

SELBY
u3a learn,
laugh,
live



Quiet time at the Festival

Newsletter

August 2024

The Festival

900 members came from around the UK to the u3a Festival at York Uni. It was a 'first' and nobody knew how popular it would be. In the event, many applied for tickets and were disappointed. It was a busy 3 days!

The programme was packed and very diverse too; at any time one could be listening to music, going to a talk, learning new craft techniques, going on a walk, dashing around the sports field or going for a coffee – and I've missed loads I'm sure.

And it was a wonderful chance to meet new people and chat about anything and everything from breakfast to late into the evening.



Helen busy sharing her skills

Will there be another u3a Festival? At the moment, we don't know, but judging by the success of this first effort there will be and I strongly recommend that you get there if you possibly can. It was great!

Your Committee

Did you know that any member can come to a Committee meeting as an observer? And if there's something that you'd like to say to us, you'll be invited to put your views.

Our job is to make our u3a the best it can be for all of us, so if you'd like to know what's what and how we go about it, please come along to a meeting. If you'd like to come, please contact Paul Twiddy so that he can make arrangements for you. The Exec. Committee meets at 9.30 am at the Bowling Club on the third Wednesday of the month.

Open Day

We're holding our Open Day as part of **u3a Week** on Saturday 21st September at Portholme Church.

Our objectives are the same as last year:

- Improve awareness of Selby and District u3a
- Recruit new members

Last year was our first effort and a great success – we recruited 9 new members on the day, our visitors saw what our u3a is all about and we had a pleasantly positive effect on the bank balance!

We're aiming to improve on that first Selby & District Open Day, briefly:

- Live demonstrations of some of activities
- Better PR to increase footfall on the day
- and 🙌 Hopefully a visitor of note

Please reserve the date in your diary and more news soon on how you can get involved on the day and in our preparations.

Around the Groups

We have a number of new groups 'in the works' and one has recently come to life. We now have a cycling group that we're calling **Velo u3a**. Our first ride recently was a round trip from Thorpe Willoughby Village Hall to the Village Tea Rooms in Cawood.



Richard and Paul about to set off

The plan is to go out on gentle, friendly, 'nobody gets left behind' rides twice a month, starting on Wednesday afternoon 28th August and then on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month. We'll share route planning so that everyone gets the chance to take the group on a ride that they'd like to do. Electric or Acoustic bikes are all fine. I'll be putting a note together before our August ride outlining some safe practices for our rides, helmets are strongly recommended; please read this:

A member of the Garforth Easy Riding group and very experienced cyclist recently had a crash whilst out riding alone. The rider hit their head and their helmet was a write off! They are still suffering from concussion some three weeks later and their bike computer showed that they did not move for 15 minutes after the incident (unconscious?) and this rider has no recollection of what happened.

What value a helmet when cycling?

Details of the August 28th ride soon - unless you have a route that you'd like us to ride?

Military History

The Group made its first "Away Day" visit to the Museum of the former RAF Snaith WW 2 airfield which is at Pollington. The station was given the name of Snaith because just up the road to the east of York was the already operational airfield of Pocklington. (Even if you haven't seen film of the poor communication from and to aircraft of the period, the two names would be very confusing.)

Our Leader Mike has produced an excellent report on the visit which is detailed below.

I think I can speak for those who were able to make the trip to RAF Snaith Museum and say what an excellent morning.

What the volunteers have done at the museum is outstanding, getting a superb collection of WW2 RAF artefacts together coupled with history and an in depth knowledge of the wartime bomber airfield, makes time go quickly as the visitor is absorbed with life at the aerodrome.

Members were given a guided tour and then visited the Memorial Garden to personnel lost during the war and those connected to 51 Squadron

Thanks to our own Margaret Cromack (Selby u3a Committee member), guide Zoe and engineering expert Ady for making the visit time well spent.

My personal thanks to John Richardson for co-ordinating the visit.

We have August off for holidays and will meet again with another "field" trip, this time to Eden Camp in North Yorkshire.

I'll be in touch.

Mike

It is worth making the point that this Museum is entirely self-financing and through the generosity of various bodies and donations, the charges to the visitors is very minimal. For those of you who may have just a small interest in local military operations and indeed, the stories attached to the Memorial Garden are very worthwhile to visit. The museum is open every Sunday during the summer months and I have no doubt that the Military History members who visited this time will return.



Curator and Guide, Zoe welcomes group members to the Museum



A collection of wartime memorabilia at the museum café.



Guide Zoe (left) talks to members about one of the bombers.



Margaret discussing with members at the very moving Memorial Gardens.

