

Newsletter April 2024

COMMITTEE

June Keeler. Chair	07791434732	Mary Wood Treasurer	01969 623732
Caroline Gardner Speaker Secretary	01969368549	Ann Lundie Groups Coordinator	01969 624651
Sue Mellish Membership Secretary	01748850471	Sheila Simms Minutes Secretary	01969 622612

Chair's report

Welcome to April's newsletter.

By now you'll have decided whether to re-new your membership of Leyburn u3a. I really hope that you have and will continue to enjoy another year of activities and listening to interesting speakers. On this note, I'd like to thank our wonderful membership secretary Susie Mellish who will be spending her evenings and weekends processing approximately 260 applications. You will have also noticed that an extra document completes the process asking if you can help in any way and to share any hidden skills you might have. We really value the time spent completing this form as it will help us to sustain your u3a.

If you have read February's TAM magazine you'll have noticed the article on page 19 about the first ever National u3a festival in York being held in July. I hope you get a chance to go, it looks very exciting. I'm saving my TAM magazines for our exciting summer event too, our Open Day. Please bring yours along to the next Speaker meeting or drop them off at TOSH.

Finally, just a reminder that the AGM takes place on Friday May 17th at 10.30 am at TOSH and there will be cakes!

June

Editorial

As ever lots going on. Please keep sending information. This is your newsletter! Please send any contributions to annewood98@gmail.com

Speaker report

Wildlife Photography- Len Shepherd

Yet another well-attended meeting where extra chairs had to be unfolded! What a supportive community we are.

Len opened his presentation with a photo of his bicycle in the snow that he took 18 years ago. His reason? To share his observation that he has seen very little snow since! Observations recorded as photographs. His second slide was that of a Moon rainbow above Swaledale, which very few members of the audience had ever witnessed. Science recorded in a photo. A photo of striations in sand and stone formed an interesting background to bladderwrack seaweed on the beach. Art as a photo.

Capturing wildlife is a question of where to go and when. A redpoll and a siskin, for example, in a winter photo because you wouldn't see these in summer. And to photograph gannets successfully at Flamborough Head, you need a north-east wind for them to hang above the cliffs. Close-up shots were admired of an arctic tern with a single sand eel in its beak, a herring gull with a ... herring and a male kingfisher capturing a fish and a puffin with seven sand-eels.

Question! Is it a T.T.T? Too tatty to take? Only the photographer can decide that. Examples shared were a newly-emerged orange tip butterfly, a brimstone butterfly and two blue butterflies back to back. And where do butterflies go when it's raining, he asked us? in the long grass. Nearer to home, in Glebe Field Wensley between June and August, you may find an Adder's tongue fern so-named because the tall stalk that bears its spores is thought to resemble a snake's tongue. It's an indicator of ancient meadows. Len advised that if you find one, put a stick in the ground to record the location.

Another question... why do cowboys wear leather trousers?
Cacti flowers!

Len's photography was admired by a very appreciative audience.

Monthly Meeting

Life before Sat. Nav.

by Hilary Jones

Friday 19 April 2024

In Life before Sat. Nav. - the story of the humble milestone Hilary Jones explores how we find our way around; now and in the past.

She considers the development of the road network and why these stones appeared.

Hilary who is vice-chair of the Milestone Society will describe its work and why these often overlooked stones now need friends! Local examples from North Yorkshire will be featured with plenty of opportunity for discussion.

We meet on the third Friday of the month at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, Richmond Road, Leyburn DL8 5DL. Doors open at 10.00 for 10.30, everyone is welcome.

Annual membership is £12 or £20 for two people at the same address, For details contact Sue Mellish 01748 850471 susiemellish148@g.mail.com

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Discussion Group

Convenor Brian Dixon

How British Imperialism Shaped the World was the topic discussed on Friday the 8th of April.

In 1913 the British Empire had control of 23% of the world population, peaked in 1920 to 24% that equated to 412 million people and covered 24% of the land mass, but we were not the only country seeking power and influence. France, Portugal and the Netherlands were venturing out into the world staking their claim on the people and land which like the British did not legally own.

Elizabeth 1st granted a charter to the East Indian Company creating lucrative trading posts to India allowing the company sole rights in 1600.

Once the British gained access by fair or foul means to another country they put in place their values, trading conditions on that country's resources, e.g., sugar, minerals, tea, metals etc, plus of course establishing British administration systems and created trading companies, ensuring that Britain was financially the main benefactor, a minority of people in Britain consequently became very wealthy.

There is plausible discussion taking place that we should as a country make amends to the harm, we inflicted in creating the British Empire to the countries that were in our rule, accept that colonial massacres, famine, violence did take place. In the current world order as Great Britain slides down the greasy pole of power, which country will take our place and become **Great** again and at what cost.

Next Meeting on Friday 3rd May 2.0pm - 3.30pm

Topic "**Does the British judicial system need fundamental reform in the light of its failure in the Horizon Post office Scandal.**"

u3a Members always welcome to join us.

Report from The Garden Group

The next meeting of this group is next week April 9th when we visit Thorpe Perrow to see the spring flowers. We meet there at 11am. If you require a lift or are able to provide transport please let me know. Also please let me know if you intend to go so that we can all go around together. Dogs on leads are welcome and there is a good cafe.

