

Group Coordinator's report for the year 2022-23

At the time of writing we have

45 groups

Largely because of changes in the way we organise ourselves (now using Facebook and now with a better Website), I am really aware of what groups "get up to"! – all good of course!

Most groups are thriving- both in terms of numbers attending and strength of their activities.

It is a little unfair to focus on any particular groups but here is some news of three groups practising widely differing specialisms just to give a flavour of the range of activities offered by u3a Leeds.

Please note that if I am in the same post next year, I will choose three different groups. The selections is random and does not imply any prejudice in favour of these groups.

Garden Group

The Garden Group has enjoyed many activities this year including visits to Bridge House Gardens at Elvington near York, a visit to Yorke House in the heart of Nidderdale and a visit to Pilmoor Cottages near Helperby. All the visits were fun but the Pilmoor Cottages trip was particularly successful because it included rides on a very miniature train which runs round the garden. Members of the group revelled in feeling like children again. As well as the visits, talks by experts in plant and flower related fields are provided in the colder and wetter months.

Walking Cricket

In April the Walking Cricket Group moved to its outside venue at Goals for the spring/summer months and to date have managed to play every week. We have had six new members join since then. The group remains committed to being fully inclusive. We have had some very good games, usually quite competitive and we keep reminding ourselves about the rules, "No running." In July we had a very enjoyable afternoon at Ben Rydding playing a friendly match against Ilkley U3A - a draw was declared. In August we were pleased to be part of the Hyde Park Unity Day where a team of us shared our skills in walking cricket and were open to the public to "give it a go" batting and bowling; the weather was kind to us and everyone had fun.

Intermediate French

The French group meets every Monday afternoon in Headingley during term-time. I have been told that amid the conversation (in French) there is a lot of laughter. The conversation typically starts with a roundup of everyone's week. Also time is spent reading a chapter or piece from French novel. Once a term the group bring "snacks" apparently the French term is amuses-bouches which amuses me. There is plenty more about this group available- please ask me for details. Now unfortunately this Group is full- I give it here as an example of a group that is fulfilling its purpose of providing life long learning with fun as a major component.

That concludes my report for the year 2022-23

Jo Turner u3a Leeds Groups Coordinator