

Selby & District

u3a

Newsletter

December 2025/January 2026



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Hello everyone and welcome to Selby & District u3a November Newsletter

I hope you are all wrapped up as snow is threatened for today but it probably won't materialise, time will tell. At least it will be a change from all this rain at this rate we will all have webbed feet by Christmas.

The November meeting went well. Three members donated cake to raise money for Yorkshire Cancer. £27.60 was donated and Anne has sent this off to the charity. Thank you to all those who donated.

Peter's talk on Municipal Marvels was well received and I'm sure we all have some new places to visit once the weather starts to improve.

December Open Meeting – The groups which make things (Art Group, Textile Group, Craft Groups and Friday Workshops) will all have exhibitions of work done during the year along with table top sales. There will be a free raffle as well as our usual raffle and the Children from the local school will be serenading us with some Christmas Carols again. As space will be at a premium this month there will be no book swap. There will also not be a membership table but as your membership secretary I will be in attendance so if anyone has any questions please come and find me. Do put the date in your diary (you may even get a piece of Christmas cake to go with your cuppa) as this is obviously a very busy period for us all.

Could you all please remember that it is your responsibility to make sure that you are signed in (whatever time you arrive) as this is also our fire list and we need to comply with the regulations. If you are kind enough to come in early to help with the setting up could you please make sure you sign in before sitting down to listen to the school choir. This will be much appreciated by the ladies on the desk, thank you.

January Meeting

Our January meeting will be a celebration of our 10th Birthday, come along and help us celebrate. There will be cake and Jayne Griffiths from Milford Hedgehogs will be giving us a talk about our prickly friends and what to do if you find one out in the day – which is not OK.

There will also be a tombola so if any of you have anything which could be used as prizes (good opportunity for a clear out before Christmas) please bring it to the December open meeting. Thank you.

Proposed New Group (MOT – Members out Together)

I have had quite a bit of positive feedback concerning this new group so if anyone else is interested please let me know, the more people that are included in the Whatsapp group the better for everyone. pamelaoverson@gmail.com

As we are now nearing the end of the year I'm looking to get it up and running in January, so look out for information in the February newsletter (we don't do one in January).

Another new proposed interest group from Pauline Witton

Are you interested in carnivorous plants or would you like to know more about these fascinating plants? I'm exploring the possibility of setting up a Group for carnivorous plant enthusiasts and am looking for expressions of interest.

The idea at the moment is very loose – visits to nurseries, expert speakers to visit us, plant swaps etc. If you think this might interest you, please let me know. If it's not for you, there's no need to reply.

If there is sufficient interest I'll arrange a meeting early in the new year to discuss in more depth.

Selby Abbey Christmas Tree Festival

We have a Christmas Tree in the Abbey again this year so come along and have a look between 10.00am and 12.00pm on 17th and 18th December.



News from the Groups

Art Group

Brushing up on Brusho

A workshop on Brusho was delivered this month by Barry Connell who kindly shared his knowledge and experience of using this quirky and remarkably interesting material. Brusho comes in little powder pots and is a very unusual art product to use. It can be watered down and applied with a brush or sprinkled onto wet paper or directly onto dry paper before spraying a little water on it. The water releases the brilliant colours contained within the powder to profound impact. The effects are always different and using Brusho is not for the faint hearted, especially if you like to have a lot of control over your artwork.

Barry showed the group the various application techniques and everyone then had a go. The results were really amazing and we thank Barry for taking the time. More workshops showcasing different art techniques and skills are planned in the future.



Rejoicing in the best that Autumn has to offer

The art group were given Autumn for the October subject. As expected, the group have used a wide variety of techniques and colours to show the absolute best that the season has to offer. Use of rich colours and more than a couple of pumpkins found their way onto the stage as we displayed the finished works. The monthly topics have been very well received and will continue as a source of inspiration and ideas for those wishing to take part. The November topic is Remembrance and some examples of the artworks produced will be displayed at the 3 December U3a monthly meeting.



Floral Art

Earth, Wind and Fire – Thanks Rita



Guitar Group

The Guitar group have a new member and are now at full capacity. We are currently practising our Christmas set list for Selby Dementia Forward which we'll be playing for them on 17th December.

Military History.

The group met to hear a presentation from Ken Lawrence, a member of the Military History group. Ken's talk was about the development of the British Army rifle from musket times to modern day. Ken explained the major advances in weaponry that included rifling of the musket bore, breech loading, the use of magazines for holding bullets and the introduction of 'White Powder' from France, which changed the face of the battlefield. Previously 'Black Powder' was used and left a dark and cloudy pall during battle.

The group heard about factors for good firing and long range work in various American and European wars that led to the modern day design of the British rifle.

The next meeting will hear about the Battle of Stalingrad. The group meets every third Tuesday of the month in the committee room of Selby Bowling Club at 11:00am.

Chess Group

In addition to meeting on Thursday mornings, the Chess Group now additionally meets on Fridays at 6pm at the Bowling Club. New members of all abilities are welcome. Some of our members are now participating in the Yorkshire Chess League, and are amongst the top rankings

Thursday Walking Group

Walkers met in Bishopthorpe for a five mile walk that left the village and headed to York. The walk used the Selby to York bicycle path and members heard about the York Solar System Trail. The sun and planets are laid out in scale along the path and each planet is shown in relative size and distance from the sun. The walk then moved under the A64 bypass towards the Knavesmire, home of York Racecourse, and then down to the River Ouse for a walk along its banks to Bishopthorpe.

