

TEESDALE u3a FORUM

Your monthly newsletter about interest
groups and events in the Dale

OCTOBER 2022 no: 22/10

www.teesdaleu3a.org.uk

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u3a

Chairwoman's Letter

Dear Friends

It's that sweep-up-the-sycamore-leaf-downpour time. It is a form of distraction, and with, let's face it, the grimness that is daily thrust upon us, we need distractions, particularly those that are more stimulating and entertaining than leaf-gathering. One that I can thoroughly recommend is our Christmas Bash – oh yes, this is shameless marketing – for an uplift to the spirits. Headlam is a lovely environment in which to kick start the Christmas season and we, as a committee, will offer you and your guests a warm welcome. Have a look at the menu on page 6 and let your taste buds do the talking, and splash the cash!

There are some u3a innovations to report: Joyously, for Celia and I, we have a new co-editor to share the workload, and it is Ian who is editing this month. We all need the support of regular and one-off contributions from all quarters; we have had a good response to our questionnaire about the content and timing of future weekend workshops, and there will be more about the programme for the coming year in next month's Forum. We have also had some ideas for new monthly groups – Pickleball, Archers (yes that's the everyday story of farming folk I'm talking about, though recently the theme seems to have strayed into disastrous one night stands and their never-ending consequences), and Bridge. So that's an active, potentially salacious, and a highly sociable set of offers.

The Committee have been mulling over issues of sustainability in the u3a. One hugely important factor is that we refresh and grow the number of people who help run the organisation. Without them we lose the continuity and variety that keeps us vibrant. For lack of a willing convenor we have lost two really popular groups – Art Appreciation and Music Appreciation. One obvious answer – and the Geography Group has done this very successfully – is to share the load, with at least two people helping to run a group. We have a convenors meeting coming up on 1 November at 2pm in the Witham Room. I hope that we can find a way to support our stalwart members and by doing so ensure we continue to thrive.

Warmest wishes
Annie

Cover picture: Autumn leaves

It's Your Forum

Editors: Annie Clouston & Celia Chapple.

This month's guest editor is Ian Royston.

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All editors receive all contributions and share the email account:

forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS for the next edition:

Tuesday 8 November 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

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

27 October Tim Meacham **Where There's Muck...**

A chance railway walk early in lockdown led to the discovery of a long-abandoned industrial complex in the wilds of Weardale. Further investigation led to quite a story involving one of those many entrepreneurs who contributed to the industrial revolution in the mid to late 19th century.

Railway interest emerged but lots more besides, including evidence that while "where there's muck, there's brass", yet "not all that appears to glitter is gold"!

24 November Gary Fildes **An introduction to Astronomy**

A step by step guide through the cosmos. From the night sky we see to the most distant galaxies in the universe.

1 December **Christmas Bash**, The Coach House, Headlam Hall
(see page 6 for details)

September's Talk by Richard Pears Castles and Country Houses of North East England

Richard Pears, Librarian at Durham University, led Teesdale u3a members through a history of the changing architecture and purposes of the North-East's castles and country houses. Richard dismissed the myth that most fighting was done around the castle; in fact, it was largely done in open fields. The early buildings were homes as well as fortifications. Arrow slits were deliberately positioned on defensible sides with varying sized windows overlooking a view of the family's land, to survey and enjoy. Barnard Castle, Auckland and Newcastle castles are examples of a home within the bounds of a castle.

Although the appearance of crenelated and fortified castles differs from country homes; both served similar purposes and made similar statements - military might, leadership, economic and cultural prosperity, and political-judicial power. Only the wealthy could build these solid, permanent castles and homes whilst the wattle and daub abodes of the poor would fall away over time. It is no different from today, with global interest from well-healed buyers obtaining northern England's land and property for high-priced lucrative shooting and hunting parties.

Whilst Tynemouth and Dunstanburgh castles are effective examples of the reuse of prehistoric enclosures for safety, the imported idea of motte and bailey led to later stone fortifications which could stand artillery warfare, such as at Durham, and as illustrated in the Bayeux Tapestry.

Richard's photographs illustrated the deliberate use of architecture to denote power. The fortified tower at Richmond, with few arrow slits, belittled any visitor once they had climbed multiple steps to arrive at the top chambers, panting, to pay homage to the king.

