

TEESDALE U3A FORUM

**Your monthly newsletter about interest
groups and events in the Dale**

March 2022 no: 22/03

www.teesdaleu3a.org.uk

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**Registered Charity no. 1176746
Established March 2007
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Chairwoman's Letter

Dear Friends

My own feelings this week resonate very strongly with T S Eliot in *The Four Quartets*: "humankind cannot bear very much reality".

24 February was a very dark day for Ukraine. Last week, as I drove down Galgate, I was listening to the BBC News. On it was a report that a small town north of Kyiv was reduced to rubble, and in my mind's eye, I imagined our town reduced to rubble. It was a shocking moment when I tried to put myself in the shoes of those citizens - homeless, besieged, terrified for themselves and their children. The enormity of it made me feel helpless. Though there are ways to help: donations of cash, warm clothes and bedding, whatever gestures of support we can make, petitioning government for more generous offers to refugees, offering places of safety when refugees can get here. Help if you can.

In the face of such catastrophe, I feel a sense of guilt to be living a good life. A good life is to be peaceful, befriended, stimulated, hopeful, and be able to enjoy the everyday and the extraordinary, the habitual and the new.

Let us not fall into despondency, but support one another to gain or keep a good life and treasure what we have. If this sounds like a prayer, so be it.

With warmest wishes

Annie

It's Your Forum

Editors: Annie Clouston & Celia Chapple. This month's editor is Annie.
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Both editors receive all contributions and share the email account:
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DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS for the next edition:

Tuesday 12 April 2022

If we do not acknowledge a contribution by email this is probably because we haven't seen it. Please ring us if we have not acknowledged receipt within 48 hours.

Handwritten/typed contributions can be left in the Messages section of the u3a file in The Witham café. Please phone to let us know if you have left a contribution in this file.

If you want to receive a copy of the Forum but cannot make it to the monthly meeting, you can acquire one by:

- ◆ Viewing it online on Teesdale u3a website at:
<https://teesdaleu3a.org.uk/>
- ◆ Sending us some SAEs and a cheque (£2 per copy payable to Teesdale u3a) and we shall post them to you each month
- ◆ Asking a friend to collect one for you at the meeting. The cost is £2 on a 'first come first served' basis.
- ◆ Email forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk or call Celia 07783 419067
- ◆ Collecting a back copy from the u3a file in The Witham café & shop, the library or TCR Hub.

The Forum is a place for you to share and keep in touch with other members, so please send in your group reports, stories, recipes, your subject articles and research, or something entertaining to make us laugh. Please limit submissions to about 1 page or 400 words and 1 photo, and send them to the Forum Editor at:
forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Next Forum deadline for contributions: Tuesday 12 April 2022

MONTHLY MEETING AT THE WITHAM
Meetings assemble from 10.00am for a prompt start at 10.30am
Tickets are no longer required so please come along.

Guests are welcome to attend one of our meetings as a 'taster' before deciding whether to join. Children under 18 are NOT allowed to partake in group activities as guests, as they would not be covered by our insurance.

Thursday 24 March Maria Glot. *Saltaire Part 2 (1876 - 2018)*

Maria tells the story of what happened to Saltaire once the founder, Sir Titus Salt, died. It's fortunes were inextricably linked with the curse of The Manor House called 'Milnerfield' which successfully dispatched five mill owners to an early death before it was abandoned.

The talk covers the fortunes of the mill during the Boer war, first and second world wars, the 1950s boom and finally the demise of the mills and textile industry in the late 1960's with the import of cheap cloth from the colonies.

Maria has been to Teesdale u3a before and delivered a very much appreciated entertaining but factual talk populated with real people and offering an insight into their daily lives. Not to be missed!

Thursday 28 April Max Adams. *Unquiet Women*

Max Adams tells the stories of some restlessly curious, brave and intrepid women, who lived between the end of the Roman Empire and the dawn of the Enlightenment. Too long neglected, their fascinating experiences and achievements are full of insights into women's lives, and tell us much about why history excludes them.

Report of February's monthly meeting talk by Ian Reid

The Auckland Project by Jane Ruffer

Jane and Jonathan Ruffer launched a rescue bid to save the threatened Zurberán masterpieces, which had been purchased by Bishop Trevor in 1756. The final negotiations incorporated the buildings and grounds of the Bishop of Durham's Castle in Bishop Auckland. They then embarked on an ambitious restoration and development project, the Auckland Project, carried out in cooperation with local and national organisations and the local community as part of a long-term economic regeneration project in the post industrial town.

Jane Ruffer spoke at the February meeting and described what has been achieved so far and what plans there were for the future. Jane and Jonathan had supported many individual charities in the past but the Auckland Project provided them with an opportunity to take more

responsibility for and oversight of their investment.

Considerable work has already been done to restore the Castle to its former glory including the beautiful throne room housing the Zurberán paintings. In the old town centre, a magnificent new gallery has been created for Spanish Art. A new Faith Centre has been built in the Castle grounds. A mining Art Gallery has been set up in the adjacent Town Hall and work has begun restoring the terraced and other garden areas, where possible keeping with earlier layouts. Binchester Roman Fort by the River Wear is also in the Project area and has only been partially excavated. The fort had been one of the largest military installations in Northern Britain and there is considerable scope for further excavations. The spectacular live outdoor show, 'The Kynren,' describing key parts of English history, is now an annual fixture. It is hoped that these varied and substantial elements of the Project will make Bishop Auckland a national and international destination for tourists.

This was an excellent presentation of an ambitious project with a positive vision for the future. It was clear during questions that the audience was very supportive of the plans and wished the Project every success in the future.

The vote of thanks was given by Anne Lee.

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Thanks to all of you who responded to our recent request for information about your interests and ideas for future workshops. Top five were: Dry Stone Walling, Blue Plaques, Cookery Demonstration, Tai Chi, and Architecture. Other suggestions were: Railways, Hedge Laying, Calligraphy and Motor Cycling. Please keep suggestions coming by emailing me annie@cloustons.uk

****The Observatory workshop is now fully subscribed.****

Saturday 2 April 8pm - 11pm Dark Skies Night at Grassholme Observatory. Tickets cost £19 per person (65yrs+ and blue badge holders) or £23 for under 65s. Numbers are limited to 20 per event.

The evening will involve a presentation by Gary Fildes, Astronomer, and use of the telescopes to view the spring constellations.

