

Selby & District

u3a

Newsletter

July 2025



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Hello everyone and welcome to Selby & District u3a July Newsletter

Did I really just type that – July? Halfway through the year already, I'm sure when I went to bed last night it was still March. Why does time go faster as you get older just when you need it to slow down, I'm beginning to feel like a lemming rushing towards the cliff edge 🐼

The weather has gone a bit OTT as I write this and I find myself praying for rain for a change, even the dog can't be bothered to get out of bed.



Holiday season is well underway so we had a few less people at the June meeting (well I hope that's the reason).

Our speaker was a great success, he was informative and amusing, he involved all the members in his talk and I'm sure we all enjoyed it. Photo's below:-



He brought rather a lot of items with him and it would have been better if there had been a few people to help him pack up. We have a great 'set up' team so if there is anyone who could stay for 15 minutes or so at the end to help clear up please contact maureensherry3@gmail.com . Thank you.

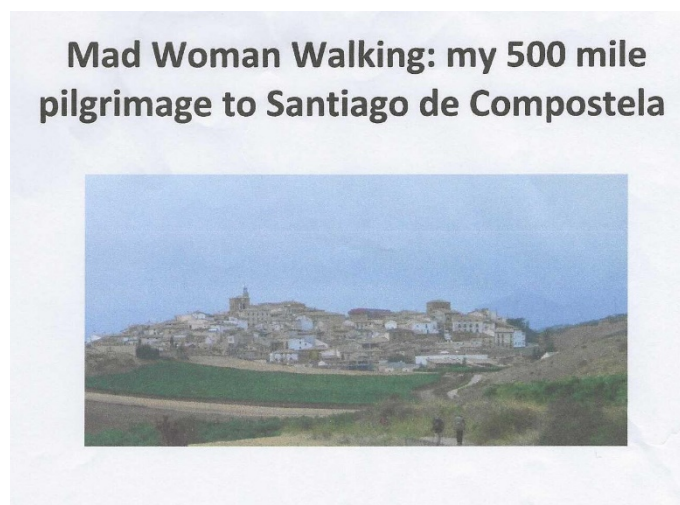
Bowling Club Meeting Room

The TV in the meeting room which is used by several of our groups has finally given up the ghost. If by chance anyone has a 42" size (or above) TV that they are not using could you please contact Mike Cowling mikecowling66@googlemail.com

Our Next Monthly Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be on the 2nd July.

Our speaker will be Joanne Aston, see below:-



Chairs' Chat

Our monthly meetings which take place on the first Wednesday of every month are going from strength to strength. Over the next few months we will of course be having various speakers and a quiz with a prize. See detailed list further on in this newsletter.

In October we will also have a return of the produce table for anyone who wishes to bring along some harvest festival type produce, such as jams, chutney or surplus fruit and veg from the garden or allotment. This can be donated for sale or even swapped for another item from the table.

If your produce does not go to a new home then please take it with you when you leave.

Our thanks go to all the helpers that set up the room for the open meeting. We would also like to ask if more people could help with the clearing up. Sometimes it is not just the tables and chairs that need to be sorted.

Singing for Pleasure

Do you like to sing?

We are invited to join the Singing for Pleasure group run through Sherburn u3a who are one of our Cygnet network partners. It is a very well-established singing group which meets in a lovely venue (great acoustics) on the second and fourth Wednesday morning of the month . They have a skilled pianist and a group leader who covers a very wide range of different music. All the music/lyrics are provided for you.

Tea and coffee and a good sing song for just £1 to u3a members.

Everyone would be made very welcome.

To find out more or to arrange a visit just contact either John Richardson (Cygnet co-ordinator) rich.john@hotmail.com or Anne Selwyn (Chair) anneselwyn@hotmail.com

Accompanying this newsletter you will find a full list of activities offered by Sherburn U3a which can be accessed through our CYGNET arrangement (details also attached). If you would like to attend any of these groups please contact John Richardson rich.john@gmail.com

News from the Groups

Military History.

The June meeting of Military History heard a presentation from the group's leader on the battle of Passchendaele during WW1 in 1917. The battle was intended to be the big breakthrough by the Allies against the entrenched Germans that held the high ground to the East and South of the Belgium town of Ypres.

Initial success was not followed up and the Germans were given time to prepare defences and the allied guns turned the ground into a muddy quagmire during the bombardment of the enemy's lines. A succession of engagements during the protracted battle, each objective was hard fought, eventually led to Canadian troops taking the all important Passchendaele Ridge in early November. Estimates an allied death toll of upto 400,000 men with the Germans losing 250,000.

All that effort and sacrifice was pointless as the ridge was eventually evacuated by the Allies, without a shot being fired, owing to their preparations for the German Spring Offensive of 1918.

The group also heard about Wakefield woman, Nurse Nellie Spindler, who died from wounds at a casualty clearing station near the front.

