

TEESDALE u3a FORUM

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

June 2022 no: 22/06

www.teesdaleu3a.org.uk

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Founding Chairman: George Jameson**

The logo for u3a, consisting of the lowercase letters 'u3a' in a blue, sans-serif font. The '3' is slightly larger and positioned between the 'u' and 'a'.

Chairwoman's Letter June 2022

Dear Friends

There has been a lot of goings on in the town to celebrate and coincide with The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, so it was a grand time to get out and about and meet our fellow townsfolk. I loved it that so many people got involved in events, helped out with them, and had a good time. All that, in the most dreary and cold of weathers, punctuated by an occasional appearance of a half-hearted sun. So hats off to the British spirit.

I read in a recent newspaper article a generalisation that the French are a nation of collective pessimists and individual optimists. This got me wondering if the reverse is true of us Brits. How otherwise can you account for the planning of the Town Meet, for example? Open air processions frequently deluged by the heavens (as it was this year) and as often as not (as happened this year) in sub-arctic temperatures. Did individual pessimism lead to rain-proofing and thermal underwear? If not, then perhaps we are more consistent than the French, both collectively and individually optimistic. I prefer optimism all round – so much more progressive.

And so we go forward into summer with a great programme of events. Watch out for the weekend workshops – the wildflower walk among the gorgeous drift of meadow on the Demesnes on Saturday 25 June, Tai Chi in July, and dry (let's hope so) Dry Stone Walling in August.

Let "Do something new in 22" be our motto.

With very best wishes

Annie

Photo: As seen on The Bank.



It's Your Forum

Editors: Annie Clouston & Celia Chapple. This month's editor is Celia.
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DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS for the next edition:

Tuesday 12 July 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 u3a file in the library. 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 library or in The Witham shop or at TCR Hub.

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are very grateful for all your contributions. Wherever possible, we will try as editors to include your work, and also urge you to be succinct. The more succinct you are the more photos, illustrations and interest articles and silliness we can include! Sincere apologies to anyone who feels they have been cut short or neglected.

**Please limit submissions to 1 page or 400 words and 1 photo, and send them to the Forum Editor at:
forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk**

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.

NEXT MEETINGS

23 June Kim Harding *Richard III: The Northern Connection*

Kim is well known for her involvement in all things Richard III. After studying at Durham University, Kim trained as a primary school teacher and raised four children – all named after members of Richard III's family. She has always been involved in music-making: playing piano, recorder, 'cello and hand bells, as well as singing in choirs, and she is currently a member of St Mary's Community Orchestra and Choir. Amongst her other activities, she runs the St Mary's toddler group ('Smuffies') and is a volunteer assistant at Green Lane C of E Primary School.

She has been a member of the Richard III Society for over 40 years, and chair and founder member of the Northern Dales Richard III Group for the past 9 years, a group which promotes and researches Richard's links with the town. Together with Annette Lowson, St Mary's Musical Director, she has written a Richard III musical for primary school children, which will have its first public performance at 2pm on Wed 6th July in St Mary's Church.

Kim's talk will explore Richard's links with and influence on Barnard Castle, including some recent Richard III research she conducted during the last two years of lockdown.



The Queen Mother
painted by Charles Willis

28 July Pete Norton *Charles Willis, Royal Portrait Painter*. Charles Willis was a superb portrait artist and illustrator. Roger Stanyon and Pete Norton decided to write the book to promote more widely Roger's grandfather's work. He worked in the early 20th century and took commissions to paint portraits of all the Royalty from Edward VII to Elizabeth II, and also other illustrations in the major publications of the time.

25 August Val Scully *A People's History of Gibside*.

Report of May's monthly meeting talk by Ian Reid

We learnt at school that in 1871 Henry Morton Stanley met David Livingstone in central Africa with those immortal words "Dr Livingstone I presume." The speaker, Fran Sandham, was not sure that these words had actually been said but the greeting has become familiar to generations and Stanley never denied saying it. Livingstone and Stanley had very different personalities. Livingstone was in Africa carrying out Christian missionary work and at the time of the meeting, looking for the source of the Nile. He was also an abolitionist. He had not been heard of for several years and it was unclear whether he was still alive. Stanley, by contrast, was an ambitious, ruthless and at times, brutal individual, with an extremely chequered career. He was determined to find Livingstone and obtain a newspaper scoop. Livingstone's account of the meeting makes no reference to the well known greeting and Stanley had removed the relevant pages from his diary. However, the words do appear in the New York Herald dated 10th August, 1872. The editor, James Gordon Bennett, had sent Stanley to Africa in the first place to look for Livingstone. The greeting may also have become famous because of the perceived humour, given that they were the only two white people for hundreds of miles. Livingstone was by then very ill and he died in 1873. His followers carried his mummified body to the west coast, a distance of more than 1000 miles, before it was transported to England where he was buried in Westminster Abbey. He was one of the most popular British heroes of the late Victorian era. Stanley was a pallbearer at the funeral.

Although different personalities, Livingstone and Stanley did have some things in common. They both came from humble beginnings and had striven hard to achieve what they had. They were both very conscious of their backgrounds. Stanley was born in Wales but tried to deny it and wanted to be regarded as an American. He did consider Livingstone's work as important and, following Livingstone's death, he continued to explore the Congo and Nile systems. He became a significant explorer in his own right and was also involved in the colonisation of Central Africa, particularly helping King Leopold 2nd of Belgium colonise the Congo.

The vote of thanks was given by Tim Meacham.

Weekend Workshops

Saturday 25 June 2pm. A Wildflower Walk with Kate Keen.

An opportunity to learn more about and be able to identify the multitude of meadow flowers on the Demesnes in Barnard Castle. There will be no charge for this event.

Please contact Annie to book a place: annie@cloustone.uk

Continued overleaf....

Continued from overleaf...