If you would like to book a place on the reserve list, please make your cheque payable to Teesdale u3a and send to Sue overton at 5 Cecil Road, Barnard Castle, DL12 8AL. If you require further information:

Email sueoverton@hotmail.com or mobile no: 07512 368884

Continued overleaf...

Saturday 14 May, 12-1pm, visit to McColl's Brewery for members interested in the production of real ale/craft beers. The guided tour by head brewer, Danny McColl, will inform about the brewing process and equipment, the raw ingredients and fermentation. You will learn "what makes McColl's Brewery tick" and try their products - 3 free thirds of your choice from the taps are included. Tickets £10

Place: Unit 4, Randolph Industrial Estate, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland DL14 9SJ

If you would like to book a place, please make your cheque payable to Teesdale u3a and send to me at 5 Cecil Road, Barnard Castle DL12 8AL. For further information, email sueoverton@hotmail.com or mobile 07512 368884

u3a Trip—Snowdonia & Portmeirion

Monday 27 June 2022 for 5 days

Royal Victoria Hotel, Snowdonia, Llanberis

Dinner, bed and breakfast with porter service at hotel

Monday 27 June 2022 Depart Barnard Castle and travel to Chester for a lunch break and time at leisure

Tuesday 28 June 2022 Morning tour of Snowdonia with stop at Betws-y-Coed and afternoon at leisure in Llandudno

Wednesday 29 June 2022 Single rail journey between Porthmadog & Blaenau Ffestiniog followed by a visit to Portmeirion Village & Gardens

Thursday 30 June 2022 Scenic tour of Anglesey plus a 75 minute Puffin Island Cruise. With an abundance of wildlife in their natural habitat, this is a chance to see seabirds, grey seals and bottlenose dolphin.

Friday 1 July 2022 Depart Llanberis with an en route stop at Bolton Market for lunch break time before returning back to Barnard Castle

Price per person - £599 based on a minimum of 20 passengers sharing

Twin/Double rooms still available. 2 x double rooms for sole use with a supplement of £111 per person. The deposit is £60 per person at time of booking. This group will be led by Carol Hunter & Jane Mathieson.

To book, please contact

Carol Hunter, Kyle Travel – 01833 690303

Group Reports

Birdwatching Group

Report of Field Meeting at Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria on Monday 21 February 2022

Four of us met on a very blustery but dry morning at the Northern Viaduct Trust car park, Stenkrith Bridge, above the raging River Eden. The worst of Storm Franklin had passed the previous 2 days, but the Eden was swollen and impressive. We spotted a small flock of Fieldfares as we left the car park, and then traversed the road bridge to the Millennium footbridge below to view the torrent in the dramatic gorge.

We walked the disused railway track flanking the river and crossed 2 impressive viaducts, Podgill and Merrygill, giving us good views of the tops of the trees. The viaducts were all part of the South Durham and Lancashire Union railway network. We walked up to a viewing point above Hartley Quarry; the sun came out, and we looked back to Brough and the North Pennines, the Howgill Fells and the snow and cloud-covered Lakeland Hills in the far distance.

We saw lots of corvids, especially Jackdaws and Common Crows; several Common Buzzards flew low over us giving better views. The blustery weather meant birds were staying mainly in cover, so viewing was challenging. However, some birds alerted us to their presence by their song. Common birds starting to sing included Great Tit and Blue Tits, Robins, Chaffinches and Thrushes. We had good views of both Mistle and Song thrushes, enabling us to compare their similar appearances and varied songs: a Mistle Thrush lived up to its country name of "Stormcock", delivering its wild, far-carrying song from the tops of a tree and telegraph pole into the wind; and a Song Thrush with its sweeter, more liquid repeated phrases.

Other birds seen were little parties of Long-tailed Tits, Goldfinches, Blackbirds and Wood Pigeons; we noted the subtle shading of colours on the backs of the latter when seen close and in good light. The loud song of a Wren was heard but we couldn't see the bird in deep cover. Finally, back at the car park we first heard and then saw a Nuthatch in a small tree.

Thanks to Ian Blake for leading this meeting and introducing us to a delightful new walk.

Photos overleaf...

Photos by Andrew Lapworth

Mistle Thrush



Song Thrush



Room To Read Book Group Report by Ruth Lapworth
The Light Between Oceans* by ML Steadman (2012)

Most of the group found this a very sad and thought - provoking story. We decided it is an unusual novel in that all the characters suffer, with no satisfactory resolution for any of them.

The story is set after WW1 in a remote part of western Australia. The main character, Tom, who is affected by his experiences during the war, takes the job of lighthouse keeper on an isolated rock (Janus) 100 miles from a small town on the mainland. The author describes very vividly the solitary routine of tending the light and living in seclusion.

On a visit to shore, Tom meets and then marries Isabel. They live very happily on Janus but remain childless after Isabel suffers 3 miscarriages. One day they find a baby washed up on shore in a boat with a dead man. Isabel, who is desperate to have a child, believes the baby has been sent to them by God and they should keep it, pretending it to be their own. She eventually persuades Tom this is the right thing to do. Against his better judgement, Tom does not record the event in the lighthouse log or report it to the necessary authorities. He buries the dead man and they proceed to raise the baby, whom they call Lucy, as their own child.

However, a few years later, when visiting Isabel's family on the mainland, Tom and Isabel meet Hannah, Lucy's birth mother. Hannah is tormented by the loss of her daughter and husband (presumed drowned) and her grief has a major impact on Tom who is still struggling with his conscience about the deception. We were all affected by the moral dilemma facing Tom who is torn between the grief his wife will suffer on losing Lucy, and his sense of duty to return the child to her birth mother. He sets up a series of events which lead to the truth about Lucy being discovered. Tom is then arrested and Lucy is returned to her birth mother with devastating consequences for all the characters.

The locations, weather-events and characters in the book are all very well described and most of us found the story engrossing and heart-wrenching. The key themes are the way in which grief can distort decision making, the effects of physical and emotional isolation, and the moral dilemma of needing to tell the truth when it can result in dire consequences for those one loves most. As a recommendation for a reading group we gave it 4.5 out of 5, and as a recommendation for a friend, 3 out of 5.

*The book was made into a film of the same name in 2016.

