

Newsletter August 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 August's newsletter, and so the year marches on.

Can I thank all those of you who attended the most recent Speaker meeting where Leyburn & District u3a celebrated our TENTH anniversary with the cutting of the cake ceremony and some music from Trouvere? It was very well-attended and thoroughly enjoyable. I am doing my best to share the wonderful cake with you all by popping into a group session or distributing it in other imaginative ways. Looking forward to another ten years!



Following this event the committee held an Extraordinary meeting to discuss the issue of finding a new bank account as the YSB is shortly to close. It was decided to choose a current account and a savings account with the Coop as this was local and accessible via the Post Office. We are now in the process of completing forms etc and asking nicely if we are eligible to have an account. Our treasurer, Trevor Pitt, has jumped through many hoops to try and achieve this so please give him a pat on the back when you see him!

Finally, one of our members would like to share this event on Friday 5th September 7.30pm at St. Mary's church Richmond. Edwina Hayes, internationally-acclaimed country and folk singer will be performing. Tickets are £12 from the Book Stop, Market Hall Richmond or from U3a member Bob Hill at the next Speaker meeting. They can also be bought online via eventbrite <https://bit.ly/4j3VE71>

June

## FAMOUS FOR 12 MINUTES?

By Malcolm Johnson

Discover what it's like to learn to drive in a week at the age of 65 and have the whole experience filmed and broadcast on TV. On **Friday 15 August**, Malcolm Johnson will tell the full story and show extracts from the resulting ITV programme.

Malcolm is also a keen walker and runner, has completed a range of long distance walking trails; trekked to both Annapurna and Everest Base Camps in his sixties: completed several marathons (including London in under 4 hours, aged 60).

His entire career was spent in education: as a teacher in Leeds Secondary and Middle Schools, then as a Leeds Primary Advisory Teacher for English, finally lecturing in Teacher Education at Bradford College.

Doors open at 10.00 for 10.30 at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, Richmond Road, Leyburn DL8 5DL

## July Speaker report

20 medieval instruments in 40 minutes - Trouvere

It was a whirlwind tour of beautiful instruments played by Paul Leigh and Gill Page that we were treated to at our most recent speaker meeting. Paul opened the entertainment by playing the English Border bagpipes accompanied by Gill on the middle eastern timbre. Next, a 'Shawm' which is a double reeded pipe and would have been used as a ceremonial instrument to produce a fanfare. It was the smallest instrument made of a sheep's bone commonly found in villages. Gill accompanied this with an early harp. As a contrast Paul then played the Transverse flute which was a rich man's instrument as it was made of engineered hardwood. This was accompanied by a Romanesque harp played horizontally. We were then educated in the Drone flute which are 2 pipes joined together. One is the drone and the other the melody and can be seen on Greek vases. Gill played a tambour which looks like a tambourine without the bells. A beautiful sound emerged next from a gittern, origin of the guitar, characterised by its small, round backed body and gut strings demonstrating music from a 400 year old manuscript called Cantigas de Santa Maria. Other instruments were a symphonium, ancestor of the hurdy gurdy, a pair of timpani, cymbals, a lyre, double flute and the great pipes, which has one huge drone and one melodic pipe accompanied by a side drum. and finally, phew, a cow horn trumpet!

If you would like to see these musicians again, they will be playing at Bolton Castle on the weekend of 12th to 14th September at a ticketed event called Medieval Music in the Dales. Enjoy!. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For details contact Membership secretary [www.leyburn.u3asite.uk](http://www.leyburn.u3asite.uk)

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP.**

Our subject on 1st August was "How do we pay for the society we want". A wide ranging discussion took place with seven members present. It was generally felt that taxation should be progressive and we felt the remuneration for many people in senior positions was excessive. We acknowledged that we were of a very fortunate generation enjoying huge escalation in the value of our property assets, free university tuition for our children and now the "triple lock", free prescriptions, bus passes etc.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 5 September when we will discuss "How are all the people of the world to be fed with a growing population and climate change. How do we relate this to the UK?"

Our meetings are an hour and a half at LACC starting at 2pm on the first Friday of each month. Any member of U3A is welcome to attend the see if it is for them before becoming a regular member. Contact convenor Gerald Hodgson

## **Garden Group Report**

On 6th July we took advantage of a rare opportunity to visit the garden at Littlethorpe Manor near Ripon. Littlethorpe is an exceptional eleven acre garden with extensive planting and many interesting features, but is only open to the public once a year under the National Gardens Scheme. Understandably it was very busy but nonetheless rewarding.

In contrast on the afternoon of August 5th three of our members generously invited the group to visit their own private gardens in Leyburn on a much smaller scale.

## **Ballet - Gentle ballet classes designed for those over 50.**

This new group is going to start on **Tuesday 9th September 10.45-11.45 at LACC**

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

Contact Janet for information or to book your place.

## **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. This class begins on **Monday 15th September 11.30 - 12.30 at LACC.**

Contact Mavis for further information or to book your place.

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

My apologies that there was no Tech Group report last month. Entirely down to me (John S) as I simply missed the deadline.

