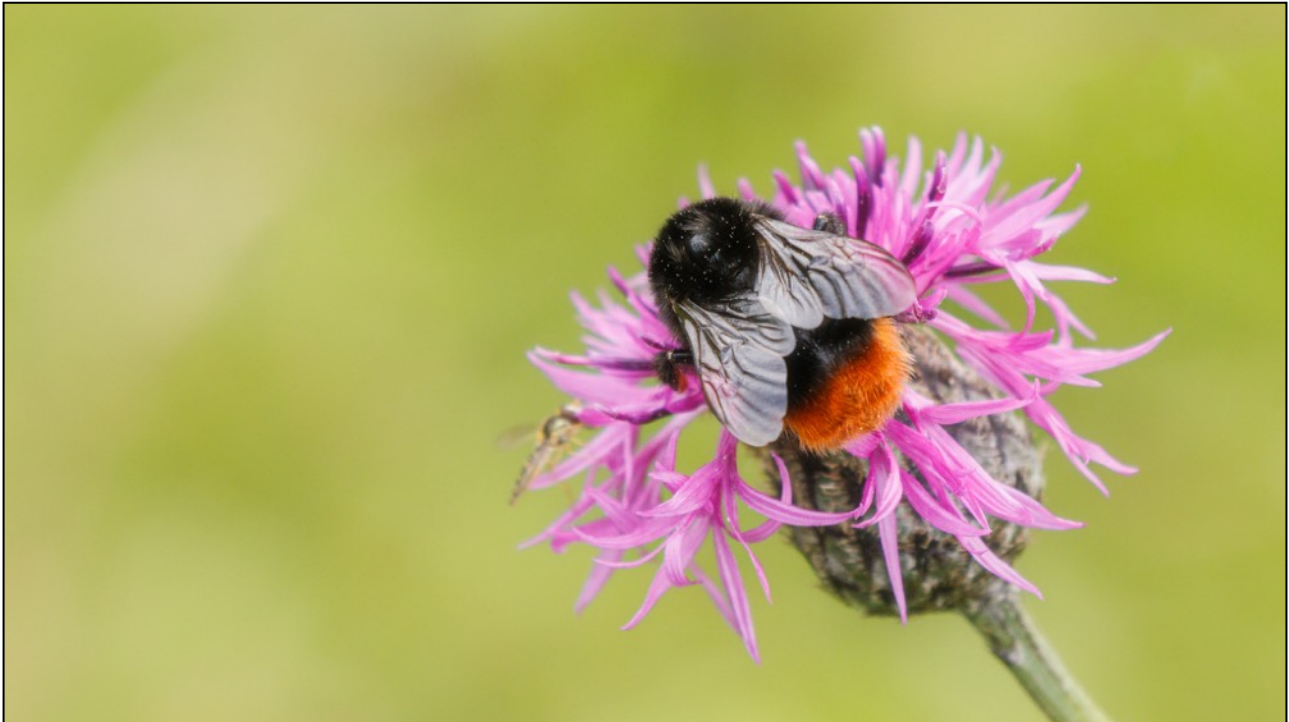


OUR MISSION

The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full-time work by all means, including associated activities, conducive to learning and personal development.



Red-tailed Bumblebee on Greater Knapweed

Welcome ...

...to the Summer 2024 edition of our Beverley & District u3a newsletter. I hope that you find it of interest. Should you have any suggestions for improvements or items for inclusion in future editions, please write to me at simontull@gmail.com¹. **Simon Tull**

Chair's Message

Well, it looks as though summer has finally arrived and I hope you are enjoying the sunshine.

Unfortunately we were unable to hold our AGM in June as the meeting was not quorate (something to do with a football match?), so this is notice that the AGM was adjourned and will now be held at the beginning of the next monthly meeting on Thursday 18th July.

David Barton and **Barry Brook** have both stood down from the committee and I would like to thank them on your behalf for their contributions.

The committee has co-opted two new members, **Shelagh Murray** and **Rachel Ellis-Jones**, with Rachel taking on the role of Speaker Finder. Please read on below, where Rachel introduces herself. In addition, **Chris Jordison** has kindly agreed to support the committee as Monthly Meeting Coordinator.