Saturday 2nd July 2-4pm Tai Chi Workshop Guide HQ Birch Road, Barnard Castle. Introductory session led by the experienced instructor, Ken Hornung. Research has shown that this low impact activity will improve balance, stability and flexibility. It places minimal stress on muscles and joints making it safe for all ages and fitness levels. When practiced regularly, it can also reduce arthritic pain, back problems and fibromyalgia. To ensure a place on this workshop, contact Sue on 07512 368884 or sueover-ton@hotmail.com Cost: £10 - Please make cheques payable to Teesdale u3a and send to Sue Overton at:- 5 Cecil Road, Barnard Castle DL12 8AL

Saturday 9th July 9:45 - Noon. Map Reading Workshop led by David Ewart. The Guide Hut, Birch Road, Barnard Castle, DL12 8JR. Registration 9:45 – Workshop begins 10am. The morning will cover navigation; planning local routes (Durham Dales, High Pennines and North Yorkshire Pennines) and walking these safely. We will have time to practise our new skills. All materials provided. Cost: £5.00. If you have questions, please contact Gillian Barnes-Morris gillianbm1@gmail.com. To book a place, contact Annie: 01833 637091 / annie@cloustons.uk.

Saturday 6 August 10-12. Dry Stone Walling - Hands-on. Cost £5. Venue to be arranged. Limited places so to book contact Hazel Yeadon, Tel. 01833 638710; email hazelyeadon@hotmail.com

Anyone for bridge, please?

A Teesdale u3a member has proposed that we start a bridge group so we would like to hear from you if you want to play. Any standard of player is welcome, and more experienced players can help get this group off the ground.

Please contact the Group Co-ordinator, Phil Johnson, to express your interest on 07792 0959320 or email Phil at philj.rhu@gmx.co.uk



Day Trip Organiser Jane Mathieson

Saltaire Day Trip 19 August I have hired a larger coach for the Saltaire trip, so I now have some more seats available. Please let me know if you would like to go, if you have not already informed me.

Meet at 08:45 outside Addisons, Galgate.

Coach is £18.50, plus £7.50 for guided walk. I will be collecting money at the July monthly meeting, or you can send me a cheque if you're not attending. Cheques should be made out to *Teesdale u3a*.

Please can you let me know if you want to go on the guided walk.

Harrogate Autumn Flower Show

I am also hoping to organise a trip to Harrogate Autumn Flower Show which is at Newby Hall on Friday 16th September, leaving at 09:00. Price £20.50 plus coach fare £15.00; this includes all the gardens, show and ground floor displays of flowers in Newby Hall.

Could you let me know if you would like to go to either or both of these day trips as soon as possible, please.

You can email me at janem1947@hotmail.com or phone me on 01388 710741.

Many thanks, Jane Mathieson.

Painting and Drawing Opportunity

Our u3a painting group is a cosy, no-pressure meeting led by Anne Lee, an artist of renown. Taking place in Startforth School, on the 2nd Friday of every month from 10-12, it lies within easy access of Barnard Castle, either walking or by car, and costs just a mere £4 per session. It offers expert tuition for beginners or intermediates in drawing skills and watercolour techniques, plus all the tea and coffee you can drink. The group is small and extremely friendly, and we are well known for our sense of humour.

So, what are the benefits of learning to paint and draw?

It improves hand/eye coordination. It helps you to use your imagination, creativity and personal expression. It involves interaction with others. It teaches you to look at things in a different light i.e. focussing on more detail. It can help you express your emotions.

Through teaching us to paint and draw, Anne encourages us to achieve as much or as little as we want, to go where we, as individuals, want to go. Just bring some paper, paints and a brush, and come along for a coffee! **For details, contact Val on 07900497503.**

Group Reports

Birdwatching Group Report by Andrew Lapworth

Report of our April Field Meeting in Upper Teesdale and a planning meeting in May.

Ten of us met at the gate entrance to Widdybank Farm on 25 April for a walk along the track to the farmhouse. We saw a total of 18 species en route, the highlights being a couple of fine male ring ouzels at Widdybank Farm ('the mountain blackbird' in photo), first spotted by



Judith, and some very active brown hares. The cool weather (and very dry Spring) seemed to keep the nesting waders in low numbers but we enjoyed lapwings, curlews and oystercatchers and just a few swallows. Ruth showed us some early bird's eye primroses, and in the farm yard we all cooed over the cute Belted Galloway calves. Some of us then took our cars in convoy along 'Snipe Alley' and the first bird we saw was a redshank bathing in a puddle in the middle of the road! An obliging snipe on a fence post gave good views and we were pleased to see a close male black grouse, giving us a grand total of 21 birds. Thanks to Elizabeth Formstone for choosing and organising this outing.

Our planned May meeting in Deepdale was cancelled due to heavy and persistent rain. Instead, eight of us had an informal indoor meeting to plan our next 2022 meetings. A report has been shared with Group members, plus the planned field trips. Do contact me if anyone would like to see what we decided and where we will be going. For our next meeting on 20 June, I will be leading the trip to Leighton Moss RSPB Reserve in Silverdale. There will be no outings in July and August; outings will resume in September.

Book Group Two Report by Elizabeth Long

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

On Monday 13 June the group plan to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens and a report will be in the Forum's July issue.

Future Meetings

Monday 8 August 2pm *The Woman in the Photograph* by Stephanie Butland

10 October 2pm (book tba); 14 November (book tba); 12 December (book tba)

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

Room to Read Book Group meeting 18th May 2022 by Kate Bailey

***Sad Little Men* - Richard Beard**

Unusually for our group we all disliked this book, though it did generate an interesting discussion. It's the story of a boys-only boarding school education, told by a past pupil of Radley College (in the same league as Eton, Harrow and Winchester). The 'sad little men' he refers to are senior figures in the British establishment (including David Cameron and Boris Johnson) who were sent away from home at the ages of 7, 8 or 9 and who, Beard claims, never grew up. He suggests that these schools produce men who want to rule but have no knowledge of how to govern wisely ...

Many years later the author still feels a great deal of self-pity and anger. He rages about his abandonment and banishment from the family home. He complains about emotional damage caused by bullying, beatings, racism and contempt for the 'lower orders', the 'plebs' and the 'fags'. He equates the drive for power and success inculcated in these privileged young boys to a desperate need for attention and affection in the absence of maternal comfort. He remembers his Radley experience as a brutal upbringing.

Our book group's responses to the book varied - from stories of relatives who had enjoyed the freedom and privilege and the outdoor activities (these wealthy schools have excellent sports facilities) - to those who still feel hatred for parents who sent them away - to others who see themselves as survivors of a cruel out-dated system. We talked about the arrogance, flippancy and lack of empathy of some public-school-educated politicians in government today. One member of the group suggested that the outcomes tend to be gender-specific. Many girl children, perhaps readers of fiction stories about midnight feasts and jolly pranks, seem to have enjoyed and even benefitted from their boarding school education.

