

# Selby & District

u3a

## Newsletter

December 2024/January 2025



## ***Hello everyone and welcome to Selby & District December/January Newsletter***

I hope you are all ready for the Festive Season which grows ever closer. I am your new Editor and I hope to uphold the standards of previous editors but please bear with me whilst I ease myself into the role.  
Thank you.

### ***Our Next Monthly Meeting***

Our next Open Meeting is on the 4<sup>th</sup> December and there will be no guest speaker this time as we have a full Christmas programme for you. We will be starting at 10.15 am instead of the usual 10.30 am so please make a note to arrive a little earlier this time.

There will be the usual welcome tea or coffee on arrival served with a mince pie as no Christmas gathering would be complete without one. The raffle will take place as usual and if anyone has any prizes they can donate these are always welcome. Thank you.

There will be a "Guess the Weight of the Cake" competition, the prize being the excellent cake itself and with the ingredients which have been included we are sure it will be well worth winning.

Also Our craft group will have a stall selling items for charity.

Our Guitar + group will be entertaining you during the early part of the morning, this will be followed by the Choir of Children from the adjacent Thorpe Willoughby Community Primary School. Most of you may remember last year's excellent performance by the children and this year we are hoping they will be able to extend their time with us and perform more Carols for our enjoyment.

***Our first meeting of the New Year*** will be on 5<sup>th</sup> February as the first Wednesday in January is the New Years Day Bank Holiday. Our talk will be given by Chris Cade and is entitled "Meet the Butler".

Our new Speaker Seeker has been beavering away on your behalf and has managed to fill the entire programme for 2025. The full list is given at the end of this newsletter but is obviously subject to change should any of the speakers become unavailable on the day for any reason.

### ***Website***

The Selby and District U3a website uses Wordpress and we would like to have a website editing team, so if you have any experience editing a Wordpress website we would love to hear from you. Please email [Helen.billington@gmail.com](mailto:Helen.billington@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out.

## **News from the Groups**

**The Games Group** will have it's next meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2 pm. It is always the SECOND Thursday of the month (apologies for the mix up on the dates last time).

We played Backgammon, Mahjong, Dominoes and Othello. If you would like to join us in the future please contact [maureensherry3@gmail.com](mailto:maureensherry3@gmail.com)

**The Walking Group** met at Roo's tearoom, Common Lane, Burn for a 5.5 mile walk along the canal to Paper House Bridge and back through Burn. We can heartily recommend both the walk and the tearoom. If you would like to join us for our monthly Thursday morning walk please contact [Helen.billington@gmail.com](mailto:Helen.billington@gmail.com)



**The Thursday Craft Group** members are getting ready for Christmas. They made festive rag wreaths at their November meeting and will be rafting quilted Christmas tree ornaments on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like to join us please contact [Helen.billington@gmail.com](mailto:Helen.billington@gmail.com). No experience is necessary and all materials are provided.



**The Philosophy Group** held it's meeting at the end of November, after the newsletter's deadline. The plan was to discuss a variety of questions and have an initial review of Ethics; and to set up a WhatsApp group for members.

**The Allotment Group** is having a quiet time at present just preparing the ground for next year and doing some early crop planting, mainly onions.

### ***The Textile Art Group***

Some of our textile artists have been preparing for Christmas and perhaps a flamenco?



### ***Monday Craft Group***



November is always a busy time for crafters when they suddenly realise how near it is to Christmas and how many crafty things they had promised to make for their families, friends and various charity groups. Our group is no different, so we decided to use our time passing on knowledge to other members



Elves are always a favourite



But what are these going to be when they're finished?????  
Some of the cast of Strictly Come Dancing?  
Christmas fairies from the top of the tree?



We're hoping to have some spare to sell at the December monthly meeting to raise funds for charity, so don't forget to bring some cash for a good cause and to go home with a Christmas elf or a fairy (or even both).

### **Art Group**

November has seen some changes to the Art Group following the decision of Joint Leader David Dixon to stand down from this role. David remains an active, enthusiastic member of the Art Group and we thank him for all his commitment to the group over several years. Under David's stewardship, the Art Group has grown from a core of 20 members to the current level of 43. The Group is almost at capacity and if interest continues, a waiting list will be introduced.

