



**Historic Houses 2 visited this Buddhist  
meditation centre at Kilnwick Percy Hall,  
near Pocklington**

*See also pages 7 and 17*

**Contents include:-**

<b>Groups timetable</b>	<b>pp 8 - 14</b>
<b>News new groups</b>	<b>pp 15</b>
<b>Groups news &amp; reports</b>	<b>pp 16 - 19</b>



## Our U3A Ethos



- Wetherby & District U3A is a self-help organisation run entirely by volunteers, relying on everyone making a contribution of some kind.
- We look to members to give time and effort as well as receiving the informal learning, enjoyment and friendship that the various activities provide. Our U3A can only thrive if all members accept this principle.
- A new group only comes about when a member expresses an interest in a particular area and others join to form the group and run it themselves with support from the committee.
- Everyone can play some part in our U3A, whether it be leading or taking an active part in a group, serving on the committee or volunteering to help in some other capacity.

## Courtesy & Common Sense Reminders for U3A Group Members

The U3A is run by volunteers who give their own time freely for the benefit of our groups so:

### **Please**

- take note of the organiser's phone number and/or email address in order to:
  - a. let the leader know if you are unable to attend a meeting
  - b. let the leader know if you wish to leave the group, as there may be a waiting list.If you miss **three sessions in a row** without contacting the leader, it will be assumed that you no longer wish to be a member of that group.
- arrive at the group meetings in good time.
- make a note of meeting dates and times.
- remember that individual groups are self-funding, so contributions may be requested when there are expenses to be covered.

**Thank You**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 28 Nov

**Open Meeting** Methodist Church 2.30 pm  
Trevor Higginbottom "China - all our futures"

Wed 19 Dec

**Christmas Special** Methodist Church 2.30 pm

### **"Sounds like Christmas"**

Come and enjoy a festive programme  
with a Christmas Quiz entitled  
"Sounds like Christmas"  
followed by  
seasonal refreshments  
and piano entertainment



Wed 30 Jan 2019

**Open Meeting** Methodist Church 2.30 pm  
David Winpenny "Eccentrics, Exotics and Erratics -

## Our Website

### **There are big changes afoot.**

Those of you who use our website will have noticed that it is currently looking a little 'sparse'. This is because the communications team have recently carried out a review of its content and removed much of the outdated material.

The site was originally set up in 2010 and has been ably managed by Roger Hocking. Since that time we have grown enormously and our activities have expanded into many new areas and basically the site needs an overhaul and to be given a new look. This will allow us to update the software and provide more flexible ways of keeping it up to date in future.

Members who have generously volunteered to help with the new website in various ways, are being trained and it is hoped that the version will be on line next spring.

**Watch this space**

# *Committee Matters*

## **Vacancies for Committee posts and other roles**



Membership, which currently stands at over 1250, continues to grow. Group leaders, committee members and other volunteers who perform the many and varied support roles are vital to maintaining the continued success of the organisation and providing members with access to an extensive range of activities.

To maintain our vibrant organisation, we need people to come forward to replace committee members, group leaders and others when they finish their term of office or stand down.

### **Current requirements**

Due to ill health, our excellent Assistant Treasurer, and former Treasurer, Pat Harrigan, has had to resign from her post and also from the Committee, so we are now looking for a volunteer to fill this important role.

In addition, a number of other positions will become vacant in 2019.

These include:

- \* Business Secretary
- \* Membership Secretary
- \* Groups Coordinator (see also page 15)
- \* Minutes Secretary

### **Conclusion**

We are fortunate to have members who possess a wide variety of skills and experience and who could do an excellent job on behalf of fellow members. Please consider volunteering for one of these roles.

For more information, please contact myself or any member of the Committee.

Brian Taylor, Chair 586694 [btu3awetherby@gmail.com](mailto:btu3awetherby@gmail.com)

## **The Digital Photography group**

will be selling their beautifully illustrated **2019 Calendars** at £5 each  
at the Open Meeting on Wednesday 28 November .

Hurry while stocks last.

