



*Art Group's Woodland Project*

# **Newsletter**

# **September 2024**

This year is whizzing by and we have another busy month coming!

Later this month we have u3a Week (21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September) and to celebrate it, we are holding our Open Day on 21<sup>st</sup>. Later in this newsletter you'll find a.pdf file for our poster for this event. Please place this anywhere and everywhere that you can and if you need a printed copy, please get in touch with Pauline Witton.

The leaders of the the groups that you are in will be in touch to let you know what individual groups are doing and there will be live music, a painting demo and live photography - oh, and a tombola and a Guess the Birthday competition.

We also have a special visitor Keir Mather, our MP. He is coming as our guest and I'm sure that you'll all be most welcoming. He's very interested in what we do within the community and wants to see what we're3 all about. Please bear in mind that we are a non political organisation and if you'd like to talk politics with Keir, I'm sure he'd be pleased to see you at one of his Constituency Surgeries.

Our main objectives for this day are to recruit new members and raise awareness of our u3a locally. Please support the event as best you can and bring your friends who may be u3a curious.

### **New treasurer needed**

*Helen writes...*

I've been the Selby and District u3a treasurer for 3 years and so the AGM in March will mark the end of my normal term of office. I've enjoyed taking on the treasurer role, it's been a good way to find out how u3a works and to get to know lots of people. If you have an eye for detail and are familiar with on-line banking then this might be the role for you.

Over the last three years Selby and District u3a has moved away from using cheques to make payments and now uses BACs, cash or a debit card. We collect payments e.g membership fees by BACs and card payments. By next year I hope we will also take online payments via the web.

Following the closure of our Bank branch in Selby I now pay in cheques via the mobile app and only make occasional trips to the Post Office to pay in cash. So all in all it isn't an onerous task. The Beacon software provided by the Third Age Trust

is set up with ledgers and financial reports to log income and expenditure each month. If you think you could take on this role then please get in touch with me. The only commitments of time are attending the monthly meetings and monthly committee meetings, and updating Beacon to produce a report for the committee each month and the annual accounts at the end of the year.

## **Groups**

We have a number of new interest / activity groups in the melting pot and John R has asked me to reproduce this as I received it from him:

### Addition Groups Ahead

Several new groups are being considered and in one case already started. Read on:-

“VELO U3A” is the new Cycling Group at Selby & District u3a. They plan to ride leisurely and reasonable distances, (No Tour de France stuff) in good company and no doubt finishing at a café or coffee shop, even probably having stopped at one during the ride.

The meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 13:00hrs at various locations. Please contact our Chair Joanne Sharpe for further details. [joannecsharp@gmail.com](mailto:joannecsharp@gmail.com)

We are investigating the possibility of forming a CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING GROUP. This was being discussed a while ago but things got in the way. (Holidays etc.) However, a meeting is being arranged for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 14:00hrs at the Bowling Club for further consideration. A number of people expressed interest earlier so we hope for interest now.

Please contact John Richardson on [rich.johnh@hotmail.com](mailto:rich.johnh@hotmail.com) to indicate your interest and intention to attend. Thank you.

We are intending to commence a PHILOSOPHY GROUP in October. This is such a wide ranging subject for consideration. Please indicate your interest to John

Richardson, at the e-mail above if you would like to be involved in this. Further update in the October Newsletter.

A SEWING & EMBROIDERY GROUP has been in discussion recently. So ladies, are you ready for another challenge? Will members interested please contact John Richardson, at the e-mail above for us to gauge the amount of interest. Thank you.

If you have a subject of interest and would welcome a group to further this please contact John Richardson to progress this. Thank you.

And a note from me;

Several people have been in touch to say that they have a bike, would like to ride, but are a bit rusty. We're aiming to run some nice gentle practice sessions in a pleasant traffic free area with some smooth flat tarmac and a coffee shop nearby. We now have a group members list for Velo u3a (Cycling) and if you'd like to get updates of these refresher sessions or other rides, please let me know and I'll add you to the list. Thanks, Jo

## **Art Group**

### ***'Art Group Tutorials update'***

With 43 active members of the Art group, approaching half that number decided to come on board for the latest 'In house' tutorial. This time it was my turn so, no surprise to those who know me, I chose a Watercolour painting of a Woodland scene as the challenge for them.

There were some experienced artists amongst the 'tree-huggers', but also quite a few recently-joined members who had not previously used Watercolour paints nor even sketched a tree. So, with Rita Braithwaite using her directing skills and her equipment, over several days we made a video of every step, from the first pencil line to the last brush stroke of the finished painting.

