NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

a warm welcome to all

INSIDE . . .

We hope there's something here to interest you. Please take a look and register your interest, or reserve your tickets where appropriate. We look forward to seeing many of you at these exciting activities and events:

2nd November MMM Phil Drabble
6th November Seated Yoga
9th November Line Dancing
11th November Gardeners Question Time
14th - 17th November Longleat
19th November Curry Night
7th December MMM Annual Event
8th December Christmas choir concert
10th December Christmas lunch
4th Friday Every Month QUIZZOOMERS
French Improvers

Closure of Priory Campus at short notice

BOOKING FORMS ON THE WEBSITE

u3a
Barnsley & District

Charity No. 1077654

learn, laugh, live

u3a SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 21st November

Come along on Saturday morning for a catch-up, and a relaxed morning in a lovely venue
ibis Hotel
Whinby Road, Dodworth, Barnsley, S75 3TX

10:00am - 12:00pm

Benefits:

Meet for a coffee and a catch-up.

- ★ Ask questions and share ideas
- ★ Ask questions and meet u3a
- ★ members
- ★ Enjoy a friendly, but relaxed morning.

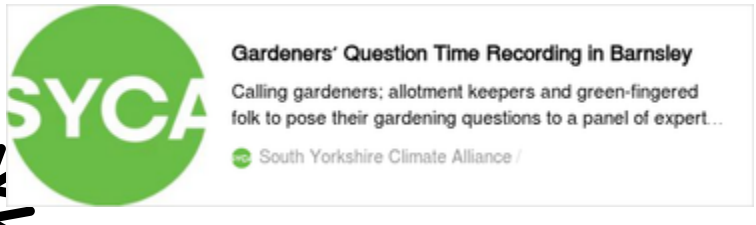
Come along, bring a friend, and let's get to know each other and grow our u3a numbers!

USEFUL LINKS:

Business Secretary:
bu3a.bussec@gmail.com

LINK TO BOOK ACTIVITIES:
https://bu3a.u3asite.uk/events-booking-forms/





Members Monthly Meeting dates 2027

Monday afternoon, Priory Centre, Pontefract Road, Barnsley S71 5PN
Contact Business Secretary

4 January 2027
1 February 2027
1 March 2027
5 April 2027
4 May 2027 Tuesday
7 June 2027 AGM MMM
5 July 2027
2 August 2027
6 September 2027
4 October 2027
8 November 2027
6 December 2027

Closure of Priory Campus at short notice Members Monthly Meeting

If I need to cancel the meeting at short notice because of bad weather or because of another problem then the following procedure will be used.

It is important to check your emails etc. before you set out, just in case of a problem. A buddy system would work well for those of you without internet access.

Short notice cancellation of the Members Meeting at Priory Campus → **Cancellation in the event of severe weather or other unplanned or unexpected events.**

The following procedure will apply:

- The Chairperson or Vice-chairperson will email members to inform of the cancellation.
- The Monthly Meeting Co-ordinator will cancel any visiting speakers & liaise with Priory Campus.
- The Webmaster will update the Home Page of the website.

→ **Please check your emails and the Bu3a Website Home Page.**

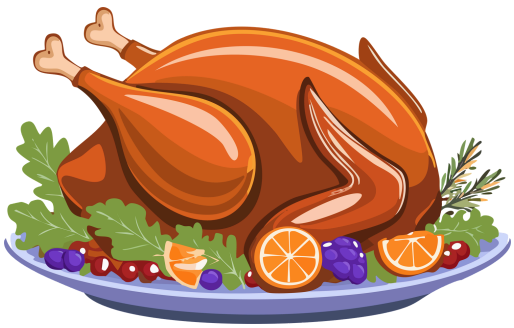
Hi everyone!

🎄 CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 10th December

Bookings are still being taken. We already have a pretty full house, but the room is lovely and spacious, so there's still room to join us.

👉 To book, please use the website or book at November monthly meeting, £25.00 per person







Award for the Outstanding Contribution to the Older Person in Penistone

Helen Dew ...

our membership secretary and Penistone Coordinator has successfully won an award for her Outstanding Contribution to the Older Person in Penistone at an awards ceremony at Wortley Hall. The award was given by the Penistone Alliance Volunteer Awards 2026, out of a competitive field.