Castle and house design moved with the times but still exhibited wealth and power for new generations. The 14th century saw courtyard castles such as Bolton Castle (c1379) have fully functioning towers which operated independently. The Reformation brought a new source of wealth from landowners and merchants working with large scale farming and coal. The Renaissance brought homes, such as Rokeby, the classical symmetry architecture of Andrea Palladio, with Italianate marbles, the use of mirrors and sash windows which had impressed landowners on their European Grand Tours.

Richard's talk was fascinating from beginning to end and gave the audience a new perspective on our local castles.

Weekend Workshop Programme

Please note that the workshop programme for the New Year is being scheduled. There is still time for you to give us your ideas, which are most welcome. If you have not filled in the recent questionnaire we would still like to hear from you at:

forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk or by phone **01833 637091**

5 November 10-12am Calligraphy led by Tony Craig. At Guide HQ Birch Road. Cost £6. Contact Hazel to book a place (details above)

3 December 11-2pm Vegetarian Cooking for Christmas led by Annie Clouston. We will prepare and eat alternatives to meat for festive food. Glass of wine included. Cost £10. To book a place contact Sue Overton **01833 908597** sueoverton@hotmail.com

10 December 2022 Theatre By The Lake: *The Borrowers*

To all who have booked this theatre trip, a payment of £36 per person is now required. Could you please make cheques out to Teesdale u3a and send to me, Diana Marks, at 5 Green Lane, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LE. More details about the trip are at:

<https://teesdaleu3a.org.uk/news/the-borrowers-theatre-by-the-lake-10-december-2022/>

CHRISTMAS BASH

Thursday 1st December 2022 - 12.30 for 1.00pm

HEADLAM HALL – Coach House Suite

CHRISTMAS MEAL Main Course, Dessert, Tea/Coffee & mince pies

QUIZ

£30.00 per person, including welcome drink

Bookings taken by:

Cash: in an envelope marked with member's name(s)

Cheque: made out to The Teesdale u3a. Can be posted to:

Hazel McCallum, 37 Kingthorne Road, Barnard Castle DL12 8GZ

BACS transfer: The Teesdale u3a, Sort code: 20-83-73 A/C 03778576

Reference: Christmas Bash and Surname of member

When booking, please choose your Main Course and Dessert.

Coffee/Tea & mince pies will be served at the end.

Please feel free to invite guests.

Main Courses:

1. A heritage beetroot wellington with olive oil potatoes, glazed Brussel sprouts, mushrooms and a 'marmite' gravy
2. Roast breast of turkey with chipolata wrapped in bacon, homemade sage and onion stuffing, cranberry sauce and roast gravy
3. Grilled fillet of sea bream, saffron potatoes, confit tomatoes, spinach and a red pepper sauce
4. Steak and kidney pudding with horseradish mash, roasted roots and red wine sauce

Desserts:

1. Headlam Hall Christmas pudding with marinated fruits and rum sauce
2. A selection of local cheese & biscuits
3. Chocolate and blackberry tart with white chocolate ice cream
4. Cinnamon crème brûlée with cranberry biscotti
5. Fresh Fruit Salad

**All bookings to be made before Monday 21 November.
It will not be possible to refund cancellations after 24 November.**

GROUP REPORTS

Dum de Dum de Dum de Dum.....

If you know which radio programme began on 1 January 1951 and is still running, please read on.

The everyday story of country folk is, of course, The Archers, the world's longest running soap. I have been addicted for about 47 years and need a fix once a day at least!

If there are others like me, maybe we could form a **Teesdale u3a Archers Addicts Group**. There is much to discuss and appreciate – the characters, plot lines, writers, etc. as well as enjoying the healthy Borsetshire countryside (they escaped Covid, you know).

Please contact Annie Woodward on **01833 627264**

Art Appreciation Report by Roger Stanyon

Call for new convenor

I am trying to restart the Art Appreciation Group, which I ran for 12 years. I no longer want to run meetings, but I have lots of DVDs on art and artists which could be used. We also used to have two or three trips a year to galleries where there were interesting exhibitions. If you feel able to coordinate this group, for which I am happy to give advice, please contact me on **01833 631758** or rogerwstanyon@gmail.com

Birdwatching Group - Report by Andrew Lapworth

Our planned September field meeting on Monday 19th to Nosterfield (near Ripon) had to be postponed because of the Queen's funeral and the only free day I had was the following day, Tuesday 20th. Consequently only myself and one other group member was able to go.

