



Chair's Chat



In the past, Chair's Chat grew into our Newsletter and as Pauline is standing down as our Newsletter editor, it seems a good time for me (with valuable some help from others) to take on the editing job, at least for the time being.

Our Monthly meeting on 3rd April is an opportunity for us all to renew our membership of Selby & District u3a and it has changed for the better since last year. As well as our own interest groups we can all visit groups in local u3as in the CYGNet group (Central Yorkshire Network).

Since last July, we've had an agreement with Sherburn, Tadcaster, Garforth & Kippax and Leeds that our members can visit any groups that they run (and of course, they can visit ours). As an example, two Sherburn members visited our recent Dark Skies meeting and a Garforth member who's become a Dark Skies regular had family commitments. Our members have started visiting groups around the CYGNet u3as and I'm planning to go on one of the Garforth bikes rides soon (it says it's easy rides!).

You pay the same as the local members (any room hire, your cuppa etc.), that's all, so CYGNet comes as part of our membership.

Take a look at the websites for each of those u3as and if there's something you'd like to explore, contact John Richardson who will liaise with the other u3a and get it organised for you.

So, when it comes time to renew your membership, it opens up well over 100 Interest Groups to you. That's the Central Yorkshire Networking Group – CYGNet.

Enjoy,

Jo

Our Next Monthly Meeting



'The Great American Songbook', Roger Browne will tell us of the fascinating lives of Gershwin, Kern, Porter, Rodgers, Berlin, Carmichael, Fats Waller and beyond and their wonderful music.

Image courtesy of Hebden Bridge Web.

Future Monthly Meetings

1st May – Tales of the B1222. A journey through the features and history of this 20 mile long road.

5th June – Jane McKeown returns to recount tales of the ups and downs of being an Army wife.

3rd July - *Stewart* Skilbeck will tell us of his career as an auctioneer of rare and valuable cars with Sothebys and Bonhams auctioneers.

For the full programme please see the Events page on our website Selby & District u3a.

Also happening this month

Here are a few highlights of forthcoming events. For further information on any event please contact the Group Leader via the Group's page on our website.

Please remember that if your event is at Selby Bowling Club, and you're not a Club member, there is a £1.00 contribution per person to the Club.

With the exception of Drop In For A Cuppa and the monthly general meeting, if you'd like attend a visit or event, please make sure that you join the Group first so that you're kept up to date with relevant information. You can contact the Group Leader via the Group's page on our website [here](#)

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| Wednesday 3 rd April | Monthly General Meeting: Doors open at 10.00 with the meeting starting at 10.30. |
| Wednesday 10 th April | Drop In For A Cuppa coffee morning 10.00-12.00 Barco Lounge. Members & Non-members welcome. |
| Friday 12 th April | Garden Visit Group visit Wentworth Garden Centre. |
| Tuesday 16 th April | Military History Group: Discussion on the Gallipoli campaign of WW1. |
| Thursday 18 th April | Knife & Fork Group: Lunch at 12.00 at Selby College Restaurant. |
| Wednesday 24 th April | Drop In For A Cuppa coffee morning 10.00-12.00 Barco Lounge. Members & Non-members welcome. |
| Friday 26 th April | Share A Skill Workshop: Recycle a mirror with Anne Selwyn. Selby Bowling Club starting at 9.30. Contact Anne for more information here or via our website. |
| Friday 26 th April | Knife & Fork Group: Dinner at 6.00pm at Sapori Restaurant. |
| Sunday 28 th April | Steam & Steel Group: Visit to Derwent Valey an Yorkshire Wolds Railways. |
| Friday 12 th July | Gaden Visits Group: Visit to RHS Bridgewater by coach. Please let Ros have the £5.00 pp coach fare asap and ensure that you book your ticket for Bridgewater entry yourself. |

Drop In For A Cuppa

Our Drop In for A Cuppa coffee morning is now at Barco Lounge, Market Cross. The Lounge is larger than our previous venue and has ample (free) parking close by plus, of course, it's close to the shops; always useful.

