



[Website: ryedale.u3asite.uk](http://Website: ryedale.u3asite.uk)

# Newsletter May 2026

email: [newsletter@ryedaleu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ryedaleu3a.org.uk)  
Entries for June edition by 15<sup>th</sup> May

## General Meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

### Curiosities of the North Yorkshire Moors by Jane Ellis

The North York Moors National Park has a fascinating character of its own. Speaker Jane Ellis has spent a lifetime exploring our moors and dales on foot, the result of which is a selection of photographs illustrating a unique way of life which survives to this day. This is balanced with a look at how the hand of man through the ages has had a lasting effect on the landscape.



#### Kirbymisperton Village Hall

Refreshments from 9.45 am

Speaker from 10.30 am

£2.50 admin charge - cash or card

**Books** 3 for £2  
100s to choose from

**Jigsaws** Just £2 each

**Members Table**  
For news, updates, info, or a chat



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## News from the Committee

### We will shortly be looking for a replacement Treasurer

Under our constitution David H, our current Treasurer, must stand down after 6 years in the role. The 6 years are up at the end of the 2026/27 financial year.

We hope that a new Treasurer can be identified by the AGM in September 2026 and a smooth handover can then take place so that the new Treasurer is fully up and running before the financial year-end 31st July 2027.

There has been difficulty finding replacement 'officers' for Ryedale u3a committee previously, so a good deal of notice is being given on this occasion.

Interested members should contact David H  
(to find out more about the role).

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### Other committee members

The running of our u3a calls for several roles - these include Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Groups coordinator, Speaker finder, Publicity, Newsletter editor and website, and general helpers. Not all these roles need to be done by the committee members.

Several of the people currently in these roles are stepping down at the end of this year. Without them we are in trouble as we must legally abide by the rules of the charitable trust. We are such a thriving group that it would be a tragedy to be forced to close down.

If you can help us, please speak to one of the committee. You are also welcome to attend one of our committee meetings as an observer.



*What do you call a committee made up entirely of people named William?*

*A billboard.*

## Report on April talk

### The Fate of the Chagos Archipelago and its People by Andrew Price



Finding interesting and thought-provoking speakers for our monthly meetings is quite a challenge. But this month was exceptional. The speaker, Professor Andrew Price, is a renowned marine biologist and environmental scientist specializing in Indian Ocean ecosystems, particularly the Chagos Archipelago. As a leading expert associated with the University of Warwick, he has played a major role in monitoring the ecological health of the Chagos Reef system, focusing on biodiversity, reef resilience, and conducting environmental assessments of the area.

He clarified for us exactly where the archipelago is located and that it is so difficult to get to, due to the perilous coral reefs, that even David Attenborough hadn't visited, but, strangely, Prince Philip did.

The Chagos Archipelago is close to the Maldives and comprises of 5 atolls and 58 tiny islands. The largest, one we've heard a lot about recently, is Diego Garcia which is of strategic military significance and where the UK and US have a joint Airforce Base.

Professor Price explained the history of the archipelago from its colonisation by the French in 1715 to the UK acquisition in 1814 until 1965. Depopulation of the islands was a key part of the US strategy, so the British expelled up to 2000 islanders relocating them to Mauritius, the Seychelles and Crawley and Manchester in the UK.

It is the undamaged tracts of coral reefs, the largest living structure remaining in the world, about which the professor enthused. He explained how the coral was formed, how the warming of the ocean could affect it and how the reefs support 300 types of coral and 800 species of fish. The archipelago also provides a biological stepping stone for migratory birds and turtles. It is human interference that is the greatest threat to this ecological wonder. This has consisted of dredging and coral mining to create ports for the military base, shore litter such as plastic and other junk from the land which the sea deposits and poaching, especially of sharks and sea cucumber. The current uncertainties in the Middle East and the requests of older Chagossians to return to their 'home' create thorny issues. So the future of the archipelago remains uncertain.

Welcome to new members  
since last month:

Thelma D, Pickering  
Pam S, Kirkbymoorside  
Christine M, Malton  
Glynis L, Hutton le Hole  
Barbara S, Norton

**Available from pick-up points  
usually by the end of each month**

Please remember - printing is expensive

<b>Malton area</b>	Malton Library, St Michaels Street
<b>Norton area</b>	Norton Hive Community Library, Commercial St
<b>Pickering area</b>	Pickering Memorial Hall, Potter Hill
<b>(Please ensure you only pick up your personally named copy)</b>	
<b>Kirkbymoorside</b>	Kirkbymoorside Library, High Market Place

If you can pick up one or two for members who live near you, it would be much appreciated

If you are unable to get to a pick-up point: please contact Judi

To receive your newsletter by post: send a book of 2nd class stamps to:  
Judi

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### **Refreshment Rota Coordinator / Chairs Rota**

Please consider joining the rota, or maybe just be called on at short notice if a named person cannot attend.