Parts of this were used in the subsequent three Art group sessions, to show how to approach specific methods and techniques, but the main benefit were the still shots, taken from the footage. These were sent to each of the participants with a detailed summary of the materials used and steps I'd taken to build each stage of the painting.

It can take hundreds of years for a mature Woodland such as 'ours' to develop but, in this case, by the 4th session (on 19th August), all those artists who were able to be there that day proudly shared their work with the whole group.

In the attached photos, taken by Michael Howley, I hope you'll feel the sense of achievement across the group; it was amazing and a sheer delight for Rita and I to share.

You will have seen in the July Newsletter how far we've come since the current round of 'In-house' tutorials started in March. These are now a regular feature in our Art family, enjoyed by those at the start of their journey but also by some of our more experienced artists trying new mediums.

As you'll see when the programme is announced, Julie Harrand will be demonstrating her Watercolour painting techniques at the Open Day event at Portholme Church on 21st September. Julie is an incredible artist and this is definitely one to add to your 'must do' list for the day.

A final thought to share with you; as someone once said, 'everyone is an artist' so why not give our Art group a try and let us help you discover and nurture your hidden artistic talents. We promise that you'll laugh a lot and have fun along the way...

David Dixon



*'Guided by Swans' video and u3a Art at the Abbey*



Having become something of a regular feature at Abbey events over recent times, we were invited again by Canon Weetman, to show our 'Guided by Swans' video at the annual Craft Fayre which took place on Bank Holiday Monday.

The video was produced by members of the Selby and District u3a Writers, Photography and Art Interest groups, with many members of each making their own valuable contributions. It tells the story of the Abbey since its founding in 1069, through the eyes of four people who worshipped there. First was Benedict of Auxere who followed his vision and planted his cross at the bend in the river where three swans arrived to bid him welcome. Then came Henry, the son and apprentice to his father, a Master Mason who helped build the stone walls of the Abbey in the latter part of that century. Next we have Richard, a Peasant Farmer from Brayton, who lived through the ravages of the Black Death when it came to Selby in 1348.

And last, but not least, to Joan, a Wise Woman who faithfully served her community, only to be rejected when she was unable to save them. Their stories are told on the video through four Monologues, and every word of these, with supporting photographs and Abbey-related Artwork is available in the booklet that is available to you for a small donation.

The event on the 26th August was very well supported and an amazing total of 85 visitors watched the five showings of the 'Guided by Swans' video in the atmospheric St Nicholas Centre. Also in the room was the 'homegrown' Gallery of artwork.

We had a positive response from every one of those who visited and you'll get a flavour of what they experienced from this small selection of the superb photos taken by Michael Howley (the room is very atmospheric but, to say the least, the lighting was a challenge), and also from the post on Facebook by Mike Cowling.

David Dixon'



-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**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**  
**10.00-12.00**  
**Barco Lounge, Market Cross,**  
**Selby**

**Monthly General Meeting**  
**1<sup>st</sup> 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
Most Mondays 10 - 12 (Not 4 <sup>th</sup> 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
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday 13.30 - 14;30	Confab 2	Michael Hewan	ZOOM
4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 2 - 4	Steam and Steel	Eddie Roberts Patrick Bennett	Selby Bowling Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 11:00 -13:00	Military History	Mike Cowling	Selby Bowling Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 2 – 4	Photography	Mike Cowling Celia Barnes	Selby Bowling Club
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 10 – 12	Thursday Crafts	Helen Billington	Selby Bowling Club Main Lounge
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 2 – 4	Dark Skies	Joanne Sharpe	Selby Bowling Club
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	Walking	Helen Billington	Various Locations
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm	Board Games Backgammon, Mahjong etc	Maureen Sherry	Selby Bowling Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 10:30 -12:00	Family History	Margaret Cromack	Selby Bowling Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	Wellbeing Walks	John Richardson	Various locations
4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	Longer Walks	John Duffy	Various Locations
4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 2pm	Local History	Michael Hewan	Temporally Suspended
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 9:30 - 11:30	Floral Art	Rita Braithwaite	Selby Bowling Club
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	Garden Visits	Ros Low	Various Locations
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 9.30 - 11.30	Textile Artists	Rita Braithwaite	Selby Bowling Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 15:00	Flyleaf Books	Imelda Dickinson	Selby Library

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