



Newsletter March 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 March's newsletter.

According to the Cambridge dictionary a volunteer is ' a person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it'. Leyburn is a town of volunteers who have a wide variety of skills. Often these are hidden and can surprise us and some are shared for us to enjoy. Within this community are u3a volunteers. Some have small roles and some have larger ones. Some like to stay in the shadows and some hold a more prominent role. I like to think that all our volunteers are appreciated. How would Leyburn u3a continue to thrive without YOU?

Since last May I've had the privilege to work with some fantastic volunteers on the committee. Sadly, two of them have to leave the committee as they will have served 6 years by this forthcoming May. What a commitment! These roles are of Treasurer and Interest Group Coordinator. In addition, the role of Speaker coordinator will also become available. I don't know what I'm going to do without them! Can you help? Remember, that any u3a member is very welcome to attend a Committee meeting as an observer. We can also provide opportunities for anyone who might be interested to shadow a key role member. We meet once every two months and our next committee meeting is on Friday April 19th 2024 at 9am before the Speaker meeting.

Any u3a member can also nominate someone to join the committee. So please get your thinking caps on or use your persuasive devices to think of someone in time for this May's AGM!

Exciting news! The u3a Open Day is gaining enthusiasm as you will see from the article further down the page.

June

Leyburn u3a Open Day is going ahead!

A well-attended meeting of convenors was held recently to discuss the possibility of holding a u3a Open Day in Leyburn. Two reasons for this were a) to raise awareness of u3a in the Leyburn district b) to recruit potential members as future committee members in order for Leyburn u3a to continue. The date set is Friday June 21st 2024 and will be held instead of a speaker meeting between 10am and 12pm at TOSH.

How can you help?

A lot of preparations are needed to publicise this event and we're going to need some help. We have acquired permission to set up a market stall in Leyburn centre on Friday morning on 14th June as part of the publicity campaign. Can you and a friend volunteer to do this?. On the stall itself we would like to see a range of previously published TAM magazines to give out to the public

as well as flyers advertising the Open Day. Can you keep your TAM magazines please and bring them to any future Speaker meetings and give them to a member of the committee?

What will the event look like?

In the TOSH building itself there will be a plan on display of interest group stalls at the entrance; a suggestion box at the exit; a laptop to show Leyburn u3a website and a powerpoint of your photos projected onto the large screen; a welcome party on the door to show how friendly we are!; a table

display for each interest group / shared group; handouts from interest groups; general table to display u3a events, speaker topics; u3a bunting; and some songs from u3a ukulele band.

Outside the TOSH building there will be; a long u3a banner on the railings; refreshments in the garden; and a game of croquet to participate in.

Can convenors send photos of interest groups to James Lundie for the website and powerpoint presentation please? If you have any ideas of your own to help the day go with a bang, please let a committee member know. I hope that you'll all share our enthusiasm for this exciting event!

Editorial

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

Monthly Meeting

Photographing Wildlife

The speaker on Friday 15 March 2024 is Len Shepherd who will give an illustrated presentation on Photographing Wildlife.

Everyone is welcome to attend, 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.

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.

February Speaker report

Gifts in Wills for Cancer Research - Alison England

The work of this charity is very wide. Prevention of cancer is one aspect of its work. Examples given were the HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine given in schools to help protect against cervical cancer, and the research which showed a link between tobacco and disease. The latter leading to a Public Health Act in 2007 banning smoking in public areas. CRUK (Cancer Research UK) Radnet is a network of centres of excellence. In Leeds, the focus is on Medula blastoma in children, and in Manchester, developing new treatments.

The charity's vision is that by 2034 three out of four people will survive cancer. As with most charities, this one requires funding and one method of fundraising is a Gift in Wills approach. The astounding sum of £238 million pounds was raised last year via this and amounts to a third of its income. Legacies like these are left for different reasons and a video shared with us told the story of a lady who took part in a clinical trial to alleviate the effects of her treatment and subsequently did just that.