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Next books:

16 March	<i>Stoner</i>	John Williams
20 April	<i>Clara and the Sun</i>	Kazuo Izuguro
18 May	<i>Sad little Men</i>	Richard Beard

Book Group Two
Report by Elizabeth Long
***The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout**

This is an intriguing and fascinating tale of three siblings brought together when a young man, Zach, perpetrates a hate-crime by rolling a half-frozen pig's head into a mosque during Ramadan. Susan, Zach's mother, appeals to her two brothers, both lawyers, to return and help her son. One brother, Jim, is a 'hot-shot' lawyer, famous for the acquittal of a celebrity; the other, Bob, a legal aid lawyer. Set in Shirley Falls, Maine, a fictional small town familiar to those who know Strout's work, this deals with a multitude of themes: guilt, lies, cultural differences, prejudice and relationships within a dysfunctional family. The siblings' father had been killed in a freak accident when they were young, Bob being the unwitting cause of the accident. This then sets the tone of the relationship between the three which plays out in the book.

The group was unanimous in their appreciation of the book; we felt it was well-written, thoughtful and insightful. The characters and the situations they found themselves in were authentic and did resonate with some of us. As well as a sense of the tensions within the Burgess family, Strout made us feel for the plight of the Somali refugees, trying to make their home in this small town. Interestingly, the pig incident was based on real life. As with other books by Strout, her characters are well drawn, her writing is engaging and holds your interest from beginning to end.

We usually meet either every month or every two months, on the second Monday in the month, although this can vary.

Please contact Elizabeth Long on 01833 641494 or book2@teesdaleu3a.org.uk for further details.

Future Meetings

Monday, 14 March 2pm when we will be discussing '*A Town called Sol-ace*' by Mary Lawson.

Monday, 11 April 2pm (book tba)

Climate Solutions Discussion Group Report for March by Kate Bailey

We were delighted to welcome new members to the discussion group and enjoyed a lively discussion around eliminating the relentless proliferation of single-use plastic containers and plastic food packaging from our lives. Not an easy task!

Plastic is made from fossil fuels; plastic waste is destroying life in our rivers and oceans; it breaks down into micro-plastics that are everywhere in the food chain, and within all our bodies. The majority of the plastics we in the UK think is being recycled is instead being shipped abroad, burnt, buried, dumped or blown into watercourses, and washed into seas. WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) estimates that globally at least 11 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into the oceans each year - <https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/plastic-packaging>

Public, shareholder and consumer pressure for change is making a huge difference and some supermarkets are already attempting to reduce their use of plastic packaging. The group's suggestions included searching out alternative shower, cosmetic and cleaning products, buying products in returnable or refillable bottles and glass containers, making our own non-plastic bags and containers.

Liz suggested an informative link - Beth Terry's website, blog and "Plastic Free" book - <https://myplasticfreelife.com/plasticfreeguide/>

Top Tips for April:

- refuse to accept plastic wrapping and containers - take refillable/washable food containers, cloth or cardboard containers, etc; support retailers who sell refills (e.g. Cross Lanes)
- buy loose vegetables, fruits etc. empty plastic containers into your own boxes and leave the unwanted containers behind - explain to the shopkeeper/ market holder why you are concerned;
- boycott takeaways whose packaging ends up on the street; join a local litter-pick, kick dog-poo bags into the long grass, collect recyclable rubbish on your walks

Future Discussion Topics:

The Climate Solutions group is informal and friendly, and offers **an open invitation** to all other u3a members to join in when we discuss something of interest to themselves. For information, future topics will include:

April 7th: Global issues - climate impacts, weather patterns, floods and wildfires, soils and biodiversity loss;

May 5th: Engaging people - influencing behaviour, demonstrating how individual actions can make a difference to the planet, encouraging others to take responsibility;

Continued overleaf...

June 2nd: Circular economy - ways to reduce waste, recycle, repair, reuse; helping to safeguard finite natural resources and minimise fossil fuel dependency.

If you would like to join a future discussion please email Kate via the convenor's contact form. We hope to hear from you soon.

Discussion Group February Report by Glen Howard

As usual we covered a wide variety of topics when discussing items in the news including: driving tests for the elderly; the new Highway Code; builders buying up land in villages but not building affordable housing on it; e-cars being used to supply electricity to the national grid; and smart meters.

Our main topic was *Parliamentary Sleaze* which of course we expanded to include various other areas of both national and local government.

Next month our main topic will be *The Police* when we meet at 10.15am on Friday 11 March. If you would like to join us please give me a ring.

Glen Howard 01833 631639

Genealogy March Report by Alan Swindale

The March meeting revisited the topic of Probate and Wills.

A will can provide two pieces of information which are very useful to the family historian: the occupation and dwelling place of the person who made the will (the testator) and the relationship to the testator of those who were beneficiaries under the will. These relationships are especially valuable before the 1841 census and wills can go back to the 16th century and, occasionally, even earlier. Between 1530 and 1732, every grant of probate required an inventory of the estate to be produced, giving an insight into the lifestyle of the testator.

Probate is the legal process which recognises the validity of the will and authorises the executor(s) to distribute the estate of the testator as directed by the will. Even if there was no will then probate will result in an Admon (short for administration) authorising someone to distribute the estate but in this case in accordance with the rules of intestacy, i.e. where there was a significant estate but no will.

Probate documentation is the key to finding a will, if there was one. After 12 January 1858 this is straightforward since all were then proved

in the Civil Court of Probate and are listed in the National Probate 'Calendar' or index. Before that date, wills were proven in the

applicable Ecclesiastical Court which could have been anything from the local archdeacon's court right through a hierarchy of courts all the way up to the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, commonly known as Doctors' Commons. The archive holding the will today will depend upon in which court the will was proved. Most of the archives are indexed online but not all. Finding a will – which may not even exist – can be a long-winded process, and that's just for English wills!

In April we will compare the most popular Family History sites on the internet – such as FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast, MyHeritage and so on. The meeting will again be by Zoom, as usual on the first Thursday of the month, 7 April at 2pm. Details will be circulated to Genealogy group members nearer the time.

Alan Swindale ajs@fivenine.co.uk 01388488348

Geography Group

Map Reading—February Report by Gerald Blake

David Ewart led an unforgettable afternoon of map reading at our February meeting. As might be expected from a former head of Barnard Castle School and legendary geography teacher, his approach was original and ingenious. The result was entertainment, inspiration and instruction.

