DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas

u3a Barnsley & District



learn, laugh, live

UP AND COMING EVENTS:

7TH DECEMBER MMM

8TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT

10TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

4TH FRIDAY EVERY MONTH QUIZZOOMERS

BOOKING FORMS ON THE WEBSITE

2027 MMM DATES

UP AND COMING EVENTS

December



Monthly Meeting.

Old Blowers, sherry and cake

7th December 2026, 1.00pm to 3.00pm, Priory Centre



Christmas Choir Concert

8th December 2026, 1.00pm

Wombwell Methodist Church, 60 Summer Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley S73 8BQ

Booking required.





Annual Christmas Lunch

10th December 2026, 12.30pm

Hotel Nineteen, Bluebell Suite, Barnsley Road, Wombwell, Barnsley S73 8DQ.





Silver Shimmy Workshop

14th December 2026, 10.45am to 11.45am

SPACES AVAILABLE

PLEASE CONTACT:

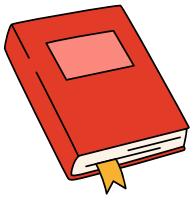
bu3achair@gmail.com FOR DETAILS





Winter Storytelling

17th December



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 initmate and cosy, numbers will be limited to fifteen places. A £1.50 blue box donation will be much appreciated.





Christmas Coffee Morning, Members Welcome

Saturday 19th December 2026

10.00am to 12 noon

Ibis Hotel, Whinby Road, Barnsley S75 3TX



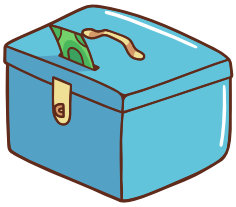
Come and join us for a festive Christmas get-together with fellow Barnsley & District u3a members! Enjoy a warm welcome, a cuppa, Christmas cheer and a lovely catch-up with friends. It's also a great chance to meet other members and make new friends. New members and anyone interested in joining are very welcome too! No booking needed, just drop in! Let's share some Christmas spirit, friendship and festive cheer. We look forward to seeing you! Vanda x

Members Monthly Meeting Dates for 2027

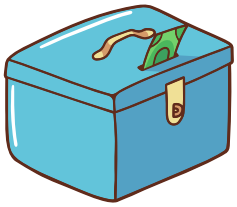
Monday afternoon. Priory Centre, Pontefract Road, Barnsley S71 5PN

Contact Business Secretary bu3a.bussec@gmail.com

4 January 2027 TBC
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



Quick Reminder . . .



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







Winter Storytelling

21st January

LINE DANCING WORKSHOPS



28TH JANUARY 7.00 – 9.00PM
AND 11TH FEBRUARY 2027 2.00 – 4.00 PM
LIMITED TO 30 PLACES



Line Dancing is good fun and exercise! It is a dance with a set sequence of steps repeated over the length of the music. The dance is performed in lines, and you do not need a partner! Dances are set to a recognised song or tune that enable familiarity.

Previously mainly American Country and Western bars were the venues for line dancing, but as its popularity has increased recently, it has spread across the world and is now offered in a variety of locations such as social clubs and ballrooms. You can dress up and wear your cowboy boots or just come along and join the fun. It will be held at Gilroyd Social Club which has a bar and soft drinks available. The stage will be used to demonstrate the dances, so all can see. Our special anniversary line dancing event is filling up fast! Come along and enjoy a fantastic afternoon or evening of fun, music and dancing. We still have a few spaces available,

so don't leave it - book it!

Wortley Circular Walk

28th January 2027

7.4 miles meet Wortley

Several booking forms are now available for our 30th Anniversary celebrations

February

Est. 1987

Huddersfield & District
Family History Society

A Story of Rebellion, Hardship and Transportation
A Talk by Ian Stevenson of -
Huddersfield & District Family History Society
At Barnsley u3a Priory Centre
on Monday 1st February 2027 – 1pm

Join Ian Stevenson of the Huddersfield & District Family History Society as he tells the remarkable story of the Dodworth Rebels. Ian will take us back over two hundred years to uncover the remarkable story of the four Dodworth Pickering brothers. The family lived against a backdrop of hard times, poverty, famine, Luddite riots and Corn Laws. They also became caught up in the turbulent 1820 Yorkshire Rebellion. Involved in a series of crimes, they were eventually charged, found guilty and deported to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania), never to return to Britain.