Skeeby is having an open garden on April 12 and 13 in aid of the local Hospice. Thank you Sue Peckett for that info.

There is a Flower Power event at Newburgh Priory, Coxwold on Sunday April 14th. These Flower Power events at Newburgh are usually very good.

The May meeting is on May 7th is to the Himalayan Garden.



The meetings of this group are always open to all U3A member but please let Mary Sadler know if you intend to attend.

The Croquet Group

We are hoping to start the season on Thursday April 18th -weather permitting! We shall meet on the grass area opposite the Wensleydale Heifer West Witton at 10.30 and try to meet weekly when conditions are suitable! £2.00 per session- monthly up front, to cover the mowing of the grass.

New members always welcome, we do have some spare equipment.

Contact Mary Sadler



The walk and talk group had a lovely stroll along the lane at Redmire, walking past the church then to the field just before

Redmire falls. We just kept to the lanes because of the conditions, the weather was kind to us. In the picture a few of us walked a little further the rest met us at the village pub for some lovely refreshments.

We stroll the second Wednesday of the month, finish with refreshments, at various locations.

Hazel Derby

BIRD GROUP

After the continuous heavy rain yesterday I did wonder if our outing would be called off. We were lucky that although it was a very dull day it stayed dry for our visit to another new reserve for me: this time at Bolton-on-Swale. I think it is an old gravel pit, and had a good path running along one side, but no access to the far side. We were lucky that our group leader and a local volunteer got there early and checked the first hide as it had been ill used over the weekend and literally needed swilling out.

There were several bird feeders with a variety of contents to one side which attracted many different small birds, as did the reed beds between us and the lake. In the first half an hour alone over 20 different birds had been identified. Out on the water were golden eyes doing courtship displays, geese honking noisily, swans gliding gracefully and great crested grebes diving - to name but a few.

We spent quite a lot of time there before moving on to the second hide which wasn't enclosed but did have some benches. To the delight of everyone a pair of kingfishers flew swiftly across just in front of us and a little later flew back again. A welcome dash of colour on a grey day.

We were becoming aware of how cold it was so most of us decided to get back to our cars and drive about half a mile to the new carpark at Scorton Ponds. These are privately owned, rather than being reserves, and at the moment public access is allowed - as are dogs. So it is a popular area for birders and dog walkers alike.

Altogether 43 different birds were recorded including gadwall, teal, a little egret, a heron, tree sparrows, reed buntings, long tailed tits, marsh tits, oyster catchers, goosanders and a sparrow hawk. It proved a most rewarding way to spend a dull morning and more than lived up to our expectations.

Our visit in April will be to Fairburn Ings. No previous experience is needed to join our group as we all have to start somewhere spotting birds and plenty of help in identification is on hand. Binoculars are useful but some of the group bring even better equipment which they kindly invite us to use. We also car share so you don't have to find a reserve you haven't been to. Just contact Gaynor and she will try to arrange a lift

Leyburn & District u3a Laptop & Technology Group

The next meeting is on Monday 15th April. Meetings take place 2pm - 4pm at Leyburn Arts & Community Centre. A modest charge of £2 per person helps cover room hire. Coffee and Tea are available for a small donation of £1

Last month was a really busy meeting with 13 members present so it was really fortunate to have new Tech Group member Yvonne on board as a new helper for the group.

Of the many things on the list, we helped one member become more at ease with her first ever Smart Phone which had hitherto come close to being thrown out of the window!! I'm sure many of us can relate to that. Another wanted to make his email account easier to access on his laptop and also get his laptop to connect with his printer, whilst another member needed a bit of help using her phone and iPad. No two meetings are ever the same, but each one is a chance to learn something whilst at the same time enjoying each others company.

If you have a tech query concerning a mobile phone, laptop, printer or tablet/ipad or need a bit of help with downloading or deleting something, then just come along to the next session where you'll be amongst like minded people. No query is too trivial. You won't be made to feel silly - we aim for you to leave smiling having solved it. You might want a steer using Google Photos, creating folders to save certain ones. We can't help with everything, we're not experts but we will always try or point you in the right direction.

One final thing. If you are coming to a session, always remember to bring your device and any connecting lead or charger AND most importantly have available any password related to it or your query.

John Sutton: Email john.sutton2@gmx.com

Joan Danvers: Email danvers57@gmail.com

Christine Price: Email ewellprice@hotmail.co.uk

Litter Picking Group

the next U3a Litter Picking date is April 10th. We hope to tackle the remainder of Moor Road. Meet as usual at Melanie's house opposite the Parish Church at 2.0 pm. March 17th was a very useful session on Moor Road with 7 participants (all women).

We managed to collect 23+ bags and some of the many passing cyclists shouted encouragement. It shows what can be achieved with a bit of effort and also the great need for education about caring for our environment.

Visit to Metcalfe Farms

Sunday 14th April 11.00 am to 2.00pm

This visit has now been finalised with a more appropriate date. It will be about three hours long and most of that time you will be standing. If you have already signed up there is no need to contact me unless you wish to cancel your name. Those who want to go need to let me know as soon as possible so I can add you to the original list. The closing date will be 31st March. There is ample parking. Lifts to the farm can be arranged for those who do not have transport.

There is no charge but there will be opportunity to donate to the family charity which is The Alzheimer's Society. For further information ring Melanie 01969 623150