Helen has been a key member of Barnsley & District u3a for many years and was instrumental in developing age - related Barnsley & District u3a groups in the Penistone area, where there was a dearth of suitable activities for older people. She was determined to bring the benefits of bu3a groups to the local area and was instrumental in establishing the first groups and bu3a has grown from there. Penistone members rate her highly as being supportive and enthusiastic, while advising them as needed, and gone the extra mile. She is an inspiration to us all and we are very proud of her.





Well done, Helen!

Travels with a Tiger – Riding the Western Front

2nd November MMM



Inspired by historian Anthony Seldon's book 'The Path of Peace' in which he recounts his solo walk along the length of the Western Front. Phil Drabble decided to do the same journey on his Triumph Tiger motorbike. Tracing this historic route, he crossed some of Europe's most evocative and beautiful scenery from the Swiss border, riding through Alsace-Lorraine, Champagne, the Somme and Flanders, finishing at the North Sea in Belgium.

Winter Storytelling . . .



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Anniversary Events

Everyone likes to be told a story. These seasonal stories will be told in a small cosy room. Some you may know, some you may not. Your imagination can become active as you hear the words and paint a picture in your mind. Perhaps we will all have different pictures. Does that matter? Not really… imagine a cold winter's night. The wind outside is howling and the first snowflakes of winter are beginning to swirl and dance in the freezing air.
All you need is to be snuggled up with candles, a cosy blanket, pillow and a mug of hot chocolate and that's it. You are now ready to enjoy a ghostly tale in the warm-hearted company of fellow Bu3a members. Come along and revel in some short festive and wintery stories in a wonderful safe space. Safe? Are we sure…..?
Step into a cosy and welcoming space at Monk Bretton Methodist Church and enjoy an afternoon of seasonal tales. Some stories may be familiar, while others may be completely new, allowing your imagination to bring each one to life. With a warm atmosphere and good company, these sessions promise a relaxing and engaging experience.

The three sessions will take place on the -
17th December, 21st January and 18th February at:
Monk Bretton Methodist Church, from 2.00pm to 3.30pm
To keep the atmosphere intimate and cosy, numbers will be limited to 15 places
A £1.50 blue box donation will be appreciated.

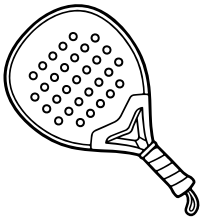
Seated Yoga



Friday 6th November at 10am to 11.30am approximately
There are six places available. This session will last approximately 1.5 hours. Maximum Numbers 16. Seated Yoga or Chair Yoga is a gentle way of maintaining and improving balance, strength and mobility. All exercises are done either in a sturdy chair or using the chair for support, so no need to get on the floor! Movements are slow and controlled and aim to improve strength and flexibility.

You will need to wear loose clothing. Footwear should be comfortable. If it is removed there should be socks worn to reduce slipping. Water is a necessary addition. A blanket may be used for relaxation at the end of the class. You will be asked to complete a health questionnaire before the session begins, to enable the lead to assess the limits of the group and fashion the session accordingly.

Hello Everyone . . .





We have an opportunity to develop a Padel Group and another badminton group. These would be held at Penistone Leisure Centre on Manchester Road, Penistone. Days and times are to be arranged, please let me know if you would be interested. I will be at the monthly meeting and the coffee morning at Ibis Hotel or contact the membership secretary.

New u3a Group – Line Dancing!

We're delighted to announce a brand-new Line Dancing Group for anyone who enjoys keeping active, having fun, and meeting new people.



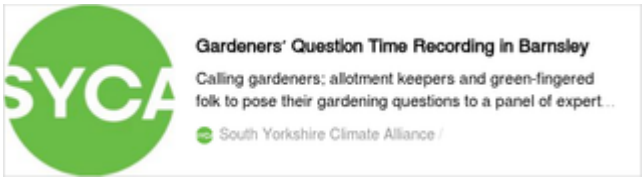
Venue: Darfield Community Centre
Illsley Road, Darfield S73 9JX
Start Date: 9 November
When: Mondays, 11.45am–1.30pm
(Please note: the group will not meet on the first Monday of each month)

Gardeners' Question Time Recording in Barnsley – South Yorkshire Climate Alliance

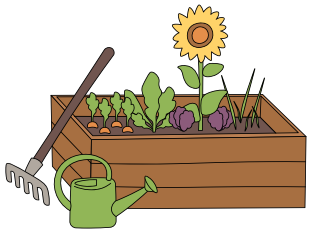
I do not know how many tickets are available. On **November 11th, from 5.00ppm- 8.00pm** at Emmanuel Church BBC Gardeners' Question Time will be recording 2 sessions between **6.00pm and 8.00pm.** Entrance by pre-purchased tickets only, costing £4.50 and including light refreshments.

