

Newsletter July 25

COMMITTEE

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

Chair's report

Welcome to July's newsletter.

I would like to start this publication with an important message from our treasurer.

'With the closure of the Yorkshire Building Society in Leyburn at the end of August, the Treasurer and Committee are looking to change where we bank. Current options include Barclays Charity and Impact business a/c, Santander Treasurers a/c and Lloyds Community a/c. These are all online free current accounts with paying in cash and cheques at the Coop Post Office, paying in online using BACS, three signature authorisation for payments, among the features. If you have any thoughts on this, please contact the Treasurer via email at treasurerleyburnu3a@gmail.com

Banks are reluctant to deal with charity accounts so we hope that we can find one soon.

Our recent speaker Steve Erskine from the Green Howards museum has sent me some further information when researching family history. It is as follows; The address at the Ministry of Defence/National Archives for anyone wishing to apply for a WW2 Service Record:

Army Personnel Centre Disclosures 1
Mail point 520
Kentigern House
65 Brown Street
Glasgow
G2 8EX

Contact Telephone Number: (The helpdesk is contactable by telephone between 1000hrs to 1200hrs and 1400hrs to 1600hrs Mon-Thu and 1000hrs to 1200hrs Fri). There will be long waiting time for the copy of a record to arrive so, the sooner an application is made the better, see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/requests-for-personal-data-and-service-records>
In order to identify a specific record, the MoD/NA will need the soldier's full name and his/her service number.

News from Marrick Priory.

This summer we are hosting two cream teas on Wednesday 6th and Wednesday 20th August at Marrick Priory at 2pm and we would love you and your group to join us.

The cost will be £13.95 per person and include scones with jam and cream, assorted homemade cakes and tray bakes, tea and coffee.

Booking is essential so if you would like to join us, please can you let me know by email or phone
- thanks

We are also hosting our Summer Lunch on Wednesday 13th August at 12.30pm. The lunch will cost £19.95 per person and consist of Assorted meats, quiches, salads, frittata, new potatoes followed by a choice of our fantastic desserts/puddings and tea and coffee. If you are able to join us for the lunch, please let me know so we can book you in! Booking is essential.

All proceeds for all the events will go towards our Bursary Fund.

Finally, I hope you can all attend the forthcoming speaker meeting on Friday 18th July when the medieval troubadours will help us to celebrate our 10th anniversary of Leyburn and District u3a. The meeting will start with the cutting of the cake ceremony so if you are intending to come could you arrive between 10 and 10.15 am and be seated with your hot drink please. If you have any memorabilia from the early days of this u3a please bring it with you. All attendees will receive a slice of cake to take home. I look forward to seeing you then.

Leyburn&District u3a Press Release

10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

You are invited to celebrate 10 year's of Leyburn's university of the third age with music from the Middle Ages, plus coffee and a birthday cake.

Enjoy a whistle-stop tour with Trouvere through the music of medieval Europe, accompanied by a magnificent display of instruments and illustrated by key pieces of music.

Trouvere is medieval musicians Paul Leigh and Gill Page who have been playing music together for nearly 20 years. Their particular love is the music of the high middle ages - a time of crusades and the art of courtly love. They are also directors of the successful *Medieval Music in the Dales Festival* held annually at Bolton Castle.

Join us on Friday 18 July, 10.00 for 10.30 and make this a special get-together.

Speaker report

The Pitfalls of research in a military museum - Steve Erskine

'He was short and missing a finger' was our introduction to this month's well-attended speaker meeting by an enthusiastic researcher from the Green Howards museum, Richmond.

The museum welcomes many visitors some of whom bring in requests of family history, artefacts and interesting descriptions of their ancestors.

So how does a researcher start when faced with an interesting request to find a missing military relative? Official documents such as the Enlistment register records height, weight, chest measurements, eye colour can support this work as well as Trench maps from the area where they had served. A particular skeleton found in-situ was accompanied by buttons, badges, a razor and a T-5 badge proved that he was a 5th Territorial soldier. An interesting fact is that strontium found in teeth can identify where one has been raised within a 20 mile radius! Sadly there are 77,000 servicemen missing during World War 1 and have different reasons for not being found. Did you know that British servicemen and women wear 2 identity tags?

