Garforth, Kippax & District u3a Bulletin Plus
November 2026

Messages From Your Chair

Hello again; first a gentle reminder or two: our u3a will have a presence at the Remembrance service in Kippax on Sunday 8th November, for which we welcome volunteers to come forward if they feel they could attend the service on our behalf, alongside committee member Sue Lakin.

We are also looking for a new secretary and anyone who may be interested is welcome to discuss this opportunity to help manage and steer our u3a forward by speaking to any committee member.

As our membership grows, we are mindful that more members may wish to attend our monthly meetings, therefore this year we are requesting that members wishing to attend our Christmas (Dec) meeting please register your possible attendance with Sue Lackenby via the email notice she sent earlier this month. The cut off date for us making a decision on whether we need to look at an alternative venue is now October 30th, so if you wish to attend and have not yet contacted Sue, please do so soon.

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 4th November 2026**: Garforth Working Men's Club 1.00 for 1.30 Monthly social meeting with a talk called Eccentric Brontes by Sasha Hill. Her talk will feature all eight members of Patrick Brontes family.

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 2nd December 2026**: Garforth Working Men's Club 1.00 for 1.30. Our Annual Christmas social meeting: all our usual activities will feature: Free soft drink, Free raffle, a small Christmas Quiz and our musical entertainment will be Swing & String. Due to numbers, we are not able to confirm the location just now, however if it is decided to change a general email will be sent via the Chair. Non digital members will receive a telephone call.

The membership desk will be available if required, as well committee members for any queries

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

All guests or prospective new members to all 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. Garforth Library 2nd & 4th Mondays; 1.30 – 3.30	Sue Lackenby
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	Graham I

	The Gaping Goose, Selby Road, Garforth	
Play Reading	3rd Thursday of month in members' homes, at capacity, waiting list for places/2nd group	Sue Lo
Popular Music Singing **NEW**	Weekly on Thursday afternoons 1:30 pm-3:30 pm GWMC, new members welcome	Jean-Claude K Sue Lackenby
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**	Thurs 1-2pm at Firthfields, Garforth, LS25 2HD 6-week courses, contact convenors for details	Jane P Catherine 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
Whist **NEW**	2nd Thursday at GWMC, 2.30 – 4.30. New members welcome	Jenny P

Groups Roundup

Activities

Up and coming visits

Friday 27th November: Christmas Wreath Making; Eversley Park Centre, Sherburn in Elmet Cost £25. Please contact Chrissy M for further details.

Monday 7th December: While our tour of Sound Leisure Jukebox Factory, is now fully booked, all group members are welcome to join us afterwards at the Barnbow Pub from 12 noon onwards for food or just a drink and a catchup. Please contact our convenors via the website for details of future visits.

Art Group

Meeting at The Elders on alternate Tuesdays, our topics for November are
Tues 10th: Something Shiny
Tues 24th: Facial Expression
Please contact convenor Jenny E via the website if you would like to join.

Art Appreciation

Next meeting Thursday 19th November at GWMC, when we will be showing two short documentaries on the artists Dagas and Rodin due to our previously booked speaker Paula Harmer, with her talk entitled – 'Why has nobody heard of Jean-Etienne Liotard?', is now unable to attend.
Meetings or outings are held on 3rd Thursday of each month, please contact convenor Dave W for further details.

Chess group



Chess history is packed with bizarre real-life anecdotes. World Champion Alexander Alekhine famously loved cats so much he brought his Siamese cat, *Chess*, to the board to sniff out "bad energy". Meanwhile, Mikhail Tal, the "Magician from Riga," once faced an opponent who brought a doctor to monitor his pulse. Tal simply stared down the doctor until the medic grew too nervous to continue. Even Bobby Fischer famously demanded a tournament's lighting be adjusted by single percentages.
No cats, no doctors and perfect lighting at Garforth Library so come and join the u3a Chess Group. 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, 2pm. Beginners welcome - we can teach you.

Crochet & Knitting





We continue our post box toppers, and this month saw them change from our summer versions to our autumn versions, which in turn are now giving way to the Halloween versions. Kippax have a brand-new topper however Garforth will retain theirs for another year.
We continue to meet on the afternoon of 2nd Wed of each month, at Gaping Goose pub in the tap room. We were a very small group this month but did have a prospective member who manged to make her first chain.

History

In October 19 members of the History Group visited the Police Museum in Bradford. Located in the City Hall it is situated on the site of the original Victorian police station operational between 1874 and 1974. There are interesting exhibits in the galleries, and we were able to tour some of the cells including the one from which Harry Houdini escaped within minutes in the early 19th century.
We then went up the dock stairs to the original Victorian court room. The museum staff are largely volunteers, and our guides were both engaging and knowledgeable as they told us stories of the history of the building, the characters who once inhabited its walls - and the ghosts of those who might still be there! Altogether an enjoyable and interesting visit. Please contact our convenors via the website for details of future visits.