The charity offers a Free Will service and a legal guidance service too as another fundraising approach. Items and gifts that are donated are later auctioned and an interested

audience engaged in a fun game of guessing the value of particular items given. Examples were; a stream in the countryside linked to licensed anglers fees (£150 p.a.) a padlock to a safety box in Harrods containing old bank notes (£40,000) ; a WW2 gun (£637), a USA Gold Double Eagle 1924 coin (£1,100), a collection of football programmes (£19,500), an Edward Lear painting (£80,000), and a range of classic sports cars (£438,000).

Discussion Group

Convener Brian Dixon.

Newspapers in the UK have been distributed for hundreds of years. Sales rose during 1800s and continued to rise until the arrival of television in the 1950s declining by the explosion of the internet in the 1990s. "Read all about it" is now 90% controlled by three publishing outlets, Reach plc, News UK and DMG media. The latest published statistics, highlight not only the loss of newsprint readership but a greater percentage of those currently circulating support the right wing.

Should we be concerned or embrace as the younger generation have done and have instant selection from many digital platforms that have simply transferred from paper print to digital. No surprise that all newspaper articles are now available online. The Daily Mail brand online is one of the world's most popular websites. Trusted media brands who are regulated by the IPSO expect by law that all their journalists abide by the Editors Code, and even if sometimes they get it wrong," lessons will be learnt" and printed online or in a newspaper.

Next meeting on Friday 8th April 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.

U3A GARDEN GROUP

Gardeners and garden designers of the past was the subject of our March meeting and involved member participation. We were invited to research a pre-21st century practitioner and give a short presentation on them.

We began in 18th century Yorkshire where John and William Aislabie landscaped Studley Royal and Hackfall Wood. They were followed by Humphry Repton who took on the mantle of Capability Brown to become England's foremost landscape designer.

The eminent Victorian Sir Joseph Paxton was responsible for the Crystal Palace, the gardens at Chatsworth, the Cavendish banana, and the Gardeners' Chronicle amongst many other developments. Shirley Hibberd was a prolific writer, he wrote for the amateur gardener, the fern enthusiast and promoted organic gardening.

In the 20th century the influential Vita Sackville West planted the iconic garden at Sissinghurst; Rosemary Verey was another influential designer in Britain and America with

clients such as Elton John and King Charles. We finished our meeting in Cumbria where Sylvia McCosh had developed the lovely garden at Dalemain.

I would like to thank the contributors for creating a very interesting afternoon.

Elaine Frances

The next meeting of the Garden Group is on April 9th(please note it is on the second Tuesday because of Easter) We shall meet at Thorpe Perrow at 11am. If you need transport please let Mary Sadler know. There is a good cafe there but you can take your own lunch, also dogs on leads are welcome

The Croquet Group will start up again on April 18. (if not too wet!) we play on the green area opposite the Wensleydale Heifer in West Witton from 10.30- weekly. weather permitting. We are a good group but would like to see a few more people playing. We have equipment and we don't take it too seriously!
Contact Mary Sadler 07516544744

BIRD GROUP

Our second outing of the year for the u3a bird group was a local one to Nosterfield nature reserve. This time we centred our visit around the working quarry area. Easy parking off the B6267 adjacent to the Tarmac Quarry visitor centre meant we were a stone's throw away from Lingham Water.



From the hide, we spotted a pair of beautiful Bull Finches on the catkin filled branches of nearby trees. Swans, Tufted ducks and Pochard and a gaggle of Greylag Geese were seen enjoying the winter sun along with Shelducks. Interestingly, the Shelduck nests underground in old rabbit burrows, in tree holes or in haystacks. During the 19th century, it was persecuted for this habit in certain areas as it competed with rabbits which were food for many people. Hiding amongst the reeds and undergrowth and standing very still, we were fortunate to spot some Snipe. Their mottled brown

