



Leeds Combined Arts Newsletter – Autumn 2024

No, this was not a committee meeting! Rather, this photograph was taken during the LCA Gotts Park Walk on Sunday, 22nd September



Who We Are and What We Do

Mission Statement: Leeds Combined Arts (LCA) serves to: -

- Promote and celebrate the '*Arts and Literature*' in a diversity of forms, including: -
 - ❖ *Crafts*
 - ❖ *Drawing and painting*
 - ❖ *Drama*
 - ❖ *Music*
 - ❖ *Poetry and prose*
- Encourage a sense of belonging and community through '*eating out, walks and outdoor activities,*' so combatting loneliness and isolation.
- Highlight our local historical heritage through many of our activities, including walks and presentations
- Nurture, develop and promote individual (and group) talent
- Establish mutually creative relationships with other Leeds-based Community Groups

Vision Statement: LCA is seeking to form a vibrant, Leeds-based artistic and literary community, characterized by: -

- An outgoing attitude, seeking to engage with the local community
- Welcoming those from a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives
- Open communication between members and outside parties
- Respectful acknowledgement of each other's views and beliefs

Means: We intend to accomplish all of the above through: -

- Sound administrative and financial control
- Effective communication with other interested parties
- Firmly upholding a '*safe space*' where members (and attendees) are free from any form of harassment

Please Note: The LCA is a philosophically and politically neutral body. We are an '*umbrella organization*' wherein differing beliefs and opinions are respected. (However, it is not our role to propagate any one single viewpoint; this would include conspiracy theories).

LCA members are welcome to discuss philosophical and political matters as long as this is done in a mature, courteous and civilized manner.

LCA Book Group



The Beckett Room, Heart Centre, Headingley LS6 3HN.

The LCA book group meets weekly to read aloud a chosen book. We are not actors, just a group of people who enjoy reading aloud. We are currently reading a political thriller called '**The Crash**' by **Robert Peston**. Set during the 2008 economic crash, it is a whirlwind of political scheming and murder! Our next book will be '**The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra**' by **Vaseem Khan**. A more light-hearted detective novel set in Mumbai, involving an elephant. Previous books include novels by a variety of authors, such as, Philippa Gregory, Robert Harris and Raynor Winn.

We are a small, friendly group and members take it in turns to read aloud a chapter of the book. During the coffee break there is an opportunity to chat about the book. There are a couple of places available so please contact kimsara@live.co.uk if you would like to try a first session for free. **We meet at Heart Community Centre in Headingley every Monday 3pm until 5pm in the Beckett Room on the ground floor. Cost is £3 per week - cash only please.** There is limited car parking in the grounds, which includes disabled parking.

Update from Kim: please note we have had a couple of recent enquiries about the book group so we may very soon be unable to take on any new members. In these circumstances I would place any new applicants on a waiting list in case places become available in the future

Performance Events

Poetry, Music, Drama & Literature Events

All Performances begin at **7.15pm**

Events in 2024

Thursday, 17th October: Combined Art and Poetry Evening, with readings from, and artwork by the talented Hebden Bridge Creatives; Adele and Debra
juicywatercolours@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/JuicyWatercolours/about>

The theme will be *'Hedgerows: Highlighting the importance of the humble hedgerow to the environment & wildlife.'*

Thursday, 21st November: Back by popular demand, the erudite Peter Bull will be giving an informative account and intriguing performance of **Tudor Music.**

<https://www.peterbull.com/event-details/tudor-music>

Thursday, 19th December: A Yuletide Foodie, featuring the talented fiddler and street entertainer, Kate Gittens, performing as **'Le Chat Violet'**. **Open mic poetry and prose in the second half - please bring along a literary contribution!**

lechatvioletkg@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/@LeChatViolet>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093069702067>

Events in 2025

Thursday, 16th January: A Forgotten Influence? The Jewish Heritage in Leeds and West Yorkshire – a thought-provoking presentation by Nigel Grizzard.

Grizzardinfo@yorkshireheritagewalks.co.uk

<https://www.yorkshireheritagewalks.co.uk/>

Sunday 19th January: Sunday Afternoon **1.00pm**, Mid-winter meal and social at **Wetherspoons, 'The Golden Beam', in Headingley.** (This will be in place of a General Walk.)

Thursday, 20th February: Dangerous Women - The Rise Of The Female Circus Performer, by Steve Ward

<http://www.steve-ward.weebly.com/>

Thursday, 20th March: *'Conflicting Realities,'* Richard Smith (LCA Chairperson) presenting his new book, exploring the conflict between differing views of reality and their subsequent effect upon human Psychology and Society at large. (Further details to follow)

GENERAL WALKS & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Sunday, 20th October: A Sunday saunter around Middleton Park

A pleasant (and historically informative) walk with Edna and June through woods and open fields, beginning and ending at the popular café in the Visitor Centre. A fairly flat walk with some muddy sections, touching upon the Middleton Railway and also viewing a 'bell pit.' Watch out for further information soon!

