



**u3a**  
Barnsley & District

February  
2026

# Monthly Newsletter

**Our next monthly meeting will be on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at  
Priory Campus Lundwood 1.30pm - 3.00pm**

**Jon Bates**

**Fingerprints: Nature's Personal Signature.**

**Jon is a Bu3a member with a background in forensic  
science with a keen interest in fingerprints.**

**His interesting talk includes**

- **The evolutionary development of fingerprints.**
- **The instigation of fingerprint work in the UK in 1901**
  - **Some famous fingerprint cases including Henry Jackson and the Great Train Robbery**
- **How fingerprints are compared in modern forensic science and the National Fingerprint database**



**The monthly meeting in March will change slightly in that it will start at 1.00pm and finish at 3.00pm.**

**Please adapt your arrival time to 1.00pm.**

**The first 30 minutes of the meeting will be social time to chat and any booking of tickets and raffle.**

**The meeting will continue at 1.30pm with any business that needs announcing, followed by the speaker. The afternoon will conclude with the raffle results.**



#### **Beacon Information**

**The Beacon system is there for your use. The recent emails were sent out to remind you to register. By doing this your subscriptions can be paid directly via Paypal. Using Paypal in this way does not mean you have to create an account.**

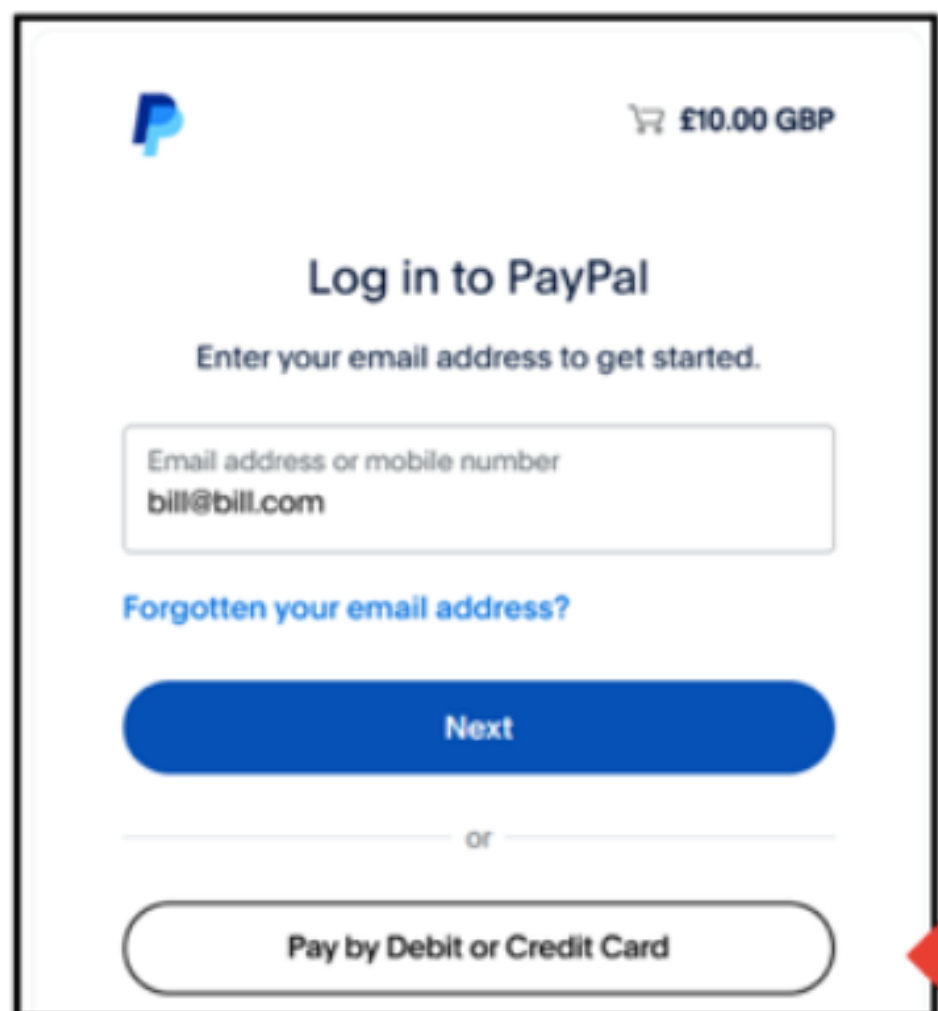
**It also allows access to the Gift Aid tick box.**