We still meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month between 10.00 - 12.00 Everyone is welcome, members and non-members, so come along and bring a friend or two.

Share A Skill Workshop

Our April workshop is on Friday 26th April starting at 9.30 at Selby Bowling Club recycling/ upcycling mirrors with Anne Selwyn.

When booking please let Anne know if you need a mirror or will be bringing your own. You will also need a strong frame to hold your completed mirror. Contact Anne for cost and further details via the blue bird icon on the Workshops page of our website Selby & District u3a. If you are not a Selby Bowling Club member there is also a £1.00 contribution to the Club.



Do you have a skill you could share with other members? If so, please let Anne Selwyn know [here](#)

Our New Committee

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| Jo Sharpe | Chair, acting Groups Coordinator, acting Newsletter Editor |
| Paul Twiddy | Secretary |
| Pam Overson | Membership Secretary |
| Helen Billington | Treasurer, IT Support, Facebook Admin |
| Anne Selwyn | Workshops |
| John Richardson | CYGNet liaison |
| Margaret Cromack | Meeting Refreshments |

We still have vacancies for co-opted Committee members who would serve until the next AGM. If you are interested, or would like to observe the Committee in action, please contact Paul Twiddy either at a monthly general meeting or by email secretary.selbyanddistrictu3a@gmail.com

It's Membership renewal time!!

Our membership year starts on 1st April (not a joke!). We've kept our membership subscription at £18.00, plus magazine subscription if ordered, for the third year running. This year we've also introduced Associate Membership so that anyone who's a full member of another u3a can join us at a reduced cost.

You can now pay by card, cash or cheque at our monthly general meeting or, ideally, by bank transfer. We can also take payment at Drop In For A Cuppa but only by cash or a cheque.

If you're on holiday or can't renew your membership straight away don't worry, you have until the end of May to renew – although, of course, it would help our accounts if you can do it sooner.

Please let Pam Overson, our Membership secretary, know if your address, phone number etc changes during the year.

If you're not going to renew your membership, please also let Pam know so that she can ensure that we don't pester you with unwanted messages. It would also be helpful if you would let her know why you're not renewing – it will help the Committee know where/ what we need to improve.

A membership renewal form is attached to the end of this newsletter.

News from the Groups

Coffee Ride to the Knife & Fork visit to the Village Tearoom at Cawood

After one Dark Skies meeting, Ian Oakes and I got chatting and found out that we both ride bikes! We talked about getting out for a gentle ride and then Jan announced the Knife and Fork Group Coffee Morning at the Village Tearoom in Cawood and that became the last piece in the jigsaw.

We set off from Brayton, up over the 'Col de Barff Lane', down through Thorpe Willoughby, over the crossing on Dam Lane and through the quiet lanes to Cawood. It was a lovely gentle ride, chatting as we went and seeing so much that goes unnoticed from a car. The Village Tearooms is a great spot for a break in a bike ride; lovely coffee, a good menu if you want to eat and you can take your bike right into the seating area, so security is not an issue. That was



a good thing as it turned out that we had both lugged locks with us and **both forgotten to bring the keys - Doh!**

On the return, we turned towards Sherburn and came down through Bishop Wood and although some light rain started, it was still great to be out there, chatting and enjoying our ride.

And to finish our morning off, as we came back past the Barff, we heard the distinctive sounds of woodpecker busy at work. We would never have heard that going past in a car.

It was just great to be out on the bike in good company, thanks Ian.

Do you fancy a bike ride some time at a nice easy pace - with a stop of a cuppa of course?

Jo Sharpe

Military History Group

Richard Wood gave an excellent talk about the capture of the Pegasus Bridge in Normandy in the early hours of D Day, 6th June 1944.