David had painstakingly prepared sketch maps of his favourite walk (14.5 km) in the Yorkshire Dales following Swaledale from Surrender Bridge to Reeth, and then along the Arkle Beck and back to the start. He showed us how a route card of bearings, distances, timings, and details of the footpaths can be prepared. His schedule allowed time for an ice cream in Reeth and a visit to the Lead Mining Museum there. Timings were calculated on the basis of 20 to 25 minutes per km, and five minutes for every 100 metres climbed. Some of us wondered how much time to add for every year of age.

Next, using 1:25,000 OS map OL 30, we were invited to prepare our own route cards for another wonderful walk from Keld, along the Swale, past Muker to Gunnerside. Most of us mastered the six figure map references ("along the corridor and up the stairs") but struggled rather more with the compass bearings which had to be read using those brilliant little Silva compasses, all provided for our use by our tutor. By the end of the afternoon, members had been enthused by the potential of simple map reading skills to unlock some of the superb landscapes we can enjoy not very far from Barnard Castle. **Continued overleaf ...**

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Photo: *Swaledale* by David Ewart

Next meeting: Thursday 21 April at 2.15pm at the Witham. ***Tales from the Map Room***. Members of the group will present a selection of unusual maps telling remarkable, surprising, and sometimes dangerous stories.

Historical Environment Report: March 2022 by Tim Meacham

Twenty-one stalwart members turned up for our February meeting at Enterprise House to hear our member, Bill Heyes, talk on *Early Lead Mining in Teesdale*. We were perhaps expecting a fairly standard run through the history of the London Lead Company, but Bill's presentation barely touched upon their era, showing us that, far from the claim of Rastrick & Jennings' book on the subject written as recently as the mid 1960s which effectively dismissed the years preceding 1753, serious lead mining was going on in Teesdale as early as 1550.

Bill has clearly spent many years researching these unheralded early years. His investigations had started locally, visiting Record offices in Durham and Newcastle, but as challenges arose, he had found himself

at the National Archives in London, then followed up links in Hertfordshire before being fortunate enough closer to home to persuade the late Lord Barnard to open up his well-protected Raby Castle archive. The result of all of this has been that Bill has built up a hard-to-equal account of early lead mining in Teesdale. He held us entranced with this for a full hour.

The only pre-1753 lead mine acknowledged by Rastrick & Jennings was Flakebrigg, and Bill had found evidence of this site in the manor of Eggleston, being mined by the Bowes family under lease from Elizabeth I as early as 1571. Yet by 1550, Edward VI had already granted the Bowes family a 21 year lease on 'all his lead mines .. within the Forest of Teesdale' (the neighbouring manor to Eggleston). Frustratingly, although we hear that by the 1570s, the Teesdale lead mines were already 'well-worked', pre-1550 information has not proved possible to come by. Bill took us through a catalogue of early rivalries and historical fall-outs: in 1557, for example, the Earl of Westmoreland was a leading player in the Eggleston Manor mines, only to fall foul of the crown in the 1569 uprising. His lease was forfeited allowing the Bowes family to obtain further leases in the manor. In Forest Manor too, Bill identified a series of leases during the second half of the sixteenth century, although it seems details of production levels, profitability etc. were rarely documented.

Moving into the seventeenth century, we heard more detail of individual mines in both manors. For example, records show Grasse Groves in Durham and Newcastle, but as challenges arose he had found himself that Eggleston manor produced '300 bings' (about 40 tons) of lead between 1662 and 1665. This mine had been worked since before 1595. From 1611, Lady Isabella Bowes was managing these mines and there is mention of ore being carried by horses from Grasse Groves to Hexham. In 1648, ore worth £240 was extracted from Grasse Groves, the records tell us (while Pike Law by contrast was worked without profit). By 1673, Lord Barnard was becoming a potential player. He was keen to take over Langdon Mine when Lord Elgin's lease from the crown ended and, despite this being handed initially to the Earl of Carlisle, by 1682, Lord Barnard had purchased the lease and by 1705 almost all the Teesdale mines had come under his family's control. A map of 1732 still held in the archives at Raby Castle shows that 21 years before the London Lead Company apparently introduced lead mining into Teesdale, the trade was in fact widespread and flourishing. Bill's account was extremely well received and I am sure there will be further talks and visits on the many facets of this subject which he did not have time to cover.

iPad & iPhone Group - February Report by Mike Sweeting

Somewhat reduced numbers this month, possibly due to Half Term. The Settings tackled this time included Siri. We went through the process of setting up Siri – the talking assistant that is similar to Amazon's Alexa. iPad for Seniors covers the process from page 50. We also looked at Notifications. Many of the settings here affect the way Siri works as well. (iPad for Seniors, page 142 onwards).

We also looked at Sounds. These determine the ring tones and sounds that are heard on receipt of messages, texts, etc. as well as the turning on or off the clicks from the keyboard.

Lastly, we looked at the Control Centre, a drop-down screen that gives quick access to frequently used functions and apps. The content of this screen can be managed from Settings.

Moving on, we looked at the various ways in which a user can get past the Lock Screen to use the iPad or iPhone. These progress from a simple PIN code, through fingerprint to facial recognition. Which of these is available to the user is dependent on the age of the iPad or iPhone.

Finally, we decided to set up a WhatsApp group of attendees. This will allow us to raise queries and pass on information between meetings. It is expected it will encourage discussion, provide mutual guidance and prompt ideas for topics for our monthly get together.

The next meeting will be at 2:00pm on 25 March 2022 in the Witham Room at The Witham.

Lunch Group February Meeting Report by Jane Mathieson

The lunch group met this month at the Bowes Museum Café. As usual there was much to discuss and catch up with so the chat was lively, including the recently hosted BBC Any Questions at The Witham. The café offers a wide choice from main courses to sandwiches, soup, deserts and cakes of the day, so we could choose as our whim wished. The chocolate and almond pudding proved a popular choice.

16 March – The Fox Hole, Piercebridge

20 April – The Forresters, Middleton in Teesdale

Meet at 12.15. Could you remind me if you are coming. All new members are welcome. Jane Mathieson 01388 710741

Needle Craft—March Report by Glen Howard

We had a very enjoyable meeting this month, spending much of the time eagerly searching through four boxes of yarn that we were very kindly given by a lady in Winston. Needless to say, we all went home with more than we took! There is still some left so those members that were not able to get to this meeting will have the opportunity to look through the remains next month.

Unusually there was a lot of embroidery on the go as well as knitting and we all enjoyed some home-made cake with our cuppa.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 4 April. Please get in touch with me if you would like to join us.

