



Newsletter February 2026

COMMITTEE

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

Chair

Welcome to February's newsletter

I hope you're all well.

The big news this month is that we're on track to go 'live' with Beacon to the new set-up of our on-line membership. We will keep you posted on what the process will look like and how you can join or renew your membership with Leyburn & District u3a. Subscriptions can be made by bank transfer (BACS) or cash only.

At a recent speaker meeting by the RNLI some of us went home carrying small jars to fill with 5 p pieces up to the value of £2. Thank you to those of you who returned them full and a polite reminder to drop them in at TOSH if you're in Leyburn or bring them to the next speaker meeting if you haven't yet done so.

Future newsletters may start to look different. This item was discussed thoroughly at the latest committee meeting following some local research. Can you take photos of your groups with their permission to display in the newsletter? Anne Wood is happy to format it if you send her something. We also have a different website manager called Stella Swan to replace James Lundie and is happy to receive any information or photos too. Our next committee meeting is on Monday February 2nd in the TOSH cafe at 4 pm if you wish to be an observer.

We are not alone! Two members of the committee attended a North Yorkshire district network meeting recently in Leeming. Five local u3a groups were represented; Northallerton, Thirsk, Ripon, Bedale, Ryedale and ourselves. This was a useful exercise as it's reassuring to know that other u3a groups are experiencing similar issues to us and that this meeting was an opportunity to share ideas. Future meetings are planned over the next year. One item shared was the reminder that a u3a member can be accompanied by a support worker/family member/

friend who isn't a member to attend a group activity or speaker meeting if they find themselves less able than they used to be.

Finally, I received a request from the Yorkshire Peat Partnership who are part of Yorkshire Wildlife trust. They are looking for local volunteers who might be interested in assisting them with planting sphagnum moss in February/March on a site near Bolton castle. If interested contact Lucy Cardy on lucy.cardy@ypppartnership.org.uk

June

Speaker report January

Fraud - Andy Fox

The Chairperson of North Yorkshire Crime Stoppers gave us a very informative presentation and useful advice. The key points from it were;

that fraud is a crime of intent and an example is a Royal Mail text stating a parcel for you needs a payment if you use social media ensure that your settings are on 'private' always use the 2-factor identification if offered, eg. password and a code sent if you are asked to lie about a task, don't do it

update passwords use biometrics protect your personal information

be careful what you put out on social media eg. if away on holiday, displaying photos of children do not be panicked into doing anything if it feels like a scam, it is

Action;

Notify your bank asap

Report it to Action Fraud

Secure your bank accounts with new passwords

Why do scams work? Scenarios may be directed by an authoritative figure, eg someone pretending to be a police officer, giving instructions and what the consequences will be. Recipients of phone calls believing that the caller is genuine. If in doubt call the bank, business directly.

Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 if you think you're being a victim of fraud.

Monthly Meeting

ROTTERS by JEFF COATES

Friday 20 February 2026 AT 10.30

Leyburn Arts and Community Centre

The North Yorkshire Rotters promote home composting; reduce, reuse and recycling and the 'love food hate waste' campaigns at events, talks and school workshops, highlighting the practical ways that residents can reduce waste, save money, and help the environment.

This talk will cover the key issues of food waste and the importance of reducing it to help the environment. Home composting will also be covered and members will learn about the importance of getting the mix right when making their own compost at home and the different options for compost bins. Approximately 60% of the contents of an average bin are biodegradable and could be composted. Members will also learn about Allerton Waste Recovery Park which processes the rubbish collected in North Yorkshire and York. Jeff Coates is Volunteer Coordinator at North Yorkshire Rotters

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



VISIT A WONDERFUL ARTS & CRAFTS GARDEN IN THE LAKES

Here's your opportunity to enjoy Yews near Bowness-on-Windermere, a fabulous seven acre garden with views of the lake and fells.

The Yews formal garden was designed in the Arts & Crafts style by H. Avray Tipping, an important early collaborator of Jekyll and Peto. It also contains earlier elements including the ha-ha, the main drive and hedge designed by Thomas Mawson. As well as the sunken garden with mature acers, a rose garden with yew hedge and topiary, there is a bog garden and woodland walk, both undergoing restoration. There are 2 summer houses above a croquet lawn. The eponymous yews are 400 years old and there is a substantial yew maze with beech perimeter hedge. There is a newly designed vegetable garden and a glasshouse by Messenger which houses an 110 year old grape vine. I had a very enjoyable visit to Yews last summer and think that you would love it too. Elaine

The visit on Tuesday 11 August 2026 is by coach from Leyburn and is open to all u3a members. The estimated cost is £35 per person and we need 20 people to make it viable.

After the garden visit we will move on to Blackwell, an Arts & Crafts house The entrance fee is not included but the cafe is accessible without a ticket and we can have lunch there.

Contact Paul Wildman for more information before 9 February

Garden Group

We held our first meeting of 2026 on the 6th January when we decided on a very full and interesting programme of garden visits from February until late November. This year we are

organising an August coach trip to a garden in the Lake District which is open to all U3A members. Details above .

Our next meeting will be to Kiplin Hall gardens to see the display of snowdrops on the morning of February 10th

Current Affairs Discussion Group.

At our meeting on 9 Jan we discussed our attitude to the Trump administration. An interesting discussion ensued though we were all horrified by Trump's approach to governance and his view that his interpretation of morality should over-ride international law.

We usually meet on the first Friday of the month and will revert to that pattern when we meet on 6 Feb when we will discuss "The interface between religion, politics and morals."

Bird Group

On what looked like a very unpromising day; it was cold,damp and drizzling but the end of our visit we were very satisfied with what we saw.

With the leaves having fallen off the trees the little birds such as Goldfinch, Dunnock Chaffinch ,Long-tailed Tit, Blue tit and Great tit were easily observed flitting between the branches .

Climbing up a tree bark was a Tree Creeper . It's an amusing little bird. It is no bigger than a mouse and it runs up the tree poking its large beak into the bark looking for insects, spiders and wood lice. It is unable to go down the tree so it flits down to the base of another tree and begins again.

The bushes still with berries on attracted the Redwings, Blackbirds and Fieldfares all trying to eat as many as they could.

In total we observed 24 different birds which live on our doorstep.

Afterwards we received a warm welcome at the Old Horn in Spennithorne where we had a delicious pub lunch next to the wood fire and talked about the programme for the year and looked at Max's amazing bird photos taken on his travels around the world.

Our next visit is on March 9th to Low Barns Nature Reserve.

New members are always welcome.

Leyburn

& District