(Images by Mike Cowling)

Steam and Steel

Members of the Group visited the York Cold War Bunker on 20 July for a 1 hour guided tour. The guide details the former role of the Royal Observer Corp should a nuclear threat or indeed detonation happen anywhere in the world but with particular relevance to the responses of the British Government in dealing with and responding to any threats posed. For people who have no knowledge of the threat posed by nuclear weapons *this tour gives a stark warning of the dangers likely to be faced by the global population. Since the disbandment of the Royal Observer Corp the York Bunker was decommissioned until taken under the control of English Heritage. It is free to members of English Heritage otherwise tickets have to be purchased in advance.*



Garden Visits Group

Summer 2024 Update – Where We Have Been So Far This Year.

We have visited four quite different gardens so far this year, two RHS Gardens, one Garden Centre and one private garden. In April we went to Wentworth Garden Centre which has its own 'Historic Garden'; once part of the Wentworth estate it became a neglected wilderness in the mid-20th century but has now been restored over many years by the family that run the business. It is now a well-kept 'romantic' garden looking lovely in spring sunshine.

In May it was RHS Harlow Carr in Harrogate. This was the second time the group had been there, we had torrential rain the first time but better luck this year and could take advantage of the terrace at the new café within the grounds. As ever, there was plenty to see in the Gardens and it was a good day.



RHS Harlow Carr

The weather was even better when we visited a beautiful private garden in June. Ellerker House Gardens, near Market Weighton, produced so much positive feedback that we should think about going again! Created from parkland, once part of the Everingham Estate, it's a five-acre garden with formal lawns and herbaceous borders, ancient trees, a Rose tunnel leading towards the lake and much more. A very relaxing place to visit and one we enjoyed very much.



Ellerker House Gardens

Highlight of the year? Our biennial coach trip took us across the Pennines to RHS Bridgewater, near Salford. This is the newest RHS garden, only a few years old, and parts of it are still being developed, but there was plenty to see in the huge Weston Walled Garden area and beyond. Very different from Harlow Carr, but just as beautiful and interesting. The weather not quite so kind this time, but the drizzle held off until the afternoon and it was a good trip out!



RHS Bridgewater

Selby & District u3a Interest Groups Calendar August 2024

For further information on any of these Interest Groups, or Selby & District u3a generally, please visit our website Selby & District u3a or call us on 07908 572852.

Drop In for A Cuppa
2nd & 4th Wednesday
10.00-12.00
Barco Lounge, Market Cross,
Selby

Monthly General Meeting
1st Wednesday of the month
10.00-12.00
Thorpe Willoughby Village
Hall

Anytime	Allotments	Peter Robinson	Westbourne Road
Varied times	Knife and Fork	Jan Tetley	Various Locations
Every Monday 10 -12	Crafts	Sue Davison	Selby Bowling Club
Mondays 10 - 12 (Not 4 th Monday)	Writing	Imelda Dickinson	Various locations. TBA
Every Monday 1.30 - 3.30	Selby Strummers	Carol Hewan	Selby Bowling Club
Every Monday 2 - 4	Art	David Dixon Eddie Roberts	Thorpe Willoughby Village Hall
4 th Monday 10 - 12	Writing Workshops	Imelda Dickinson	St Wilfred's Court
Every Tuesday 10 - 12	Knit and Natter	Annella Law	Selby Bowling Club
Every Tuesday 2 – 4	Board Games	Kay McSherry	4 Southview, Osgodby
2 nd Tuesday 2 - 4	Steam and Steel	Eddie Roberts Patrick Bennett	Selby Bowling Club
3 rd Tuesday 11:00 -13:00	Military History	Mike Cowling	Selby Bowling Club
3 rd Tuesday 2 – 4	Photography	Mike Cowling Celia Barnes	Selby Bowling Club
2nd & 4th Wednesday 13.00	Velo U3A	Joanne Sharpe	Meeting Point tba
Every Wednesday 2 – 3	Aerobics/Exercise	Kay McSherry	Osgodby Methodist Church Hall
Every Thursday 9:30-11:30	Chess	Alan Preene	Selby Bowling Club
1 st Thursday 10 – 12	Thursday Crafts	Helen Billington	Selby Bowling Club Main Lounge
1 st Thursday 2 – 4	Dark Skies	Joanne Sharpe	Selby Bowling Club
2 nd Thursday	Walking	Helen Billington	Various Locations
2 nd Thursday 2pm	Board Games Backgammon, Mahjong etc	Maureen Sherry	Selby Bowling Club
3 rd Thursday 10:30 -12:00 (not August)	Family History	Margaret Cromack	Selby Bowling Club
3 rd Thursday	Wellbeing Walks	John Richardson	Various locations
4 th Thursday	Longer Walks	John Duffy	Various Locations
4 th Thursday 2pm	Local History	Michael Hewan	Selby Bowling Club
1 st Friday 9:30 - 11:30	Floral Art	Rita Braithwaite	Selby Bowling Club
2 nd Friday	Garden Visits	Ros Low	Various Locations
3 rd Friday 9.30 - 11.30	Textile Artists	Rita Braithwaite	Selby Bowling Club
3 rd Friday 15:00	Flyleaf Books	Imelda Dickinson	Selby Library