Our general conclusion was that Richard Beard's book was self-indulgent, embittered, repetitive and rambling, at times unreadable. Few of us finished it. It is narrow in its understanding of the UK school system generally and the potential for bullying and racism in 'normal' day schools. He uses 'experts' to validate his thoughts, though some theories are hard to understand and we are aware of better books around this topic.

The scores were 3 out of 5 for a book group, because it was a good discussion; 1 or at most 2 for friends as we wouldn't recommend the book unless they had been to boarding school!

Climate Solutions Discussion Group Report by Kate Bailey

Next meeting: Thursday 7 July - arranged visit to group members' homes.

Discussion Group Report by Glen Howard

Our discussions this month felt very relaxed and free-ranging. Several local topics were covered including the security on the Demesnes, Prison Board volunteers, car parking and new housing developments. We also talked about the suggestion that children, pre-puberty, could undergo trans treatment on the NHS without parental consent.

Our main topic, Media Influence, included many platforms and situations. How many of us skip a lot of the details when reading the news? Most of us are not persuaded to buy a newspaper by the headlines but because we like a particular crossword or sudoku but papers seem to like to provide eye-catching headlines. Does this influence purchases?

Our next meeting will be on Friday 10 June at 10.15am at Andaluia's when we will be discussing *the Ukraine situation*. If you would like to join us please give me a ring. Glen Howard 01833 631639

Gardening Group Report for June by Sue Holmes

As June's gardening group meeting coincided with Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we decided not to hold a meeting because there were a lot of other things going on. We do, however, have other trips and talks to look forward to, and they are as follows:

1 July. Kirkleatham Walled Garden. A Victorian walled garden, created with a detailed planting plan; with café.

Mount Grace Priory: recently renovated gardens under the direction of Chris Beardshaw; also with café.

5 August. Coldcotes Moor Farm. 15 acres of landscaped grounds and woods; includes tea and cake; a quick stop at Dobbies for lunch.

The Beacon: a cottage garden on a steep slope.

2 September. Breezy Knees Garden: described by Monty Don as "a modern garden created on the grandest scales; an extraordinary achievement and beautiful"; with café.

All coach trips are fully booked but there is a waiting list as we know sometimes members must drop out at short notice. Contact Pauline if you are still interested.

Indoor Meetings in Stainton Village Hall

7 October. Jill Cunningham will talk about *Bugs and Beasties*.

4 November. Dianne Huntley to give her talk, *Herbal teas and Edible Flowers*, which will include samples; no tea and biscuit that day.

2 December. TBC

As Pauline and I have been running the gardening group for 9 years, we feel it is time for new blood and we are stepping down at the end of the year.

Ideally two or three members/friends works best rather than one person.

Anyone interested in taking on the role of convenor(s) please contact Sue Holmes or Pauline Fawcett. We will give you all the help we can – contacts etc. Contact details on page 34.

Geography Group Report by Jane Harrison

Eighteen members of the group visited Raby Castle, courtesy of Lord Barnard, to look at the map archives. We met archivist, Gabriel Damaszk, who has begun the mammoth task of surveying the vast number of historic documents found stored in wooden boxes and metal trunks. He estimated they would stretch for 600 metres if laid end to end!

The maps mostly dated from the 17th century onwards and showed the Raby estate at differing scales. Some were little more than sketches, whilst others had been meticulously surveyed and drawn. Many were produced to settle disputes about boundaries, land enclosure and mining rights and were often annotated with fascinating notes. Earlier maps may have been lost when the Neville family forfeited the castle and its lands to the Crown in 1569, or when a family dispute, in the early 18th century, led to parts of the castle being dismantled.

There were also some amazing atlases. These included a 17th century 'sea atlas', in which California was shown as an island, a 18th century atlas for pilots and other seafarers, and a 19th century atlas showing the location of fox hunts. Our visit finished with lunch in the old servants' quarters.

Later in the week, on a gloriously sunny afternoon, over thirty members met at Laithkirk Church. It's a wonderful vantage point overlooking the Lune and the Tees valleys. Working in small groups, we were asked to identify features of human and physical geography that we could see around us. Fortunately, help was on hand as we were joined by Professor Brian Roberts, an expert in historical geography, and by Professor David Evans, a glacial geomorphologist.

They explained that the landscape owes much to the underlying geology and the processes of weathering and erosion. During the last glaciation ice flowed down the Lune and Tees valleys, changing the topography through erosion and deposition, and altering the drainage pattern. The chaotic jumble of sands, gravels and clays left by the ice has impacted on settlement, industry, agriculture, and communications. Changes in land ownership and land management down the centuries have also helped to create today's scenery.

Continued overleaf....

A more detailed report, with additional photographs, is in the group section online.

Next meeting: Thursday 7 July, 2pm. Witham Main Hall. Professor David Newman will speak on *The Changing Geography of the Anglo-Jewish Community in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. This is an open u3a lecture (see page 33 for further details).



Historic Environment Group Report May 2022

The first request I received upon becoming group convenor some six years ago was for a guided walk on Cockfield Fell. In May we actually made it! 14



members met our guides, Rob and Elaine, at the small car park next to the Fell and set out for what I hope will be the first of two such walks, over what not so long ago was a vast area of industrial endeavour, in stark contrast to the rural solitude enjoyed today. We started on the uneven land opposite the carpark, picking our way carefully through the remains of multiple bell pits on our downward path towards the former Cockfield Fell railway station, where we paused for breath.

While pointing out the remains of the old railway line here (opened in 1861 to take Durham coke to furnaces in Cumberland, and bring iron ore back to Cleveland) Rob and Elaine passed around photographs taken when the local industry was in full swing. Only the width of the grassy track bed remained to suggest the number of sidings which served the pits and other industry not that long ago (the line closed in 1962 and was removed over the next twelve months or so). Comparison with the old pictures revealed an unbelievable degree of change.

We then made our way down into Butterknowle to walk a section of an even

older railway, the Haggerleases branch line of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, opened in 1830 and built to serve the long-disappeared quarries, collieries and other ventures of the industrial revolution. The original terminus can still be seen, although much altered, alongside the erstwhile water mill. A couple of hundred yards along the line we came across the famous skew bridge, one of the first of its kind in the world and now a scheduled monument.