Our July meeting was another quiet affair with just two members and one visitor but it proved to be a productive one with a good outcome for the tech issues they each had.

### Microsoft Account - Change Recovery Details

One member had recently needed to have a Factory Reset\* carried out on their laptop (not done at a Tech Group Session) and now wanted to change certain details in their Microsoft account - in particular the recovery phone number and email address which is useful when a password is forgotten and you are otherwise locked out of your account. Microsoft can use these details to verify you are the genuine account holder and issue you with a temporary password or one-time code to access your account.

\*A Factory Reset is generally looked upon as a last resort as it literally erases everything on the device, returning the unit to being in a fresh from the factory state. Ensure you save/back-up anything you want to keep BEFORE doing a reset.

### New Ipad - Images/Photos looking like film negatives.

A member had recently treated themselves to a shiny new Apple iPad as their old one no longer supported certain apps. For reasons unknown when looking at photos or other images they appeared as if looking at a film negative. A quick Google soon found a solution: Go to Settings > Accessibility > Display & Text Size and ensure "Smart Invert" or Classic Invert" are switched off. The Tech Group helper who assisted with solving the problem was also able to add a useful 'Accessibility' shortcut to the iPad home screen which makes it quick and easy to access various accessibility features. This can also be done on Android phones and tablets and iPhones.

### Virus Infected Android Tablet

It can happen to any one of us when accidentally or intentionally click on something - perhaps a link that seems of interest, and at some point later we find our device is either getting lots of spam or worse is infected with malware or the like which in this instance keeps bringing up adverts for dodgy 'tech help' saying your device is infected and you need to click 'Here'. Clicking 'Here' would simply see you getting directed to a website purporting to offer a fix or some sort of security but is almost always a scam. Despite our best efforts and not wishing to carry out a Factory Reset\* at that point as all content would be wiped, we were unable to resolve things. Fortunately the member is happy to hold fire until we have more time to spend on this one. However, a passing comment about using WhatsApp on this members mobile phone did bring about a lovely outcome...we explained how they can use WhatsApp to video call their brother and also showed them how to do a 'Voice Note' - more about these below. Guess what this member was doing later that not - yes, video calling their brother.

### WhatsApp Voice Note, Video Calls and Phone Calls

Many of us use WhatsApp to send messages and photos to family and friends but a surprising number are still not aware that WhatsApp can also be used to make phone calls and video calls - calls where you can see whoever you are calling and vice versa. If you have free wi-fi wherever you are - then calls and video calls are free to make worldwide. Gone are the days of calls to a relative in Australia breaking the bank. Be aware that if you don't have wi-fi and are using your phone data, this will use some of that data up if you only have a limited amount included in your phone plan.

WhatsApp Voice Notes were introduced way back in 2013 yet many people are only just discovering this

easy way to leave a voice message for someone without that person's phone ringing. This feature has been tweaked over the time and you can now pause part way through recording your message or delete it before sending if you want to start afresh. If this is all new to you and you want to learn more then just pop along to the next Tech Group session which will be on August 18 th .

## WhatsApp Voice Note - Recent Changes!!

One word of caution relating to voice notes. Without telling anyone, WhatsApp has changed the way you start a recording. It used to require a press and slide upwards of the green microphone button so that you can begin speaking hands free. Previous to that you used to have to keep your finger on the button whilst speaking and when you let go it immediately sent the message. This recently changed and now just a single tap of the green mic button will begin a recording and, as many people have found out, it's easy to inadvertently begin a voice note when you had no intention of doing so - pocket dials etc. This explains why many have received a short voice no

If you discover your phone is recording a voice note that you had not intended, just press the dustbin button - usually on the left hand side and this will delete whatever had been recorded.

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.

Our Meetings...

Next Meeting is Monday 18 th August 2025

Meetings 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.

The Ukulele Group continues to meet weekly on Mondays at 2pm at LACC , Always happy to welcome new members.



Just come along and have a play!

East Witton and Middleham bell ringers are inviting new applicants to learn how to ring.

For over five hundred years the Church Bells of Wensleydale have been resounding across our



countryside. The sound of bells ringing is deeply rooted in English culture. They provide the moving soundtrack to our historic moments, call out for our celebrations and toll sadly in empathy with our grief. East Witton and Middleham have two thriving bands of ringers. We are presently looking for new applicants of all ages who would like to try ringing with the potential to learn a new very enjoyable hobby.

Bell ringing is a team activity that keeps your brain active and your body agile. Some do it for the community of friends, some do it to contribute to Church life, some to keep the glorious sound of bells alive, and some do it for the pure pleasure and feeling of well-being it brings.

“when I’m ringing I forget all the tensions and frustrations of the day”.

We presently have over 20 active ringers of different ages, male and female. Some of us attend church but others do not: there is no requirement to be a church-goer. If you are wondering if bell ringing could be for you, we invite you to visit one of our towers for an introductory session and take it from there.

Bell ringing does not require great strength, and we have had children as young as 10 learning in Wensleydale. Many others learn in retirement.

If you are interested in finding out more about giving bell ringing a try please email [martindstott@gmail.com](mailto:martindstott@gmail.com).

**Leyburn**

**& District**