This river crossing was essential to the planned journey of the British troops eastwards after the invasion on the beaches in the early morning. The bridge was taken by a small number of troops who were landed by Horsa gliders, very close to the bridge. One other glider landed a short distance from the intended location and a second one crash landed a distance away with all aboard killed. The complete surprise to the Germans and the local French made the actual capture go exactly to plan. The bridge was secured quickly as reinforcements arrived from the beaches to strengthen their defence of the area.

Richard has visited a number of times and his knowledge of the area, the activities during and after the invasion up to the present day made fascinating listening to the members of the Military History interest group.

John Richardson

Walking Group

Thirteen gathered at the Snaith Car Park by the steel bridge on a cloudy but warm morning for the March walk. How good to be out again after the winter's weather offerings. Member Brenda Durham who goes on our Longer Walks joined us for the first time and potential new member Sue Moore was also present on a "taster" visit.

We crossed the railway into and through the Station Car Park then onto a rather muddy path towards the Aire banking. We headed west past the old bridge supports in the river, then under the steel bridge for a longish stretch towards Gowdall. We looked at the river defences for Gowdall which was completely submerged and devastated in the 2000 floods but the defence gates just saved the village in the 2015 floods, by only a few inches. (These things apparently only happen

By the members for the members

every hundred years, the experts say!).

After passing through the village our way continued with just a little drizzle over field paths and tracks in good condition to return to Snaith with most members taking refreshment at Bon Appetit in our usual finishing cafe when in this area. The walk was 4.9 miles to the cafe and 5.2 back to the car park.

John Richardson

Steam & Steel Group



On Sunday 3 March seven members of the group visited the Ellenroad Steam Museum at Milnrow, Rochdale. The museum is situated in the engine house of a cotton spinning mill. It features three static steam engines: the Whitelees beam engine of 1841, 'Irene' a mill engine of 1860, and 'Victoria and Alexandra', the 1892 mill engine which powered the cotton mill. This massive 3,000hp machine is of the twin

tandem compound type. On arrival our first surprise was that entry was free, instead of the £7.50 per person we had expected. The second, less pleasant, surprise was that none of the engines would be working due to a lack of steam. The Lancashire boiler which normally supplies the steam had been failed by the boiler inspector. The museum is very impressive, the engine house being very much in original condition, together with its 220 feet chimney. One of the Ellenroad Society members gave us a guided tour of the museum and we had a very detailed explanation of the workings of 'Victoria and Alexandra'. It was disappointing that none of the engines were working but nevertheless worth the trip just to see this magnificent relic of a bygone age

Patrick Bennett

New Groups?

Cycling - Jo has already suggested in her Coffee Ride report that we might start a cycling (electric or not) group. Are you interested? If so, please let Jo know.

Clay Pigeon shooting - A member has suggested starting a Target and Clay Pigeon Shooting Group. If you're interested in this sport, either as an expert or would simply like to opportunity to be involved, please let John Richardson know. There are a good number of Clay Pigeon Shooting venues within a reasonable distance from Selby and if two or three other members indicate an interest then we would investigate further.

John can be contacted on rich.johnh@hotmail.com or 0780 329 6603.

We're always open to new Groups – the more the merrier - if there is interest. If you have an idea for a Group, please let Jo Sharpe know.

Groups Equipment Fund

In the February Newsletter Helen Billington announced our new fund of £1,000, £250 per quarter, available for interest groups to bid into to fund activities or equipment.

The first round of funds have now been agreed, and in March the Committee agreed to pay for the expenses of an external speaker for Military History's June meeting; and display easels requested by the Art Group but which will also be available for other Groups use.

The deadline for the next bid is Tuesday 13th June,

Please submit your bid in writing to Paul Twiddy secretary.selbyanddistrictu3a@gmail.com.

CYGNet

The Science and Technology Group at Sherburn and Villages u3a has arranged a visit to Jodrell Bank. They have some spare places available and would like to offer them to us.

The date of the visit is Wednesday 17th April 2024.