**You will remember the previous queues of members waiting to pay and the work done by our membership team in the past. Using Beacon to pay your subscription halves the work and the stress for that team and prevents long queues.**

**In addition the benefit of using Beacon for yourselves is that you can update and view your personal details rather than having an external person do it for you with the possibility of mistakes and save time waiting in queues.**

**See below for a screenshot showing how to pay by card without setting up a Paypal account.**

To pay with a debit or credit card enter your email address and press Pay by Debit or Credit card

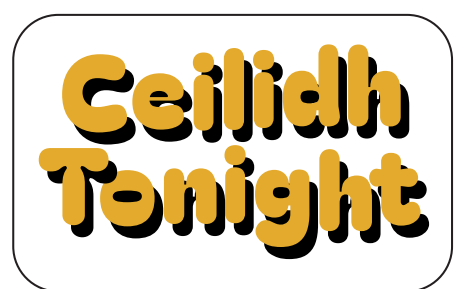


There are a series of instructions that guide you through the full process for your card.

### Social event

**Ceilidh with The Rhythm Chaps**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm - 10.30pm**  
**Gilroyd Social Club Gilroyd S75 3PX**  
**£15 to include pie and pea supper & raffle**

**Tickets from Margaret Saxton**  
**07919830623 and at monthly meeting**

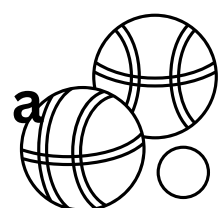


### Petanque Ardsley Park

**We have a date when the building of the Petanque terrain will be developed. March 2<sup>nd</sup> is that magic date when work is planned to begin and completion within 2 - 3 weeks.**

**It has taken some considerable time to get to this place, but now we can hopefully say that the game should be up and running by the Spring.**

**More details will be sent out to get us ready for a Spring /Summer start.**



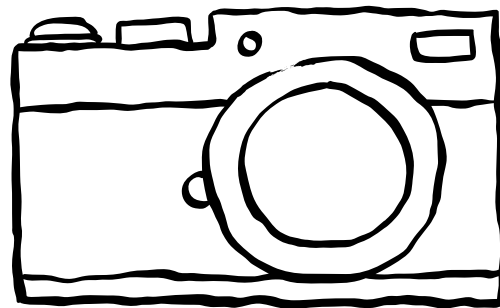
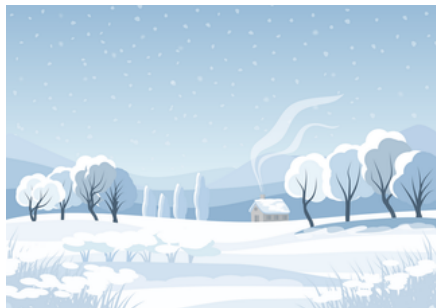
The much-loved Channel 4 series The Dog House is returning and the team are looking to speak to people who would like to adopt a rescue dog and would be happy to share their reasons why. To find out more, visit <https://c4thedoghousetakepart.co.uk> or email [thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk](mailto:thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk)

If you'd like to chat further or have questions, you're very welcome to contact them.



### **BUZZ Photography Competition** *The Joy of Winter*

**Any photograph taken that makes you smile or  
gives you a warm feeling  
Details in current Buzz  
Closing date: 28<sup>th</sup> February**



### **Pleasure of Classical Music**

This group is keen to attract more members. If you have an interest in listening to classical music, go along to the next meeting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 1.30pm - 3.30pm at Methodist Church Monk Bretton.  
The group meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of month.





