

Conversation Club Leeds

Newsletter

Number 1 -- January 2022

Welcome to our first newsletter! Read about what has been happening at Conversation Club and what we are planning for the future.

Conversation Club Leeds started in 2016 to provide a place for asylum seekers from many parts of the world to meet, make friends and practise speaking English with native-speakers.

It quickly became a very popular place, with many people attending the meetings at Mill Hill Chapel every week.

Then Covid came, and our meetings had to stop for a while. Now we are starting to open up again.

Read on to find out what we are doing now...

Back in the summer of 2021, when restrictions relaxed a little, we started meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 'The Holbeck', a social club in Holbeck.

Then in the autumn, we started meeting again in Mill Hill Chapel. However, we had to stop these face-to-face meetings just before Christmas, because of the increasing number of virus cases in the city.



The outside stage at The Holbeck, also the home of Slung Low Theatre

Walk meetings

At the moment we are trying to keep everyone safe from coronavirus, so on Tuesdays and Thursdays we are doing short walks starting from The Holbeck and Mill Hill Chapel, so that people can still meet up with friends, have a stroll and a chat. We then go inside after the walk and enjoy a warm drink.

The walk meetings start at **1:30 pm**, outside **The Holbeck on Tuesdays**, and outside **Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, on Thursdays**.

We can give you a bus ticket to cover the cost of getting to the venues.

The British have a long tradition of 'going for a walk'. This means going outside and walking, but not to do anything or go anywhere in particular.

We often go with other people, or with a dog, but sometimes on our own.

We go when it's warm and sunny, in the pouring rain, or even in snow.

Nobody really knows why – except it's good for our health and makes us feel better!



Practise your English

We can help you to practise your English in real conversation. At our meetings you can speak with the English-speaking volunteers about many different things - interesting topics, what's happening in the news, or maybe practising real-life situations, like going to the doctor or just talking to your neighbour.



In your other English classes you will learn some grammar, but you also need to learn to speak English in everyday situations. Conversation Club is a great place to do that!

Tell us what kind of situations or topics you want to practise and we will try to help!

Mill Hill Chapel, City Square – where it all began

Covid safety

At the moment our meetings start with a walk outside for about an hour, then we move inside for a hot drink and a chat, keeping socially distanced.

We hope to be able to have normal indoor meetings soon, but to keep us all safe, **we are asking everyone to do a lateral flow test before they come to Conversation Club.**

How to do a lateral flow test (LFT)

1. Get your test kits

You can collect a pack of 7 test kits from a pharmacy. You will need to go online to get a code to take with you. This is the link to get the code:

<https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits>

Or you can phone 119 to get a code.

You can order tests online, they will be posted to you. This is the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

2. Doing your test

You should do a test before you go out to meet other people.

There are several different types of lateral flow tests. Some tests ask you to take a sample from the back of your throat and your nose, others from your nose only.

It is important to follow the instructions for the type of test you have.

This link will show you how to use the different tests, so look at your box of tests to see which it is.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>

3. Positive or negative?

If your test is positive, you don't need to do a PCR test, but **you must stay at home and not see anyone else for 6 days**.

After you have isolated for this time, if you have a negative lateral flow test on Day 5 and also on Day 6, you can go out. This is the rule now, but it will change in the future.

Things to do in Leeds

We expect that the covid-restrictions will soon end. Then it will be easier to get around and join in different activities.

What would you like to do?

Ride a bike, play football, sing in a choir, join a theatre workshop? Learn about health, do some cooking, visit a farm? Learn to draw? There are places in Leeds where you can do all these things, and more.

Just tell us what you would like to do and we will see what is possible. We don't promise, but we will try!

You can talk to us at the weekly meetings, or send us an email (ccleeds20@gmail.com) or a text.

As we move into spring and summer 2022, we are hoping to provide more sports and other activities for you to try. We need your ideas!



Quiz - How much do you know about the UK?

(Answers at the bottom of the page – but try the questions first!)

1. How many countries are there in the UK?

- a) 2
- b) 3
- c) 4

2. Who owns all the swans in England?

- a) The Prime Minister
- b) The Queen
- c) The naturalist David Attenborough

3. What do the letters 'BBC' stand for?

- a) British Bulldog Club
- b) British Broadcasting Corporation
- c) Best British Comedy

Contact us - Conversation Club Leeds

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Website: Coming soon!

Answers to the quiz

1 c) 4

2 b) The Queen

3 b) British Broadcasting Corporation