

Selby & District

u3a

Newsletter

June 2025



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Hello everyone and welcome to Selby & District u3a June Newsletter

Unbelievably the weather is still excelling itself, the downside being that my grass is now dead! They tell me you can't have everything but I would like to know why I can't have good weather and green grass – answers on a postcard please....

As the holiday season approaches we will still be needing more volunteers to help with preparing the hall for the meeting, so if you could come a bit early and help out please could you email maureensherry3@gmail.com
Thanks.

Although I was not at the last meeting as I was on holiday, admiring the view on the front page, I am told that it went off very well and everyone joined in with the red, white and blue theme. I'm sure you all enjoyed the tea and scones and I believe the sing along was also a great success.



Chess Group

The Chess group has players of all abilities and welcomes anyone wanting to come along and play a few games on Thursday mornings at the Bowling Club.

In keeping with the theme of VE Day you may find the following interesting.

'Letters to Loved Ones'

Some months ago, when projects and plans were being made for the 80th anniversary of V.E. Day, I heard that people were being asked to send the Imperial War Museum copies of family letters written during World War 2.

I sent a copy of the letter (now very fragile) that my father had written to my mother in September 1945 when he was in the army in East Africa. He had just got the news by telegram that their first baby (my brother David) had been born in Leeds.

The project, called 'Letters to Loved Ones' received hundreds of letters that have now been collected into a website.

I heard no more until an email from the Imperial War Museum arrived, inviting me, plus a guest, to an event on May 7th for the V.E. Day 80th celebrations. This came as a complete surprise.

I understood it to be a general invitation to an exhibition at the museum in Manchester, and almost didn't say yes, as I thought I could go some other time but I decided to go and was accompanied by my 17 year old great-nephew Xander.

When we arrived at the museum (which is an impressive venue) we were greeted very warmly by the staff who seemed to know who we were. We were given a programme for the event that evening, and it was only then that I realised that my Dad's letter was one of only seven that had been selected from all the hundreds submitted and made into a performance by the National Theatre !

Looking through the list of actors was a bit overwhelming as they were all illustrious - famous on TV, cinema and in theatre. The actual production was beautifully done. There was an introduction and piece read by a Manchester poet, then one of the actors (Mel Giedroyc) talked about the project and how honoured they all felt to be involved. The gathered audience (about 60 of us I think) were then divided into three groups and we moved between rooms/exhibition spaces in each of which two actors read letters to us. My Dad's letter was the third to be read. The actors were right in front of us, so it was very intimate - but the impact of these letters was tremendous. They were all very moving, but my Dad's was a bit different in that it is so full of joy. In it, he says he is 'the happiest man in the world', even though he does not know when he might be 'demobbed' and return home to meet his son.

The actor who read Dad's letter to us is Omari Douglas. He 'became' Bill Jackson. It was wonderful. I shook his hand and thanked him. He had tears in his eyes, as did several of the other staff involved in the project. They said Dad's letter had moved them all so much they just had to include it.

I think everyone recognised how important and evocative letters can be, especially those written during times of adversity.

This event has now motivated me to complete the memoir about my father that I began some time ago. I intend to have it ready in time for my brother's 80th birthday in August.

All of our family are delighted about the 'Letters to Loved Ones' project and we are exchanging all sorts of memories as a result.

Maggie Jackson

Forthcoming Event which may be of interest

We will have a table at this event and John would be most happy to have company if you're free on the day.

Tuesday 3rd June

Selby Abbey Summer Fair. All the volunteer organisations in the Selby area.

Promoted by "Up for Yorkshire"



Our Next Monthly Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be on the 4th June.

Our speaker will be David Hardcastle who will talk to us about his Mobile Police Museum.

If anyone has anything that could be used as a raffle prize could you please bring it along as we are running a bit short. Thanks

News from the Groups

Garden Group

The Garden Group had a great visit to Temple Newsome all in lovely sunshine.



Share A Skill Workshops

Friday 27th June

June workshop. A message in a bottle workshop.

For your garden.

Last Friday in the month at SBC



Friday 16th May – Make a Book Vase was a great success, see photos.



Military History.

The group met to hear about the Army's brave soldiers who undertook work in tackling EODs during the period of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland. Steve Wilks presented an interesting and informative talk on the work, undertaken in extremely difficult circumstances. The group saw the development of military technology used in defeating the bomb makers and the technique used. Next month, third Tuesday at 11:00hrs, a talk on the 3rd battle of Ypres is planned. We probably know it as Passchendaele. New members always welcome.

Photography.

The challenge set for May was 'Contre-Jour'. A literal translation is against the day. Photographers were asked to produce pictures taken into the light. Landscapes, still life, trees and buildings provided subject matter.

Excellent work was group critiqued with lots of thought and imagination going into photographs.

A short presentation on composition followed and photographers have been asked to provide three pictures using the techniques heard.

Next meeting will be on the third Tuesday of June in the bowling club at 2pm.

New members always welcome, it doesn't matter at what level your photography is at, we learn together.