This wetland reserve, managed by the Lower Ure Conservation Trust, was incredibly dry; regulars there said the water levels were lower than anyone could remember. The expected birds were therefore rather thin on the ground. Nevertheless, we enjoyed good views of Curlews washing and preening at the water's edge, and an impressive female Sparrowhawk posed for 'scope views' after unsuccessfully chasing a large flock of linnets and meadow pipits.



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There were a good number of duck on the scrape; all were in eclipse plumages: the ducks and drakes are tricky to tell apart. One pond was occupied by good numbers of Gadwall. We walked along a footpath fringed by hedges absolutely loaded with berries, hips and haws, and watched as numerous Blackbirds gorged on the feast, while Robins were singing their wistful autumn song.

We then went over to Nosterfield Quarry; this is still a working quarry and heavy lorries were taking out sands and gravels. We walked some of the network of quiet footpaths through the fields to the large lakes managed as a nature reserve. There were huge number of geese (Greylag and Canada) on the lake, coming and going in impressive skeins. Every now and then, large flocks of Lapwings took flight with similar numbers of Starlings. We saw quite a few Great Crested Grebes on the lake, including a number of this year's birds with their striped necks. Most of the large distant white birds on the lake were Mute Swans but two were flighty Little Egrets.

Forthcoming events:

Our next field meeting on **17 October** is to **Low Barns** near Witton-le-Wear.

21 November— Hauxley: one of the best wildlife-watching spots in the North East and right next to the coast in Druridge Bay. A Northumberland Wildlife Trust Reserve, with a Visitor Centre and a really good cafe.

Details for each meeting will be emailed to group members in the usual way. If you would like to join our group please contact me:

andrew.lapworth@hotmail.com

Room to Read Book Group Report by Beverley Redfearn

Dark Places by Gillian Flynn

This, the second novel by the American author of *Sharp Objects* and *Gone Girl*, certainly illustrates her talent for the macabre. Described in the Big Issue Scotland, as 'dripping with ominous atmosphere, complex psychology and moral ambiguity', the book explores the mystery surrounding the terrific murder of three members of an impoverished farming family, the Days, in 1985. Ben Day was committed for the murders, largely on the evidence of his younger sister, Libby, who was just seven years old at the time. As events unfold, twenty four years later, Libby questions her own recollections of that horrific night and the reader learns what actually happened in the preceding hours, days and months leading up to that night of awful, bloody annihilation.

Whilst there was general agreement on characterisation, describing individuals as being loathsome, odious and insidious, (as the author no doubt intended), there were wide differences in our appreciation of Flynn's writing technique and plot. Comments ranged from 'an improbable plot' to 'a fiendishly clever plot'.

Serious discussions centred upon the influences of environmental factors in the lives of the main characters, particularly poverty, as well as peer pressures and expectations, drug abuse, and inherited traits and psychotic behaviours. We also made reference to the injustices of the American penal system.

Several members of the group could not finish the book, describing it as too dark, whilst one reader hated, loathed and detested it.

Considering suitability for a reading group, we attributed scores of 2 - 3, because of the amount and range of discussions it evoked, but we could not recommend it to a friend. We recognised that this probably reflected our particular demographic, and that a younger audience might more readily accept the level of cruelty and depravity within *Dark Places*.

Climate Solutions Group by Kate Bailey

We were a somewhat depleted group this month as members were variously diverted by holidays, home heating issues, building works, etc. Despite that we enjoyed an animated discussion about transport and travel options. Some of us have decided not to fly any more, some of us still want to enjoy flights abroad and one member is currently travelling round Europe by train. In the UK rail services are currently unpredictable and subject to last-minute cancellations. Anyway, for Teesdale residents, rail trips usually involve a car journey to a station and parking charges.