The cost is £36.00, which includes return coach travel and entrance to Jodrell Bank for Seniors 65+ or £37.50 for anyone under 65.

They will be leaving from Sherburn in Elmet at 8.00 am and commencing the return journey at 4.00 pm.

If you're interested in going please contact Alex Svenson by email at alexu3a@alexsvenson.uk

Other Events Happening (not all u3a)

3rd Friday monthly 10.30am St Francis Globe Cinema, St Francis Church Thorpe Willoughby.

Contact Jan Tetley for programme and price.

Friday 12th April Yorkshire & Humberside Forum 10.30- 3.00 at St Georges Conference Centre Leeds. All trustees and volunteers welcome. Find out more [here](#).

Saturday 20th April One of our members, Patrick Bennett, is doing a book signing of his book 'Railways Around Selby' at the Book Circle bookshop, 21 Finkle Street.

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st April Selby Residents Festival. Food & Drink, Activities and offers. Find out more [here](#).

18th-20th July 2024: u3a Festival '24 to be held at the University of York. There will be a wide variety of talks, activities and musical events. We have members participating! Find more information [here](#).

Are you a carer or do you know one, if so, read on?

Carers Resource

This is an organisation for people who are carers or a being cared for. Many people within the age profile of our own u3a are either carers or being cared for. Carers' Resource is a Yorkshire based body with local outlets designed to assist Carers and those in care with their own difficulties and to assist them to develop caring skills for those who need to be looked after.

They have a local group in Selby which meets at Selby Bowling Club on Monday mornings from 11:00hrs until 13:00hrs. Amy Morton is the leader this group who will welcome you if you have a need for assistance, company or information to assist you with your caring activities.

Amy can be contacted at 07940 982167 or amorton@carersresource.org

A number of Selby & District u3a members already visit this Monday Morning Group so if you feel this is for you, do come along. You will be among friends.

Carers Resource can be contacted on 0808 501 5939 or at carersresource.org

John Richardson

Do you use Facebook?

Do you know that we've a private Facebook members group? 60 of our members already do, so why not join them and add to the conversation. Find our Group here [Selby & District u3a Members](#).

We also have a public page. You can follow us here [Selby & District u3a](#).

Thank You & Goodbye....

As always, thank you very much to all who have contributed to this newsletter.

As she mentioned in Chair's Chat, Jo Sharpe is taking over editing the Newsletter (unless someone would like to volunteer – it only takes a day or so to compile) so please send all your contributions to her going forward.

I will be continuing as webmaster for the time being, so please also keep me in the loop with events, new meetings etc so that I can keep our website up to date.

Pauline Witton



Selby & District u3a Interest Groups Calendar

For further information on any of these Interest Groups, or Selby & District u3a generally, please contact John Richardson on 07803 296603 or visit our website Selby & District u3a.