Glen Howard 01833 631639

Painting Group

January and February reports by Val Hobbs

First of all, apologies for missing the Forum deadline in January. I must have just been recovering from the quietude of Christmas and the New Year!

The January meeting saw the New Year in by learning how to use masking fluid; an alternative method of making white space on a watercolour. This time, we focussed on waves, using it to create sea foam. The masking fluid is applied by brush (an old one as it eventually renders the brush unusable). After a few minutes, it becomes a skin of dried gum which can then be painted over. When the paint is dry, the gum is scratched off, leaving behind, a white area...et voila... the crests of waves! Again, the laughter, fun and camaraderie knew no bounds!

The meeting on Friday 11 February had a Spring focus, which we linked into Barnard Castle's upcoming Holi Festival, from 17 to 22 March. Many of the town's schools, businesses and societies will be taking part in this Indian celebration of Spring, with a major focus on colour, light, rebirth and new beginnings. We may have a chance to exhibit our paintings in The Witham during this time, but I hasten to add...only if you choose to!

On that note, let us all look forward to lighter nights and buds bursting forth.

Please contact Val Hobbs on 07900 497503 for information.

Philosophy Group Report by Elizabeth Long Right and Wrong

Following on from our consideration of whether God (or Gods) exist and what implications we might draw from that conclusion, we used this session to begin looking at the issue of right and wrong and the ethical choices we make. In moral philosophy, it is generally thought that there are three main strands: duty-based ethics, results-based ethics and virtue ethics. In this session, we looked at Consequentialism (results-based ethics).

Consequentialism, of which Utilitarianism is the most classic example, states that right or wrong depends on the consequences of an act, and that the more good consequences are produced, the better the act. The *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* gives a simple definition: “*Of all the things a person might do at any given moment, the morally right action is the one with the best overall consequences.*”

The two principles are:

*whether an act is right or wrong depends **only** on the results of that act; the more good consequences an act produces, the better or more right that act.*

When faced with a moral dilemma a person ‘should choose the action that maximises good consequences’. People should ‘live so as to maximise good consequences’.

Considering each act individually may not be practicable so philosophers came up with rule [consequentialism](#) which states that whether acts are good or bad depends on moral rules and these rules are chosen solely on the basis of their consequences. So when an individual has a moral choice to make, they can ask themselves if there's an appropriate rule to apply and then apply it. The rules that should be adopted are the rules that would produce the best results if they were adopted by most people. This version of consequentialism is said to combine elements of result-based ethics and of duty-based ethics.

Although consequentialism sounds simple and sensible, there are a multitude of practical and philosophical problems. How do we predict good consequences, particularly over time? How do we measure good consequences? Good consequences for whom? e.g. in pleasing one group, could we not be disadvantaging another group?. Is it ever justified in killing someone to save others? Consequentialism would say it is but isn't it inherently wrong?

In future sessions, we will be considering duty-based and virtue ethics then applying the three different approaches to current issues.

Future meetings: Tuesday, 22 March 10am

Tuesday, 26 April 10am

Photography Group Report by Peter Redgrave

2nd Photography Workshop for Beginners.....

In response to popular demand, several members of the u3a Photography Special Interest Group put on a follow-up photography workshop for beginners. The first workshop included descriptions of the basic principles of photography and image composition. This second meeting was much more a hands on affair. Participants were asked to bring their cameras and most of the time was spent helping them discover how exactly to work them; in particular, to manipulate the three critical parameters (shutter speed, aperture and camera sensitivity) on their cameras.

Additional time was spent explaining that the most important thing for taking a useable picture is to control shutter speed. The camera can be left to take care of aperture and its sensitivity, which it can. Lots of practice pictures were taken in the room. The meeting ended with a discussion of whether the group would like a further workshop on the topic of post-processing. In the days of digital photography, having taken a picture, the question then is what to do with it? Many cameras now have Wifi that allows direct upload of images to social media, if that's your shtick. But before uploading or printing, you might first want to crop the image and correct any imperfections in computer software, which means taking the image from the camera to the computer.

So lots to learn in a possible 3rd Photography Workshop, which has been arranged for 10am on Saturday 26 March. Please contact Jane Mathieson if you would like to attend (janem1947@hotmail.com)

Poetry Group February Report by Annie Clouston

We all reckoned on February being a bit of a drag (were we not right?) and so we decided to keep cheerful and continue to pursue the theme of comic verse. We were preparing ourselves for romance with Carol Ann Duffy's poem *Valentine* which starts romantically – even if an onion is proffered rather than a red rose, but the mood darkens as habit rather than passion prevails.

We delighted in Roger McGough who never fails to capture the quintessential absurdity of existence with great humorous verse – we read *Let me Die a Youngman's Death*, and *My Bus Conductor*. Peter – who shows himself to be a master of accents - brought along some splendid whimsy, commenting upon the first as a reflection on advancing years:

King David and King Solomon led merry, merry lives, with many,
many lady friends
And many, many wives;
But when old age o'ertook them, with its many, many qualms,
King Solomon wrote Proverbs and King David wrote the Psalms.

(Dr James Ball Naylor, USA born 1860)

And this one, which has to be read aloud in a very exaggerated 'Alo 'Alo accent, was given to him by Jerome, Abbot of Belmont, Hereford. If you get the accent right, you'll get the joke.

Un petit d'un petit s'étonne et vole;
Un petit d'un petit a degré t'affolle

Our next group is given over to **Sonnets**. If you want to join us please contact me and I will send you the poetry file for the next meeting – second Wednesday 10am.

SCRABBLE GROUP Report by Ray Thompson

February's Scrabble group met on Mon 14th at Lillian's house. Seven people attended and we split into two teams of 4 and 3 for the first two games. The winners of those games and the next two highest scorers then played together while the 3 remaining played their game.

There were some high scores in the first round with Judith forming the word MONGERER on a double triple giving her a score of 149!

Lillian, as always, made us all welcome and treated us to tea/coffee and a beautiful Victoria sponge.

The next Scrabble meet is at Judith's on Monday 14 March at 2pm.

Spanish Conversation February Meeting Report by Lusia McAnna

Topic: *My Favourite Relative*

One member, diplomatically, had a favourite husband, son, daughter, and one granddaughter in Spain and one in England, so covering all the bases.

Another chose her mother's 90-year-old cousin, Joan, who has lived in Melbourne since 1952 and lost touch with the family. She recently reconnected and has shared fascinating stories of their lives when they were young.