Continuing about half a mile along this line (and passing what seemed a multitude of ruined coke ovens), we reached the site of the 1861 main line's Lands Viaduct by which it crossed our Haggerleases branch; one gigantic brick pier remains to bear testimony to the awesome technological developments over the 30 years since the skew bridge had been built (a 27° skew



bridge on the Haggerleases Branch line, one of the earliest examples of this form and the first in railway use.) From here, having discussed the cautionary tale of the viaduct's builder, Sir Thomas Bouch (whose mighty Tay Bridge collapsed in a storm some 18 years later, ruining both the man and his reputation), we climbed up to join the 1861 line's track bed and completed a triangular journey back to Cockfield Fell station; en route we passed a plethora of old tramway tracks, now providing the most significant evidence of the network of pits that once covered the fell hereabouts.

Today the clear air and an eerie silence make it almost impossible to imagine the claustrophobic hubbub (and noxious atmosphere) which visitors wrote of in the late 19th century. Thanks again to Rob and Elaine for helping us bridge the gaps both structural and temporal; a smashing morning aided too by the bright sunshine!

The June meeting has had to be postponed due to matters beyond our control, so our next visit will be to Wycliffe Church on Thursday 14 July.

Further details from Tim Meacham by email at simontimothymeacham@gmail.com.

Lunch Group Report by Jane Mathieson

Six of us enjoyed a happy and stimulating lunchtime conversation, mostly discussing our travels over the years, at The Bridge, Whorlton. Sadly, the food and service were disappointing. We are looking forward to June's meeting at Coghlan's for afternoon tea.

20 July, Teesdale Hotel, Middleton in Teesdale, 12.15pm. Please let me know if you can attend. All new members welcome.

Needlecraft Group Report by Glen Howard

We met on what would have been Whit Monday Bank Holiday, but as it was after 'The Event' we spent most of our time talking about all the wonderful events that had been shown on television, local celebrations and our individual experiences of the Platinum Jubilee. We all continued working on our needlework projects and agreed that we all at times have to pull our work out because of mistakes and start again.

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

Glen Howard 01833 631639

Painting Group Report by Val Hobbs

Hello Painters. Hope you are all well and managing to access the great outdoors despite the unpredictable weather. Here in Bowes, the last dull vestiges of early Spring have gone and all around is now rich with the verdant growth of the late season (even though jumpers and fleeces are still vital ingredients of our 'Spring' collection).

At our last meeting, we looked at the style of Eric Ravilious, an English painter, wood engraver and lithographer, who lived during the first half of the 1900s. Anne was particularly keen that we look closely at the way he drew and painted house and shop interiors, which showed how his engraving and lithography influenced the painting technique he used to create surface patterns. This was particularly evident on his works which included fabrics, wall-papers, floor and table surfaces. His work is not quite rustic or naive, but of a simple style.

Our task for the session was to create small samples of design and pattern utilising Ravilious' style, and whilst not as easy as it looked, we nevertheless came up with some ideas that we could incorporate into future work. We worked wet on wet, wet on dry, using the brushes in different ways, utilising blotting paper, bits of corrugated cardboard, bubble wrap and even our fingers. Having not worked on anything like this before, we were all exceptionally pleased with our results.

Indeed, we couldn't wait to apply new techniques to our homework piece which was to draw and paint a room interior, showing examples of curtains, flooring and furniture designs achieved in this manner.

After a brief discussion, the four of us that had attended agreed that we should paint a fresco in June; this to vary our setting, and to raise a little money for the coffers. It has been arranged, therefore, for the meeting on 10 June, that we will meet at Startforth Church. I have checked with the Church Warden, who has confirmed this will be satisfactory. He even told me that the Church is open on Fridays, so if need be, we can work inside.

Could I ask those that would like to attend, to bring waterproofs, warm

clothes and a camping chair or similar to sit on, if we decide to stay outside. You will also need to bring a flask of coffee...and, because I'm not sure whether there is a tap anywhere, (I'm sure there will be but just in case) a jar of water for painting. Looking forward to seeing you all on our little adventure. Kind regards, Val

[Editor: see page 7 for further information about joining the Painting Group].

Here is a selection from the group's work of small samples of design and pattern utilising Ravilious' style



Poetry Group Report by Annie Clouston

May's theme was narrative poetry, a very wide category that the majority of poetry could probably be made to fit. We had come corks and enjoyed the variety that the broad theme produced. Browning's *My Last Duchess* is dark and sinister as is the traditional *Twa Corbies* (anon). More poignant are Betjeman's *Youth and Age on Beaulieu River*, and Simon Armitage's *About His Person*. As befits our stereotype of the moralising Victorians, Mary Howitt's *The Spider and the Fly* delivers a cautionary tale, while Roald Dahl writes a comic masterpiece, *Cinderella*. I think we were unanimous in considering D H Lawrence a much more entrancing poet than novelist (give or take a few scintillating and dog-eared pages in *Lady Chatterley's Lover!*), exemplified by the wonderful *Snake*. Anyone wishing to find these poems can do so easily online; however, if you would like a copy of our collected choices please email me at annie@cloustons.uk.

June's theme: 20th century women poets. 13th July's theme: Post-Millenium poetry. If you would like to join future meetings please contact me. You will be very welcome.

Simon Armitage's poem, *About His Person*, is overleaf....

Poetry Group report continued from overleaf...

***About His Person* by Simon Armitage**

Five pounds fifty in change, exactly,
a library card on its date of expiry.

A postcard stamped,
unwritten, but franked,

a pocket size diary slashed with a pencil
from March twenty-fourth to the first of April.

A brace of keys for a mortise lock,
an analogue watch, self-winding, stopped.

A final demand
in his own hand,

a rolled up note of explanation
planted there like a spray carnation

but beheaded, in his fist.
A shopping list.

A giveaway photograph stashed in his wallet,
a keepsake banked in the heart of a locket.

no gold or silver,
but crowning one finger

a ring of white unweathered skin.
That was everything.

