



u3a
Barnsley & District



SPRING

Monthly Newsletter
Monday 13th April
Priory Campus Lundwood
1.00pm - 3.00pm



Behind Closed Doors. One on top of the other. Spaces for people to live their lives, to shape their futures, to reshape their pasts. And who is here, in these spaces? Why are they here? and what stories do they have to tell? Behind Closed Doors tells the stories of these residents in a humorous, thought provoking and sometimes poignant way. The show lasts approximately 1hr.

SRM Theatre.

The Company is a group of ex-Bretton Hall College theatre practitioners based in West Yorkshire making theatre for touring to smaller venues. A production of a play by the SMS Theatre Company.

A **prompt** start at 1.30pm. Finish at 2.40pm.

From 1.00 pm - 1.25pm there will be time for bookings, membership renewal, buying raffle tickets, chatting etc. Please be seated before the performance begins. Talking during the performance would be disrespectful and not tolerated.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Our preferred way for you to pay is through the **membership portal, via the website**, as this updates the system automatically.

Cheques and card payments will also be taken at the monthly meeting from 12 noon on Monday 13th April in the first room (Willow Room) on the left as you enter the Priory. Helen and Vanda will be taking card payments and Niall will be accepting cash and cheque payments.



How to Renew Your Subscription

Just use the link on the website – I've added a few simple steps to help you through it. I've also added a couple of screenshots to look out for.

01 – Click the renewal link

Start by selecting the renewal link on the website, which takes you straight to the secure payment portal.

02 – Choose your payment method

Select whether you want to pay by card or PayPal before continuing.

03 – Remove the save-details tick

If paying by card, untick the option that says “Save my details” to avoid storing your information.

04 – Continue as PayPal guest

If using PayPal, you can enter your email and proceed without logging in by choosing the guest checkout option.

05 – Select card option in PayPal

If PayPal recognises your email, choose “Pay by Debit or Credit Card” instead of logging in.

06 – Proceed as guest if prompted

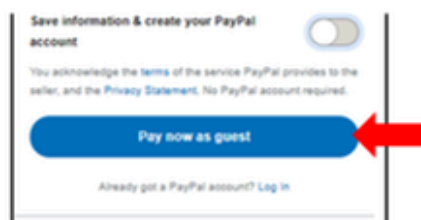
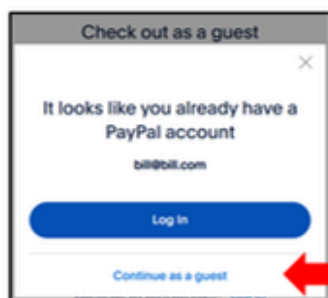
If PayPal detects an existing account, choose “Continue as a guest” to avoid signing in.

07 – Complete your payment

Finish the checkout process and your subscription will renew automatically.

Extra note:

If you don't want to create a PayPal account, make sure to remove the tick that says “Save information to create PayPal account”



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Priory Campus Lundwood 1.30pm
Monday 1st June**



Exec nomination forms to be emailed to Hannah Lucas by 24 April 2026. bu3a.bussec@gmail.com.

Or handed to Hannah Lucas at 13 April MMM.

*****Support Treasurer*****

Bu3a needs a support treasurer to future proof us when the current treasurer retires in 2027. The role has been made simpler now that the accounts have been outsourced, and introduced Paypal as a method of joining. What remains are internet banking and periodically updating spreadsheets as well as attending monthly committee meetings.

We can't operate without a Treasurer as some financial jobs will need to be done monthly, so without one, the organisation will effectively grind to a halt. Ideally, a support treasurer would come on board from the AGM in June and have a year to ease into the role. Having a knowledge of bookkeeping would help. It isn't a difficult role.

If interested please speak to any of the committee for further information

TRAVEL UPDATE



There are still places on the trip to Saltaire on 7th May. Price £23.

We are taking bookings for Gunton Hall in Suffolk. 7th-11th September.

Price £495 per person- twin/ double rooms available and superior twin/ double rooms available- £495 per person + £30 per person for superior twin!