Great Aunt Nelly was another favourite, shockingly captured smoking in a 1920 wedding photo and caused scandal by acquiring a toy boy in the 1930's. She escaped the strict Chapel village to set up a B&B by the sea. As a child in the 1950's he visited Nelly and remembers with joy the exotic lifestyle there, eating chips from the newspaper, late nights playing Bingo and Sundays making sandcastles and eating ice cream.

Another remembers going to live with his admired Communist grandmother in an industrial area, the smell of sulphuric acid in the air. The terrace had no toilet, no hot water and no music was ever played. Grandmother worked from dawn to dusk bringing water from the well, growing vegetables and flowers in the garden and keeping a pig and chickens for eggs. Stale bread was hardened and ground to feed the chickens. The pig was preserved to make hams, black sausage and salted pigs' feet.

Another's Uncle Herbert was a wounded hero from WW2, who became an Anglican priest and curate at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London. Whenever he visited, wearing his flamboyant robes, he gave the 3 children a pound to share and so they loved his visits. He acquired a posh accent and snobbish manners, eventually becoming the Rector at Southampton University, where he befriended rich widows, many of whom left him their fortunes!

March topic is *Do I regret my career choice?*

Stay safe

Lusia McAnna

Table Tennis Group Report by Peter Singer

On Saturday 19 February, four of our group travelled to Middlesbrough to watch Ormesby Table Tennis Club take on Fusion Table Tennis in a British League Premier Division match. We arrived in good time to eat our packed lunches before the match started at 2pm (spectating can be
Continued overleaf....

an exhausting business, so we needed sustenance) and to see some of the players warming up, which was itself quite a spectacle.

Once play commenced, the games came thick and fast. Since 2001, competitive matches have been played under the 11-up scoring system, so that service changes after every two points and the winner is the first to reach eleven points, with a two-point margin. If the score reaches 10-10, service changes after every point and the winner is the first one to gain a lead of two points (one of the games in the closely-contested doubles match went to 17-19). This system was introduced to make the game faster and more exciting and it certainly does that.

Serves tend to be fairly slow, but with a lot of spin and some fairly convoluted postures being adopted by the server to try to disguise the spin and direction of the ball, often accompanied by a stamp of the right foot – older members don't try this at home, especially if you have a dodgy back! Very quickly, however, the pace of the exchanges increases until both players may be standing several feet away from the table swapping smashes for all they are worth. Exhilarating stuff!



The number one player for Ormesby is Sam Mabey, who is ranked number 9 in the England Senior Men's List and is obviously a highly-skilled and formidable player, although on the day he was perhaps outshone by the 19-year old Thomas Rayner, a former England Cadet Champion, who was declared man of the match. Thomas normally plays for the second team, but scored two vital victories to help his team recover from 2-1 down. Ormesby went on to win 5-2 and go to the top of the league, although we don't know what part jet lag may have played for the Fusion team, who must have had a long trip up from Lewisham.

We learnt that players have a "towelling down" break after every six points (much needed when playing with such energy and speed) and can

request a one-minute time-out period during the game, when they must leave their bat on the table and not remove it without the umpire's permission. But why every player rubs his bat-hand on the table near the net between points remains a mystery.

The match was over by about 4.30pm and we headed home, tired from our exertions but inspired to try a few new shots – or at least get the ball over the net a bit more often. Watch out Ormesby, we're coming for you!

Fell Walking Group **Report by Annie Clouston**

Sadly we had to abandon all thoughts of February's fell walk. The weather was crazy! One of our intrepid group (of masochistic bent) went up to Bollyhope on the day, just to see..., and whilst made of stern stuff found himself defeated by the sheer power of the wind. We are planning to set about this walk this month - 10 miles into Hamsterley Forest then a steep climb up Black Hill and over to the Meeting of the Grains. Over Pikestone Fell, past Five Pikes and back round. Mostly on tracks, there are two becks to ford.

Next month's walk is Wednesday 27 April, a walk led by Phil around Semerwater in Wensleydale.

Short Walking Group **Report by Hilary Dunnighan**

On the last day of February eleven of us set off from the Leisure Centre car park for a three and a half mile Stainton circular walk. We headed off under the old railway bridge, past GSK and up the field towards Cuckoo Wood and then across another bridge over the old railway. After the rains of storm Eunice the previous week, it was muddy underfoot, but not unmanageably so.

In one of the fields were what, on first sight, appeared to be birds taking off and flying before landing. On closer inspection, however, we saw that they were brightly coloured kites being used as bird scarers. They certainly had some of us fooled!

Turning on to the track along the field edge towards Stainton, we were surprised to see that the oilseed rape was starting to flower. A sign, perhaps, of this year's very mild winter.

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In one field we saw a man walking with what looked like an oxen's yoke over his shoulders. We stopped to enquire what he was doing and were told he was surveying the ground for the farmer to advise him on what crops had been previously planted. His "yoke" was actually a high tech electronic device that could also be used for archaeological purposes.

On reaching Stainton at The Old Dairy, we saw some representations of animals constructed from old tree branches. The 'Highland cow' was particularly realistic, complete with horns and shaggy hair.

Walking past West Farm and onto the footpath by the side of West Farm Bungalow, we made our way straight down the fields to the A688 and across to Town Pasture Lane. At the top of the lane, we saw two llamas. Sue Overton gave us a handy tip of how to tell the difference between llamas and alpacas: It seems that alpacas have short spear-shaped ears while llamas have much longer, banana-shaped ears. Also, from the lane we saw lots of building activity at the rear of the Jersey Farm Hotel.

A short walk along the A67 brought us to the footpath allowing us to cross the five fields between the road and Green Lane. Our group then split up into those that were heading into the town and those who had to return to their cars at the Leisure Centre. At this point, the rain started, but as we were nearly finished, no one got particularly wet. We all agreed it had been a good afternoon's walk.

**4-6 Mile Walking Group
February report by Gillian Barnes
Circular Cotherstone to Romaldkirk**

Four new members joined our walk on 8 February that began at the Hagg, Cotherstone. We walked towards the river and crossed over a short bridge marked with milk churn boundary markers created by an artist in 1996. As we followed the riverside path, we passed another sculpture, part of a series of Teesdale Viewmarkers. This one, by the side of the green bridge, depicts a discarded limb, reflecting the ancient woodland which envelops this historic landscape.

