



COMMITTEE

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

Chair report

Welcome to November’s newsletter and a blustery day!

I unfortunately missed an inspiring presentation by Bret Crossley , paracyclist, last month. I hope some of you got the chance to listen to him.

The forthcoming committee meeting will take place on Friday 14th November at 09.45 am in the library at TOSH. This will replace the one which was booked for Friday November 21st as the committee feels that the business will take longer than usual . YOU are very welcome to attend as an observer.

The most important item to discuss is the opportunity to join Beacon. This is a national platform which a lot of u3a organisations use to organise membership and finances. Some of the committee have spent time researching into this and now a decision has to be made. The current membership year expires at the end of March so we need to get our skates on!

As you also might know, we have needed to change our bank account to the Coop. There have been some teething problems but we still have an account with them and most aspects of this are running as they should.

If I don’t see you on the 14th I will see some of you on the 21st at the speaker meeting.

June

U3A October monthly meeting

Speaker Brett Crossley

A most inspirational young man who became a paraplegic following a motor cycle accident. He told us about his life as a child being very competitive and following his father into motor cycle racing which resulted in him having a crash that left him with life changing injuries. He had a long period in hospital and rehabilitation at Pinderfields Hospital where he struggled to cope with the mental and physical problems that being a paraplegic brought to him. He was helped by a charity Backup who enabled him to get to places and do things he had given up on, resulting him being a very successful athlete in the sports of marathons and triathlons around the world. He continues to learn new sports like archery. Most of what he has achieved has been done with financial aid of various charities one of which he now works for helping others to achieve their goals.

An excellent speaker.

Mary Sadler

Monthly Meeting November

“Wooden Boats And Iron Men”

How Tragedy, Bravery and Generosity have shaped the RNLI to what it is today!

On Friday 21 November David Hastings will give us an inspirational history of lifesaving at sea and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). From 1790 to the present day volunteers have braved all weathers and shown immense courage to save over 146,000 lives.

David is honorary secretary, Durham Branch, RNLI and has 49 years of hands-on voluntary fundraising experience for the RNLI and is recognised nationally for his fundraising achievements. He combines passion, humour and knowledge to create entertaining talks.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. Doors open at 10.00 for 10.30 at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, Richmond Road, Leyburn DL8 5DL. For details contact Membership secretary www.leyburn.u3asite.uk

Here is the contribution from the Gardens Group for the November newsletter.

In the absence of suitable gardens to visit at this time of year, a small group of us met at Mary Sadler's house for a group discussion on woodland planting. Each of us introduced our favourite tree or woodland plant, sharing our experiences and evoking childhood memories of carpets of bluebells and wild daffodils.

We have no meeting planned for December, so our next meeting will be at Rose Connor's house in January when we will discuss which gardens we would like to visit in 2026.

Paul

Bird Group

A grey sky overhung Ripon Wetlands on our October visit and even though this made observations difficult it didn't dampen our spirits; in fact we had three 'firsts' while we were there.

On the shore of the lagoon we saw an otter make its way sleekly into the water. It swam around for several minutes diving occasionally before finally disappearing under the water. It was wonderful sight to see.

Our next first was observing a Great White Egret among the reed beds at the far end of the lagoon. They are becoming much more common in Yorkshire, we were lucky enough to see a few at Fairburn Ings earlier in the year.

Our final first was to actually see a Cetti's Warbler. This is a tiny and very secretive bird which we have always identified by its very distinctive explosive call rather than by observation.

In all we saw 40 different species of bird. The final sighting being a couple of kingfishers flying past the hide we were in. That flash of blue is always exciting and was a great way to end the day.

Our next visit is to Nosterfield on December 8th.

New members are always welcome.

Current Affairs Discussion Group.

Eight members met on the 7th November to discuss "What practical steps should the UK and the world be taking to mitigate the effects of climate change". We established, at the outset that , unlike President Trump, none of us are climate change deniers. Our discussion ranged over the use of fossil fuels, investing in renewable energy, sustainable transport, building insulation, forest protection and growth, ocean protection, food waste and reducing single use plastics. We felt that all new buildings should have solar panels and we were concerned about the huge areas of productive farmland being covered with solar panels. We thought there was potential in tidal power and nuclear fusion. We were concerned that governments are failing to take necessary action for short term political reasons.

We meet next on Friday 5th December, 2.00pm at LACC when we will discuss the implications of the budget which will have been delivered by then.