In Richmond, Richmondshire in the Friary Gardens there is a headstone with the name of L.A. Broadley inscribed on it. He was the leader of Operation Jericho bombing runs to rescue some of the French resistance Steve's presentation was peppered with lots of anecdotes relating to items brought into the museum and many successful stories attached

U3A gardens June

On Saturday 21st June, in collaboration with Snape Gardening Club, we travelled by coach to Breezy Knees nursery and gardens near York. With over twenty acres of gardens, a café and a nursery to visit, we had a very full and enjoyable day out.

Our next meeting will be to Littlethorpe Manor Gardens, which is opening for charity under the National Gardens Scheme on the afternoon of Sunday 6th July

Walk and talk.

Our last walk was meeting at Grinton then strolled along the river, afterwards had lunch at the cycle cafe.

CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP.

Seven members attended the July meeting when we discussed "The inter-relationship of religion, politics and society". This proved to be a meaty subject with many aspects of the inter-relationships discussed including the contrast between the relative secularism of UK politics compared with the situation in many other countries of the world.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 1 Aug at 2.00pm when the topic will be "How do we pay for the society we want".

The group meets at the same time on the first Friday of most months and U3A members are encouraged to to come along and see if it is for them. Contact the convenor,

Bird Group

Our June visit was to Bempton Cliffs and it was a perfect bird watching day; sunny spells and no wind. Bempton is an amazing place with thousands upon thousands of birds precariously perched on the cliff faces and there were just as many floating close by on the sea and soaring in the sky. Guillemots, Razorbills and Gannets there were aplenty and perched amongst them were the scarcer Fulmars.

Fulmars have tube-shaped nostrils through which they excrete excess salt.

They also spit a foul-smelling oily mixture on to intruders. In the 1900's this was once considered valuable for its medicinal properties and the Fulmars were exploited for it.

The Puffins were scarce only six were sighted but that was enough to bring a smile to the face and make the visit worthwhile.

Down at the bottom of the cliffs a couple of Cormorants had got outspread wings drying them in the sunshine.

Somebody spotted something underwater nearby and the RSPB volunteer explained that it was the remains of ship that was wrecked in a storm in the early 1900's. The lifeboat couldn't get close enough to the ship. A Bosun's Chair was used from the top of the cliff to rescue all 29 members of the crew. Unfortunately the 2 ship's cats couldn't be saved and were drowned and it's said that if you are on top of the cliff on a stormy night you can hear the cats wailing.

You never know what you might see or hear on a Bird Group visit so why not come and join us , no prior knowledge is necessary and everyone is very friendly.

Our next visit is on August 11th to South Gare.



Photos Gaynor James and Colin Fieldgate

The Croquet Group

> We meet every Thursday at 10.30 on the green area opposite the Wensleydale Heifer West Witton. If raining we cancel and all messages to go through Mary. Sometimes it rains in West Witton but not Leyburn! Newcomers welcome and we do have some spare equipment. £2.00 per session up front as we pay the Parish Council something towards the weekly mowing.

> If you would like to join us please contact Mary Sadler

HAPPY 10 TH BIRTHDAY LEYBURN AND DISTRICT u3a

Interest Groups in Leyburn and District u3a July 2025

Groups Coordinator- Melanie Geldeart

I thought it would be useful to remind ourselves of the groups which now meet plus advertise potential new groups. Also it may suggest to you other interest groups you would like to join or start in the coming year. Let me know if you have any ideas or wish to start a second group on a different day when you are free. Thank you. Further information about our established groups are on our web site.