Soon after, the path turned upwards to a field that we crossed diagonally to a set of steep steps down to the Tees once again. Turning left and through a kissing gate brought us into a field with the ruins of a structure that is still enclosed by a wall and a locked metal gate. Unfortunately, to my knowledge, the history of the building is unknown. We carried on through a farm and beyond into fields that are normally full of sheep, crossed a stile and started the only steep uphill climb on this walk. Once at the top though, the views of Eggleston were worth the effort.

From this point, we travelled through several more fields and a track leading us to Romaldkirk village green where we had a short break. The walk took place shortly after the storms and we noticed that the church had narrowly missed extensive damage from a tree that had fallen parallel to, not into it.

We took the railway line back as far as Doe Park, through the fields surrounding the farm to the bridge at Cotherstone and back down to the Hagg.

Wine Group

February Report by Tim Meacham

If our last single-country wine session (Portugal, in October) saw us tasting nearly 30 grape varieties, our February visit to Chile produced the opposite end of the spectrum: six wines each from a single (different) grape. This perhaps reflects the simple approach of the Chilean wine industry whose focus seems to be on middle range wines at reasonable prices. There were few surprises but the four whites were at worst quite drinkable. Other countries may be reducing their strength of wines, but Chilean wine under 12.5% seems hard to come by – even white wine. As with Portugal, Majestic were again running an offer (25% off) this month which certainly provided good value for our tasting.

Our first white wine was a **Medalla Real Gran Reserva 2020 Chardonnay** (13%; £7.99). This came from the Limari Valley, one of the country's northernmost wine producing valleys. Despite the producers' claim of 'aromas of fresh fruits and citrus with dried fruits and nuts', most members were not impressed ('little after-taste', 'don't like it at all' were two comments). Fortunately wine number two, the **Mud House 2021 Sauvignon Blanc** (12.5%; £6.99), although cheaper, found much more favour. The producers are famous for their excellent New Zealand Sauvignons, and recently extended their operations into Chile. This self-proclaimed 'zesty wine, rich in intensity' went down a treat and, at the sale price, was a real bargain. Next from the Aconcagua Valley came an **Emiliana Elemental 2020 Viognier** (14%; £8.99); here was a wine with a good kick, and which elicited favourable comments ('strong mineral flavour, but with a hint of sweetness'; 'yes, I like that'), although it was generally agreed that the Mud House was better. Finally (for the whites) we tried a **J Bouchon Block Series 2019 Semillon** (13.5%; £14.99) which came with a barrage of tributes ('silky texture and crisp finish'; 'exotic flavours of citrus' etc.). The first member to taste this simply said 'hideous'; others were more positive, but it would be fair to say that a majority were not over-impressed with this rather pricey Maule Valley wine.

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We concluded with two reds: our **Errazuriz Estate Reserva 2020 Merlot** (13.5%; £8.99) was a typical middle-of-the-road Merlot; unexceptionable but perfectly drinkable. From the central Curico Valley, the 'ageing in French and American barrels' was barely noticeable and it perhaps lacked the description 'full-bodied' claimed by the label. The Southern Bio-Bio Valley's **Indomita Gran Reserva 2020 Pinot Noir** (14%; £9.99) was appreciated by the 'red brigade' within the group. Here the label's 'nicely pronounced fruit' and 'smooth velvet taste' seemed more justified; worth giving a try, certainly.

Next meeting: Tuesday 15 March at 2.00pm. The topic is still to be decided. Anyone requiring further details should contact Tim Meacham.

THEATRE BY THE LAKE, 10TH DECEMBER 2022

Many of you have enjoyed the Christmas productions at The Theatre by the Lake and this year we have booked the matinee of ***The Borrowers***.

There will be a Maude's coach leaving Barnard Castle for Keswick on 10 December.

The approximate cost will be £35 per person, depending on final numbers.

If you would like your name adding to the list please telephone Diana Marks on 01833 631616 to reserve your place.

Please note that spaces are limited so, although December seems ages away, it's wise to make your reservation early.

I do hope you'll join us for a fabulous day out!

The Beatles Workshop Report by Tim Meacham and Hazel Yeadon

Twenty-two of us, all a similar age and with a love of The Beatles, met in the Guide HQ for a very different u3a activity in which we wallowed in pleasant nostalgia for our distant youth. Tim Meacham expertly guided us through the history of The Beatles, with excerpts from some songs, but with us enthusiastically singing along. People added their reminiscences and brought memorabilia for us to see (some of us were more Beatle Anoraks than others!)

Divided into four sections, the first ***Becoming the Beatles 1959-1962*** began with their morphing from the Quarrymen into The Beatles as a tribute to Buddy Holly's Crickets - several visits to Hamburg when the music scene was ahead of post-war Britain, and playing at The Cavern Club. During this time crucially they engaged the prodigious talents of Brian Epstein as manager and George Martin as producer.

The second section, ***The Outbreak of Beatlemania 1962-1964***, had drummer Peter Best replaced by Ringo Starr and the start of making the Hit Parade. *She Loves You* was in the charts for 31 weeks. They performed on *Sunday Night at The London Palladium* and then the *Ed Sullivan Show* on American television. Young people were growing their hair to emulate them.

Section three, ***Straddling the Heights 1964-1967***, included their venture into films - *A Hard Day's Night* and the following year, *Help* - and being made MBEs by Harold Wilson. They travelled the world performing. Interestingly, a gig was never longer than 29 minutes and often rendered inaudible by screaming.

After being mobbed, threatened and manhandled in the Philippines for showing insufficient respect for the President's wife, Imelda Marcos, and the 1966 American tour when their records were burnt in the streets because John claimed they were more popular than Jesus, they announced there would be no more live tours. John was showing signs of stress, marital and personal, which were exacerbated by the death of Brian Epstein. However, Paul had an idea of creating Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band as an alter-ego which fitted perfectly with a burgeoning hippy phenomenon in the States and the UK. The resulting album was a huge success. The group also made their famous visit to India. The final era, ***The End 1967-1970***, still featured hit singles; John and Yoko Ono became inseparable; George Harrison came to prominence as the writer of *Here Comes the Sun* and *Something*, but talk began of the Beatles losing it. The eventual split came in 1970.

And thus we were transported back to those despairing days when things fell apart, because the centre could not hold. How fantastic though, that our parents eventually came round to value the musical contribution these iconic guys – the Fab Four – gave us. *Yesterday* is known to be the most covered song ever, and who can deny the poignancy and humanity of *Eleanor Rigby*, or the rip-roaring raw stuff of *Get Back*? I guess each one of us has a favourite Beatle, and a favourite song.