Some of our groups collaborated to produce a film entitled 'Guided by Swans – Four Stories from Selby Abbey. This is now available on Yout tube and is very much worth watching as it tells stories from the Abbey's early history. Please follow this link

<https://youtu.be/bcPqAV8ofyQ?si=LGIWeTIYeRZOOi9t>

Knit and Natter

The Knit and Natter ladies have been busy on another team project as we knitted and crocheted two poppy wreaths to celebrate VE Day.

They were then displayed at the Bowling Club and Riccall Institute where an afternoon tea was held for older members of the community. We hope they will be used at future events.



Board Games



A good time was had by all



Local History

What it takes to stir a sleepy town.....

Royals, Rebels and Resisters

An eye opening 60 minute history walk around Selby

£1 for leaflet and tour by Richard the history man.

8 places left for Friday 4th July...1.30pm ..please book with Jan Tetley By emailing tetleyjan@gmail.com or leave message on answer phone 01757 707987

I will start another list if sufficient interest.

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

Philosophy

This month we discussed aesthetics, or the philosophy of art, and the role of artists in our lives.

Aesthetics developed as a branch of philosophy during the Enlightenment of the 18th century. Alongside it there grew up an 'amateur audience' with increasing access to exhibitions, concerts, performance, museums.

The question "What is beauty?" generated a lot of discussion among us, but also common ground, in respect of giving pleasure.

The great range of contributions artists can make to our lives was recognised - cultural ambassadors, challenging social norms, encouraging people to study appearances more closely, and so on. We felt that music could have the most intense impacts on us and was the most needed artform; and that all the arts could enhance the quality of our lives. But perhaps from cave painting times onwards the arts came into play once basic needs were satisfied.

We were all autonomists rather than aesthetic moralists in that a work's intrinsic value could be separated from a maker's reprehensible behaviour.

The Art Group Family Tree with more limbs than ever

The Art Family has continued to grow and now boasts a very healthy membership of

over 40. This means that the group is now full but we will keep a reserve list so that anyone who is interested in joining us, can be added when a space becomes available.
Extension to the Group Leadership



Jackie & Skye

In response to managing the growing art family, the leadership team has now increased in size with the addition of Jackie Hudson, who has kindly volunteered. This brings the leadership team total to 6 and an extra pair of helping hands will allow the group to better cover periods of holiday or illness without disrupting the art schedule.

Eddie Roberts, Joint Leader of the group welcomed Jackie's appointment saying "having Jackie on board will help ensure that we can best meet the needs of the art group going forward. We are delighted that she has agreed to step up to support the leadership team".

Keeping the art journey moving

As the group is now quite large, the leadership team have been canvassing feedback from the members including looking at ideas to enhance the art family experience and ensure that everyone feels involved, supported and connected. The team are working on a series of possible monthly art themes to run in conjunction with planned workshops.

For June, the topic is going to be "Holiday memories from yesteryear". We are looking forward to seeing the creations that our art family create whether it is a sun kissed landscape, waves lapping the shores or a washed out week in a caravan. In addition to our June theme, a workshop on Inktense pencils has been organised. Two tutorials have been planned during the month and are fully subscribed. Members are excited to try out this new art medium and we look forward to seeing the results. A display of the creations from the Inktense tutorials and June holiday theme will be set up in a mini "in-house" exhibition, in July and will feature in a future newsletter.



Bernie's not coy about her Koi!

Bernie finished this fabulous painting of Koi carp in only a small number of weeks. We were so impressed that we had to get a photograph of it. Well done!

Making an impression with ink

Michael has been focussing on using pencil and ink to explore new ways of presenting a landscape. This technique uses lines and hatching to give texture to the image and is helping Michael to refine and develop his



drawing skills.



Galloping to a spectacular finish!

Richard completed this painting of horses jumping fences at a race. He said it had taken him ages to finish but the end result was well worth it!



Sketching with great results

You don't have to be covered in paint to enjoy art within our group. We encourage everyone to follow their heart and try whatever takes their fancy. Julie has produced this image of a man and dog using pencil. Looks great!

Chess Group

The Chess group has players of all abilities and welcomes anyone wanting to come along and play a few games on Thursday mornings at the Bowling Club.

2025 Speaker List

June 4 th	David Hardcastle	Mobile Police Museum
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	

Other activities that may be of interest, not U3a

Riccall Archaeology with Dr Jon Kenny

The Normans

Tuesday 3rd June
Tuesday 10th June
Tuesday 17th June
Tuesday 24th June
£8 per session
Or £30 for the 4 sessions.

At the Community Hub, the Old Methodist Chapel in Riccall.
Meeting from 10 am until Midday.
Free Tea, Coffee and biscuits.

The 4-week course will be at an introductory level so if you think you would be interested in this fascinating period in our history why not join us.

Contact Jon Kenny on jkcomarc@gmail.com



Thought for the week 🐱

Bread is like the sun

It rises in the Yeast

And sets in the Waist!

For further information on any of these interest groups, or Selby & District u3a in general, please visit our website [Selby & District u3a](http://www.selbyanddistrictu3a.co.uk)

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
Confab 2	1 st Monday	1.30 – 2.30	ZOOM	Michael Hewan
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	2nd 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
Velo u3a	2 nd & 4 th Wednesday	1.00	Various meeting points	TBA
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