Face to face tickets will be sold at Emmanuel Church on Huddersfield Road on **Sundays from 11-12 noon and on Tuesdays 10-12 noon from today.** There is also an Eventbrite link being set up that will be available this week. I will let you know the details when it is up and running. Question forms are on the reverse of the physical tickets and those who go on line can pick up a form as they arrive on the day.

Eventbrite link



Also we have been asked if we would like to lay a wreath at the service at War Memorial at the Town Hall on Sunday 8th November at 11am. If any member would like to lay the wreath on behalf of Bu3a, let me know. We can only have a maximum of 2 people there so we may have to draw lots. Afterwards there is tea / coffee in the town hall.







Dear Members . . .



A huge thank you to everyone who has used our online interest lists recently.
Your responses have been invaluable in helping us move forward with new groups and events.

Upcoming Events

Line Dancing is Official! 🤠💃 We've had a brilliant response to our line dancing sessions and are delighted to announce that we now have a regular group! In addition, we have two special event sessions planned:

Dates: 28th January 7pm - 9pm
& 11th February 2pm - 4pm

Location: Gilroyd Club, Gilroyd Lane / Saville Road, Dodworth, Barnsley, S75 3PX
Cost: £5 Booking is essential.



Seasonal Lunch & Hamper Raffle

Annual Seasonal Lunch: We are looking at a full house! If you haven't booked yet, the closing date is 25th November. Hamper Donations: The social committee is seeking donations of quality seasonal food and drinks for our raffle prizes. If you can help, please let us know via the dropdown box on our website. Where to drop off: Donations can be handed in at the Monthly Meeting on 2nd November or during our pop-in at the Ibis Hotel on Saturday, 21st November.

New Interest Lists

We are currently gauging interest for several exciting activities. If you'd be interested in attending, please submit the form on the website.

Annual Ceilidh (Spring 2027):

Our annual Ceilidh is also open for bookings. The fuller the room, the better the fun! Come along and enjoy good company, great music and plenty of dancing. Whether you are an experienced dancer or trying for the first time, you are guaranteed a warm welcome. Gather your friends, bring your dancing shoes and join us for a fantastic evening or fun and laughter!



Crazy Golf Competition (Spring 2027):

A competitive Saturday afternoon at the Houghton Road Community Center.



Winter Storytelling (Spring 2027):

This project has generated a great response and will now be a live experience! If you have a short story you would like to share, please let us know.

Please note: that by submitting the interest form you are not registering for the event; this is just to help us with planning



Thank you for your continued support, best regards,The Team





Annual Christmas Choir Concert



Tickets are now available for our much-loved Annual Christmas Choir Concert. Come along and enjoy a wonderful programme of festive music, seasonal favourites and Christmas cheer. You can pay for and collect in person at the November Monthly Meeting. Tickets are limited so early reservation is recommended.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Longleat, Bath
14th - 17th November,

Dining Out Curry Night at Bombay Rasoi
19th November
- bookings at October MMM

The Annual Event with
mince pies MMM Priory
7th December 1pm
and the Old Blowers entertaining us

Christmas choir concert,
8th December 1pm for 1.30pm
Wombwell Methodist Church Book at MMM

Christmas lunch
10th December at 12.30pm
Hotel Nineteen, Bluebelle Suite,
Elmhirst Lane, Dodworth Barnsley S75 4LS

Encaustic Art Workshop

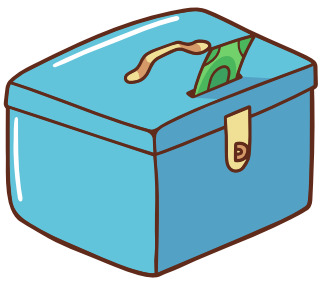
We're also offering a four-session Encaustic Art workshop. This fascinating art form uses heated wax and pigments to create beautiful and unique pieces of artwork. Whether you're an experienced artist or simply looking to try something different, this workshop promises to be both creative and enjoyable.
Places are limited. A waiting list will operate once the group reaches capacity.