### Curry Night

Thursday 19th March

Royal Spice Restaurant

1A Station Road Darton Barnsley

Cost: £20 per person (to include tip for staff)

Bookings will be taken at the monthly meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup>  
February

A non refundable deposit of £5 must be paid on booking  
Maximum of 40 members

30<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

30TH ANNIVERSARY

SUMMER ANNIVERSARY BASH

3<sup>RD</sup> JULY HOTEL 19 (PREVIOUSLY THE  
FAIRWAY)

HOT BUFFET

ENTERTAINMENT: STRANGERS IN  
TRAINERS

7.00PM FOR 7.30PM

TICKETS £25



### Travel Group

Bookings being taken for  
trip to Lincoln on 24<sup>th</sup>  
March

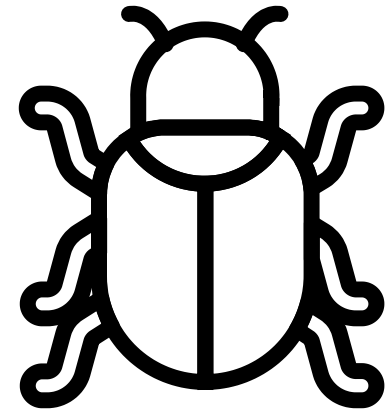
Cost £23.00p.

An additional £10.50p to  
visit the Aviation Heritage  
Centre



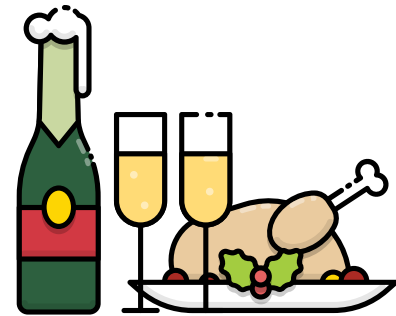
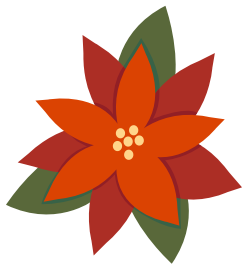
## Dates for your diary.

- **Beetle Drive: May 15<sup>th</sup> at Giloyd Social Club. Tickets £5.00 to include raffle.**



**Tickets on sale at monthly meetings and from Margaret Saxton 07919830623 or Helen Rose 079893868254**

- **Watch out for information about a summer picnic in August. More details later.**
- **The Christmas Lunch date has been arranged and the date is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2026 at Burntwood Hall Brierley 12 for 12.30**

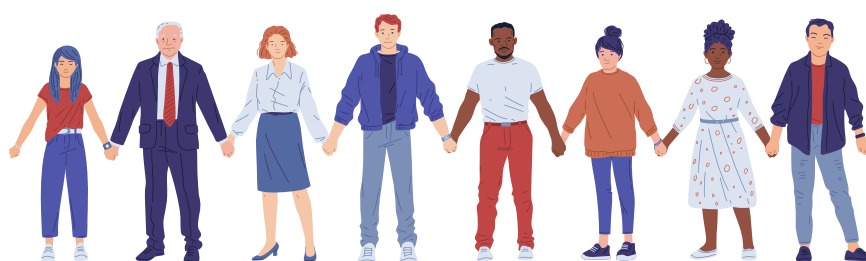


## **Together at the Town Hall**

**17th February**

**This is a week long programme of themed community events 16<sup>th</sup> February - 21<sup>st</sup> February. It is intended to bring communities together (residents, partners and local services). There will be a mix of organisations and support for all ages.**

**Bu3a has a stall there on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February** from 10am - 3pm. If you feel able to help in manning the stand let me know!**





## **The Skyline Project**

**This project is looking at how Barnsley's skyline has changed and might change over time and how residents feel about the changes.**

**Information is needed to help complete the project by informal conversations prompted by images and memories.**

**The results will be a wooden skyline produced that represents their findings.**

**Currently information is asked for from men aged 50+ with an interest in woodworking (no experience needed) to share stories. Dates available : Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 26<sup>th</sup> Feb from 10/30am - 1.30pm at The Hut, The Newburgh Building, McLintocks, Off Summer Lane S70 6BF**

