

Committee News November 2026

This year's edition of our annual magazine "Reflections" (formerly "Stray News") is finally completed and is currently with the printer. It will be due for publishing in time for the **AGM & Members' Talk on November 27th**, where copies of the booklet will be available for all who attend.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed such varied and interesting articles, showing what lively, stimulating and enriching activities and events are generated through the hard work of our group leaders and volunteers. You will be receiving your own copy in due course.

Particular thanks go to the Editorial Team for all their hard work in producing such a comprehensive record of our Harrogate u3a's year.

For those of you who would like to read Reflections electronically, it can now be found on the Welcome page of our website. Scroll to the bottom and follow the advice given to open the "Flip Book" in full screen mode and enjoy seeing all the things our members have been up to over the past year.

"Drop-in" at **The Place** at the **Crown Hotel**

on **Saturday 14th November** from **10.30am** to **midday**

members and their friends can call in to meet and chat with committee members

raise questions or issues,

make suggestions



u3a and me research project

There are some great headlines and really positive comments about learning and the benefits of being involved in the organisation.

To find out more about the research go to [u3a and me Research Report]

If you would like to comment on the report, **Jonathan Doherty** would be happy **as Subject Adviser for Learning** to collate comments and send them on to the U3A writing team **–**

jonathan.doherty@subjectadviser.u3a.org.uk



Members' Talks

entry with members' card

at St Mark's Church, Leeds Road

buses 36, X52 & A2 stop outside

on **Friday 30th October 11am *(doors open 10.30am)***

Sasha Hill

"The Great Train Robbery"

An accomplished and engaging speaker, Sasha Hill is an education professional with 25 years' teaching experience and a strong background in leadership and management.

Holding a degree in English Literature and Social History, she brings a distinctive interdisciplinary perspective to her talks, combining scholarly insight with accessible, thought-provoking storytelling.

Her lifelong fascination with historical crime was shaped by growing up with parents who served as police officers, giving her work a compelling personal foundation.

This unique background adds depth and authenticity to her exploration of social history, crime, and narrative analysis.

on **Friday 27th November 11am *(after AGM 10.00-10.45am)***

Sue Woodcock

"From Copper to Shepherd "

Sue was born in London, brought up by her grandmother and had an unusual childhood.

She was, for a short time, a professional opera singer then joined the police in 1969.

After nearly 30 years as a police officer, ending up as a police motorcyclist on a country beat, she retired, moved up to Yorkshire

and then went and trained to be a shepherd, did various jobs and acquired a small farm in Grassington where she lived in a house with none of the facilities we all take for granted.

She began publishing murder mystery stories set in Yorkshire and also writes a diary for the Yorkshire Post every Saturday.

Currently she is singing in four choirs, has several rescue dogs, one geriatric cat, is involved with various crafts such as spinning, knitting, patchwork (out of men's ties) and tapestry and is officially one of England's top 20 eccentrics, from a book by Henry Hemmings called 'In Search of the English Eccentric'.

All she asks is that the audience laugh, either at her or with her,

Group News

to find out more about groups click here: harrogate.u3asite.uk/groups/

Rummikub Knaresborough - NOT FULL!

Stella Barclay

We are a friendly bunch who enjoy playing Rummikub.

We meet on the third Friday of the month in the cosy surroundings of the Knaresborough Inn.

We would welcome new members, beginners and more experienced alike,
for this fun, mind-stretching activity.

Sometimes it includes disagreeing about what the rules should be!

We don't score - life's too short for that!

If you are interested in coming along for a taster session,
please make contact through the website.

Our Wednesday Badminton group has some spaces.

We meet at 10am at the Racquets Club on Firs Road (opposite the M&S Food hall on Leeds Road).

Our standard varies from enthusiastic to walking badminton
but we're very sociable and we have all played before.

If you are interested in joining us for a taster session
please contact David Jobling via dijobling@aol.com

First come first served!

Quiz Group currently has a few spaces.

David Byfield, Group Leader

We meet once a month for ten months of the year at the Wesley Chapel in the centre of town.

Meetings are usually the third Wednesday of the month at 10.00am,
and the cost is up to £3 depending on numbers.

We play in teams, and are a friendly crowd. **Our next quiz is on the 18th November.**
If interested please get in touch via the u3a web site.

Please note

If you sign up to a group and then find you are unable to attend meetings, you should communicate with your Group Leader, especially if you are not intending to continue being in the group.

This will make it easier for Group Leaders to allow those on waiting lists to join more readily

History of Art group leader for 20 years!

Ian Munday, as Chairman of the Harrogate u3a, presents Brian Souter with a certificate commemorating the achievement - "giving lectures on art to the Group for an astonishing 20 years!"

The meetings are currently held at the Gracious Street
Methodist Church Hall in Knaresborough.



We are really pleased to have been accepted
to display a tree at this year's

Great Christmas Tree Festival

at **St John's Church in Knaresborough**

The festival takes place
from **Saturday 5th** *to* **Sunday 20th December 2026**

90 trees displayed around the church
it really is worth popping in to have a look!

The Singing for Pleasure group will also be here singing at **12 noon 5th December.**

with many thanks to our Craft group
for taking on the decoration of the trees
I'm sure lots of us will have fun
identifying the various
u3a interest groups in the form of a bauble!

Christmas Concert for members

at **The Wesley Centre, Oxford Road, Harrogate**

on **Wednesday 9th December**

Our Singing for Pleasure Group
will be singing
a selection of Christmas carols and festive songs

doors open 10.15am for mince pies and drinks
choir concert begins at 11am

Hu3a website

By visiting our website - Harrogate.u3asite.uk you can find out more about groups, which ones have spaces and which are currently full. You will also be able to find there information about all our policies, procedures and lots more.u3a and me Research Report .

Editors - Beulah and Catherine ***Contact*** news@harrogateu3a.org.uk