Sunday, 17th November: North Ilkley Walk (Details to follow)

Sunday, 15th December A walk, either around Golden Acre or Meanwood Valley Farm (Details to be finalised)

Leeds Combined Arts provides monthly WALKS, designed to suit people who prefer a gentle steady walk of between two and six miles. These walks are at a moderate pace and are ideal for those who would like to become fitter and enjoy walking but would not be up to doing a longer walk at a faster pace.

During the walk we usually incorporate some Poetry, Storytelling or music. We sometimes include visits to a Stately Home or Art Gallery or other place of interest. Although these walks are of a shorter length, please consider your ability when attending and always come suitably equipped, i.e. waterproofs, walking boots and warm clothing. Packed lunch sometimes needed.

We want everyone to enjoy the walks LCA provides. However, sometimes unforeseen circumstances intervene (i.e. a train or bus strike) at short notice. **Should such an event take place please check your email (or What's App) for any re-arrangements.**

Thank you for your patience and cooperation – we will always try our best to provide a pleasant walking experience for you.

Also, we need members to 'step-in' throughout the year to organise walks. It is quite easy and fun to do. Jon and I can give plenty of guidance. LCA e-mail/phone contact is 0113-234-7688 or 0774-961-2270. Walks usually begin/end via bus/rail connection (train spotting is optional!). Occasionally, with no transport links we will organise car-sharing.

Look forward to experiencing the great outdoors!

Richard Bojanowski (RB), Walks Co-ordinator.

PARK WALKS

The idea for these short gentle strolls began during the pandemic when visiting Burley Park for my daily exercise. I started to research the history of Leeds parks and was amazed to discover we have over 60 community parks of all shapes and sizes to enjoy. Since the walks began (in July 2023) we have visited parks across Leeds, each with its own features to admire and history to tell. The Japanese garden at Horsforth Hall Park, the hidden 1691 sundial in Micklefield Park, the stunning views from the top of Bramley Park, the memorial to the Barnbow Ladies in Manston Park, the fishing lake at Nunroyd Park and the rolling landscape of Gott's Park are some of the highlights that spring to mind. **(A booklet with details of the first 6 walks is currently available, with the next issue due to come out in December.)**

The walks take place each month throughout the year on a Tuesday morning ending with a cafe stop, with additional Thursday afternoon walks with picnic stops during the summer months. Walks take about 30 to 40 minutes at a gentle pace with plenty of opportunity to enjoy the open air and chat to your companions. An email is sent out each month, giving details of the planned walking route, buses, car parking, toilets, refreshment stop and potted history.

The remaining walks for 2024 are:

12th November - Beckett's Park - meet at HEART CENTRE, Headingley 11am

3rd December (not 10th as originally listed) - Royal Park - meet at the Left Bank Centre 11 am

Planning for 2025 is well under way with the schedule for the first 4 months being as follows:

21st January Roundhay Park Upper Lake from Mansion House

25th February Lovell Park from Merrion Gardens

25th March Holt Park from Holt Park Centre

22nd April Middleton Park from main gates

Christine

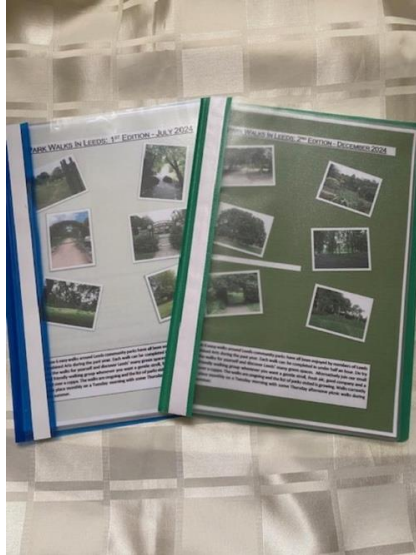


PLEASE ATTEND ALL OUTDOOR EVENTS WITH APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING AS BOTH GROUND AND WEATHER CONDITIONS CAN BE EXTREMELY VARIABLE.

FIRST EVER LCA PUBLICATION

We have a laminated series of our lovely Park Walks, a fresh edition being available in the July and December of each year.

Each Edition (containing six walks) costs £3.50.



WAYS TO PAY:

Internet Banking:

LCA sort code: 30 65 22

Account number: 34026668

Where it says 'reference' please put the letters 'PW' and your name.

If paying by cheque please make it payable to: Leeds Combined Arts and send (or hand post) to:

The Secretary (LCA),

The Heart Centre Office, Bennett Road, Headingley,

LEEDS, LS6 3HN

Upon receipt of payment, your personally named copy will be available to collect from the Heart Centre in Bennett Road, Headingley (Address above). **It will be in the LCA 'pigeonhole' (for letters and correspondence) in the Main Office. Please ask at the Reception desk so that a member of staff can get it for you.**

Should the above option not be possible please provide a home address. However, sending a copy will incur further packing and postage costs (£5.50 in total). **Contact June , in the first instance, via email at junecatsmith@hotmail.co.uk**

Be sure to order a copy to enjoy each and every walk! Happy adventuring!

WOW! (What's on Where?)