SMART PHONE ASSISTANCE

EE in the Alhambra in Barnsley has offered Bu3a members the opportunity to spend an hour with their staff after normal working hours from 5.30pm - 6.30pm.



The focus is to help setting up and managing your smart phone (emails sending and receiving / what a smart phone can offer / dealing with any queries etc). There is no cost and a minimum of 10 people are required.

If you are interested let me know and I will collate names etc.
(bu3achair@gmail.com)

Petanque Update

After approximately four years + in the planning, the first digging to clear the site was started on Tuesday 17th March at Ardsley Park!! It is anticipated to be finished by end of April ready for a grand opening in May. Fingers crossed and hoping for good weather so the terrain can be completed. If you want to join the new Petanque group please get in touch with petanquebarnsley@yahoo.com.



When contacting, it would be useful to know if you played before. If you have your own Boules (not plastic).

Which days can you play? Preferred time: Am or Pm?.

Are you playing for Leisure?

Would you consider playing in a League or Competitions?



Developments in the Dearne

New groups are being established in the Dearne Valley following a successful coffee morning. These new groups sit alongside those already available such as Table Tennis, Book Nook and Art Pottery Workshops. In April, 2 more groups will be starting. These are Board Games and an Absolute Beginners Ukulele group.

As always these groups are open to all members in bu3a.

There will be two sessions of Board Games: one on Saturday and one on Wednesday. The first session will begin on Saturday 11th April from 10am - 12 noon and on Wednesday 15th April from 2pm - 4pm at the Renaissance Centre in Bolton on Dearne S63 8AE.

Absolute Beginners Ukulele group will begin on Monday 13th April from 10am - 12 noon. at the Renaissance Centre Bolton on Dearne S63 8AE.

This will be an 8 week pop up group. Further information from fennel-roberts@yahoo.co.uk



Dining Out

The Italian night at Mezzaluna in Mapplewell on Thursday 16th April is now fully booked with a waiting list.



The Turkish night is on Thursday 21st May at the Istanbul restaurant in the town centre. Bookings will be taken at the 13th April monthly meeting

Charity Fraud Investigation

Information from national u3a

We have been contacted by Surrey and Sussex police about a serious fraud they are investigating which is targeting people associated with charities for older people.

It seems fraudsters are using information available on the Charity Commission website to contact people. They have then been persuading them there is an issue with their bank account. One couple has already been defrauded out of a significant amount of money.

Please flag this with your members so they are aware. Banks and the police will never ask you to move money.

Read about spotting fraud on the government [Stop Think Fraud website](#).

Raising awareness around fraud and online safety is sadly one of the things of which we all need to be aware. Take care and review your personal information and privacy settings on whatever social media platform you are using. In today's world of advanced technology and AI, it no longer takes a person hours of searching to gather information, it can be done instantly at the push of a button. Groups like the u3a can be particularly vulnerable because of the age range and the trust people naturally place in others. While sharing your address or phone number online might have felt harmless a decade ago, the landscape has changed dramatically. Please stay vigilant, think carefully about what you share, and help keep yourself and the Bu3a safe.

Drop in Sessions

All members, current and future, are welcome to come and meet us informally over a cup of tea or coffee and chat about how to make the most of your membership. Any question can be discussed and a solution or advice offered. This is a chance to meet the committee, get things off your chest, get help for a problem or just find out more about us.



We look forward to seeing you. Free refreshments will be available at the Ibis.

The first of these sessions will be at the IBIS Hotel on the Dodworth MI roundabout Whinby Road S75 3TX on Saturday 18th April from 10.00am - 12 noon.

Adequate free parking.

Also if you are in town we will be in the the library on Wednesday from 12 noon - 2.00pm. Watch out for us on the couches! You can bring drinks into the library but no food

Our drop ins will move about the borough, but it is likely that the Ibis hotel will be standard and further dates will be announced.



Help Desk

Are you experiencing issues with technology or Beacon? Needing help or advice?