The new committee, if approved at the AGM, will comprise:

¹ Clicking on text formatted like **this** will take you to your default email program / web browser
Beverley & District u3a

Chair/Groups Facilitator	Pam Buckton
Treasurer	Jo Herrick
Secretary	Nadine Tull
Compliance Officer/Vice Chair	John Kilner
Membership Secretary	Colin Robertson
I T Officer	Adrian Ramsdale
Publicity Officer	Simon Tull
Speaker Finder	Rachel Ellis-Jones
Committee Member	Shelagh Murray

All of us can be contacted by email via the [committee](#) page of our website. Group coordinators can also use the **u3a Officers** function on Beacon.

I want to thank all our group coordinators and helpers who keep our u3a so vibrant. As always, we could expand our activities if we had more volunteers to help. I'm sure you don't need reminding that the u3a is a self-help organisation, run by the members for the members, so please get in touch with me if you feel you can offer support.



Committee members Colin, John, Jo and Pam receiving a "Best of Beverley Award" from Mayor Tom Astell. Presentation photograph courtesy of Josh Harrison, joshharrisonphotography.com

I am delighted to announce that our u3a was commended in the community category of the 2024 Best of Beverley awards from Beverley Town Council.

This award is testament to the hard work of all Beverley & District u3a members, coordinators, helpers and trustees over the past 24 years. **Pam Buckton**

Speaker Finder's Message

Firstly, I would like to thank **David Barton** for this year's speaker programme. Thanks to his planning there are a few speakers to go before I need to find any more, but as I'm new, I thought this would be an ideal occasion to see what it is that our members wanted to learn or hear about.

It strikes me that there will be lots of fascinating people in our membership who have the background and experience to offer a talk. After all, u3a is all about sharing knowledge and learning. So please do not be shy, come and promote a subject that fascinates you.

If you don't want to talk yourself, I bet you know someone in your network that might.

One of the things that attracted me to u3a was its commitment to challenging assumptions about aging. I understand that we have over 600 members in the Beverley u3a, each and every one of us will have a different life experience, lived in different places, seen and heard incredible things both pleasant and unpleasant; collectively we know a huge amount about a lot of things.

Because we can expect to live longer than previous generations, there will be amongst our members a range of age groups, with differing likes and dislikes. As teenagers we



Our June meeting at Beverley Memorial Hall

may have aligned ourselves with youth movements as diverse as hippies, beatniks, rockers and punks, we may still enjoy music as diverse as jazz, heavy metal, punk, classical, disco or folk, you get the idea... We are all individuals. So, catering to everyone's tastes will be difficult.

I am planning on asking a wide range of people to talk to us on a diverse range of topics. If you have not previously attended our monthly meetings, I would ask that you

give them a try. While you might not like all of them, I'm hoping the programme will at least provoke debate or provide a new insight.

As members, if the speaker topics are not to your taste, then let me know what you would like to hear, and I'll see what I can do. I look forward to meeting you. If you have an idea for a talk, I would very much like to hear from you on email at rachelellisjones@btinternet.com. **Rachel Ellis-Jones.**

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday monthly, 2:00 pm at Beverley Memorial Hall. Meetings consist of a talk, with tea/coffee and biscuits to follow. We very much look forward to seeing as many members as possible at these events.

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

18th July - **Flight Of Disaster**. The R38/ZR2 Airship which crashed into the Humber in 1921 - **Michelle Beadle**

August - No meeting

19th September - **Fishtales**. Stories from the Hull fishing industry - **Phil McMullen**.

Our Website

Look out for some changes to our website in the coming months. Along with other u3as, we will be moving it to a new software platform. This will bring a number of benefits, not



David Barton

least that it will be more attractive and easier to use - particularly on smartphones and tablets - as well as on computers. The web address will remain the same, u3asites.org.uk/beverley/.

Group News

A number of groups have closed in the past few months and thanks go to **Christine Benson** (Local History 2), **Alan Brooks**, **Jackie King** and **Anne Richardson** (Strollers/Town Trot), **Dave Campbell** (Writing) and **Doreen Osuch** (Sunday Quiz) for all their hard work coordinating these groups. Thanks also to **Fran Gaskell** (Cribbage) and **Joyce Rowlands** (Discussion and Read the Bard) who have stepped down as coordinators for these continuing groups.

Please note that all of our active groups are listed in the Groups List mailed along with this newsletter.

Gentle Cycling Group

Here are some thoughts and reflections from members about what cycling with the group means to them - as you will see, they all enjoy themselves!

"Having fun, making new friends, taking gentle exercise that puts less pressure on joints than walking and certainly jogging. Cycling gets you out further than walking, enables you to see more around you than driving. It's fun, it's friendly, it's fantastic, it's fabulous, and at the end of a ride we find a friendly cafe and foster our friendship further."