Science and Technology Group Report by Karen Tranter

Meeting 9 May 2022: *James Webb Space Telescope, and my small part in it*

Dr Steve Rolt was part of the team at Durham University's Centre for Advanced Instrumentation (CAI) which built one of the instruments incorporated into the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

The JWST was proposed in 1996 as a successor to the Hubble Space Telescope, but operating in the infrared region of the spectrum instead of the visible. The preliminary design was completed in ~2000 and manufacturing and integration of the components in 2016. The testing programme was absolutely critical as repairs, once the telescope was ~1,000,000 miles from

Earth, would be impossible. The telescope was launched at the end of 2021 and it took several months for it to reach its final position at the Lagrange 2 position. During this time, all the critical optical components cooled to their operating temperature of -233°C.

JWST is not yet fully operational but is undergoing fine tuning and calibration; it should be operating late summer.

The infrared part of the spectrum is of particular interest to astronomers these days; it is where light from very distant galaxies appears - the very high speed that distant galaxies move away from us means that the light we expect to see if they were stationary gets shifted towards the red part of the spectrum. Current theories about the Big Bang predict this expansion and detailed measurements will test the theories. The further away the galaxy, the faster it is moving and also the closer it represents what happened at the Big Bang.

The infrared spectrum is also where information about atoms and molecules appear. So it will be possible to get much more information about the compositions of stars and planets, outside our galaxy, and, potentially, find evidence of life 'out there'!

What was Steve's part in JWST? The CAI has some of the most advanced machining equipment, using diamond-tipped tools, and they made many of the optical components for the Near Infrared Spectrometer, and for the Integral Field Unit (IFU). They also built and tested the IFU at its working temperature of -233°C, before it was sent off to be integrated with other components and tested further, Steve being one of the metrologists testing the systems. Now, the unit is a million miles away doing the job it was designed to do!

13 June meeting: Roy Tranter will be looking back over *10 years with Science and Technology*. 11 July meeting: Roy Tranter, *Whose face is it? – Modern facial recognition*.

Spanish Conversation Group Report by Lusía McAnna

Four of us had a Zoom meeting in May, plus one member sent their contribution digitally, on the topic of a book that had inspired us.

We all confessed to being avid readers and found it hard to just pick one book from the many we had read.

One person had recently read a book about pirates and corsairs in the 1500s after meeting its author on a cruise but had not been inspired enough to become a pirate. But reading *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and other books about WW2 had been a salutary reminder that we should learn from and never forget past tragedies.

Another member remembered her father reading Patrick Campbell's short

Continued overleaf....

Continued from overleaf.....

stories and laughing out loud, which inspired her to read and enjoy his well-written and humorous books. Like her father, Campbell had a stutter which he overcame, but made fun of his own struggles to do so. Another recommendation for fans of Ian Rankin was the Glasgow-based *Laidlaw* series by William McIlvanney.

Enid Blyton's *Famous Five* were childhood favourites of a few, despite being considered politically incorrect today, but had inspired us with their adventures and theme of righting wrongs, by working together with friends, even if it meant breaking a few rules to do so.

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* was felt to have challenged the imagination and was considered just as relevant today as in 1945.

Another remembered finding a book in the architecturally amazing Low Hill Library in Wolverhampton (see photo) with terrible photographs of emaciated people in striped suits and piles of corpses. He took it home to show



his family as he just couldn't believe the photos were real. Until then, like the other children, he had enjoyed playing at war in the playground and being very gung-ho about it. But the more he read about WW2 and the holocaust, the more horrified he became, eventually becoming an atheist.

A brooding Gothic epic written by Carlos Ruiz Zafon, *The Shadow of the Wind* series, set in 1945 against the backdrop of the winding labyrinth of streets of old town Barcelona, had inspired another member to go back and revisit Barcelona. The tale is an exciting exploration of obsession in literature and love and the places that obsession can lead.

June meeting hopefully outdoors, weather permitting. Topic: *Our Favourite Form of Transport* . Stay safe. Lusia McAnna

Table Tennis Group Report by Peter Singer

As Shakespeare might have put it:

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers (and sisters – ed).

For he today that plays ping pong with us
Shall be my brother (or sister – ed)"

Our numbers have indeed been few over the last couple of weeks, owing to holidays, family gatherings, catching up after Covid and other commitments in our busy, retired lives, but those who have played have certainly been a



happy band. The upside is that we play more singles as well as doubles, which increases the variety and tempo of the game and encourages some different shots. The downside is that it requires more stamina to play more games and there is sometimes competition over who may sit out a game or two to recover from their exertions. Fortunately, we have all survived so far, more or less intact, and may even have improved our technique a little.

In the wider table tennis world, it was pleasing to learn that our 'local' league club, Ormesby TTC in Middlesbrough, have been crowned SBL Premier Division Champions for 2022. They dropped just two sets on their way to a 7-0 victory over Ormeau, from Northern Ireland. The trio of Ryan Jenkins, Sam Mabey and Joshua Wetherby were unbeaten, having dominated the league all season and the victory came as Ormesby celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of winning the European Club Cup Championship. Well done Ormesby, flying the flag for the North East!

Elsewhere, the London Grand Prix took place over the final weekend in May and was the largest Table Tennis England tournament for over a decade, with 241 entries, including two Olympians. Chris Doran won the men's singles final and Tin-Tin Ho (one of those Olympians) won the women's singles final. Table tennis will, of course, also feature in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games being held in Birmingham, which will run from 28 July to 8 August. A home Games doesn't come around often, so excitement levels are building – even though none of our group is likely to feature, as it is so difficult to fit into our busy schedules.

If you would like to join our group to take out your frustrations on a small, white, round piece of plastic, or perhaps calmly steer the ball over the net with meditation on your mind, please contact Peter Singer (pandjsinger@btinternet.com; mobile: 07508 663998). All are welcome, whether or not you have played before or not for a long time.

The Shorter Walks (3-4 miles) Group Report by Jean Kipling

On 23 May, ten members of the group travelled to Bowlees for a circular walk encompassing Low Force and Holwick. The weather was looking dodgy as we drove up, but as we approached Bowlees, the roads were dry and the weather remained perfect for our walk.

As we crossed the field towards Wynch Bridge we were intrigued to see men erecting scaffolding over the footpath, but were told this was to be the site of Teesdale's Platinum Jubilee Arch, representing the landscape and agriculture of Teesdale – hence the use of sheep's wool for cladding.