Contact [Janet](#)

We also need volunteers to help put out the chairs for the meeting. If you are able to join this rota please talk to 'the person wielding the trolley' at the end one of the meetings to see what is involved.

### **Refreshments volunteers for the next meeting**

Judith O'D and Maureen S

(Please bring your own cup/mug if you do not like the paper cups)

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### **Discounts available**

#### **You will need to show your u3a membership card**

**The Forest and Vale Best Western Hotel**, Pickering,

\* is giving 10% discount on evening meals, food only. \*

**Kemp's General Store**, Market Place, Malton, which is a wonderful little book and gift shop, is offering 10% discount. This excludes events, book tokens and gift vouchers.

**Cornercopia Café**, 8 Castlegate, Helmsley, also 10% discount.

In addition, **Steam and Moorland Garden Centre** offers a discount in their **café** if you join their loyalty scheme. Just ask for a form in the café.

*Newsletter*



**New !**

## U3A bowls afternoon

U3A members are invited to come along to Welham Bowling Club, on Park Road in Norton, on 10 May at 1.45 pm to try bowls.

The afternoon will start with a brief introductory talk at 1.45 after which we can all enjoy having a go. All participants must wear flat shoes and anybody who has bowls is invited to bring them along.

Interested? For any further information, or to sign up, please contact Liz



## Coffee Mornings

Our coffee mornings are small get togethers allowing members to socialise and get to know one another, or to find out more about us. Non-members are welcome to join us to find out what we have to offer.

Please pop along to one or more of our sessions for a cuppa and a chat.



First Thursday of the month 10am - 12 noon  
Kingfisher Cafe  
Saville Street  
Malton

Third Thursday of the month 10am - 12 noon  
The Forest and Vale Hotel  
Pickering



Last Thursday of the month 10am - 12 noon  
Ginger Hall Cafe  
Piercy End  
Kirkbymoorside



*'Life happens, coffee helps' – Anonymous*

*'I have measured out my life in coffee spoons' - TS Eliot*

*'Coffee is a way of stealing time that should by rights belong to your older self' – Terry Pratchett, Thud!*

*'Black as night, sweet as sin' – Neil Gaiman, Anansi Boys*



# Ryedale Group News

Details of all groups can be found on our website [ryedale.u3asite.uk/groups](http://ryedale.u3asite.uk/groups)

**Groups Coordinator** Liz



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## New Singing Group

**Beginning** May 20<sup>th</sup> 11am till noon  
**Frequency** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month, excluding August  
**Location** Appleton le Moors Village Hall YO62 6TF  
**Contact** Clare

The first session will be eclectic and experimental to see what singers would like to do. There will be a mixture of accompanied and a cappella singing

To start with the cost will be £4.50 per person to cover initial expenses with the possibility of a reduction when we see how many might attend regularly.

I look forward to seeing you there.

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## Do you have an adventurous streak?

Is there something you always wished you could have done, but never got around to? Regardless of how unlikely it might seem, all things are possible. Our new **Bucket List Group** is for you!

Bungee jumping, sky diving and white-water rafting are just three things that I **definitely won't** be doing, but you could – it's up to you and up to the group to help you live your dream. It doesn't have to be a wild idea; it might be as simple as going to an opera or gliding.

This will be an occasional group without lots of regular meetings, but if it sounds interesting please come along to an initial chat. We will gather ideas, look at what is possible, and how to go about organising things.

We'll be at the Forest and Vale Hotel on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm. If that doesn't work for you then please do email me, David

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## Behind the Scenes

While the very enjoyable Playreading Group are having a break, I wondered if anybody would like to join me in exploring what goes into making a play: the skills of the writer, director, casting director, designers of stage sets, lighting, music, costumes. For me theatre is a passion - sometimes an escape from the world as sheer entertainment; sometimes an art form that challenges me to new ways of thinking about and understanding our world. Over the last 2000 years theatre has continually reinvented itself, and I hope we might dip into some of the main ideas of practitioners (influencers?) from the Ancient Greeks to present day.