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| Drop In for A Cuppa 2nd & 4th Wednesday 10.00-12.00 Barco Lounge, Market Cross, Selby |
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| Monthly General Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month 10.00-12.00 Thorpe Willoughby Village Hall |
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| Anytime | Allotments | Peter Robinson | Westbourne Road |
| Varied times | Knife and Fork | Jan Tetley | Various Locations |
| Every Monday 10 -12 | Crafts | Sue Davison | Selby Bowling Club |
| Mondays 10 - 12 (Not 4 th Monday) | Writing | Imelda Dickinson | Various locations. TBA |
| Every Monday 1.30 - 3.30 | Selby Strummers | Carol Hewan | Selby Bowling Club |
| Every Monday 2 - 4 | Art | David Dixon Eddie Roberts | Thorpe Willoughby Village Hall |
| 4 th Monday 10 - 12 | Writing Workshops | Imelda Dickinson | St Wilfred's Court |
| Every Tuesday 10 - 12 | Knit and Natter | Annella Law Anne Williamson | Selby Bowling Club |
| Every Tuesday 2 – 4 | Board Games | Kay McSherry | 4 Southview, Osgodby |
| 2 nd Tuesday 2 - 4 | Steam and Steel | Eddie Roberts Patrick Bennett | Selby Bowling Club |
| 3 rd Tuesday 11:00 -13:00 | Military History | Mike Cowling | Selby Bowling Club |
| 3 rd Tuesday 2 – 4 | Photography | Mike Cowling Celia Barnes | Selby Bowling Club |
| Every Wednesday 2 – 3 | Aerobics/ Exercise | Kay McSherry | Osgodby Methodist Church Hall |
| Every Thursday 9:30-11:30 | Chess | Alan Preene Dinah Bruines | Selby Bowling Club |
| Every Thursday 11:30 - 13:00 | Snooker for All | Alan Preene | Selby Bowling Club |
| 1 st Thursday 10 – 12 | Thursday Crafts | Helen Billington Jules Carter | Selby Bowling Club Main Lounge |
| 1 st Thursday 2 – 4 | Dark Skies | Joanne Sharpe | Selby Bowling Club |
| 2 nd Thursday | Walking | John Richardson | Various Locations |
| 2 nd Thursday 2pm | Backgammon | Maureen Sherry | Selby Bowling Club |
| 3 rd Thursday 10:30-12.:0 | Family History | Margaret Cromack | Selby Bowling Club |
| 4 th Thursday | Wellbeing Walks | Helen Billington | Various locations |
| 4 th Thursday | Longer Walks | John Duffy | Various Locations |
| 4 th Thursday 2pm | Local History | Michael Hewan | Selby Bowling Club |
| 1 st Friday 9:30 - 11:30 | Floral Art | Rita Braithwaite | Selby Bowling Club |
| 2 nd Friday | Garden Visits | Ros Low | Various Locations |
| 3 rd Friday 9.30 - 11.30 | Textile Artists | Rita Braithwaite | Selby Bowling Club |
| 4 th Friday 15:00 | Flyleaf Books | Imelda Dickinson | Selby Library |

Membership renewal Form 2024-25

| Personal Details | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Title: _____ | Full Name: _____ |
| Address _____ | Membership No: _____ |
| Tel No: _____ | Postcode: _____ |
| Email: _____ | Mobile: _____ |
| Emergency Contact: * _____ | Tel No _____ |
| * Please confirm that you have this person's permission to use their details <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Accessibility | |
| Please contact the Membership Secretary if you have any accessibility concerns | |
| Membership Fee | |
| Selby & District u3a membership year is 1 April to 31 March. The renewal subscription 2024-2025 is: | |
| Without Third Age Matters Magazine | £18.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| With Third Age Matters Magazine | £21.80 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Membership fee, which is non-refundable, includes £4.00 paid to the Third Age Trust. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By renewing my membership of Selby & District u3a I consent to my data being used in accordance with Selby & District u3a's Data Protection and Privacy Policies, both of which are available on our website https://u3asites.org.uk/selby or from the Committee Secretary secretary@selbyu3a.org I agree to abide by the Selby & District u3a Members Code of Conduct which is available on our website or on request as above; I agree to advise the committee of any changes in my personal details; I give Selby & District u3a permission to reproduce any media images obtained at Selby & District u3a events for the purposes of promoting u3a activities. <i>(Please delete this if you do not consent)</i> | |
| I apply to renew my membership of Selby & District u3a. | |
| Signature of Applicant: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Payment Options | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By posting your form with details of BACS payment or a cheque to Pam Overson, Membership Secretary Selby & District u3a, 4 Willow Court, Selby, YO8 8RN; By bringing your form to a meeting and paying by cash, cheque or card BACS DETAILS: Ac Name: Selby U3A. Ac No: 25124930. Sort Code: 05-07-62 using your name as transaction reference. <i>Cheques made out to Selby u3a</i> | |
| Gift Aid Declaration | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to Gift Aid my membership fee of £_____ and any donations I make in the future and have made in the past 4 years to Selby and District u3a. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. | |