We crossed Wynch Bridge, turned left and followed the Teesdale Way footpath through a glorious display of bluebells (see photo on page 21). Our attention was drawn to the baked rocks on the riverside. A member of the group explained how they were formed. The upstanding mass of rock is part of the Whin Sill but at its base there are layered rocks. (Continued overleaf....)

Continued from overleaf....

These are sandstones and shales which were once above the Whin Sill. When the Whin Sill was molten, the slab of layered rocks sank into it, was baked and became the hard layered rocks we see today.

As we continued along the riverside path, we noticed more wild flowers including globeflowers, marsh marigolds and milkmaids. In the fields to our right, there were gated mine entrances and some small spoil heaps. We soon came to Scorberry Bridge, which like the original Wynch Bridge, was built so that the lead miners from Holwick could cross the river to work in the mines on the north side of Teesdale. We also crossed the bridge but turned right onto a flat outcrop of Cockleshell Limestone and began fossil hunting. We saw fossil shells, corals and crinoids. These creature lived here about 330 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period, when the North Pennines was covered by shallow tropical seas.

We crossed back over the bridge and followed the footpath across the fields to Holwick, passing another amazing display of bluebells. Just before the last stile, we saw the remains of a medieval house. Following the road to our right, we passed by the dramatic Holwick Scars (one of the best places to see the Whin Sill). The cliffs contain vertical cracks and rough columns, having been shaped by millions of years of natural processes.

We continued along the road to a cattle grid with lapwings performing overhead, and then followed the yellow footpath markers across three fields, where we saw violas. We arrived back at Wynch Bridge and retraced our steps back to Bowlees.

Although this walk was only 2.5 miles, there was so much to see that it took us 2 hours to complete! Thanks to our own guide, we all came away with more knowledge of the special area in which we are so fortunate to live in.

4-6 Mile Walking Group Report by Gillian Barnes-Morris

Tuesday 14 June walk (report will be in the Forum's July issue): 5 mile walk in Studley Park, Ripon.

Tuesday, 12 July. 3.5 miles, 700ft ascent, circular walk from Middleton, taking in Kirkcarrion. An easy walk along field and moorland paths.

7-9 miles Walking Group Report by Phil Clarke

Walk in May

Eight walkers met in Reeth on the 18 May for a 9 mile circular walk in Swaledale. The green in Reeth was as busy as usual with other walking groups. We didn't meet any of them, showing the great variety of walks from the 'capital' of Swaledale. We looked upwards and I told the group of the objective being Fremington Edge. Nobody upset me, so my route took them

Continued on page 22....



Photo: Ian Royston. Walking through the bluebells just downstream from Wynch Bridge.

Continued from page 20....

down not up it. We left the village of Grinton noticing the building extension to the cycle shop. Must be doing well! Crossing the Swale at Grinton, we walked along the valley floor towards Marrick Priory, passing a group of school children from the outdoor school which is now housed in the historic building. Up and up along the old coffin path to the remote village of Marrick. Another mile then took us to the start of Fremington Edge. On the top of the ridge, which goes on for miles, the views are outstanding - Swaledale, Arkengarthdale, Calver Hill and more. On the top, before we stopped for lunch and the tough climb down, we noticed a memorial to a local cyclist in the form of handlebars on a cairn. The long climb down past the White House and the meadows was soon rewarded with a deserved cake, ice cream (for one person), tea and coffee in a new-to-us cafe in Reeth.

Forthcoming walks

Walk 15 June led by Lynda from Wolsingham, meeting at the Demesne Mill car park to Tunstall Reservoir and back. 7.5 miles.

Our walk on 20 July will be led by Kathleen; it will be 9 miles walking from Bowes Village using fields, moorland and riverside. The route includes God's Bridge and Sleightholme moor. Please contact nickygrace729@gmail.com if you would like to come along. All welcome.



Fell Walking Group May Report by Annie Clouston
And six went walking (but one took the photograph)



May's fell walk, as can clearly be seen, was not undertaken in the best conditions. Here they are, having striven for Colberry Gutter, starting from and ending in Middleton; 10 miles in what turned out to be fairly typical May weather. The walk was led by Lynda Bares and the photographer was Judith Coleman.

June fell walk Wednesday 22 June. Contact me, annie@cloustons.uk for details.



Wild Flower Group May Report by Kate Keen and Jane Harrison

During May, the Wild Flower Group managed to meet for two walks. The first walk was from the Bowlees Visitor Centre. The weather that afternoon turned out to be far wetter than forecast. Despite it, 19 hardy souls turned up for the walk. Soon after starting out, the rain stopped and we ended up having a lovely afternoon. We welcomed four new members on the walk.

Even before leaving the car park we had seen around ten wild flowers. We walked up to the Bowlees quarry and saw numerous plants in flower including marsh valerian, bugle and crosswort, all out in abundance.

We then passed through two meadows and over to Wynch Bridge. We saw the first early purple orchid on the bank of the river in a precarious position but later saw around 40 of these orchids by Low Force at the side of the path and in the meadow. We were also able to see, at close hand, the lovely globe flowers in full bloom by the river. A white-flowered plant by the water's edge which none of us could recognise turned out to be Pyrenean scurvygrass. We rounded off the afternoon with tea and coffee at the Visitor Centre.

Our second walk was in a new location for us of South Bank Meadows in Richmond. A small group met at The Station in Richmond, to explore three of the meadows owned and managed by the Richmondshire Landscape Trust. There are five meadows sloping down to the south bank of the Swale, and we visited the Bridge, Middle, and the Top Fields. The weather forecast wasn't good, but the sun came out and we avoided all the showers!

The spring flowers, such as lesser celandines and bluebells, were nearly over, and the meadows were dominated by the white of the pignut and the yellow of the buttercups. The yellow-rattle was beginning to open, and we spotted the first buds of the oxeye daisies. We spent some time distinguishing between the meadow and bulbous buttercups and the various types of speedwell. Germander speedwell dominated but there was also wood and thyme-leaved speedwells. Meadow saxifrage was seen in all three fields.

