

Newsletter June 2025

COMMITTEE

June Keeler Chair	Trevor Pitt Treasurer
Speaker Secretary Mary Sadler	Melanie Geldeart Groups Coordinator
Sue Mellish Membership Secretary	Sheila Simms Minutes Secretary

Chair report

Welcome to June's (the month) newsletter. The good news is that Leyburn and District u3a have a bigger committee than last year!

Thank you to all those of you who attended the AGM in May and your nominations for the following roles:

Chairperson - June Keeler

Secretary - no nominations. .

Treasurer - Trevor Pitts

Membership Secretary - Susie Mellish will continue for a few more weeks until the replacement can start

Group Co-ordinator - no nominations at the meeting but Melanie Geldeart has since offered to fulfil the role

Speaker Finder - Mary Sadler

Publicity - Elaine Frances

Co-opted members - Richard Ferrier and Sue Peckitt

Newsletter Editor, Anne Wood

Website Manager - James Lundie

Minutes Secretary - Sheila Simms

A.O.B. - none

Date of next A.G.M 15th May 2026.

The next committee meeting will be on Friday August 15th following the speaker meeting and members are welcome to observe, but are not allowed to vote.

Looking ahead... it's National u3a week from 20th September to 28th September.

And finally, I've been asked to share this; there is an inspiring exhibition of textile art by Jacqui Parkinson from 3rd July to 4th August at Ripon cathedral. It's only visiting a few cathedrals and this is the only chance to see it in North Yorkshire. Admission free.

Enjoy summer

June

THE CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP.

On 2 May we discussed the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine and whether we could foresee the outcomes. Our conclusions were broadly pessimistic in view of the intransigence on all sides and the ambitions of Russia and Israel to colonise more territory. We then briefly discussed the significance of the Papal election.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 6 June , 2pm at LACC , when the subject will be "In the light of electoral trends in France, Germany, and especially the USA, plus a swing to the right in UK local election results, is there a danger of us and others moving towards fascism?".

Any U3A member who would like to attend a meeting to see if it is for them will be very welcome. Our meetings are usually the first Friday afternoon each month at LACC at 2pm for an hour and a half.

Leyburn & District u3a Laptop & Technology Group (Tech Group)

There was no meeting held in April as it fell on Easter Monday and also the venue would be closed. Therefore no report was produced for the May newsletter. Attendance at the meeting in May was down to just two although two other members would have liked to have been there but had other appointments etc. Unfortunately even with four people it would not cover the very reasonable room hire charge so it is looking ever likely this group may fold. We will see how things go in June. Hopefully it won't have to but if it does fold it's worth being aware that drop-in tech sessions currently take place at Leyburn Library each week on a Tuesday afternoon and at Leyburn Arts & Community Centre weekly on alternate Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00 and alternate Wednesdays 14.00 - 16.00.

Passwords - don't we just love 'em!

Of the two members who attended, we assisted one in setting up their laptop following a factory reset. Some difficulties were encountered in entering the correct passwords - I think we all encounter problems in this area given the increasing number of websites and organisations we connect with online - sometimes going online is the only way to communicate with some. It's not recommended to save passwords to a document saved on your device or even to create a written list - but I appreciate the latter can be helpful if kept somewhere 'safe' Of course if you have to change a password you do need to remember to amend your list!

Using a third party password manager which securely stores your passwords is an option, as is using Google Password Manager.

Rubbish removal and adding ICE info to your phone (ICE - In Case of Emergency)

Our other group member needed help with two things. One was in tidying up their laptop - deleting unwanted rubbish' that for some reason appeared impossible to clear. The second thing was being shown how to add emergency contacts and any personal/medical info to the 'Emergency Feature' of their mobile phone. We'd recommend everyone does this. If anything untoward happens to you and a first aider, the emergency services or simply a member of the public who is trying to help needs to contact your family etc, if you have saved emergency info to your mobile phone, this can be viewed even if the phone is locked.

Emergency Information can be one or more contact numbers medical info such as blood group, allergies or anything that might prove vital in an emergency - but just make sure you don't add any info such as passwords or your personal address.

Here to help you

The u3a Tech' Group aims to provide basic help and assistance in a safe, friendly and welcoming environment. The ethos of u3a is all about mutual learning and we look to give advice and information that helps the member to solve their own tech problem wherever possible, so that if a similar issue occurs again they know what to do and may even be able to

help someone else who has the same problem. Nothing beats that satisfying feeling of having solved a problem yourself - with the help of Google occasionally.

Next Meeting...please note important info

We currently meet the third Monday of each month with the next one scheduled for Monday June 16th. As mentioned above, if numbers remain very low then we'll have no choice but to fold. Look out for an update in the July Newsletter.