Buses around Barnard Castle do seem to be better than for many rural areas, with frequent services towards Darlington, often connecting the villages and schools. But public transport only becomes an attractive alternative for car owners when buses provide a convenient and comfortable form of travel to and from work, shops and schools. Unfortunately this rarely happens in the countryside.

Cycling is an alternative form of transport for very few of us, mainly because of concerns about road safety, pollution from vehicle exhausts and inclement weather. We bemoaned the lack of car-free routes for cyclists and walkers, especially for children going to school along busy main roads.

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We talked about cars; one of our group has an electric car - charged at home - another has bought a self-charging hybrid because roadside charging is impossible without a driveway by the house. Mike Berners-Lee's book *How Bad are Bananas* explains that the carbon footprint of making a car is immensely complex - ores have to be mined and the metals extracted then turned into parts using sophisticated tools and machines. Other components have to be manufactured - rubber tyres, plastic dashboards, seats, lights, etc - all of which involves transporting things around the world. The car has then to be assembled and every stage in the process requires energy.

Mike Berners-Lee concludes that – despite claims to the contrary – the initial manufacturing emissions of a car typically rival the exhaust pipe emissions over its entire lifetime. For comparisons see www.nextgreencar.com for ratings of a vehicle's environmental impact, assessed over a model's whole life cycle including fuel production and vehicle manufacture, not just CO₂ and NO₂ emissions from the exhaust pipe.

Discussion Group - Report by Glen Howard

Our meeting in September was the day after the death of the Queen so we were all in a very sombre mood but decided to go ahead with our meeting. We expressed our sadness over her death and reminisced over memories from her long reign.

Topics of interest that we discussed were the milk protest; the breaking down of the Royal Navy's new flagship; an off-grid lighting solution being developed by a Scottish/Durham company mainly for businesses; alternative energy; and a beggar spotted in Barney.

We had a very extensive debate about the possibility of renationalising utility companies.

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 11th November**, 10.15am at Andalucía's. We have chosen the topic: *Education*. I am sure that this will lead to lots of aspects of the subject being discussed. If you would like to join us please give me a ring: Glen Howard on 01833 631639

Gardening Group Report by Margaret and Pauline

We met at Stainton Village Hall for the first of our autumn/winter meetings and had a highly informative talk by Jill Cunningham on *Bugs, Beasties and Buzzers*. The photographs Jill used in her presentation were all taken in her own garden and all the information she gave us was from her own observations.

We were told about aphids (Greenfly and Blackfly) of which there are about 550 species (Ladybirds and earwigs do eat a lot), Froghoppers, about twenty species, beetles that feed on pollen and are harmless unless you grow oil seed rape.

Bees that visited the garden - Red-tailed bee, Buff-tailed, Honeybee and the Wool Carder bee named because it collects hairs from plants to use for nesting material. The Nomad bee acts like a cuckoo in the nests of Mining Bees and lives off the Mining bee larvae.

The 'Evil' Weevil was also present in her garden (approximately six hundred species). Most larvae live on roots, stems, and fruits or seeds.

Jill passed on so much information that it was hard to take it in, but everyone came away with the knowledge that in nature everything has its place and is needed.

Next meeting: **4th November - Dianne Nichol-Brown, *Edible flowers, and teas*** (samples will be available) at Stainton Village Hall.

Genealogy Group - Report by Alan Swindale

A presentation on *Using Parish Registers for Family History*.

In 1538 Thomas Cromwell ordered all parishes to keep written records of baptisms, marriages and burials. It took another century for these records to become anything like comprehensive and many parish registers have succumbed to flood, fire, mice and other accidents of time but they are the main basis for tracing your family history before the advent of civil registration in 1837 and the census in 1841.

If the researcher is fortunate a marriage will be followed by a series of baptisms in a single parish nearby but a family may move from village to village in search of work and intuition may be required to follow the trail and to distinguish between different families with the same surname.

Online search tools such as those provided by FamilySearch, Ancestry or FindMyPast aid the researcher by suggesting records that *may* be relevant. Common sense enables many suggestions to be rejected leaving ideally just one that is in the right place at around the right date. The more prosperous the family the more clues that it leaves behind – wills can provide invaluable confirmation of family relationships. A family farm may be listed as the abode in the parish registers. Favoured Christian names often descend in the family.