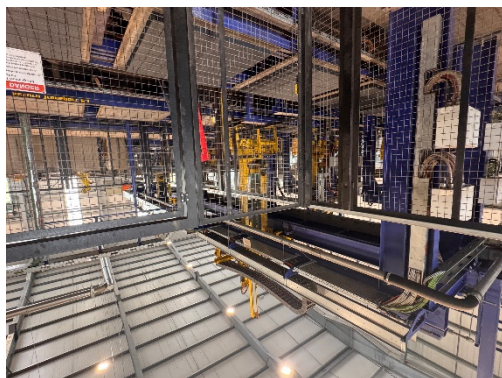
Photography.

The group had technical issues with displaying members' photographs during the group critique. However, a solution was found that enabled the work to be seen. The theme was 'Composing a landscape photograph'. Again, the quality of work gets better each month, and despite the images being shown on a laptop screen it was obvious that members had put effort into their work.

Next month's theme is 'An English Summer event'. Members have been asked to attend any local event and produce a range of images from the event.

Engineering Group

A group of members from the U3A Engineering Group recently visited the manufacturing facilities of Plasmor Ltd, a well know local company based in Knottingley who manufacture concrete blocks, paving slabs and other pre-cast concrete products for the building trade. They are a long established and successful family owned business which now operates several plants throughout UK. The group were guided round the plant by one of their senior managers who gave a detailed and informative talk on all aspects of their business. A very interesting day which was most appreciated by the members who were able to attend.



Knife and Fork

The Knife and Fork group enjoyed it's last lunch at Selby College.,



Floral Art

Plants and flowers



+ the photo on the front page.

Art Group

“Inktense” workshops developing new art skills

This month has seen two tutorials using Inktense art pencils, kindly delivered by Rita Braithwaite, one of our long standing group members. Inktense pencils deliver strong and intense colours when they are made wet, giving a new dimension to art projects. The colours are much more vibrant than conventional paint and can be used to build up layers of blended colour or used individually for fine detail if required. Different intensity of colour can be achieved by using less or more water. Where Inktense pencils differ hugely from conventional art pencils is that once they have dried, the colour becomes permanent on the page. This is different to conventional watercolour pencils and paints as the colour with these becomes re-activated every time it gets wet. Inktense allows layers of detail and colour to be built up that remain in situ if left to dry before adding more.



Rita explained how to use the Inktense pencils and the different results that can be achieved before giving the group the opportunity to use her pencils to try out a few techniques of their own.

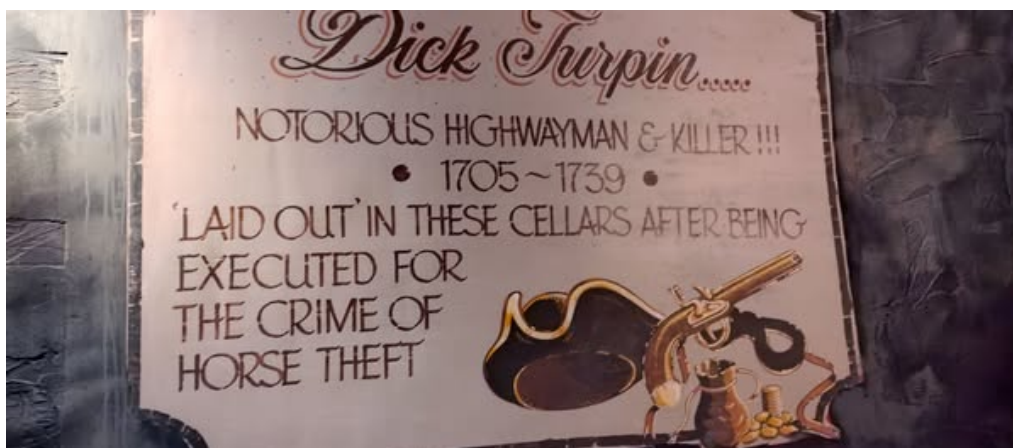
The workshop was very well received with some really interesting results starting to emerge. We thank Rita for running the workshop and her insight into what is a very interesting and new medium. It is fair to say that there was a lot of “in(k)tense” discussion about it as well as a lot of fun. We look forward to seeing more creations in the future.



More workshops are planned throughout the year across a range of topics.

Local History

This afternoon's guided walk was about Dick Turpin.



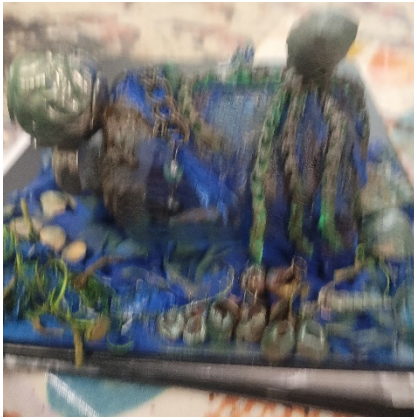
The next walk is on the 4th July, around Selby. I still have places available tetleyjan@gmail.com

There will also be another walking tour entitled Railways and Ships coming in the autumn.