February-March Quiz Answers

1. Green
2. Nana
3. Windsor
4. Lily and James
5. Libra
6. Miss Trunchball
7. A bloom
8. Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy
9. The Righteous brothers
10. Hertfordshire
11. E
12. Andean condor
13. Juneau
14. Orchids
15. Holland
16. Impasto
17. The hummingbird
18. Cambridge
19. India Pale Ale
20. 206

March-April Quiz by Karen Tranter

Nourishment for Bookworms

1. Under what pen name did Mary Anne Evans write her novels?
2. Sherlock Holmes never said his famous saying: 'Elementary, my dear Watson'. True or false?
3. How many rejections did Malorie Blackman have before she was published?
4. What villain's name do Tom Riddle's forenames rearrange to?
5. Who wrote *The Midnight Library*?
6. How many plays did Shakespeare write?
7. Who wrote *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*?
8. Which country is Aesop's Fables believed to originate from?
9. What is the novel *Frankenstein's* alternative name?
10. Who wrote *The Picture of Dorian Gray*?
11. Which Emily Brontë novel is the inspiration for a Kate Bush song?
12. Which author created the aggressive, lethal plants called triffids?
13. Name the young hero of *Treasure Island*.
14. Pip is the main character of which book by Charles Dickens?

15. Who wrote *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*?
16. Under what name is the author Samuel Langhorne Clemens better known?
17. Which book of the New Testament comes after the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?
18. What is the first name of Professor McGonagall in the Harry Potter books?
19. Who is the author of *Mrs Dalloway*?
20. What is John Steinbeck's longest novel, which takes its title from a phrase in the Bible?

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Group	Meeting Time	Contact Details
Art Appreciation	1 st Wed pm	Roger Stanyon 01833 631758
Birdwatching	3 rd Monday am	John Howard 01833 631639
Book Group 2	2 nd Mon pm	Elizabeth Long 01833 641494
Book Group 3 Room to Read	3 rd Wed pm	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Chess		Diana Marks 01833 631616 07762 626912
Climate Solutions	1 st Thurs am	Kate Bailey 07867 683195
Discussion	2 nd Fri am	Glen Howard 01833 631639
French Conversation	4 th Thurs pm	Stella Kirton 01388 488919
Gardening	1 st Fri pm	Pauline Fawcett 01833 638020
Genealogy	1 st Thurs pm	Alan Swindale 01388 488348
Geography	3 rd Thurs 2pm	Gerald Blake 01833 650899
Geology	4 th Mon am	Bob Tuddenham 07812 378004
Historic Environment	2 nd Thurs 10am	Tim Meacham 07847 182554
iPad & iPhone	4 th Fri 2pm	Mike Sweeting 01833 630005
Italian Conversation	Every Wed am	Marie Jenkins 07754 205664
Lunch Group	3 rd Wed noon	Jane Mathieson 01388 710741
Needlecraft	1 st Mon pm	Glen Howard 01833 631639
Painting	2 nd Fri 10am	Val Hobbs 07900 497503
Philosophy	4 th Tues 10am	Ruth Sansom 01325 401850

Group	Meeting Time	Contact details
Photography	1 st Tues	Jane Mathieson 01388 710741
Poetry	2 nd Wed 10am	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Science and Technology	2 nd Mon am	Roy Tranter 01833 638288
Scrabble	2 nd Mon pm	Lilian Smith 01833 650628
Spanish Conversation	3 rd Thurs 10am	Lusia McAnna 01833 638989
Table Tennis	Every Friday 3pm	Peter Singer 07508 663998
Theatre	Varies	Elizabeth Formstone 01325 374727
Travel/Day Trips		Jane Mathieson 01388 710741
Understanding Classical Music	4 th Friday 10am	Bill Heyes 01833 640885
Walking Groups		
Shorter walks 3-4 miles	4 th Monday Phone	Sue Overton 07512 368884
Walking 4-6 miles	2 nd Tues 10am Phone	Gillian Barnes-Morris 07941 852165
Walking 7-9 miles	3 rd Wed 10am	Nicky Grace nickygrace729@gmail.com
Fell Walking	4 th Wed	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Wildflower Group	2 nd Wed 2pm	Kate Keen 07880 741151
Wine Group	3 rd Tues pm	Tim Meacham 07847 182554

**Coming up at your
Community Arts Centre**



Thurs 24 Mar 7.30pm	FILM – Mothering Sunday (15) with subtitles Based on the award-winning novel by Graham Swift, starring Olivia Colman, Colin Firth and Josh O’Connor.
Fri 25 Mar 8.00pm	MUSIC – Heidi Talbot: Sing it for a Lifetime Nominated Folk Singer of the Year / Best Traditional Song by BBC Radio 2, Delicate re-workings of traditional and contemporary material.
Sat 26 Mar 2.00pm	FILM – West Side Story (12A) with subtitles Directed by Steven Spielberg, the 2021 musical-drama tells the classic tale of fierce rivalries and young love in 1957 New York City.
Thurs 31 Mar 7.30pm	MUSIC – Stitch in Time: A Knitting Cabaret An evening of needlepoint and music, exploring the lost knitting songs of WWI and WWII. Bring your knitting or crochet and stitch along to needle-clicking tunes!
Fri 1 Apr 7.30pm	COMEDY – Alistair McGowan: The Piano Show (12+) A unique mix of classic comedy and classical music.
Wed 6 Apr 7.30pm	MUSIC – Calan: Kistvaen One of Britain’s most innovative and thrilling folk bands.
Sat 9 Apr 7.30pm	COMEDY– An Evening with Gill Sims (16+) The author of the best-selling ‘Why Mummy’ series of books and the woman behind the hugely popular ‘Peter and Jane’ facebook page.
Wed 13 Apr 6.45pm	LIVE SCREENING – Royal Opera House: La Traviata Richard Ayre’s production returns with acclaimed opera star, Pretty Yende, as Courtesan Violetta.
Sun 24 Apr 2.00pm	MUSIC – Sunday Classics: On Wings of Song A relaxing afternoon of romantic music for voice, cello and piano.
Thurs 28 Apr 7.30pm	FILM – Respect (12A) with subtitles The true story of Aretha Franklin’s journey to find her voice, starring Jennifer Hudson and Forest Whitaker.

www.thewitham.org.uk

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