Peter Guildford 574394 [peterguildford@gmail.com](mailto:peterguildford@gmail.com)



## **Housing in Wetherby and District The Better Wetherby Partnership**

Considerable house building has taken place in Wetherby over recent years. A large number of new homes are currently under construction with many more subject to planning applications. The continuation

of large-scale development will undoubtedly add to the existing serious highways problems of traffic congestion, road safety, parking, and air and noise pollution. Further pressure will be placed on already overburdened local services such as schools, GP and dental services, social services and emergency services.

Local Ward Councillor, Alan Lamb, spoke about housing and various planning applications at a very well-attended U3A Current Affairs group meeting in April 2018. This meeting, followed a few weeks later by a public meeting convened by the Wetherby Civic Society, proved to be the catalyst for the establishment of the Better Wetherby Partnership (BWP).

The BWP has been formed to bring together local organisations and individuals in an alliance for the development and promotion of a more coordinated approach to addressing housing issues. Participating organisations include: Wetherby Town Council; Wetherby Civic Society; Wetherby & Kirk Deighton Countryside Partnership; Wetherby High School Governors; Wetherby & District Medical & Dental Services; Wetherby & District Churches Together; and Kirk Deighton Parish Council.

The BWP is not a NIMBY lobby group. It is non-political. The organisation fully accepts that some new housing, particularly more 'affordable' and reasonably priced homes, will be needed. It has no objection to sympathetic and sustainable development and seeks to promote a considered and responsible approach to new housing.

The aim of the BWP is to ensure that the physical character of Wetherby and District is protected and developed for the benefit of current and future generations.

### **Applications affecting Wetherby and surrounding villages**

On the 25 September 2018, despite receiving over 300 objections, Harrogate Borough Council Planning Committee approved an application by Stockeld Park's agents to build 210 houses at the top of Spofforth Hill, on Harrogate's side of the council boundary with Wetherby. This represented a total U-turn of the Committee's emphatic decision to reject this application just six weeks earlier. The development is likely to have a major and negative impact on the town and nearby villages.

Another with potentially serious consequences for Wetherby is an application by Taylor Wimpey to build a large residential development of 800 dwellings on green field land off Racecourse Approach near the race course (Leeds Planning Services Case No: 17/02594/OT). Other building applications are also being considered, with more anticipated.

### **Action by Wetherby U3A**

After consultation with the U3A National Office, the Wetherby and District U3A Committee has agreed to support the aim of the BWP and endorse its efforts on behalf of the local community. It is understood that the BWP is planning to arrange a public meeting in the near future to update local people about the situation.

Brian Taylor, Chair 586694 btu3awetherby@gmail.com

# **U3A WETHERBY HOLIDAY**

## **Malvern Hills and Herefordshire**

### **Sunday 14 – Thursday 18 July 2019**

Our very popular holiday next year will be five days in some of England's most glorious countryside, staying at the 4-star Tewkesbury Park Hotel - one of the most highly-rated hotels in the area - and visiting some of the most iconic homes, gardens and places of interest. The hotel, once a Georgian manor house and set on the crest of a hill affording wonderful views of the surrounding area, boasts an indoor swimming pool, a gym, tennis courts and an 18-hole golf course. The en-suite rooms have TVs and tea/coffee-making facilities. All rooms have countryside views or panoramic views across the golf course. The restaurant uses seasonal produce sourced from the local area. We will be travelling by luxury 5-star Royal Class coach which has a toilet and a kitchen with food and drink available throughout our journey which will be escorted by Deirdre Brown.

#### **PROPOSED ITINERARY:**

**DAY 1:** Travel from a local pick-up point, yet to be decided, to Ragley Hall Park and Gardens. This is the family home of the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford and is a fine Palladian mansion built in 1680 with state rooms to explore on a private guided tour. There are spectacular gardens and parkland landscaped by Capability Brown. Following this, at lunchtime, we will be served afternoon tea. Then we shall have some free time to explore the gorgeous gardens before continuing to Tewkesbury, arriving at our hotel with ample time to settle in and change for dinner.

**DAY 2:** A visit to the Morgan factory to see the bespoke cars being produced in the time-honoured way before leaving Great Malvern via the Edward Elgar scenic drive to Coddington Vineyard where we will have lunch and a talk and tour of the vineyard which includes a wine tasting. There will then be time to explore the garden at leisure.