Share A Skill workshop

This months workshop. Four very different and brilliant pieces made by 4 happy members.





Philosophy Group

Our next meeting will be on the 26th September.

Other activities that may be of interest u3a

U3a Peak District Family History Conference 6th September 2025

The Peak District Family History Conference for 2025 will be, once again, held at the Palace Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire on the 6th September 2025.

Despite significant increases in costs, we have managed to keep the ticket price at £30 which includes a light lunch and entry into the Prize Draw.

This year the Conference has been organised in partnership with the Family History Federation and we warmly welcome all members of Family History Societies who wish to attend the conference.

For more information visit <https://peakdistrictnetwork.wixsite.com/familyhistory/about-5>

Other activities that may be of interest, not u3a



2025 Speaker List

July 2 nd	Joanne Aston	Mad Women Walking
August 6 th	Jan Tetley	Yorkshire Quiz
September 3 rd	Jeff Jacklin	The Idiots Guide to Yorkshire
October 1 st	Patti Gold	An Amusing look back at my life in Showbiz
November 5 th	Peter Mathers	Municipal Marvels
December 3 rd	Christmas programme including carols from the children of Thorpe Willoughby Primary School	

Thought for the week 🐱

Before you criticise someone

You should walk a mile in their shoes

That way when you do criticise them

You'll be a mile away and you'll have their shoes!

Interest Groups Calendar

For further information on any of these interest groups, or Selby & District u3a in general, please visit our website [Selby & District u3a](#)

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

Activity	Day	Time	Venue	Leader
Aerobics/Exercise	Wednesday	2.00 – 3.00	Osgodby Methodist Church Hall	Kay McSherry
Allotments	Any time		Westbourne Road	Peter Robinson
Art	Monday	2.00 – 4.00	Thorpe Willoughby Village Hall	Janet Howley Julie Harrand Eddie Roberts
Board Games	Tuesday	From 1.30	4, South View, Osgodby	Kay McSherry
Board Games Backgammon Mahjong	2 nd Thursday	2.00 – 4.00	Selby Bowling Club	Maureen Sherry
Chess	Thursday	9.30 – 11.30	Selby Bowling Club	Alan Preene
Dark Skies	1 st Thursday	2.00 – 4.00	Selby Bowling Club	Michael Hewan
Engineering Past & Present (Formerly Steam & Steel)	2 nd Tuesday	2.00 – 4.00	Selby Bowling Club	Patrick Bennett Julie Wilkinson
Family History	3 rd Thursday	10.30 – 12.00	Selby Bowling Club	Margaret Cromack
Floral Art	1 st Friday	9.30 – 11.30	Selby Bowling Club	Rita Braithwaite
Flyleaf Books	3 rd Friday	3.00	Selby Library	Imelda Dickinson
Friday Crafts Workshop	Last Friday	9.30 – 12.00	Selby Bowling Club	Anne Selwyn
Garden Visits	2 nd Friday		Various locations	Ros Low

Guitars+	Every Monday	1.30 – 3.30	Selby Bowling Club	Carol Hewan
Knife & Fork	Varied times		Various locations	Jan Tetley
Knit & Natter	Every Tuesday	10.00 – 12.00	Selby Bowling Club	Annella Law
Local History	Various		Various	Jan Tetley
Longer Walks	4 th Thursday	10.00	Various locations	John Duffy
Military History	3 rd Tuesday	11.00 – 1.00	Selby Bowling Club	Mike Cowling
Monday Crafts	Every Monday	10.00 – 12.00	Selby Bowling Club	Sue Davison
Philosophy	4 th Friday	2.00 – 4.00	Selby Bowling Club	Lindsay Gee
Photography	3 rd Tuesday	2.00 – 4.00	Selby Bowling Club	Mike Cowling Celia Barnes
Textile Arts	3 rd Friday	9.30 – 11.30	Selby Bowling Club	Rita Braithwaite
Thursday Crafts	1 st Thursday	10.00 – 12.00	Selby Bowling Club	Helen Billington
Walking	2 nd Thursday	10.00	Various locations	Helen Billington
Wellbeing Walks	3 rd Thursday	10.00	Various locations	John Richardson
Writing	Most Mondays (not 4 th Monday)	10.00 – 12.00	Various locations	Imelda Dickinson
Writing Workshops	4 th Monday	10.00 – 12.00	St. Wilfred's Court	Imelda Dickinson

Could Group Leaders check that the information for their group is correct and if not please let me know asap.

Thanks