



Kirklees College by Chris, Digital Photography Group.

Committee 2024 - 2025

Chairman:	David Barnett.
Vice Chairman:	Rena Souten.
Membership:	Jenny Bagworth.
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Committee member:	Keith Wilberforce.
Committee member:	Andrea Goodall.
Committee member:	Judy Gibbons.
Committee member:	Michael Burn.
Committee member:	Geraint Johnes.
Co-opted Committee member:	Janet Watson.
Co-opted Committee member:	Debbie Rogerson.
Co-opted Committee member:	Janet Potter.
Speaker Finder:	Peter Robertshaw.

Email: enquiries@holmevalleyu3a.org.uk

Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/holme-valley/home>

Facebook : for members only: Holme Valley U3A

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/434128977300240>

Holme Valley U3A is a registered charity and part of the Third Age Trust.

New Entrance

Our next Friday meeting will take place on Friday 13 June at 10.00am. The entrance will be at the School Street end of the building. We hope this will allow for a smoother sign in and proceed to coffee.

Holme Valley u3a Member's handbook.

You should have received your personal copy in the post recently; please read it and keep it for reference.

Group News

Gardening

We started the year with a visit to Goldsborough Hall and a snowdrop tour. This was followed by a talk about bees in March. Next, we visited a local NGS garden then in May had a full day out at Newby Hall. Plans for the year include the hospice garden, RHS show at Wentworth Woodhouse, another local NGS garden. Bridgewater and a talk and slides by a member on her garden throughout the year. We finish with our Xmas meal at Totties.

Rosemary Norbury

Italian Conversation

We are a group of six and continue to meet from 11am to 12.30pm in Holmfirth Methodist Church, on the first and third Mondays of the month.

We are a group with mixed abilities but help each other out and make good use of online resources...verbs, dictionaries and translator apps. We feel we are making progress and do our best to chat and ask questions in Italian. Most importantly we have fun and do not take ourselves too seriously!

Our sessions usually start with some role playing to strengthen our 'tourist Italian'. We follow this with each of us talking about - in Italian- what we have been doing since we last met.

An hour and a half go by really quickly!

Liz Stead



Bowls Group

Group Leaders: Alan Watson with Steve Cook,

Admin: Janet Watson

It is with sadness that we say a big thank you and sorrowful goodbye to Jackie Green who has given strong leadership over many years for Bowls, Boules and Indoor Sport groups. We wish Jackie much happiness in her new home.

All the groups are continuing under new leadership – Geraint Johnes is taking over Boules, Alan Watson is now group leader for Bowls and Wendy Dale will oversee Indoor Sport which runs during the winter months.

We are an informal group with a wide range of experience, from beginners to seasoned players, so no previous involvement in bowling is needed. New Members are very welcome so why not pop along for a taster session.

We run on Thursday afternoons from 1.45 to 3.15 at Meltham Sports and Social Club, Mean Lane, Meltham HD9 5QS. Sessions are £2 per person per session. Sensible closed toe footwear is advised.

For more information contact Janet Watson 07974397088.

Art Group

We worked on seven slates, with various quotes and information about a bug and hedgehog houses, for St Lucius Churchyard Farnley Tyas. We have also been painting Feathers.

We did a joint venture doing the lady composition thanks to Terry ,one of our artists, who prepared the background to save us time on the

project. We had an excellent result.

We meet at Farnley Tyas Bowling Club fortnightly on a Tuesday morning.

We also have done the scenery for A Christmas Carol for the Church eighteen months ago.

Mostly we do our own thing, and work in Pastel, acrylics and watercolour.

Margaret Hicks



Easy Walking Group

What a beautiful Spring it has been and with weather like this where better to go walking than the Holme Valley and its surrounds. The Easy Walking Group have enjoyed a whole series of great walks with far reaching views, lovely Spring flowers and the best of company. Our walks start at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, usually 3-4 miles long over fairly gentle terrain, lasting about 2 hours and often ending with refreshments and a chance to enjoy the company. It has been lovely to welcome some new members to the group but there is still room for more so please get in touch if you would like to join us. janechesman@hotmail.com

Jane Chesman



Style

This new group will soon be holding our third meeting; we meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon at the Holmfirth Methodist Church. Our third meeting will be a short talk on the foot problems of older people followed by a talk about shoes and a chance to try wide fitting shoes supplied by Wagstaff's. Future meetings will include the History of Clothing, the Design of clothing, sustainable clothing. All are welcome. rena.souten@holmevalleyu3a.org.uk.

Rena Souten

JOURNEYS ACROSS THE SEAS

Your Travel Groups have certainly taken full advantage of the recent exceptional weather.

With one Group heading west over the Irish Sea and the other Group travelling east over the North Sea it has hopefully become a period of fond memories for many participating members. Perhaps surprisingly it was the Days Out trip to Northern Ireland which utilized air travel whilst the Trips Abroad trip to the Keukenhof Gardens in The Netherlands enjoyed a sea journey aboard a ferry, whose catering standards proved worthy of a cruise ship even if its cabins were somewhat smaller!

Another feature coincidentally identical on both trips proved to be the use of football coaches (of the wheeled variety). For the Keukenhof trip members were treated to use of the six-wheeled behemoth which is Hull City's first team coach and even if the two huge kitchen areas proved of little use at least our lady members seemed to enjoy the U-shaped lounge seating at the rear? In the case of the Irish trip our transport was that of the Northern Ireland Youth Team and which gave the coach an unmissable external green and white livery (apparently provocative to certain sections of the local community!).