Meetings presently take place 2pm - 3.30pm at Leyburn Arts & Community Centre. £2 per member helps cover room hire. Coffee and Tea available for a small charge of just £1. Non u3a Members can attend up to two sessions (£2 per session) before deciding whether to take up u3a membership so feel free to bring a friend.

Feel free to email either myself (John), Christine or Sue if you'd like to attend or to be added to the meeting email list.

And finally!

If you are coming to a session, please bring your device and any connecting lead or charger AND most importantly have available any password related to it or to your query. We look forward to welcoming you.

Reminder for Litter picking. June 11th 2.00pm. Meet opposite the Parish Church Please let me know if you are coming and bring your own gloves. Bags, pickers and Hi viz provided.

Rose Connor,

Ukulele group.

V E day celebrations saw us busy. We played in Richmond at the Town Hall for their celebration, then in Leyburn at TOSH for their celebrations. We also continue to play for People with dementia and their carers.



If you would like to try the ukulele, we can lend you a uke to have ago! It's a fun instrument, you can't play a uke without smiling!

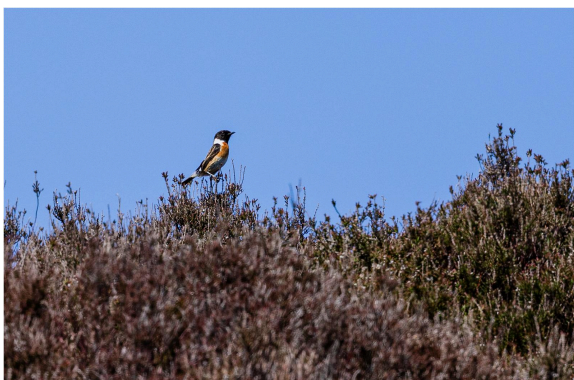
Here is the report from the Garden Group for June's newsletter

Our May meeting was at the gardens of Raby Castle. In commenting on the visit, I can't improve on the reaction of one of our members, Rose Connor.

"The weather could not have been kinder to us. We went round the garden with one of the assistant gardeners on the 12.00 o'clock tour which was very interesting, explaining some of the intricacies for these huge new builds and how they have to secure and tend the massive imported trees. We had a late lunch before heading home at 3.00pm."

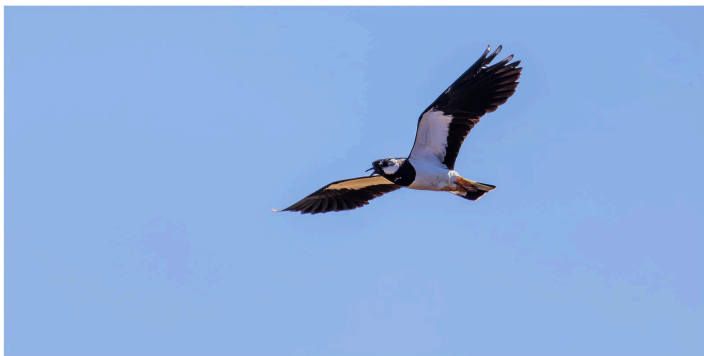
For our next meeting, we will be joining Snape Gardening Club on their coach trip to Breezy Knees Nursery, which was recently featured in the BBC television series Monty Don's British Gardens. We are being picked up by the coach at the Market Square at 9am on June 21st. Some of us are also joining Snape Gardening Club on their coach trip to the RHS show at Wentworth Woodhouse in July.

U3A Bird Group Redmire



This month a small band of U3A birders headed up to Redmire Moor to view the local birdlife on our doorstep. Although a tad windy, we headed up the public footpath away from the Army's shooting ranges. It was noted that the grass to the side of the gravel path had been

kept short to encourage the nesting of Lapwing. The noisy, tumbling display flights of this green and white plover are a welcome, if increasingly uncommon, sign of Spring. Its distinctive square-ish shaped wings make it easy to spot and we were treated to some protective parents trying to fend off potential predators including Black-headed Gulls alongside some new moor residents, a trio of Red Kites. Further down the path, we were able to just make out some successful hatched chicks belonging to a beautiful female Grouse. Five in number, they were well camouflaged in the rough straw-coloured grass tussocks. During this visit, we were able to see some Whinchat flitting amongst the heather- as a very amateur birder it was great to have experienced eyes to help pick out the distinguishing features. Another closely related species, the Stone Chat was quite numerous and whilst on coffee break, we were able to spot its characteristic behaviour of sitting on the skyline and look down on the vegetation below. A beautiful male with its beautiful apricot chest and distinctive black and white head was spotted sitting high above us. Fifteen different bird species were identified, slightly less, than in previous visits but the quality of the encounters emphasised how lucky we are to live in the Dales.



Images. C Fieldgate

Our next visit will be to RSPB St Aidan's Reserve on Monday July 14th. New members warmly welcomed.