



Welcome to the **Tadcaster & Villages u3a 2026 Newsletter**. Going forward a single Newsletter will be produced annually along with the report issued for the AGM earlier in the year.

A view towards the Weir and Viaduct - one of the best views in Tadcaster.

In this edition of the Newsletter you'll find:

- Committee Update
- Membership Fees for 2026 / 2027
- Groups summary
- Group focus - looking at the Social & Quiz group and the Table Tennis group
- A short quiz set by the Social and Quiz group leader, Jan Burg

Committee Update

There have been some changes to our Committee:

- John Fielden has stepped down as Chair, but is continuing as Vice Chair
- Steve Cobb has stepped down as Vice Chair
- Paul Bissett has stepped down as Business Secretary
- Karen Baxter has taken over as Business Secretary (in addition to her role as Speaker Finder)
- John Fielden has stepped down as acting Treasurer
- Dot Bailey-Hague has taken over as Treasurer
- Glenda Smith will be stepping down as Membership Secretary by the next AGM

That means that we have the following **vacancies** which need to be filled:

- **Chair**
- **Membership Secretary**

John and Glenda have been in their positions for a number of years and have contributed significantly to our u3a which we thank them for. We do though need a couple of members to take on their roles. It's not just about fulfilling those roles; having a good mix of people with diverse experience on the Committee makes it better - and that is beneficial to the whole membership.

If you are willing to take either of those roles on or just want to know more please speak to John or Glenda at a monthly Members meeting or contact them via the website using the link below:

[Contact the Committee](#)

Membership Fees

In other Committee news, Members will be pleased to know that Membership fees will be kept at the same level for 2026 / 27! It's possible that this may change for 2027 / 2028, but for now being a member of our u3a is not going to cost you any more.

Please help the Membership Secretary by renewing your membership as soon as you can if you haven't already.

Groups Summary

Following the closure of the Woodworking group we now have ten active groups:

Group	Meetings	Leader	Status
Digital Photography	2nd Monday of the month 14:30 to 16:30 Kelcbar Community Centre	Alex Svenson	Active
Book Group	2nd Wednesday of the month 15:00 to 16:30 Tadcaster Library	Karen Baxter	Active
Craft Group	3rd Thursday of the month 14:00 to 16:00 Kelcbar Community Centre	Glenda Smith	Active
Drawing and Painting	1st Tuesday of the month 13:30 to 15:30 Kelcbar Community Centre	Sue Pattinson	Active
Eating Out	Last Thursday of the month Afternoons Venue varies	Alan Randall	Waiting List
Nature / Wildlife	4th Tuesday of the month 10:00 Location varies	Gil Firth	Active
Saturday Walking	1st Saturday of the month 10:00 Location varies	Joyce Webster	Active
Social and Quiz	2nd Monday of the month 10:30 Kelcbar Community Centre	Jan Burg	Active
Table Tennis	Fortnightly 14:30 to 16:00 The Barn	Alan Thatcher	Waiting List
Theatre Group	No fixed schedule Afternoons Leeds or York Theatres	Alan Randall	Active

Much more information about each group can be found on our website via the link below:

[Groups page](#)

Please note that groups do not always meet in August.

Group Focus - Social and Quiz Group



Meeting once a month on a Monday morning and exercising those brain cells is a great way to start that week - so if you fancy joining Jan and her merry band of quizzers then why not get in touch via their page on our website (link below).

[Social and Quiz Group](#)

For a bit of fun in this newsletter Jan has set us all a quiz:

1. What is the last word in the New Testament?
2. Which city would you be in if you were standing on the Spanish Steps?
3. Which is the only town name in Britain to end with an exclamation mark?
4. When was the last execution by guillotine in France?
5. What is the only food that can never go bad?
6. Which famous mountain is shown in the Toblerone logo?

Answers will be given in the next monthly update from the Membership Secretary.

Group Focus - Table Tennis Group



This group has been up and running since March 2024 and was started by Alan in addition to his playing table tennis in the Wetherby u3a.

Alan arranged for another table tennis club in Wetherby to donate two unwanted tables to The Barn, but we have our own nets, bats and balls. The room at The Barn accommodates both tables and with doubles being our usual format we can have eight people playing at a time. We usually have up to ten people attend a session so it works well - everyone gets plenty of playing time. The Barn kindly didn't charge us to hire the room to start with, but we do now pay £2 per person, per session to cover the cost of hiring the room.

The emphasis is on having fun (which we do!) so we are fairly relaxed about specific table tennis rules such as serving.

We do currently have a waiting list but if you are interested in the group please get in touch via their page on our website (link below).

[Table Tennis group](#)

Our website

One final piece of information for this Newsletter regarding our website.

It was very pleasing a few months ago for our website to be recognised by the national u3a organisation as one of a small number of 'exemplar' websites. If you'd like to see anything else included as part of the website please contact Alan Thatcher via the website (Website & Social Media).

[Contact Alan Thatcher](#)



A view of Bridge Street from summer 2015.

Produced by Alan Thatcher, Communications Officer, Tadcaster & Villages u3a