Group leadership is now jointly with Rita Braithwaite and Eddie Roberts. Both are long standing members of the Art Group, ensuring continuity and a strong future going forward. Rita will lead on Group Projects and Chair Leadership meetings. Eddie remains as Treasurer but has taken on additional responsibility for Beacon and new member enquiries.

Our Art Membership continues to go from strength to strength as a result of continuing “in-house” workshops and tutorials. Most recently, Julie Harrand taught group members how to paint a landscape watercolour using techniques such as flat washing, graded washing and variegated washing, with some really wonderful results achieved.



More tutorials and workshops are planned starting with a 6 week workshop running from January. This will go back to basics for newer members and act as a refresher for the wider group, to support their art journey as it continues in 2025. In addition, the group are delighted at being invited to showcase work at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the opening of Thorpe Willoughby Village Hall in March 2025.

### ***Photography***

The group continues to expand with new members joining. November saw a selection of excellent photographs depicting 'Decay' the assignment choice for the month. Members produced some excellent work of vegetation rotting and pictures from ideas outside the box which were discussed by the group. The standard of photography continues to improve.

Leader Mike, took members through the use and effect of shallow depth of field to produce better photographs and photographers have the December challenge of shooting a portrait using that effect as best they can.

### ***Military History***

The Military History group met in November to hear Julian Horrocks present a well researched talk on WW2 Army Leader, Field Marshal Alan Brooke. Members heard Harrogate based author Julian, who has written a book on Alan Brooke, explain how the top soldier came through WW1 and rose in the ranks to be Churchill's military advisor and Chief of the Imperial General Staff, the professional head of the British Army during WW2.

Membership of the Military History group has nearly doubled in a year and the group is looking forward to future talks on light railways of the Western Front, The Third Battle of Ypres, the development of army rifles and trips out to local military based museum.

### ***Tai Chi***

Despite the initial interest shown in the addition of Tai Chi to our programme of activities, unfortunately this interest has not translated into attendance. We started with 3 classes per week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday but the Thursday class has now been cancelled with immediate effect and it is hoped that those members who attended on a Thursday will be able to attend on either Wednesday at 13.00 hrs or Friday at 14.00 hrs.

### ***The Garden Visits Group Autumn 2024 Update***

The Garden Visits Group continues to meet on the second Friday in the month; since the July update, we have been to 'Brodsworth Hall and Gardens' in August, Helen's garden in September and 'Helmsley Walled Garden' in October. We were fortunate with the weather each time, despite all the rain and wind we have had this year. The Helmsley garden is one of the few that remain open in October, but unfortunately, this year it had suffered quite a bit from the weather and was not really looking it's best. However, despite this, hopefully everyone enjoyed the visit.

Our November meetings are always an 'indoor visit' to a garden centre: this year it was Garforth Garden Centre with it's singing reindeer heads! We will end the year with our Christmas lunch at Selby Bowling Club in December, and then in January we will be meeting to plan where to go in 2025.

### ***Share a Skill Workshops***

January 31<sup>st</sup> Decorate a Vase. Limited places available.

February 28<sup>th</sup> Decorate a Box with some new techniques for things -you love to keep. (February being a month of love/Valentine)

If you would like to join either of these workshops please contact [anneselwyn@hotmail.com](mailto:anneselwyn@hotmail.com)

## **2025 Speaker List**

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Years day so no meeting	
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Cade	Meet the Butler
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	AGM	Rita Braithwaite It's a Funny Way to Earn a Living Pt 2
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Leeds Waits	Tales of the Devil in Yorkshire
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Patti Gold	An Amusing look back at my life In Showbiz
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	David Hardcastle	Mobile Police Museum
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joanne Aston	Mad Women Walking
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Jan Tetley	Yorkshire Quiz
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jeff Jacklin	The Idiots Guide to Yorkshire
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Stuart Atkins	My Life in Music
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Mathers	Municipal Marvels
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas programme including carols from the children of Thorpe Willoughby Primary School	

## **NOTICE OF AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of Selby & District u3a will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 10.30 am in Thorpe Willoughby Village Hall.