How did these brothers become involved in rebellion, and what happened to them after their forced journey to the other side of the world? Ian discovered this intriguing story while researching a client's family history on behalf of the Society and will bring their experiences to life in this compelling talk. The Huddersfield & District Family History Society is a registered charity run entirely by volunteers, with its own premises in Meltham and over 700 members worldwide.

The Society helps people discover their family history, uncover the stories of their homes through House History research and explore their Yorkshire roots through Ancestral Tourism including visiting places connected with their ancestors.

Winter Storytelling

18th February

Oxspring to Wortley Walk

25th February 2027

9 Miles meet w3w cyclones.rates.trials







DRUMMING



SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 2027

GILROYD SOCIAL CLUB 1.00 – 4.00PM

LIMITED TO 35 PLACES

Drumming in a social group is therapeutic for all. It is a low impact activity that improves upper body strength and is adaptable to your personal levels, enjoyable even for those with limited mobility.

You can be seated and work to your own comfort level while improving motor skills, hand – eye coordination and memory, when learning rhythmic manoeuvres, and learning how to play different drums. It is also said to reduce stress and anxiety. Ultimately playing together in a group to produce a rhythmic sound can only be good for confidence and team building. Why not give it a go?

Grindle and Padley Walk

25TH MARCH 2027

Details to be confirmed

Being a Committee Member

As you know, we are always looking for people to step up a notch and join the committee. This prompted me to ask the question - why did you do it, and what has being on the committee given you? The first response came from one of our newest members, Dave Burnett

My wife and I married 1977 in Darfield church, one day after signing up. I joined the armed forces at 21 and served all over the globe, returing to Darfield in 1989. I then started my own training company, which our son took over when we retired.

We joined Barnsley u3a and the jive group three years ago, never having danced before. I am now coordinator for the Thursday jive group.

Barnsley u3a has given my wife and I so many wonderful friends and experiences that I wanted to give something back so I joined the committee as group's development officer. I hope my skills and experience will be useful in supporting the development of new groups and ongoing support of existing ones

My favourite saying . . . you haven't failed until you stop trying!

SUPER-QUIZ NIGHT



You will be familiar with pub style quiz nights. This event is based on a pub quiz but with a difference. We are asking for groups to submit a team to play for the bu3a Challenge Cup (sounds grand but it will probably only be about 6 inches tall!). Teams will compete against each other in several different styles of quizzes to see who comes out on top.

Water Colour Painting Workshop



Hidden among the many talents in our u3a are members who rarely seek the spotlight. We are delighted that two experienced artists have agreed to share thier knowledge and skills in this special Watercolour Painting Workshop, designed specifically for beginners and those with little or no painting experience.

DATE: 12TH APRIL 2027, COST £5.00 PER PERSON (£1.50 BLUE BOX)
PLACES ARE LIMITED, MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE, WHERE MEMBERS CAN ALSO BOOK TO SECURE THEIR PLACE

Spring Walk





After the success of our Autumn walk, where we were introduced to the different trees and fungi in our local woodland, there will be another walk, perhaps in the same area, depending on the walk leader. This is planned for Springtime. Just going for a walk is beneficial but having some who can name the different trees and fungi growing so close to us, is a revelation. So much is going on in our woodlands and I, for one, just walk past it all.



Expressions of Interest

We are also still seeking expressions of interest for future groups and events, including:

Quiz Night

Live 2027 (Spring 2027) – a one-off fun competition where groups can enter teams and compete against other u3a groups.

Games

Imagine Games Galore taking on Canasta, or other groups going head-to-head in a friendly challenge. The event will be held at a central venue.
Group coordinators, could you rustle up a team?

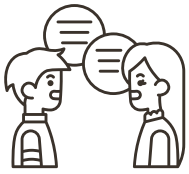
Ceilidh Event –

a one-off social event featuring lively music, simple group dances and plenty of laughter. No experience is necessary as the dances are usually called and explained.

Come along, join in and enjoy a fun, friendly evening with fellow members.