feathers above with paler buff stripes on the back, and dark streaks on their chests were great camouflage but their distinctive long bills enabled us to just make them out in the scopes. We were treated to a lovely ariel display by a beautiful buzzard wheeling overhead in the blue skies. Its markings were clearly visible; this area must make for good hunting as we had spotted five buzzards on a previous visit back in July. Making our way, along the very muddy path we stopped along the hedge line to see if the renown Nosterfield Little owl was in the vicinity. Its owl box was clearly visible, but no sightings of its resident were seen today. With the working quarry in the background, we arrived at Flask Lake which has a large sandy gravel spit on which we spotted a large number of Black-headed gulls, in amongst who, two cormorants were drying their wings outstretched in the sun. Behind them were a good number of Oystercatchers. On the margins of the lake, were several Little Egrets strutting their bright yellow legs as they patrolled the area for food. Heading along the causeway, reflections from the sun made it tricky to keep track of Little and Great Grebes diving below the waterline. Binoculars and scopes came in useful when examining the colourful plumage of Teal and Tufted Ducks. Nearby a pair of swans were seen putting on a mating display-mirroring each other's move. All six swan species perform a variation of a courtship ritual in which the male and female face each other and bow their heads, forming a heart shape with both of their necks. Our group found this rather timely as our visit took place during Valentine's week! In total thirty-three bird species were spotted making it a worthwhile return visit to our local nature reserve.

Our next visit is to Fairburn Ings on 8 th April at 10:00 am.

Calling All u3a Wombles

Usual litter picking around the town March 13th 2pm

Spring Cleaning Moor Road - Top to bottom on both sides.

Can you spare an hour or two to clear Moor Road of its litter?

Join the litter picking group on Sunday 17 th March 10am-12noon.

Equipment provided but bring your own gloves. If we had ten people we could collect all the litter and impress those who use the road coming in and out of Leyburn. Last time it was done we filled 16 bags. Hopefully it will not be as bad this time.

Meet at the Market Store where our equipment is now stored. This small building with double doors is near the fire station. Your town needs you!! Let us know you can come.

Ring 01969 623150 or 01969 622071

Visit to Metcalfe Farms

Sunday 14 th April 11am-2.00pm

There are a few places available. We will meet at the farm at 10.55am to begin the tour at 11.00am. If you need a lift up to the farm ring Melanie on 01969 623150

Leyburn & District u3a Laptop & Technology Group

The next meeting is on Monday 18th March. Meetings take place 2pm - 4pm at Leyburn Arts & Community Centre. A modest charge of £2 per person helps cover room hire. Coffee and Tea available for a small donation of £1

At February's meeting help was given for a variety of tech issues which were frustrating members - what seems easy or simple for one person to do can be the complete opposite to another. The aim of this group is to assist all in learning how to do basic things and in some cases something slightly more advanced. It might be how to stop receiving unwanted 'Facebook Friend Requests' from people you don't even know, or solving the mystery of where an app has disappeared to that had always been on your phone screen. Whatever your query or problem might be, there is a solution and this group is the ideal place to discover what it is. So if you have a tech query concerning a mobile phone, laptop or tablet/ipad and need a bit of help just come along to the next session where you'll be amongst like minded people. Trust me, no query is too trivial. You won't be made to feel silly - we aim for you to leave smiling having solved it. It's helpful if you have email facility to drop a line to myself (John) or Joan with a brief explanation of what you need help with, but don't worry if not - after all you might need help actually getting set up with an email address, so just come along on Monday 18th March. You'll be made most welcome.

One final thing. If you are coming to a session, remember to bring your device (Laptop, Phone etc) and any connecting lead or charger AND most importantly have available any password related to the device or to your query.

Can you help?

If you are already a bit tech savvy and feel you'd like to help others to learn, we'd love to hear from you - the more helpers we have the more members we can assist at each session. Just email one of us to discuss further.

John Sutton: Email john.sutton2@gmx.com

Joan Danvers: Email danvers57@gmail.com

Christine Price: Email ewellprice@hotmail.co.uk