Nominations are invited for all four Officer posts (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary), for Groups Co-ordinator and for General Committee Members. It is important that this u3a continues to thrive, so this is a great opportunity for anyone who may have new ideas or a different perspective on how we achieve that to be part of making this u3a even better.

Nominations should be made on the nomination form which is attached to this newsletter or is available from the Secretary at [secretary.selbyanddistrictu3a@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.selbyanddistrictu3a@gmail.com)  
Nominations should be returned to the Secretary no later than Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Any resolutions for discussion at the AGM should be submitted in writing to the Secretary no later than Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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.

<b>Drop In for A Cuppa</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday</b> <b>10.00-12.00</b> <b>Barco Lounge, Market Cross,</b> <b>Selby</b>

<b>Monthly General Meeting</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month</b> <b>10.00-12.00</b> <b>Thorpe Willoughby Village</b> <b>Hall</b>

Anytime	Allotments	Peter Robinson	Westbourne Road
Varied times	Knife and Fork	Jan Tetley	Various Locations
Every Monday 10 -12	Monday Crafts	Sue Davison	Selby Bowling Club
Most Mondays 10 -12 (Not 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	Writing	Imelda Dickinson	Various locations.
Every Monday 1.30 - 3.30	Guitar+	Carol Hewan	Selby Bowling Club
Every Monday 14:00 16:00	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	Engineering Past & Present (Formerly Steam & Steel )	Patrick Bennett Julie Wilkinson	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
Every Wednesday 13:00	Wednesday Tai Chi	Anne Nelmes	Brayton Scout Hut
Every Wednesday 2– 3	Aerobics/Exercise	Kay McSherry	Osgodby Methodist Church Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday 13:00	Velo U3a	Joanne Sharpe	Various Meeting Points

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
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 2 – 4	Dark Skies	Joanne Sharpe	Selby Bowling Club
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 10:00	Walking	Helen Billington	Various Locations
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2 - 4	Board Games Backgammon, Mahjong.	Maureen Sherry	Selby Bowling Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 10:30 - 12	Family History	Margaret Cromack	Selby Bowling Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 10:00	Wellbeing Walks	John Richardson	Various locations
4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 10:00	Longer Walks	John Duffy	Various Locations
Every Friday 14:00	Friday Tai Chi	Anne Nelmes	Brayton Scout Hut
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 2 - 4	Local History	Michael Hewan	Temporally Suspended
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 9:30 – 11:30	Floral Art	Rita Braithwaite	Selby Bowling Club
3 <sup>rd</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
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday 2 – 4 (Next Meeting 29 <sup>th</sup> November)	Philosophy	Lindsay Gee	Selby Bowling Club
Last Friday 9:30 – 12:00	Friday Crafts Workshop	Anne Selwyn	Selby Bowling Club

### **Other Events U3a**

Drop In for a Cuppa will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December and then the next one will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

The Group Leaders Forum & Lunch will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> January – details to follow nearer the time.

***Non U3a events which may be interest***

The reindeers arrived at Osgodby Garden Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> November and will be there until Santa needs them to pull his sleigh.

The annual Selby Abbey Christmas Tree Festival is 29<sup>th</sup> November until 13<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. Come and see our u3a Christmas tree.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Members. For those who cannot make the December meeting we look forward to seeing you in February.





**NOMINATION FORM for EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025-6**

Please use this form to nominate a member(s) to the Executive Committee of Selby & District u3a.

Please ensure all names are printed clearly. Return this form, when completed, to the Selby & District u3a Secretary **no later than 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.

A candidate's qualification for election is:

- He/she must consent to accept office if elected and agree to abide by the requirements for office as stated by the Third Age Trust.
- All names on this form must be current members of Selby & District u3a.

I hereby propose/second

NAME	POSITION

Proposer's Name

Secunder's Name

***Please send this form to: Selby & District u3a Secretary, 15A Green Lane, Selby YO8 9AN or email to [secretary.selbyanddistrictu3a@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.selbyanddistrictu3a@gmail.com)***

**Typed names accepted**