1. Ancient Greece - Throughout history Ancient Greece has been called the cradle of Western Civilisation. This enthusiastic group focuses on Athens ,democracy, politics, philosophy, ceramics, sculpture, architecture, art, medicine, literature and drama. First and last Friday morning of the month.
2. Art Appreciation - The Art Appreciation group has become a 'Gallery Group'. We visit exhibitions relying on members to keep a look out for anything of interest. Our last visit was to Tennants when a dozen of us enjoyed the Art Deco exhibition. Some of us enjoyed Open Studios which took place in June.
3. Birds - This group has been out and about in Yorkshire busy spotting birds. You do not have to have any bird knowledge and are a friendly group who welcome new members. Come along for a walk or to take photographs.
4. Book Group - This continues to meet once a month. We read book of all kinds including some non- fiction. We would welcome new members. Monday mornings.
5. Cribbage - This group are still playing and meet at The Three Horse Shoes at 12.00. New members would be most welcome. Once a fortnight on a Thursday.
6. Croquet - The group meets every Thursday morning at 10.30 am on the green opposite The Wensleydale Heifer in West Witton. Newcomers are welcome. We do have some spare equipment. £2.00 per session which goes towards the mowing of the grass.
7. Current Affairs - The group meets monthly at LACC on the first Friday of the month. Our wide- ranging discussions last for an hour and a half concluding with selection of a topic for the next meeting. Additional members are always welcome.
8. Cycling - The cycling group continues to meet on Thursdays. Recent trips include Upper Swaledale and Ripon. The café and ice cream parlours remain a crucial part of our outings.
9. Dry Stone Walling - There is still an opportunity for members to enjoy a taster or to become involved in practising this ancient craft. An active group of friendly volunteers work locally. Examples of our work can be seen at Manor Farm and at Braithwaite Hall. We'd be pleased to welcome you.
10. Gardening/Visits - No expert horticultural knowledge is required to join our group, just an

appreciation of gardens. We visit gardens in the area from small private gardens opened for charity to large estates attached to grand houses.

11. Laptop/Technology - If you have a mobile phone, laptop or tablet, new or old, and need a bit of help, the friendly Leyburn u3a Laptop and Technology Group might just be the ticket. We meet the third Monday of the month 2pm-3.30 pm at LACC.

12. Litter Picking - Yes, we still do it every second Wednesday of the month. There is always plenty to pick up so come along and join us. Please note we are changing the meeting place to the Market Store near the Fire Station where our equipment is stored. 2.00-3.00 pm Second Wednesday

13. Science - The Science Group meets monthly for coffee at member's houses. We each give a brief contribution of one aspect of a prearranged topic, then have a general discussion.

14. Strolling - We are a small friendly group who walk about 3 miles, meeting the second Wednesday of the month at 11.00 am We try not to have stiles or steep hills. Afterwards we have lunch at a pub or café to chat and put the world to rights!

15. Spanish - Our group continues to meet every Monday morning and we all learn something new every time. We think we might be able to pass GCSE Spanish on a good day!!!

16. Ukulele - We are a learning group and play for enjoyment and fun. We lead singalongs for dementia people and their carers and visit care homes too. We can lend you a ukulele to see if the uke is for you.

17. Walking - We are a dog friendly walking group and do between 5 and 10 miles. Second and fourth Friday of the month. New members are always welcome.

Proposed New Groups for September 2025

Spanish 2 - Complete Beginners Group. Are you planning a holiday in Spain? Have you got Spanish speaking family or friends? Or would you like to give your brain a little exercise learning a language? Emphasis will be on speaking, listening, with a little grammar, reading and writing.

Ballet - Gentle ballet classes designed for those over 50. Tuesdays 10.15-11.15 am at LACC

- Ⓟ Improve flexibility
- Ⓟ Boost your strength and coordination
- Ⓟ Enjoy low-impact, mindful movement
- Ⓟ Make new friends in a relaxed, social setting

Research Project - Fancy getting together to research something of use and/or interest to the residents/visitors of Leyburn and district. Or it could be something completely different.

For further information about these three new groups contact Melanie. The information will go on the web site once the groups are established.