm at Firthfields. Please let the Convenors, via the website, know asap if you'd like to attend. The cost will be £5. Anyone requesting the taster session will not be allocated to a group prior to attending the session, but if you do then decide to go ahead, we can add you to a later group.

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 Liaison, Carol Lucas, in the first instance, via the website or to cygnet@garforthkippaxu3a.org.uk; **please do not just turn up**!

CYGNET News from Selby & District Carnivorous Plants Group

On Saturday 24th October 2026 Selby & District u3a Carnivorous Plants Group will be hosting the Carnivorous Plant Society's end of season meeting between 10.00 -3.00 at Selby Bowling Club, Baffam Lane, Brayton, Selby, YO8 9AX.
We hosted it last year and it was a great success. Members will be bringing their plants for sale, swaps etc and for a general catch up. Peter Walker from Wacks Wicked Plants (Chelsea Gold medallists) will be with us again selling plants and providing advice. You can order plants from him in advance for collection on the day. Hot and cold food and drinks will be available throughout the day.
Whether you're a confirmed enthusiast or just interested, come along, there's no need to book. The only request is that, if you're not a member of Selby Bowling Club, you make a £2.00 donation to their funds.
For more information, please email Pauline on peewit490@gmail.com

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!

PS: if you would like the opportunity to join us in putting this Bulletin Plus together, then please contact us at our email address:
newsletters@garforthkippaxu3a.org.uk,
or speak to us at a members meeting

Penny Brighten & Julie Skean