**DAY 3:** Travel to Cheltenham to board the Gloucester and Warwickshire steam railway and arrive in Broadway in the heart of the Cotswolds with ample time to explore this charming small town and enjoy an optional lunch before driving through the Cotswolds to Bourton-on-the-Water with its idyllic stream and little bridges. Following dinner this evening, there will be an optional talk on Sir Edward Elgar and his musical legacy and a chance to unwind and listen to his superb cello concerto.

**DAY 4:** Travel to Upton-upon-Severn with free time to explore the "Pepperpot" town before boarding the Severn cruise to Tewkesbury, where it will be market day. If this isn't enough, there's also an optional visit to the former home of Edward Elgar at Lower Broadheath, where the admission cost will be around £7.60 for a group rate or free to National Trust members.

**DAY 5:** Travel to Sir Roy Strong's famous Laskett Gardens, which he created together with his late wife, for a private visit. Here, we will see some new much-lauded mosaics together with the Belvedere where we can view the gardens from an elevated position. (The Christmas edition of Country Living will be presenting a full piece on this garden if you'd like a foretaste.) We will continue to the National Memorial Arboretum on our way home to Yorkshire and view the hundreds of trees and the displays in the new Remembrance Centre. We will arrive back home mid-evening.

## **COSTS etc.**

The cost of the holiday is £655.00 per person with a single supplement of £224.00. There is a non-returnable deposit of £70.00 per head which secures you a place on the holiday and the seats on the coach will be allocated on a first to book basis starting from the front.

## **BOOKING**

If you are interested in joining us, then please contact me to request a booking form or to ask for further information or clarification. I look forward to hearing from you!

Barry Atkinson 01423 331419 john\_barry44@outlook.com

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## *Other News*

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### **Garden Visits**

Sad to say our Garden Visits group has now closed after nine summers visiting gardens in the area.

The very first one was to York Gate on 27 May 2010 and it seemed appropriate to make it the venue for our last visit. We have visited some spectacular gardens, been inspired by the creativity and knowledge of the gardeners and been able to enjoy their commitment and hard work. It is really special to walk around a lovely garden, hopefully on a sunny day, and meet such enthusiastic people who have made us feel welcome.

We have always had plenty of choice in the summer months but it has been more difficult persuading garden owners we really want to see their gardens in April or September and I am afraid after a few years I gave up looking for ones in October.

This is the right time for this group to come to an end as the two garden groups now need to include more garden visits in their summer programmes. We must have donated many hundreds of pounds to the charities supported by the owners, had some lovely afternoon teas and of course bought one or two plants. Happy gardening!

Gail Cownden 07548 926602 gailhc@virginmedia.com



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### **Historic Houses 2 Winter Talks for 2019**

Friday 18 January 18

Maria Glot "Saltaire Part 3"

Wednesday 20 February

Pat Osborne "Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire"

Wednesday 20 March

Mike Bevington "A Walk round Studley Deer Park"

(with a few anecdotes about Prince Harry's wedding as Mike was a guest.)

All talks will be held in the St James Scout Hall on Church Street at 2 pm. There will be a charge of £3 to include refreshments. All welcome.

Connie Fox 587176 bev.con@talktalk.net

The up to date  
**Wetherby and District U3A Groups  
Information Timetable**  
can be viewed  
on our website  
via the Printed List icon  
on the Activities page

P 8- 14



## *News of New Groups and Courses*

### **Suggestions for new groups**

Roger Hill is interested in setting up an **Amateur Radio Hams** group. If this would be of interest please contact Roger 07739 707180 rhill@hillconsult.com

Secondly we have a member who would like to learn **Portuguese**. Do we have anyone who would like to join him in forming a group? Other language groups have proved it is much easier to learn a new language if you get encouragement from other beginners.

I still need more members to start a second **French Conversation** group and a second **Wine Appreciation** group.

There will be a meeting for another **Historic Houses** group on Monday 3 December at 10 am. Please contact me for further details.

### **A new group started**

The new **Book 3** group has had its first meeting. They now have a group leader so if you are interested in joining them on the first Tuesday of each month at 2 pm please get in touch with Judy Vivian 07792 483998 at judy.vivian@icloud.com.