The fields have small micro-habitats within them because of variations in soil type, height, slope, aspect, shade, and drainage. In addition to the meadow flowers, there were species that preferred the damper ground around the pond and puddles. These included last year's bulrushes, water avens, yellow irises, bugle, wavy bitter-cress, brooklime, and bog stitchwort. Bog stitchwort has very tiny white flowers, with petals shorter than the sepals. In the shadier sections under the trees were wood crane's-bill and sanicle. The greater stitchwort seemed over but there was wood stitchwort, which has oval pointed, rather than narrow, leaves.

In total we counted 44 wildflowers. We might have recorded more grasses, but none of us were experts on those and we ran out of time! We finished

our walk at The Station with a cup of tea (and some of us couldn't resist the coffee cake!)

Our plans for future walks include:

08/06/2022 Bowlees over Wynch Bridge

22/06/2022 Hayberries

13/07/2022 Smardale Gill Nature Reserve, Kirby Stephen

For more details, contact Kate Keen 07880 741151



Photos: Jane Harrison
Above: Bog stitchwort
Right: Wood stitchwort with
oval, narrow leaves

Wine Group Report by Tim Meacham

We met in Cotherstone for our May meeting, the second of two sessions looking at wines of Italy. Our focus this time was on UK supermarkets' 'best of ..' or equivalent ranges. For once, all six wines were from different sources.

Our first white wine was the Vernaccia Di San Gimignano 2020 (12.5%; £8.00) from Sainsburys. Made from the Vernaccia grape, this Tuscan number provided a fairly positive start; as the first Italian wine (in 1963) to attain the 'Denominazione di Origine Controllata' label (subsequently raised to 'Denomination of Controlled and Guaranteed Origin', the highest Italian quality grade), expectations were high, but opinions were mixed. Your writer enjoyed the crisp mineral tones but others were more muted. By contrast, wine number two, the Morrison's Gavi 2021 (12.5%; £9.00, from their 'Best' range) found almost universal favour. Featuring the Cortese grape, this was compared very favourably with the earlier Gavi (tasted at our March meeting), suggesting that a £2.50 price premium makes all the difference. Lively and with a good finish, this wine of Piedmont lived up to its claim to be 'flavoursome and fresh.'

Next came a Tesco offering, our Planeta Fiano Grecanico 2020 (12.5%; £10), featuring the lesser-known Fiano grape. Originating in Sicily, this was typically heavy-bodied but suffered by contrast with the easier Gavi example just enjoyed. Our final white was an Inama Vin Soave Classico 2020 (12.0%; £12.99) from Majestic which was pleasant enough but perhaps rather over-priced; certainly the Gavi won the award for best white this month and we recommend an early visit to Morrison's.

Similarly with the reds, of the two classic Italian labels we tasted, Lidl's Barolo 2017 (14%; £12.99) won the day for its 'bright cherry fruit aromas' which lingered far longer than M&S's Baracca & Fassoldi Chianti Riserva 2018 (12.5%; £12.50). The Chianti with its very light red colour was described by one reviewer as 'not the best but not the worst' which says it all in the group's view. As so often, for best wine value head for Lidl!

There will be no meeting in June but Tuesday 19 July will feature our annual 'Summer Fizz' session which tradition decrees we share with Lusie's Spanish Conversation Group. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Tim Meacham on:

simontimothymeacham@gmail.com





June - July Round Britain Quiz
Compiled by Karen Tranter



1. How many miles of coastline (approx.) do the following have:-
 - a) England -1750, 2748, or 3026?
 - b) Mainland Scotland - 4274, 5039 or 6,160?
 - c) Mainland Wales, including Anglesey, 1562, 1,680 or 1854?
2. Which lake is England's biggest lake by area?
3. What is the deepest loch in Scotland?
4. Which is the largest natural lake in Wales?
5. What is the name of the tallest waterfall in:-
 - a) England?
 - b) Scotland?
 - c) Wales?
6. Which was the first national park in?
 - a) Britain
 - b) Scotland
 - c) Wales
7. Where are the only naturally occurring hot springs in England?
8. Where is the only active volcano in England located?
9. The Suffolk Coastline is famous for which gemstone?
10. What was produced from the Dolaucothi Mine near Llanwrda, Wales?
11. What semi-precious stone comes from Ardownie, Burn-Anne, and Ayr?
12. Where was graphite first discovered in England?
13. Where does the granite for making curling stones come from?
14. Derbyshire and the Peak District are famous for which mining industry?
15. Which geological period was named after a Celtic tribe of Wales?
16. Geologically what is the Great Glen between Inverness and Fort William?
17. Which rock is usually associated with the Lizard Peninsula?

May—June Quiz answers

1. genuine
2. buyer beware
3. everyone to their own taste
4. equal exchange
5. masterpiece
6. seize the day
7. spirit of the time
8. cheap gaudy items of popular culture
9. uncanny
10. among other things

Continued overleaf....

May—June Quiz answers continued from overleaf....

11. educated guess
12. the ability to stay calm in difficult circumstances
13. delight at the misfortunes of others
14. too bad
15. coziness
16. adjourned indefinitely
17. so called, self-styled
18. a hangover
19. a piece of gossip
20. last resort

Globeflowers by Celia Chapple

On page 24 in the Wild Flower Group report, Kate mentions globeflowers. If you're left wondering why people are so keen to see them, here is a healthy bunch of them photographed in May growing on scrubby thin soil next to the River Tees, just downstream from the Green Bridge. They are very particular as to where they will survive, and like to keep their 'feet' wet. They always raise a smile as they gleam back at you in the May sunshine.

Trollius globeflower plants, members of the Ranunculaceae family, are striking perennial wildflowers that bloom in spring. Shaped like a ball or a globe, flowers in the garden bloom on stems rising above the foliage in shades of yellow and orange.





If you would like to try establishing them in your garden, read more at Gardening Know How: Globeflower Care: Growing Globeflowers In The Garden:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/globe-flower/growing-globeflowers.htm>

Himalayan Balsam by Rose Pude

Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is one of the five widespread invasive introduced plants in Britain. The other four are Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, *Rhododendron ponticum* and New Zealand pigmy-weed. All these plants cause serious environmental problems and are extremely difficult to control. Elimination of them is probably impossible.

Himalayan balsam is native in the Himalayas usually growing at an altitude of 2000 to 2500 meters above sea level. In 1839, this colourful annual was introduced to Britain and rapidly became popular. Within ten years it had escaped from gardens and began to spread along riverbanks.