Contact Diana





## **Psychology**     **Rosie**

Our discussions continue to be interesting.

In March we explored the concept of territory as a concept to regulate social interaction, reduce conflict, and provide security and privacy. Society cannot function without territorial behaviour. Strangers could wander freely into your bedroom and bathroom, evict you from seats in public places, and drive your car whenever they chose. Fences would not exist, burglary would not be a crime and locksmiths would become an endangered species. Common territory conflict triggers include a violation of personal space or 'defensible space', which occurs when individuals or groups feel their territory - whether physical or metaphorical - is threatened. From placing a flag on Everest, being too close to someone in a lift, or a child 'stealing' another's toy, we all tend to have a variety of strong feelings over a territory we feel is our own.



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## **Literature**     **Jeanette**

The Literature Group met on March 30th, at the Steam and Moorland cafe. Not the best venue we discovered! It was an experiment, but we felt our own houses provided a quieter environment.

It was a meeting tinged with sadness as our wonderful leader, Jean, is leaving. Jeanette has agreed to take her place.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Scottish authors. It was far ranging, and as usual very informative. We discussed authors as far apart as Rabbin Burns and Irving Walsh! Various genres were touched upon, especially Tartan Noire.

The theme of the next meeting is Publishers. It will be on April 27th at 2pm in Settrington.



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## **Cycling**     **David**

Not much change, and no activity in the Cycling Group in March as the ride on 27th March was cancelled due to unacceptable weather on the day.

As ever we cyclists hope for warm and still days to enjoy our wonderful countryside in North Yorkshire; and its equally wonderful café cakes.



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## **Taiji**     **Christine**

The summer term started on the 13th April and will continue with breaks for Bank Holidays until the 6th of July.

New members are always welcome, come for a trial session. We meet at 9.30am on Mondays in the Memorial Hall Old Malton. Contact me for information and encouragement.



## Pins and Needles Susan

We enjoyed another productive afternoon, sewing, crocheting, embroidery, hat making and knitting at St Leonard's church rooms in Malton. If you would like to join us please contact me.



Please note: this group currently has a waiting list.

## History Linda

In April we welcomed Margaret Shaw from Malton Museum as our speaker. She is one of the dedicated volunteers who keep the museum relevant and appealing to all age groups. The focus of her presentation was 'Every object tells a story' and her 'stories' were fascinating. We held small chalk figures from the Neolithic period which have only been found in North Yorkshire and The Weald in Kent. Their purpose is still a mystery, but we came up with got lots of suggested uses.



The Roman period, when Malton and Norton were the site of four forts, came next. We delighted in a tiny jet bear excavated from a child's burial site, a roof tile bearing a child's footprint and the equivalent of a soldier's mess tin belonging to Lucius Servenius Super. We imagined drinking 'grog' from a leather tankard and puzzled at the purpose of a large pottery dome, a 'couvre-feu' used to cover the fire when the curfew bell rang in Medieval days. Our travel through time came to an end with a variety of tins and boxes used by the excavators at the Malton site during the 30's to keep the relics they found.

If you haven't visited the museum - please try. Lots and lots to do and discover.

## Photography Paul



Photo by Frank

With such changeable weather during March, our latest 'photo challenge' required 'still life' images (for indoors) and/or photos depicting 'Spring' (for outdoors). Members triumphantly rose to the challenge and produced excellent, and even witty, photographs of the two themes. We then considered the use of photographic filters and their effects, often neglected in the age of digital photography and image editing software.

Our next photo challenge is for images of cloudscapes and/or the artistic use of shadows, to be shown in our meeting on 14 May.





### Birdwatching



Spot the grebe!

On a bright, but cold, spring day at the beginning of April we had an excellent visit to RSPB St Aidan's, near Castleford. There are a number of nature reserves in the general area which have resulted from flooding old mining or quarrying sites and St Aidan's is one of these, being a flooded open cast coal mine. Still on site is an enormous original mining machine, 'Odd Ball', which happily is now home to nesting Kestrels and Little Owls. The nature reserve is an open area with lakes and reedbeds providing suitable habitats for many nesting water birds, including rare Black-necked Grebes and the more common Great Crested Grebes. We were all able to have good views of both, the latter carrying out their complex courtship 'dance'. Most of the group also heard the booming calls of the very secretive Bittern. The many sights and sounds were amidst the absolutely constant calls of hundreds of nesting Black-headed gulls.