**Just go along!**



## **Members Events**

**Upcoming bu3a events are always kept up to date on the website. It is a good way to stay in the loop especially if you cannot get to the monthly meetings. Make sure that you don't miss anything and remember that everything is listed at [bu3a.org.uk](http://bu3a.org.uk) - Members events**

## **Members' Monthly Meeting, Key Information for 2025, 2026**

Thank you for the quality and quantity of your feedback. The Executive Committee has carefully considered your suggestions. Some changes will be introduced gradually, some will work well, others may need adjusting, but nothing ventured, nothing gained.

### **Meeting Day, Time, and Venue**

- From 2026, Members' Monthly Meetings will be held on Monday afternoons at Priory Campus, this being the best available option.
- Meetings will take place on the first Monday of each month, unless this falls on a Bank Holiday.
  - From 2 March 2026, meetings will start at 1.00 pm. This allows time for bookings and socialising.
- o The business part of the meeting will begin at 1.30 pm, and we ask that the area around the tables is quiet by then.

### **Meeting Style**

- The style of the meetings will change in response to member feedback.

### **What's on Offer**

- A new "What's on Offer" page is being introduced.
- This will be sent by email with the monthly newsletter.
- A small number of paper copies will be available at the meeting for you to photograph.
  - It provides a concise list of events.
- Further details can be found on the BU3A website and in Buzz.
  - Bookings and enquiries can be made at the MMM.

### **Annual General Meeting**

- The AGM will be held on Monday, 1st June 2026.
- Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

## **What's on Offer. 2026.**

### **Date/time Event.**

- 2 Feb. 1.30pm MMM. Jon Bates. Fingerprints
- 12 Feb. 12-2.30pm Valentines Jive at Darfield Community Centre
- 17 Feb. 10-3pm Together at the Town Hall. Community event with activities
- 25 Feb. 7-10pm Dining out. Chinese at China Court. Book at Feb MMM
- 28 Feb. 10-12 Concert Party plus coffee at Dodworth Methodist Church
- 2 March 1pm start MMM with a new start time. Priory. More info later.
- 7 March 7pm start Ceilidh at Gilroyd Social Club. Pie & peas. £15. Book at MMM
- 9 March 2-4pm Old Blowers at Darton Derby & Joan Club
- 18 March Leeds. Yorks & Humber Region u3a. AGM. Leeds
- 19 March Curry Night. Royal Spice. Darton. £20 Book/deposit Feb MMM
- 24 March 8.30am Day trip to Lincoln plus optional Aviation Centre. £23+ Book Feb MMM
- 28 March 10-12 Old Blowers. St John's Community Centre
- 13 April 1pm MMM. Priory
- 7 May 8.30am Day trip to Saltaire. £23 Booking at MMM
- 11 May 1pm start MMM. Priory
- 15 May 7pm Beetle Drive. Gilroyd Social Club. £5 Book at MMM
- 1 June 1pm. MMM & AGM. Priory
- 1-3 July U3a festival at York Uni. Booking required
- 3 July 7pm Summer Anniversary Bash. Bluebell Suite. £25. Booking at MMM
- 6 July 1pm MMM. Priory
- 21 July 1-3.30pm Choir Concert. Wombwell Methodist Church. Book at MMM
- 3 Aug 1pm MMM. Priory
- 24 Aug – 27 Aug Summer School. Booking required
- 7 Sept 1pm MMM Priory
- 9 Sept 8.30am Day Trip. Scarborough. £23. Book at MMM.
- 19 Sept – 27 Sept National u3a week. Details to be announced
- 5 Oct 1pm MMM Priory
- 2 Nov 1pm MMM Priory
- 7 Dec 1pm MMM Priory
- 8 Dec 1pm Choir Concert. Wombwell Methodist Church. Book at MMM
- 10 Dec Xmas lunch at Burntwood Court Hotel. Booking required