Each plant can produce up to 800 seeds. It is an annual that grows rapidly in the spring and deprives other plants of sunlight and nutrients so even vigorous perennial competitors are eliminated. When the plant dies down in the winter, large bare patches are left. If these are on a riverbank the land is easily eroded.



There are two main methods of controlling Himalayan balsam. As it is shallow rooted, it can easily be pulled up by hand. If the plant is producing seeds, great care is needed as the slightest contact can cause the seed head to explode and scatter the seeds up to 20 feet away. The

Himalayan Balsam taken from the Arun Countryside Trust website

other method is to use herbicides, but this method of control may not be possible near streams and rivers because of the risk of pollution.

You do not have to remove or control Himalayan balsam growing on your land but you must not let it spread into the wild. Therefore, you have to be very careful that you do not allow seeds to spread from your garden. Pulled up plants should not be put out for collection in the garden waste bags

unless you are absolutely sure they have not got as far as producing seeds. If plants have seeded in your garden, you will have to pull up all germinating plants until you are sure there is no viable seed left in the ground.

I have seen Himalayan balsam growing in many places by the Tees, some of them up inaccessible steep banks. In some parts of Britain, groups of volunteers pull up as many plants as they can before they come into flower.

Editor's note: The plant flowers from July to October.

As reported in the Teesdale Mercury in December 2020, a project to rid the Tees and its tributaries of two non-native invasive plant species received a £179,000 grant. The Tees Rivers Trust Long-term Biological Control of Invasive Non Native Species project was one of the first environmental projects awarded a grant from the government's £80 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

The project aims to rid the Tees catchment area of Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed using government approved biological control agents produced by the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI). The cash will be used to hire a new project officer and create ten Himalayan balsam and five Japanese Knotweed biological control sites in various locations throughout the Tees catchment that will be managed and monitored for the long-term establishment of self-sustaining biological control agents.

The highly specific biological control agents that will be released include a rust fungus that exclusively attacks Himalayan balsam plants, and a psyllid, a tiny, sap-sucking insect that is a Japanese knotweed specialist.

Work is ongoing. If you have up-to-date information about this project, please share it with us. Email forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Childhood Places by Celia Chapple

I came across this photograph of me and my sister playing with Malay children. Our father was posted out to Malaya as part of the British Army forces in the 1950s. I remember quite vividly playing with the children and believe this experience positively shaped my future life and my attitudes.

If you have a memorable childhood photo that you would like to share with members in the Forum, please send them to the editors at:

forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk



Community Events Coming Up.....

Rotary Club of Barnard Castle 4 BBB Pairs Stableford Golf Day

Barnard Castle Golf Club 24 June. In aid of Rotary Charities: Ukrainian refugees in Poland through a Polish Rotary Club. 'Shelterbox' which provides temporary shelter for displaced persons around the world. Local funding: Giving 'Rogets Thesaurus' to primary school leavers; funding a local student to go on Rotary Youth Leadership Award course.

Book online at [Barnard Castle Golf Club BRS site](#). For further information call John Lowery at 01325 733138 or email johnlowry49@btinternet.com

Community Orchestra Summer Sizzler Saturday 25 June at The

Witham. 7pm. A fun family concert with the community orchestra and special guests, Green Lane School Choir. Pre-show foyer entertainment by Cream Tees. Adult £8 Under 16s/students £5.

Organ Recital Wednesday 29 June at 1pm. St Mary's Church. Free.

Donation welcome. An organ recital on the fantastic Copeman Hart digital organ with Colin Wood who presents a mixed programme of music through the ages which will appeal to organ fans or those who are not familiar with the King of Instruments. He is currently Director of Music at St Ignatius Church in Sunderland.

Community Music Festival 13 June to 10 July. Celebrating music in Teesdale. This year's festival embraces music makers in Teesdale and offers you the opportunity both to appreciate the wide range of music making in the dale but also to get involved in music making yourself. We hope you'll enjoy this, St Mary's Second Community Music Festival. For the full programme of events, call Annette on 07411 825230 or visit: [St Mary's Community Music Festival webpage](#)

Professor Newman at The Witham Thursday 7 July at 2.00pm.

The Changing Geography of the Anglo-Jewish Community in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Geography Group Special Event)

David Newman is Professor of Geopolitics at Ben-Gurion University in Israel. He received his PhD from Durham University in 1981 and founded the Department of Politics and Government at Ben Gurion University in 1997 and was Dean of Social Sciences there for six years. In 2013 he was awarded the OBE for promoting scientific cooperation between Israel and the UK. He is well known internationally for work on geopolitics and borders. There will be a charge of £2 per person to cover the hall rental. Please come at 1:45pm as the meeting will start promptly at 2.00pm



Thanks to
Karen Tranter
for sending
this in.

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Group	Meeting Time	Contact Details
Art Appreciation	1 st Wed pm	Roger Stanyon 01833 631758
Birdwatching	3 rd Monday am	Andrew Lapworth 07962 038053
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 23 June 2.00pm & 7.00pm	FILM – The Duke (12A) matinee showing with subtitles Set in 1961 - the story of a 60-year-old taxi driver, who stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington, starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren.
Fri 24 June 7.30pm	COMEDY – A Show In Two Parts (14+) Josh Berry: Who Does He Think He Is. Rafe Hubris: In Auditorium Cum Hubris.
Sat 25 June 7.00pm	FUNDRAISER – The Community Orchestra: Summer Sizzler Concert With special guests, Green Lane CE School Choir and Cream Tees.
Sat 25 June to Sun 28 Aug	MUSIC – Summer Festival Live, free music every weekend in The Witham Garden.
Wed 29 June 7.00pm	THEATRE – The Bacchae A performance by The Witham's Senior Turrets Youth Theatre.
Fri 1 to Sat 2 July 7.30pm	MUSICAL THEATRE – A West End Walk Teesdale Operatic Society bring cabaret entertainment, featuring all the musical theatre greats you know and love.
Sat 9 July 7.30pm	DANCE – Re-wind 80s Disco For those who love 80s music and remember the old Discos back in the day. 1980s clothes encouraged!
Sat 16 July From 5.00pm	COMEDY – Edinburgh Previews (16+) Four brand new shows from top TV and radio comedians: Mark Nelson, Kai Humphries, Craig Hill and Alasdair Beckett-King.

www.thewitham.org.uk

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