### Seated Dancing

The seated dancing group will continue to focus on singalong tunes for our routines during May, hopefully with an international flavour. Newcomers welcome, please contact me. (Singing optional – we're usually too busy trying to get the moves right!)



### Mahjong

There is plenty of room to welcome new members whether you are new to the game or not- there are always experienced players to guide you- the more the merrier!



### Book Groups

All three of our book groups are currently at capacity. There is always room for another one .....

Talk to Liz

## Walking Groups

Strollers	Linda
Short walks	Susan
Medium walks	Peter
Long walks	Eric
10-12 milers	Simon

*For specific details of walks contact the named walk leader*



**Short Walk** Susan

### Report on April short walk

In April we visited Farndale to see the daffodils. Looking at the daffodils in my garden, I was a bit worried that we may be too late to see them in all their glory. I was wrong! There was a magnificent display, and it was a delightful walk in beautiful sunshine, to the Daffy Cafe, where we took our break, and back to the car park.

Our next walk will be on **13th May** when we will be meeting (in the car park) in Helmsley for a walk through Duncombe Park.



**Strollers Linda**

The Strollers Club is now on the move with the arrival of some wonderful Spring weather. Our stroll in March was around Thornton le Dale with a splendid break for refreshments at Balderstones. This month we are heading into Dalby Forest. If you are interested in joining us for our future outings please contact Linda or Kath.

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**Medium Walk Peter**

**May walk Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am**

**Start** Layby on Sands Lane, near Rillington  
**Distance** 6.1 miles all flat!  
Details will be sent to group members nearer the time

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**Long Walk Eric**

**May walk Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am**

**Start** Car park at foot of Kilburn White Horse (£2.50 charge)  
**Grid ref** SE 514 815  
**What3Words** ///spacing.lamppost.cracker  
**Route** Cleveland Way and return via Lake Gormire  
**Distance** 7.5 miles  
**Contact** Peter 07711 256311 or Eric

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**10-12 Miler Simon**

The March 10-12 mile walk was led by Jane. Seven of us walked from Middleton to Sinnington, up to Cropton and back round to home. We were going to visit the Roman camp at Cawthorne, the rain had other ideas, but we didn't allow that to spoil the day!

**May Walk Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 9.30 am**

**Start** Meet at the parking spot on the old unsigned road adjacent to A171- look for old road off to the right 500m after the Flask Inn, coming from Sleights, just before brow of hill.  
**Grid ref** NZ 945 002  
**What3Words** ///button.guideline.spots  
**Distance** 10 miles, with option for 1 mile extension  
**Led by** Nigel

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*I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.*

*My grandad started walking five miles a day when he was 60.  
Now he's 97 years old and we have no idea where he is.*



Answers to April Missing Links Quiz

*Aid, Attraction, Almond, Animal, Advent, Audio, After, Amateur, Arms, Artist, Association, Atomic, Adam, Agency, Angle, Angel, Ankle, Abandon, Axe, Assembly, Arrest, Area, Alram, Article, Average*

Top marks 25/25 to Jean L, Alan K, David F, Ruth A, Ann H, & Team P.  
24/25 for Robert & Daphne E, Judy C, Judy & David H, and Laura S, 23/25 for Stephanie H and 22/25 for Josie H.

Great to see new entrants to the monthly quiz, thank you for participating.

Send in your entries by email or post to:

Judi

by 15<sup>th</sup> May



# MAY Quiz

## TOWNS & CITIES IN ENGLAND

1	Duck (9)	
2	RON RAN THE TOLL (anag) (13)	
3	Mind how you go (7)	
4	Cat's paw (10)	
5	Smuggle grain (7)	
6	Cast a spell on an amateur thespian (6)	
7	BRAGS OR OUCH (anag) (11)	
8	Carry on tearing (5)	
9	Best before (5)	
10	Speaking with forked tongue (9)	
11	This group left all their dinner (8)	
12	RUSHED FIDDLE (anag) (12)	
13	Stand and Deliver (7)	
14	Saucy city (9)	
15	Bookish pastime (7)	
16	She left (6)	
17	Continue to mock (7)	
18	Secure that floor covering (7)	
19	Naval timber (9)	
20	Berries (5)	
21	Ocean at your fingertips (7)	
22	Attach (6)	
23	Breezy lake (10)	
24	Sheeps entrance (8)	
25	A communist trench (8)	