The expressions of interest list can be found on the website.





Have your say!



The committee is interested in your opinions and thoughts regarding volunteering and shaping the future of Barnsley & District u3a. We want members to feel supported and enabled to join the committee, become a coordinator of their own group, or maybe a deputy coordinator to assist and cover things such as sickness if needed.

The main aim is to understand the possible barriers to these opportunities and how we can support our members to recognise the positive aspects of taking on these roles.
It would be great if a group of members, preferably a mix of both genders, could attend a small group session to discuss these issues and what steps the committee and/or coordinators can do to promote uptake both now and in the future. This would really help all of us to understand more about volunteering issues and benefit our u3a.

Hopefully, a meeting can be arranged in the New Year. There will be tea/coffee/cake to keep us refreshed, and the meeting is not anticipated to take longer than 1.5 hours. If you are interested, and would like to have your say, please sign up on the expressions of interest form on the website preferably before 13th December.

Be brave and have your say

Barnsley for Bargains Documentary

Experience Barnsley Museums are making a documentary called Barnsley for Bargains about the history of shopping in the Barnsley borough. They are looking for individuals or a group of individuals group to talk to them about this and be filmed. Any photos will be in the documentary as snapshots. They are specifically looking for folk who worked at (or have strong memories of places like Woolworths, the Market, Butterfields, Marks & Spencers, Penistone Market, farm shops, Johnathan Britton's, Pollyanna, the Arcade, Joe Edwards, Littlewoods, Dunnes Store, Baileys, mad Friday, Christmas etc..... These are examples, as this is not limited to the town area, but the documentary is interested on the whole borough. Your memories will be very welcome The filming will take place in January at the Town Hall.

If you are interested contact stevenskelley@barnsley.gov.uk for more information
He is the Heritage Curator in charge of the project



FURTHER GROUPS:

Zumba

A fun and friendly way to keep active, improve fitness, and enjoy great company.

When: Fridays, 11:45 am-1:15 pm

Starts: 8 January 2027

Venue: Darfield Community Centre



AI Song Writing & Music Making

Discover how AI can help create songs, write lyrics, and inspire musical creativity.



No experience is needed, just curiosity and enthusiasm!

When: First and Third Tuesdays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Venue: Alder Close Community Centre

Both groups are now open to new members.

Members can find out more and apply through the website by submitting the group contact form, and the coordinator will get back to them.

Vanda

CHRISTMAS JOKES



What do you call a reindeer with bad manners?

Rude-olph!



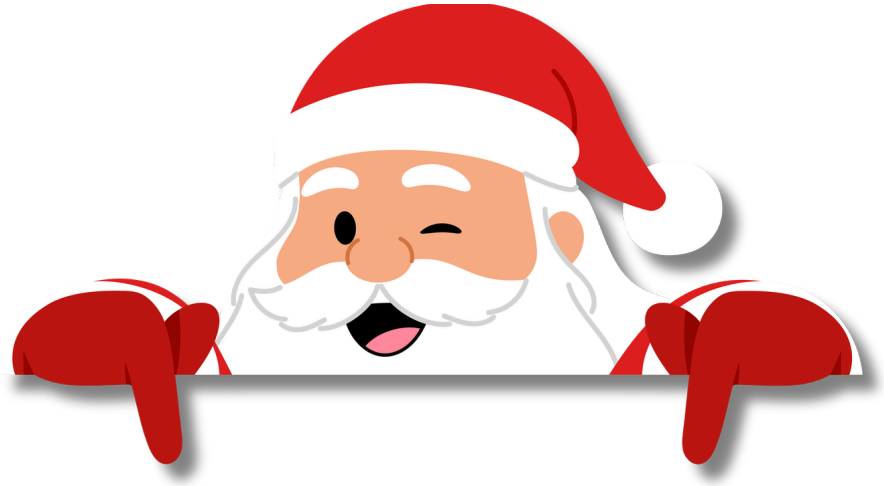
Why did Santa go to music school?

To improve his wrapping skills!



What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Frosted flakes!



Closure of Priory Campus at short notice - MMM

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 email 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

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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.

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Please check your emails and the Bu3a Website Home Page.

Editor Bev Humphreys