The Marcia Inn let us park in their car park and the group enjoyed a nice lunch and drinks. The next walk is in December and leaves Selby to return for lunch at The Capri next to the abbey. (Booking is needed for lunch). Please contact group leader, Helen Billington, as she needs numbers and a deposit for the restaurant



Philosophy Group

We held a balloon debate over some 20th-century philosophers, Mary Midgley, Noam Chomsky and Robert E Grant: and agreed that all 3 were of great value, although Mary Midgley had the edge by reason of her contributions to virtue ethics and animal rights. The conversation was thoroughly enjoyable

Photography Group

The assignment for November was 'Nature'. Photographers were asked to provide 3-4 photographs on the subject. As group leader, Mike Cowling, went through members' work, there were appreciative comments from the group.



Photographers had produced thoughtful, technically excellent pictures from fungi in the woods to moody landscapes and moonscapes. A very pleasing effort from all concerned.

The next group assignment is 'From Dusk until Dawn'. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Bowling Club Committee Room at 2pm

Traction & Engineering

Group Members visited the Amazon Fulfilment Centre in Bolton on 22 October. We were very impressed with the efficiency of operations with many robots, conveyor belts and slides drops in what appeared to be a very automated set up over 3 floors.

In November five members visited the Triumph Motorcycle Manufacturing plant and nearby museum at Hinkley in Leicestershire and witnessed these motorcycles being assembled. After the plant visit the group visited the n Motorcycle Museum which gave the group an insight into how motorcycles have developed over the years. For some it was very nostalgic.



Ten members will be visiting the Cooper King Distillery on 17th December for what should be a happy pre-Christmas tasting or two.

External visits are in planning for 2026. These include Yorkshire Wolds Railway, Morgan Car Factory near Malvern, N Yorks Response Control Room (Postponed from November), The Tanfield Railway, Weardale Railway and "Kynron" At Bishop Auckland, Rolls Royce Aero Engine Plant in Derby, the East Anglia Historical Bus Gathering at Whitlesea and Markham Grange Steam Museum near Doncaster.

The group is eager to attract new members. We ordinarily meet at Selby Bowls Club on the second Tuesday of each month from 2-4pm. We are not meeting in December so our next meeting will be on 13 January in the committee Room

Come along to our January meeting to find out more about our proposed visits for 2026 or Contact either Ian Ayres or Eddie Roberts for more information or via John Richardson - Groups Coordinator

Other things which may be of interest, not U3a

For those with little ones to amuse – ***Osgodby Garden Centre***

- 🎅 Santa will be in his grotto from Saturday 23rd November. 🦌🦌 His Reindeer (Comet & Blitzen) and the Donkeys are on their way
UPDATE They have now arrived.



Slide show from Gloucester Cathedral

A Slide Show will be held at St Francis Church, Thorpe Willoughby, on Thursday 15th January - 1.30pm

The slides will be of the 200+ Floral Arrangements done in Gloucester Cathedral this year. Cost £3.00 pp. Proceeds are for MacMillan Cancer Support

Raffle & Refreshments will be available

2025 Speaker List

December 3rd Christmas programme including carols from the children of
 Thorpe Willoughby Primary School

2026 Speaker List

January 7 th	Jayne Griffiths	Milford Hedgehogs
February 4 th	Mary Smith	The Wartime Schoolgirl
March 4 th	AGM Rita Braithwaite	Get Me to the Church on Time
April 1 st	Chris Cade	The Railway King
May 6 th	Tim Foreman	Amusing Years in Sales and Marketing
June 3 rd	Keiron Hardwick	Yorkshire Air Ambulance
July 1 st	Joanne Aston	The Mitford Men
August 5 th	Sarah Greenhalgh	Dogs Trust
September 2 nd	David Hardcastle	Police Horses
October 7 th	Patti Gold	My Life in Showbusiness
November 7 th	A beginners Guide to Retirement	
December 2 nd	Chris Cade	A Christmas Carol + local school choir

NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Selby & District u3a will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 10.30 am in Thorpe Willoughby Village Hall.

Nominations are invited for all four Officer posts (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) and for General Committee Members. Going forward we will be running without a Groups Co-ordinator. John has done sterling work as co-ordinator over the years but has now completed his allowed time on the committee and we thank him for all his efforts and help.

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 Membership Secretary pamelaoverson@gmail.com . Nominations should be returned to the Membership Secretary no later than Wednesday 4th February.

Any resolutions for discussion at the AGM should be submitted in writing to the Chair anneselwyn@hotmail.com no later than Wednesday 4th February 2026.

There will be no AOB at the AGM on the day.

Interest Groups Calendar

For further information on any of these interest groups, or Selby & District u3a in general, please contact our Group Co-ordinator John Richardson by text or phone on 07803 296603 or email rich.johnh@hotmail.com or visit our website

<https://selby.u3asite.uk> › groups

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 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 Fridays	9.30 – 11.30 6.00 pm	Selby Bowling Club	Alan Preene
Dark Skies	1 st Thursday	2.00 – 4.00	Selby Bowling Club	Michael Hewan
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	Home studio Snaith	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 Michael Howley
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
Traction and Engineering	2 nd Tuesday	2.00 – 4.00	Selby Bowling Club	Eddie Roberts Ian Ayres
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

If you are a new member and would like some more information about our u3a and the groups offered, please come to our drop-in at Barco lounge on the 2nd or 4th Wednesday of the month, 10.00 -12.00 am where there will be existing members you can talk to.



NOMINATION FORM for EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2026-7

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 Membership Secretary **no later than 4th February 2026**.

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: Membership Secretary 4, Willow Court, Selby YO8 8RN or email to pamelaoverson@gmail.com

Typed names accepted