Blue Box Contributions

Message from the Treasurer

Thank you all for your Blue Box contributions. Well maybe not every single contribution! We have had a few old sixpences recently along with an old pound and a few euros. Sorry we cannot bank it!



Please check your change!
Thank you

French Improvers/Intermediate Group

If you already have some knowledge of French and would like to improve your confidence in speaking, listening and conversation, this could be the perfect opportunity to continue developing your language skills in a friendly and supportive environment.

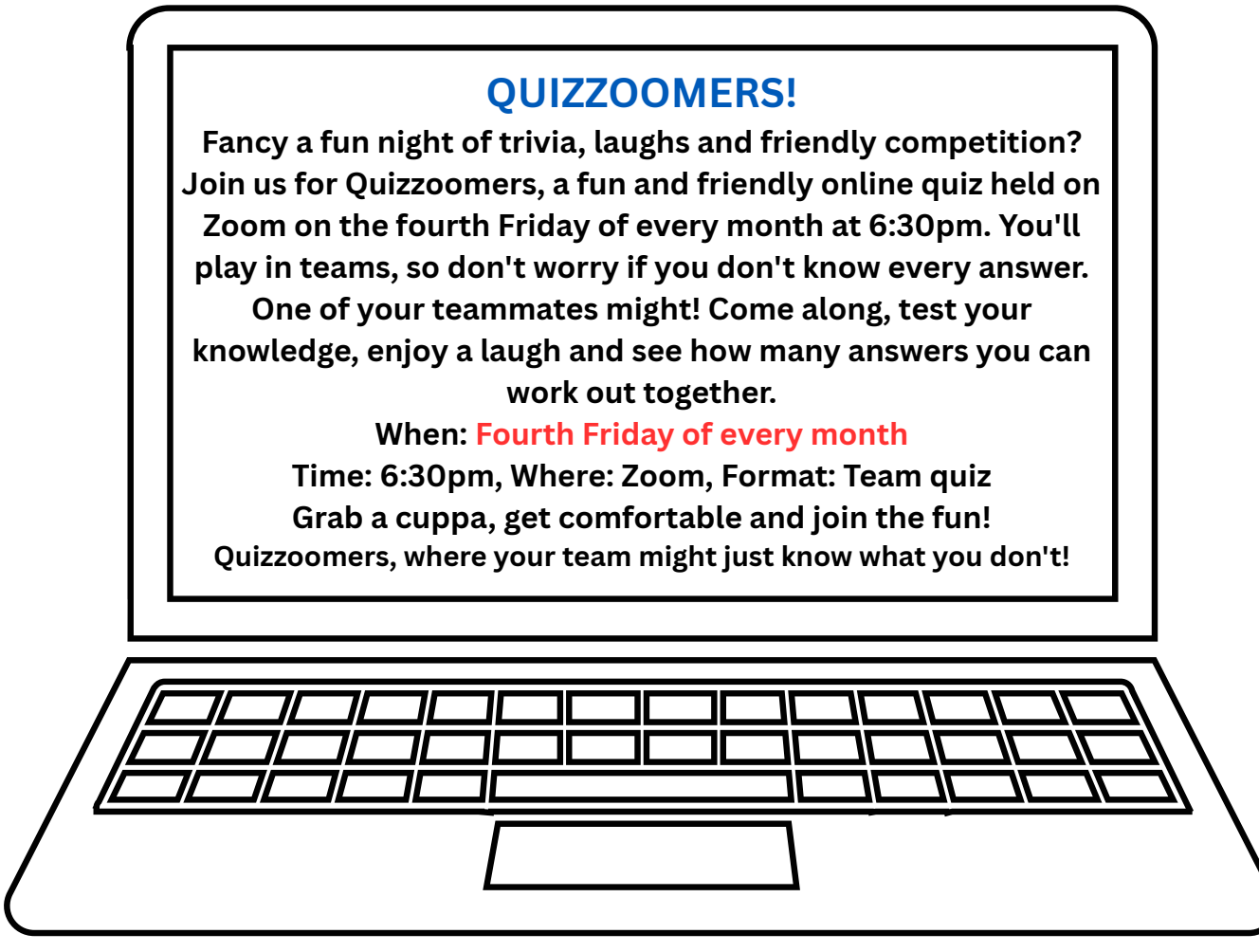


Fortnightly on Friday mornings, 10:30am to 12:00pm
Venue: Mapplewell and Staincross Village Hall



Please note that this group is not suitable for beginners. It is intended for those with an existing knowledge of French at improver or intermediate level. The aim is to make extensive use of the French language during sessions, helping members to build confidence through regular practice.