There will be a tech / Beacon help desk manned by Fred Brookes and Graham Mansfield at the next Monthly meeting at Priory Campus on 13th April from 12 noon - 1.15pm in the same room as the renewals desk.

PAT testing will be available plus IT and gadget advice. Bring laptops/ tablets/ mobile phones for Beacon issues.

Waiting Lists

If you'd like to join a group that currently has a waiting list, please contact the coordinator directly via their group page on the website if you haven't received an update.

Sneak Preview of May's Monthly Meeting

In March the monthly meeting was run differently. The change was made following feedback from the recent member's questionnaire. There were both positive and negative feelings about the change at the March meeting, but this is an evolving change so bear with us. So there will be a similar programme at the May meeting with 15 minute sessions from members and the usual tables available for booking various events.

**If there are any members wanting to show their skills and experiences, share their holiday photos etc, get in touch and see the room from another angle!
More information in next month's newsletter.**

Social Events

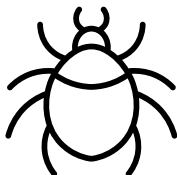
Beetle Drive

Not played this for ages? Come and enjoy the fun! Where else could you have a good evening out for that price!!

15th May

Gilroyd Social Club

Cost £5.00



Summer 30th Anniversary Bash

Hotel 19 Bluebell Suite Dodworth

Hot Buffet

Entertainment: Strangers in Trainers

Tickets available from monthly meetings @

More information in the Buzz






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★ Our Pop-In Events ★

Our First Pop In


 Wednesday, 15th April 2026

 12 noon – 2:00 pm

 The Library

If you're in town, come and find us on the couches!
You're welcome to bring drinks into the library, but please
note that food isn't allowed.



Our Second Pop In – Drop-In Coffee Morning

 18th April 2026

 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

 Ibis Hotel

Whinby Road, Barnsley S75 3TX

Pop in and join us for a friendly coffee morning  
Enjoy free coffee & biscuits, a relaxed chat, and a warm
welcome.

 Already a member? Come along for a catch-up

★ Thinking of joining? We'd love to meet you—come and
say hello!

Everyone is welcome—just drop in 



What's on Offer – 2026

13 April 1pm MMM. Priory. YRM Theatre production – Behind Closed Doors

15th April Drop in session at Barnsley Library from 12 noon - 2.00pm NEW

16 April 6.30 pm Italian Night Mezzaluna, Mapplewell. £20 Book at MMM

18th April 10.00am – 12 noon Drop-in session Ibis Hotel Whinby Road S75 3TX NEW

7 May 8.30am Day trip to Saltaire. £23 Booking at MMM (Local Election Day)

11 May MMM. 1pm Priory

15 May 7pm Beetle Drive. Gilroyd Social Club. £5 Book at MMM

21 May 6.30 pm Turkish Night at Istanbul, Town centre £20 Book at MMM

1 June 1pm. MMM & AGM. Priory

18 June 6.30pm Chinese Night at China Court, Mapplewell

1-3 July u3a festival at York University Booking required

3 July 7pm Summer Anniversary Bash. Bluebell Suite, Hotel Nineteen, Dodworth. £25. Strangers in Trainers. Booking at MMM

6 July 1pm MMM. Priory

21 July 1-3.30pm Choir Concert. Wombwell Methodist Church. Book at MMM

3 August 1pm MMM. Priory

24 – 27 August YAHR Summer School. York. Booking required

7 September 1pm MMM Priory

7th - 11th September Warner's Gunton Hall £445 Speak to Travel Group

9 September 8.30am Day Trip. Scarborough. £23. Book at MMM.CANCELLED

19– 27 September National u3a week. Details to be announced

5 October 1pm MMM Priory

2 November 1pm MMM Priory

7 December 1pm MMM Priory. Old Blowers 8 December 1pm Choir Christmas

Concert. Wombwell Methodist Church. Book at MMM

8 December 1pm Choir Christmas Concert. Wombwell Methodist Church. Book at MMM

10 December Christmas lunch at Burntwood Court Hotel. Booking required

More details on Travel and Social Events to follow.