Parish registers are not enough on their own to trace your family back to Elizabethan times but you will never succeed without them.

On Thursday November 3rd Pam Taylor will give a talk titled *Thicker than Water*, a discussion of using DNA testing for Family History Research. The meeting will start at 2pm in the Dales Room at Enterprise House.

Geography Group Report by Jane Harrison

This month's meeting focussed on maps and two recent group visits. Les Knight took advantage of the Witham's Wi-Fi network to show us the wonders to be found on the National Library of Scotland website. The map images section is a treasure-trove of historic and more modern maps and is well-worth exploring. Les focussed on the georeferenced maps which allow you to select an historic map overlay and superimpose it on a variety of base maps including satellite and LiDAR images.

Jane Harrison talked about the magnificent Pieter Goos' Sea-Atlas, seen by some of the group at Raby Castle. This English edition of the Dutch atlas was published in 1760. By the 17th century the Dutch were world leaders in cartography as trade and exploration flourished. Such was the interest in cartography that wealthy Flemish households displayed maps as wall charts in their homes. Several of Jan Vermeer's paintings, including "The Geographer", feature wall maps and globes. Pieter Goos' atlases were probably aimed at this market and were the coffee table books of their time. How the atlas came to be in Raby Castle is unknown. Ruth Samson then recounted August's successful visit to Blencathra Studies Field Centre. She illustrated her talk with Pete Redgrave's photographs. It was clearly an instructive and enjoyable day.

Gerald shared his vision for staging a map exhibition. One was planned for 2020, but unfortunately Covid intervened. The Witham Gallery has been provisionally booked for spring half-term (20th-27th February 2023). Four possible genres have been proposed - maps of the imagination, historic maps of Teesdale and the surrounding area, geopolitical/military maps, and "our maps" – those treasured, or perhaps drawn, by ourselves.

A fifth section on the physical geography of Teesdale could be added. Members have been approached to establish interest amongst the group. Phil Johnson talked about *Maps of the Imagination* in more detail. We learned that these fictional maps and charts generally conform to the accepted norms of geography and climatology. Historically created in 2D to interpret events in printed media, such as books and newspapers, they can now also be computer-generated in 3D to show various fantasy lands. Phil showed us some examples of MOTI maps.

Next meeting: Thursday 17th Nov 2pm at The Witham. Professor Peter Atkins, from Durham University, will speak on *The Historical geography of food with particular reference to cheese and North East of England*.

iPad& iPhone Group Report by Mike Sweeting

Eleven of us were present in a quiet month. Unusually, the Wi-Fi was not working in our area of The Witham which limited our ability to demonstrate the features of Safari. However, we had a fruitful discussion relating to the setup of Safari and how to ensure we have more control of what information we release into the wild. We saw that Apple does more than most to provide the tools to allow us to control our privacy.

One of our members had noticed sounds and other notifications were disappearing and had discovered the Do Not Disturb functions. This is part of the Focus feature and this prompted a discussion on how this should be managed.

The next meeting of the Group will be on 28 October 2022 at 2:00pm in The Witham. Note that we will be in the County Room.

Lunch Group Report by Janet Sweeting

Eleven of us attended the September lunch at Coghlan's in Barningham, and when I asked what was in the sauce over our sea bream, we were told not only did it have white wine in it, it also had a dash of champagne. We in the Teesdale u3a Lunch Group certainly know how to lunch! The non-fish partakers also enjoyed their choices, and the service was excellent.

Our next gatherings on November 16th will be at the Black Horse in Ingleton - but this will be an early evening meal at 5pm. Variety is the spice of life as they say and everyone is welcome.

Needlecraft Group Report by Glen Howard

We had a showing off this month with a lovely embroidered tablecloth completed and a thick sweater that a member had knitted with some donated wool. Latter will be just right to help keep warm with heating set at a lower temperature! Several people were crocheting this month and knitting was also in evidence. Of course we were also able to talk about things going on at home - new kitchens that entail a lot more than just kitchen disruption etc.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 7th November.
Please get in touch with me if you would like to join us.
Glen Howard **01833 631639**

Painting Group Report by Val Hobbs

The opening heavens and throaty rumbles, emitted by a slate grey sky, was hardly what I was hoping for as I drove down to Startforth Church last Friday. It was to be our last alfresco meeting, and the forecast hadn't projected this!