"Why not do it? It's far better than sitting on your couch at home staring at four walls!"

"Joining the Gentle Cycling Group made me retrieve my bike from the shed and start pedalling. It was a good excuse to buy a new high viz jacket and, because my legs are not what they were, an electric bike! Wow, how did we ever cycle without them?"



The Gentle Cycling Group

"Joining the group has meant discovering the local area and chatting to friendly people over coffee and the occasional bacon butty. It's much more fun than cycling on your own!"



The Gentle Cycling Group

"I love being out in the fresh air, cycling routes that are new to me, and getting some 'gentle' exercise, with a lovely group of people."

"The Gentle Cycling Group meets each Tuesday. Our two wonderful leaders, Adrian and John, pre-plan a route and share this with us several days before we meet. I've thoroughly enjoyed exploring

new cycle paths or quiet roads which I'd hitherto not known. Everyone in the group gets on well and we enjoy each others company. Some have electric bikes, others don't. Some have health issues such as knee problems etc, so the exercise can be beneficial. There's no pressure to cycle fast, we all stick together. If anyone has a bike issue, flat tyre etc, well all stops and so help is at hand. We stop for a chat and refreshments either mid-cycle or at the end, depending upon our route. I very much look forward to the gathering each week."

Should any of this enthuse you, the group meets on Tuesday evenings at 6pm between April and September and at 10am during the rest of the year. Please contact [Adrian Ramsdale](#), Telephone 01482 881095 or [John Kilner](#), Telephone 07803 137870.

Whist Group

We are a very friendly group, enjoying our time together as we play whist. Please come and join us! we meet on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30-4.00pm at the C Club, Beverley. [Christine Benson](#).

Art Appreciation Group

At the May meeting the group hosted a visit by **Hannah Willetts**, the curator of Beverley Art Gallery. As is well known, the gallery has been closed since last year, with its re-opening planned for the coming autumn. This gave Hannah an opportunity to come and update the group on the future plans for the two gallery spaces. This was not a case of 'being talked at', as she involved the group in discussions concerning two paintings, one each by Fred Elwell and Mary Dawson Elwell, that have never been displayed in the gallery. She went on to say after the meeting that the views of the group supported her own vision of where and how they should be treated in future.



The group with Hannah Willetts

Following the first session the group then took part in a 'reading a painting' session, led by Hannah, highlighting the highly participative nature of these meetings.

The presentation will be followed up in November by a hosted visit to the gallery, where members will be able to see whether they really had an influence on the new layout. As a consequence of Hannah's visit a piece appeared in the June 2024 East Ridings Museum's Newsletter, underlining the developing relationship between the group and the gallery.

Graham Buckton

Poetry and Prose Group

An invitation to join our group a few months ago didn't spark any interest and so we decided to move to meet at a member's house rather than at the C Club. Our new arrangement is working very well but it does mean that we cannot take any new members because of space constraints. We do not know what may happen in the future, of course, but this is the present situation. If anyone is interested in joining, give me a ring on either 01482 825394 or 07901 547190 and I will add you to a waiting list. **Hilary Kirk**.

Croquet Group

The croquet season is well underway and we have been delighted to welcome a number of new members to our group this year. The weather has been less than kind to us but we're hardy souls and have only cut short a session once when we were blue with cold and about to get drenched!



Croquet at Rowley Manor

I'm very pleased to report that we have been invited to participate in a friendly match at the national u3a festival in York on Friday 19th July, so if any of you are attending please come along - we could use all the support we can get! The team is made up of **Alan Towers, Steve Killick, Diane Billings** and myself. Our group have also been invited to a social event hosted by Beverley & East Riding Croquet Club which I understand will include tea! A big thank you to them for including us. Finally I'm delighted that **John Keating** will become Croquet group co-ordinator in July when I start the new Croquet 2 group. Huge thanks to John for stepping up.