Mah Jong

We have had 2 sessions so far and although it looked daunting when the tiles where first put on the table, I'm pleased to say we all came away feeling like we had grasped the basic idea. Everyone enjoyed the first session and although there were less of us in the second session, that was purely down to holidays and sickness.
Because the game is played with 4 players we aren't taking any new members at present, while we become confident enough to be able to play un "assisted" which will allow new members to learn.

Play Reading

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 Lo) via the website.

Popular Music Singing

Two sessions in and everyone is having great fun. Our convener Jean-Claude has wonderful way of boosting our confidence and we are building our repertoire weekly.
This group if open to new members at any time, we meet in GWMC Concert Hall on Thursday at 1.30 (please bring water, essential when singing)
A smaller group of us would like to visit any local care homes in the run up to Christmas to sing a few carols. This won't be a performance, more a sing along. If you have a connection to anywhere, please let Sue Lackenby know at groupscoord@garforthkippaxu3a.org.uk and I will try to organise things

Quiz

We will be holding our final Quiz of 2026 on Wednesday 25 November so please feel free to join us, but if this reaches you in time there is always our October quiz on 28th October.
The winners of our September quiz were The Bloomers, well done!
New members are always welcome, please contact Convenor Judith R for details.

Saturday Lunch

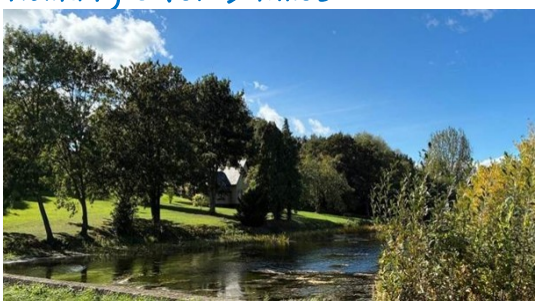
Our next lunch is on Saturday 31 October and we are meeting at Garforth Garden Centre 12 noon. All welcome
The last lunch for this year is at Copleys farm shop Pontefract on Saturday 28 November. This is a popular lunch as the farm shop has lots to offer in the way of Christmas gifts and foods.
In January we will start again with suggested venues. I hope you all have a good Christmas and New Year.
If interested to join us please contact Joan Brown on 01977 613230.

Strollers



Twelve intrepid Strollers ventured out to Temple Newsam and were rewarded with no rain! We took the Park Run loop from the cafe, past the house, down Pegasus Hill, along the bottom path (bit noisy and muddy/pot holey down there) and then past the lake and up through the rhododendrons. The colours of the trees across the estate are breathtaking and very autumnal at the moment 🍁🍂

Walking Over 5-miles



The 23th of September saw 11 of us and two dogs head out from the Crooked Billet across the fields towards Saxton, Scarthingwell, and Church Fenton. We were rewarded with some decent weather and just a short splash of light rain for this time of year. We went onto Barkston Ash, where we stopped for a while for refreshments at The Ash Tree Inn, before the final stretch back for a total of 9.6 miles and of course a pint in the pub.



Gary led the walk on the 14 October when 7 members joined him from Shadwell to Scarcroft and Thorner on a lovely 8-mile local walk with a mix of some urban and countryside walking, and yes there was a pub at the end!
New members are always welcome, contact us via the website.



Wellbeing With Nature

At the end of September 15 group members went to The Growing Zone to celebrate harvest. Once again, we were

warmly welcomed by the Growing Zone team. The forecast was for heavy rain, so we set up our tables for lunch under permanent shelter. We had tablecloths and even bunting to create a festive feel. Being surrounded by the allotments it was the perfect place to celebrate nature's bounty.

When all the group had arrived, we sat in a talking circle in the orchard to share the history of harvest, harvest celebrations around the world and our own memories of harvest festivals. We all took some food to share for lunch. There was a lovely variety of savoury and sweet treats, more than enough for everyone so after lunch we were able to donate some to the Growing Zone team. After lunch we played 'Guess the name of the mystery vegetable?' Do you know what it is? It can be roasted or pickled.



One of our members, Lesley had grown some veg in her garden and had brought a Harvest Box brimming with home grown veg so there was enough for everyone to take some home. Although we had come prepared with raincoats and umbrellas, we didn't have a spot of rain, and the sun was shining by the end of the session. It was another enjoyable session outdoors with a friendly group.

Prospective New Groups

Family History & Seated Exercise: both groups are hopefully at the very start of their journeys, so far, they have been put forward as ideas with a view to starting sometime in the new year. Our Group Co-ordinators are collating details and will be asking for interested members before moving forward. **Please wait for their communications before contacting them!**

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**!

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