TAKING STEPS

A farce
by Alan Ayckbourn



Other Events

Other Events

Tuesday 29th October to Saturday 2nd November 2024 at 7.30 pm
Venue: Adel & Ireland Wood Community Centre, New Adel Lane, Leeds, LS16 6AZ

Tickets £10.00 & £8.00 concessions
For tickets Tel: 01274 594396 Email: tickets@starsleeds.org

This amateur production of "Taking Steps" is presented by a rangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

STARS is a registered charity: 515956 www.starsleeds.org

Committee News

The LCA Committee held a meeting on Sunday, 29th September, during which a wide range of topics was discussed. Votes were taken and it was unanimously agreed:

- To increase performance evening fees from **£3.50** to **£4.00** for non-members, (**£3.50** for members).
- To relinquish the Pulse Room, (giving one month's notice to the admin team at Heart) should largescale funding NOT be forthcoming by December 2024.
- To possibly relinquish the LCA (now out of date) floor banners (which are at present with a Company called 'Award Banners' in Holbeck).
- To renew theatre visits, sending out a preliminary letter to gauge initial interest. (*We have already received a positive response to this proposal*).
- To arrange an emergency Committee meeting in January 2025 should funding be running out.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee wish to convey their warmest thanks to all LCA members who, during the last few months, have kindly contributed ideas, suggested improvements and contributed testimonies to assist with our grant applications.

News from The Chair

Information Update from the Chairperson:

The following provides information concerning the progress the LCA has made since the AGM (held on Thursday, 18th April 2024).

1.1 Excellent progress has been made in networking and obtaining presenters for the Performance Evenings until February or possibly March 2025. (Attendance at The Ilkley Literary Festival in October may create more promising opportunities.) Some contacts (like Arts Together and Voluntary Action Leeds) have provided invaluable training on a range of topics, i.e. how best to contact new people and supporting those who may be vulnerable/ distressed.

1.2 Both General and Park Walks have held steady despite very poor weather conditions. The Book Group has also been a constant factor and continues to be very enjoyable and sociable. People have occasionally got in touch to make general enquiries. Relationships with The Heart Centre have been good and the staff are consistently very helpful.

1.3 Four attempts to obtain grants have been unavailing, despite LCA members kindly contributing ideas, suggesting improvements and contributing testimonies. There's a sense that little more can be done in this area. We are waiting to hear of one (large) Grant outcome; we should know by December 2024. (Please see **1.4** below.)

1.4 A fifth and final grant application was made earlier this month – great care being taken to address all of the reasons for not having received a grant the last time. It seems most probable that, due to pressure on funds, the grant holders themselves have been unable to provide grants to all applicants. The best course of action seems that of **not** requesting any further large grants at this present time.

1.5 JS has been looking into the availability of small grants to tide us over the next few months. She has just completed a small grant application with a company called Arnold Clark and is waiting to hear from them. It's hoped that this grant will help to cover our general running costs. It could possibly also cover costs for Afternoon Art Classes (for which a demand has quite spontaneously surfaced.)

Creative Corner

DEFLECTING THE BLAME

I wasn't aware
I wasn't informed
I wasn't told
I wasn't to blame
It wasn't me

I was never into computers
The data didn't register with me
I got lost in the paperwork
There was '*a failure in transmission*'

I can't remember
I can't recall
I can't bring to mind
I can't be held responsible

It wasn't a matter for me to deal with
I delegated it to my subordinates
They failed to implement due procedures
No-one warned me

None of it was my fault
'*The system*' was to blame
It had serious structural issues
And these resulted in '*generic malfunctions*'

I may have made a few mistakes
But I meant well
I was only following instructions
I was too trusting
I was unaware that key documents had been shredded
I can't recall what was said at those meetings

There were more pressing priorities
I had the reputation of my Organization to consider
We needed to maintain a positive public image
I had a statutory obligation to our shareholders

Any problem was subjected to rigorous *'causal analysis'*
Attempts were made to take a *'deep dive'*
I engaged in some *'blue sky thinking'*
And encouraged a *'cross-pollination'* of feedback

We needed to break down *'departmental silos''*
We had *'HR fundamentals'* to consider
My subordinates failed to *'touch base'*
There was too little thinking *'outside the box'*

The Board needed to *'sing from the same hymn sheet'*
To generate a *'plausible deniability'*
I *'actioned a positive spin'* to promote our stance
And deflect intrusive media attention

I decided it was *'mission critical'*
A *'push and pull'* strategy was implemented
This ensured *'positive organizational synergy'*
I established *'robust systems'*
And *'due processes'* were followed

I was let down by *'sub-standard'* internal communication
Which failed to *'maximise effectiveness'*
I tried hard to maintain a *'holistic approach'*
To bring about *'incremental change'*
Needed to *'increase leverage'* to pick *'low hanging fruit'*

I now convey my sincerest and deepest apologies
To all those affected by the *'negative outcomes'*
May I assure all interested parties
(And active *'stakeholders'*)
That lessons have been learnt

Now, can I please consult with my lawyer?
Oh! you are my lawyer!
Then why are you looking at me
With such disdain and disbelief?

Deflecting the Blame: Thursday 23rd May 2024. It came rapidly to mind when watching (televised) excuses being made by senior executives involved in The Post Office Scandal.

contact@leedscombinedarts.org.uk

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