### **Volunteers needed**

I will be resigning as Groups Co-ordinator at the AGM in June 2019. By then I will have done five years as New Groups Coordinator, the last two having included the job of Groups Coordinator.

Having done both jobs I think it ideally needs two people, but not necessarily dividing up the workload as it was previously. I think it could best be done by two people who would work together and share all aspects of the job.

I really enjoy all that the job entails. I have met so many members and been at the start of lots of really interesting groups. However for personal reasons I now need to hand it on.

For further details of any of the above please contact me.

Delia Wells 541517 dewells24@gmail.com

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## *Notable Changes*

### **Mindfulness**

Now meets first and third Tuesdays from 11 am - 12.15 pm

## *News of the Established Groups*

### **Archaeology**

Our newly formed group got off to a great start with lots of ideas for future meetings. It is apparent that our members have many different personal interests within the subject including the Roman era and artefacts, industrial archaeology and digs and investigations local to us in Wetherby.

The consensus of opinion is that we should concentrate on research during the winter months with visits to sites starting once the warmer weather returns. Fingers crossed for a repeat of the summer of 2018!

Meetings will be held in members' homes on the third Friday of each month with no meeting in December this year due to current members' commitments.

Following our November meeting entitled "King Arthur's Britain – the truth uncovered" our next meeting will be on Friday 18 January. This will be entitled "The Railways of Wetherby – a brief history of the rail links to Wetherby & their surviving remains".

So far, ideas for future meetings include a presentation on Must Farm near Peterborough, the location of the best preserved bronze-age settlement ever found; a visit to Helmsley Archaeology Store which holds archaeology collections from the North of England; and a talk on aerial imaging.

We warmly welcome enquiries from anyone who would like to join us. We are learning from each other so no expert knowledge is required!

Hilary Peterson 01423 563386, 07950 581377 hilaryrpeterson@gmail.com

### **Birding 2 Volunteering**

In July seven intrepid members of Birding 2 (including one who chose to be incognito in dark glasses and a knotted hanky!) ventured forth to Upper Dunsforth Carrs, a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust reserve near Great Ouseburn armed with gloves and insect repellent. The object of the exercise was to meet Laura, who manages the reserve, and assist in removing Himalayan balsam, an alien plant species which is rampant in Yorkshire particularly near water.



This was our second assault on Himalayan balsam, our first being in 2017. We spent a hot but satisfying morning pulling out this shallow rooted plant and creating huge piles which can then slowly rot away. The only downside of this activity was that some participants discovered that the mosquitoes had been quietly having a field day! Those of us who appear to be less "tasty" hope to return for another round of "balsam bashing" next year!

Rosemary and Colin Cheshire 573373 candrch@gmail.com

## **Cycling Extra .**

This group rides twice a month with most rides being between 35 and 50 miles although on one of those glorious hot summer days a ride took the group on a 70-mile round trip to Castle Howard. All rides have a cafe stop and we have found numerous excellent cafes

Our most recent ride took us on a hilly route via Eccup Reservoir to the excellent Multiflight cafe at Leeds Bradford Airport returning through the Harewood estate on a sunny autumn morning. Another favourite ride is to Fountains Abbey and the Studley Royal tearoom with its superb lakeside position.

U3A Cycling is thriving with over 50 members, three active groups: Softies, Medium and Extra, and a new Plus group that offer rides over distances from 10 to 50 miles. Do join us. It is a great way to enjoy the splendid scenery around Wetherby and socialise in those friendly cafes. Further details are on the U3A website.

Phil Thompson 582872 07711 614127 philwendythompson@btinternet.com

## **Cycling Groups**

In October Mike and I took the 23 members of our U3A Cycling groups on a 16-mile ride calling at Tadcaster Salvation Army in Chapel Street. There we celebrated our golden wedding with a three-course lunch with Major Jackie Bainbridge.