Sessions will focus on structured conversation, using themes for discussion and role play, with grammar incorporated naturally as part of the language being used. This will provide an enjoyable and supportive environment in which to develop and improve your French skills. Places are limited. A waiting list will operate once the group reaches capacity.



QUIZZOOMERS!

Fancy a fun night of trivia, laughs and friendly competition? Join us for Quizzoomers, a fun and friendly online quiz held on Zoom on the fourth Friday of every month at 6:30pm. You'll play in teams, so don't worry if you don't know every answer. One of your teammates might! Come along, test your knowledge, enjoy a laugh and see how many answers you can work out together.

When: Fourth Friday of every month

Time: 6:30pm, Where: Zoom, Format: Team quiz

Grab a cuppa, get comfortable and join the fun!

Quizzoomers, where your team might just know what you don't!

Hi everyone . . .

As you know, to keep our u3a fresh, vibrant and full of life, we always need to plan ahead! We've taken on board some great suggestions from members, ranging from volunteering a couple of hours to help in the Union Jack Garden to trying something energetic like Zumba, with plenty of exciting ideas in between. Here are some of the activities and events we're thinking about:

🕵️ Murder Mystery Event
📖 Winter Storytelling
🏏 Walking Cricket Competition
🎯 Petanque Competition
🎨 Watercolour Demonstration and Workshop
🎲 Traditional Games and Board Games
💃 A New Zumba Group
🧠 Super Quiz Night – with a Twist!
Could your group be the winning team?

That's plenty to get us started for now!

Please remember, you're not signing up for anything at this stage! We're simply looking to get ideas of which activities appeal to you and which ones we could take forward. Your feedback will help us plan the next steps, including suitable dates, times and venues. We would love to hear your thoughts, so please let us know which activities you'd be interested in. Let's work together to make our u3a an even more enjoyable, welcoming and lively community for everyone!

Many thanks,
The u3a Team

Drumming Workshop. . .



Drumming is a social group and is therapeutic for all. It is a low impact activity that improves upper body strength and is adaptable to your personal levels, enjoyable and can adapt to limited mobility. You can work to your own comfort level, when learning rhythmic manoeuvres, while improving motor skills, hand eye coordination and memory. It is also said to reduce stress and anxiety. Join us for a fun and musical afternoon of drumming on:

Saturday 6th March at Gilroyd Social Club S75 1PX
Time: 1.00 - 4.00pm approximately, cost £5
LIMITED TO 35 PLACES

This promises to be an enjoyable and therapeutic experience.

A Poem by Nigel Spencer

The last of the leaves . . .



The grey clouds gather, the crows fly.
The wind blows, as the first snow falls,
and the last of the leaves, say goodbye.

The leaves cling to the sprig, and the branch.
For the leaves it's like saying farewell, to a lifetime romance.
But for the old Oak, it was a fleeting summer dance.

The full moon floats, to a song that it hears,
the whistling wind, that the creatures fear.

Huddled in sheltered branch,
against the broad Oak's beam,
small birds gather,
against the wind's wild scream.



The branches bend
and the leaves float away,
carried by a force,
that will no longer delay.



The leaves are caressed, by the falling snow.
Silhouetted, against the moon's bright light,

The grey clouds gather, the crows fly.
The wind blows, as the first snow falls,
and the last of the leaves, say goodbye.

We have a new Expression of Interest Form

If this group interests you, simply complete the form on our website
If there is enough interest, we could establish the group.

AI Songwriting and Music Creation Group

Ever wanted to write your own songs but don't play an instrument? This group would introduce members to AI-assisted songwriting and music creation using Suno. We would explore:



writing lyrics and developing song ideas.
Creating music in a range of styles.
Using AI to generate vocals, melodies and arrangements.
Sharing our creations and learning together.



No musical experience is needed—just enthusiasm, creativity and a willingness to have a go! We would also discuss the responsible use of AI and copyright considerations when creating and sharing AI-generated music.

Thank you



Daft Joke Corner!!



What do fireworks eat? Sparkleroni pizza.

Why was the firework so popular? It was the life of the party.

What did one firework say to the other? "You light up my life!"

Why did the firework go to school? To become a little brighter.

What's a firework's favourite music? Pop!

Why was the firework bad at keeping secrets? It always let things explode.