The Keukenhof trip left from Holmfirth in mid-April and members enjoyed a smooth overnight sea crossing from Hull to Rotterdam before the journey across The Netherlands to Keukenhof, where they joined at least a hundred coaches disgorging their passengers in to the Gardens, being the bulb industry's showpiece of Spring flowers. Covering many acres over six hours proved only just adequate to see most of the fantastic displays, made even more memorable by the glorious weather.

Returning to England overnight on the same ferry (thus no change of cabins!) the Group then made full use of our early disembarkation time by travelling on to the lovely market town of Beverley, where a guided tour of the centre proved exceptionally interesting before a local hostelry gave us all a master class in serving 41 people a range of different menu choices over a two-course lunch.

The Northern Ireland trip in mid-May was of course the Days Out Group's special Tenth Anniversary Trip and totalled six days away, a timespan which still only allowed us to sample the highlights of this fascinating and beautiful country. Accompanied as an exceptional Tour Leader by Sarah Phillips from our overnight trip agents Great Days our members (again 41 in number!) enjoyed two nights based in Coleraine (for Londonderry) and then three nights just outside Belfast.

Those sampled highlights (all together comprising over fifteen different venues) ranged from the natural wonder, which is the Giants Causeway, through guided tours of both Stormont (the seat of government) and Hillsborough Castle (the seat of the Royals), the history of both the Titanic Museum and the Peace Wall, to a Guinness-fuelled dinner in a Belfast bar. Apart from one morning the sun shone throughout and everyone was impressed by both the amazing cleanliness of the whole country and the incredible friendliness of its people. And on the last night members were given time to wallow in the nostalgia of our ten years of Days Out tripping in the guise of a Pub Quiz!

The Days Out and Trips Abroad teams can now relax in the glow of two superb trips, even if their only forward challenge is merely one of variety rather than improvement.

Martin Shaw

Days Out and Trips Abroad group leader



Local History Group

Spring Newsletter on behalf of the Local History group.

Our February meeting is now regarded as our mini-AGM where members can express their opinions on how the group is run and how much we need to pay to maintain equilibrium.

Following a short debate it was decided to increase our monthly donation from £3 to £5.

Members were then asked for their ideas on speakers and visits away from our base in the church.

These suggestions have given me more of a chance to come up with the right speakers and one amazing visit.

In March David Hinchliffe spoke about Denby Witchcraft which started the year off well. No comments from our predominately female membership.

April, we had Susan Hutson from the Huddersfield and district family History society, giving quite a different talk on how to get into looking at our own family history and the benefits of their society.

In May we had John May talking about Huddersfield tramways describing how they extended to outlying areas over the years and when they came to Holmfirth.

In June we had our first day out for quite some time when 23 members visited Wortley Top Industrial Museum another suggestion coming from our February meeting.

We were expertly guided round the complex (totally run by a large band of volunteers) by one Gordon Parkinson a 91-year-old former physics lecturer. Who stole the hearts of every one of our 23 strong party.

I have received fantastic feedback about the choice of venue and what was on show to us, plus how amazing our guide was so articulate in his presentation to us and how his own enthusiasm for the museum rubbed off on all our members there.

Pictures show Gordon (in the blue Boiler suit) addressing our party in different areas of the venue.

Gerald Parr



Spanish

The if not quite advanced at least long-standing Spanish group meets face to face every other Wednesday and on line on the intervening Wednesday. We are beginning to look at AS level work and clearly anyone wishing to join would need a reasonable grasp of Spanish. We have had several relative newcomers in recent years who have fitted in well, and if anyone is unsure whether to give it a try please get in touch with the group leader.

Bernard Redfern

Craft Group (sometimes referred to as Messy Crafts!)

We meet at Holmfirth Tech Basement Art Room from 1.30-3.30pm on 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, alternating with the other Craft Group (previously Textiles). A number of members are members of both groups. We average about 12 members at each meeting which just covers the cost of the room hire. More members would be very welcome. The room is very well equipped and is ideal for the range of crafts we undertake.

Over recent months we have been very grateful that two u3a members who are not part of the group have come along as guest tutors to lead on Silk Painting and Wet Felted Flowers. Our sincere thanks to Penny Barker and Sue Clay.

Over the summer we will be having a Block Printing session to which guests are very welcome. Do get in touch if you would like to join us on a trial session and meet the group on Monday 14 August. Future sessions will include Painted and Fabric Christmas Baubles, mosaic and lino cuts

For more information contact Pat Whalley on patwhalley@outlook.com



Dates for your Diary 2025

These meetings will be held at 10.00am at Holmfirth Methodist Church.

Full details on our website: <https://holmevalley.u3asite.uk/events/>

13 June 2025	Christine Green Working for Auntie. Behind the scenes at the BBC.
14 July 2025	Steve Robson Old King Cole.
8 August 2025	Jeff Jacklin Life in the NHS. It only hurts when I laugh.
12 September 2025	Kevin Byron What inspires Art?
10 October 2025	Brian Topping Tales of a Customs Officer.
14 November 2025	Beverley Haynes Nepal 2.