Caroline Green 582810 carolinegreen54@hotmail.com

## **Days of Special Interest 1**

We had an interesting and enjoyable visit to the Holgate Windmill, York in October. The windmill was built in 1770 when most villages and towns relied on the mill to provide flour for both the people and their animals. After years of dereliction the mill is now restored to full working order and is run by a very enthusiastic group of volunteers, even producing flour for visitors to purchase.

Pat Baron 520165 baron.wetherby@gmail.com



## **Geology**

We visited Teesdale in September to see the impressive geological formations. Where the Whin Sill crosses the River Tees it has created the spectacular High Force waterfall, seen here behind the group.

Lynn Parkin 842141 lyn@parkinmail.net



## **Historic Houses 2**

We visited Kilnwick Percy Hall near Pocklington in October. This Grade 2 listed Georgian house is owned by Madhyamaka Kadampa Buddhist meditation centre. We had a very enlightening talk by Lekmo, an ordained Buddhist nun who has lived there for 23 years, on modern Kadampa Buddhism followed by a short tour of the property. It was a very enjoyable and interesting day.

*(See cover photograph and winter programme of talks on page 7.)*

Connie Fox 587176 bev.con@talktalk.net

## Historical Walks

In October we based ourselves in Alnmouth for 4 days. Travelling to Northumberland we visited Arbeia which stands above the mouth of the River Tyne. Arbeia was a key garrison and military supply base for Hadrian's Wall. Some of the most significant objects from Roman Britain are to be seen there today. On the second and third days we completed two different coastal walks which included Northumberland's undisputed best heritage and historical sites. The bird watchers and photographers were in their element too. On the fourth day we visited Chesters Roman Fort on Hadrian's wall. This turned out to be quite a nostalgic visit as some of us had taken our children there or had been on school trips. Then we then drove home happy knowing that we had already booked to return to Alnmouth in October 2019.

Maeve Brook 572360 maeveb992@gmail.com



## Painting Groups

The three Painting groups recently combined to fill two display boards at the Boston Spa Art and Crafts Festival, which was held 12/13 October at Boston Spa Village Hall. Other local art groups were also exhibiting, along with individual artists and craftspeople. The event was well supported and three of our members sold their displayed work. Many thanks to the members of the three groups who contributed to the display and also those who helped with the stand.



Members have also been involved with creating artwork for two charity events. St Gemma's Hospice Secret Art Show was held in October where A5-sized painted postcards were displayed at their exhibition at Leeds Grammar School and then sold by online auction for the charity. Also the SAA and Royal British Legion have joined forces with a Paint a Poppy Challenge to create a Wall of Remembrance marking 100 years since the end of WW1.

Barbara McLean and Barbara Duncan 584318 barbmicbed@btinternet.com

## Spanish for Complete Beginners 2

Three months in and we are confidently ordering our food and drink from Spanish waiters using the tried and tested BBC Spanish for Beginners. If you are planning a Spanish trip and don't want to starve when you are there then come and join us! It will not take much to catch up.

Clive Thorn 07821 570238 clive@twh.eclipse.co.uk

### Walking with Lunch 3

Our October walk was organised by Jennie. We started at the Scotts Arms, Sicklinghall returning a couple of hours later for lunch. This walk was about four miles including five easy stiles and much of it was on good made-up surfaces with no mud!

Previous walks this year have included Ripley, Thorp Arch, Brearton and Knaresborough. Here we are at Fewston Reservoir on a sunny day in May.



Philip Andow 07710 540939 0113 8058960 philipandow@hotmail.com

### FORTHCOMING OPEN MEETINGS

Wetherby Methodist Church at 2.30 pm unless otherwise stated

£2 entry for non members

Wed 28 November, Wed 19 December, Wed 30 January

This **MONTHLY MEMO** is a U3A news update for immediate ready reference. The **NEWSLETTER** is usually published in February, July and November and the **MONTHLY MEMO** in the remaining months except December.

See our website **www.wetherbyU3A.org.uk** for further information such as Group Leaders details and membership application forms.

>> Closing date for copy for the January Monthly Memo will be Thurs 17 Jan <<

**U3A Wetherby contacts:**

**Website: [www.wetherbyU3A.org.uk](http://www.wetherbyU3A.org.uk)**

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*Wetherby & District U3A. Registered Charity Number 1143289*

Wetherby & District



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