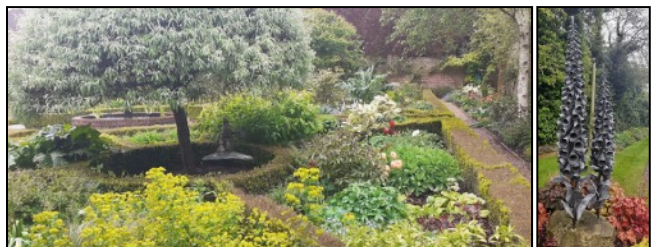
As noted above, we are starting a new croquet group in July, playing during the summer season on a Tuesday morning. I'm looking forward to meeting the new members and doing the two taster sessions with them. If you would like to give the game a try, no experience is needed as coaching will be given. All equipment will be provided but you will need to wear flat shoes. It's an enjoyable game which gives you the opportunity to learn a new skill in the beautiful setting of Rowley Manor. More news on this will follow but if you would like to hear more please give me a ring 01482 861544/07837755601 or email me at annegower0909@gmail.com. **Anne Gower.**

Garden Interest Group

In March we enjoyed a very interesting talk on Sheffield Botanical Gardens which are registered by English Heritage as a site of special historical interest and where there are 18 garden areas based on geographical or botanical themes.

Then in April came the "Laughing Gardener", aka Paul Robinson, who kept us all entertained with his anecdotes and hilarious tales about plants and gardening.

In May, despite the rain, we visited the delightful tranquil gardens of Southwood Hall, Cottingham. Not only was there a beautiful garden including sculptures



Garden delights

based on Alice in Wonderland, but tucked away behind high walls there was a wild area of ornamental and fruit trees and a greenhouse where many new plants were being nurtured. The owner took great pride in also showing us his collection of cars and motor bikes, ceramics and sculptures.

Unfortunately, our planned visit in June to Whyte Winn had to be cancelled because of weather conditions but we were able at short notice to arrange a visit to Frog Hall Barn near Bubwith where we were blessed with fine weather and were able to sit in the beautiful garden for tea and delicious home made cakes. There was a very impressive greenhouse and vegetable plot as well as a wonderful display of flowers.

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

4th July – 2pm – The Old Priory, Everingham

6th September – 2pm – Stillingfleet Lodge, Stillingfleet

The group has a waiting list to join. Please contact **Sue Symmonds** via the u3a [website](#)

Meet and Make Music

I recently visited an instrumental group in Hornsea and had a lovely afternoon listening to members playing to each other and playing pieces together. Some were music readers, some played by ear, some had been playing a long while, and some had only recently started to learn. What united all was a love of music, and each encouraged the other in a generous spirit of comradeship. If you would be interested in joining such a group in Beverley, please do get in touch with **Sue Newton** on email, or telephone 01964 551502. Our first meeting is planned for Tuesday afternoon 24th September. The exact time and venue will be confirmed nearer the time. **Sue Newton.**

Yorkshire and Humber Region u3a Summer School

The Yorkshire and Humber Region (YAHR) u3a Summer School is from 22nd-25th July 2024 and will be held at The Hawkhill conference centre, Easingwold. The event will provide members with new learning opportunities, and will enable attendees to meet other u3a members from across the region.

A wide range of courses will be on offer covering such subjects as archaeology, art, current affairs, drama, history, languages and science. Further details are available via the YAHR [website](#). Alternatively you can contact the summer school organiser **Jean Blackburn** at j.blackburn21@hotmail.co.uk/ Tel: 01274 591581.

General u3a News

A new range of services is available to all u3a members who sign up to receive the **u3a Friends newsletter**. **u3a Friends Extra** is a benefits website which provides access to a wide range of offers, discounts and additional services. It has been developed exclusively for members of the u3a Friends newsletter community. The scheme is completely free for members to access.

Offers and services available through Friends Extra include:

- Health and wellbeing
- Shopping savings on major brands and retail discounts
- Travel and holidays

- Leisure offers, like family days out, trips to the cinema and theatre
- Insurance offers on car, travel and medical insurance
- Access to financial advice and a legal helpline

To become a 'Friend', simply sign up to receive the Friends Newsletter on the [u3a website](#). You will need to scroll down the page to see where to sign up. Each issue of the Friends Newsletter will include a link to the Friends Extra benefits website and highlight one of the offers. The Third Age Trust has published a FAQ about the scheme, which you can read [here](#).



The Third Age Trust website includes a wide range of resources of potential interest to members. The website includes a learning zone which has a whole range of [online groups](#) that you can join for an annual fee of £12, and there is a subject interest network for pretty much any subject you can imagine. See [here](#) for more information.

Community Announcements

Membership of East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) leisure centres is available with your u3a membership at a discounted rate of £27. An application form may be accessed via the [membership page](#) of our website. For full details contact leisure@eastriding.gov.co.uk or call 01482 395223.

Credits

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