Five of us, brave souls, arrived, only to find a number of individuals, including the new Vicar, running for the church porch. On investigation, we discovered that a short memorial service was to be held for the Queen, who had very sadly, passed away the previous day.

Undeterred, we sheltered, soaking and steaming in Anne's car, putting the world to rights. Half an hour later, we had found our little niches inside the church, and were sketching away, focussing on detail of the interior architecture. Anne showed us how to use wax as a resist, to enhance the grainy look of the stone.

It was a short, but fascinating session, and we left to the sombre sound of the midday knell. Many thanks to Startforth Church wardens for allowing us to use the Church on that very sad day.

The next meeting will be held at 10am on 14th October, back at Startforth School. Refreshments will be provided.

Startforth Church



Philosophy Group Report by Elizabeth Long

What is Freedom?

This month's session looked at freedom, including freedom of speech, in particular at the ideas of John Stuart Mill from *On Liberty*, a book that has influenced philosophers, politicians and thinkers since its publication in 1859.

Before moving onto the work of Mill, we considered briefly Isaiah Berlin's notion of positive and negative freedom as outlined in his article, *Two Concepts of Liberty*. A simple definition of the two concepts would be that negative freedom means I can do whatever I want without interference from either governments or individuals. Positive freedom means that governments or individuals can interfere as long as it is in my best interests. Arguably this will give me more freedom in the long run. Most societies have a mixture of positive and negative freedoms.

Mill favoured negative freedom with the caveat that your freedom of action or speech should not cause harm to anyone. To understand Mill, we looked at his upbringing and the times he lived in. A solitary and intense education from his father who was a follower of Utilitarianism (the greatest happiness for the greatest number) and the fact that he was writing during the Victorian era with its lack of public health service or welfare state, meant he looked at things very differently from people writing today. His views in *On Liberty* came from what he saw as the restrictions placed on society by the strong social and moral values of Victorian England as well as the social intolerance.

On Liberty defended individual and minority rights as well as freedom of speech. He put forward his 'one very simple principle' that said that as long as you are not causing harm to anyone then you should be free to live your life as you see fit and to express your views. He thought that views and ideas should be challenged, in that way ideas could be defended or even modified by the challenge. He felt that this would benefit humanity in the long run by increasing knowledge.

The main criticism of Mill, particularly in terms of freedom of expression, is how harm is defined. We discussed at length what could be thought of as harmful and what just caused offence (which Mill said was acceptable), particularly in light of today's use of social media and fake news etc.

The final point to think about is the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights which lists freedom of expression but, philosophically, is freedom of speech a human right?

Come and join us for stimulating thinking, with no answers! None of us is an expert, we ponder the ideas with reference to the 'Great thinkers'! We meet on Tuesday 25th October and Tuesday 22nd November at 10am at Enterprise House to consider *Appearance and Reality*. Contact Ruth (01325 401850 ruth@sansomfamily.org) if you might be interested, or just turn up.

There was a young man who said "God
Must find it exceedingly odd
To think that the tree
Should continue to be
When there's no one about in the quad."

Reply:

"Dear Sir: Your astonishment's odd;
I am always about in the quad.
And that's why the tree
Will continue to be
Since observed by, Yours faithfully, God."

Poetry Group September Report by Elizabeth Long

Our theme was Scottish poets, an interesting mixture of Scottish themed poems and the more personal poetry by Scottish writers. We began with a poem, *Poetry Forum*, by Helena Nelson looking at the place poetry occupies in our society:

'It's for weddings
and funerals

and reading on the train
and for taking a person out of herself
and bringing her back more sane'

just some of the lines which led to a discussion on what poetry does mean to us all. Further into our session we read *Poetry* by Don Paterson, a reflection on poetry and love.

A sonnet chosen to reflect the news of the Queen's death, *Flowers of Sion* by the 17th century poet, William Drummond, was poignant and timely:

'Look how the flower which ling'ringly doth fade.
The morning's darling late, the summer's queen,

Thy sun posts westward, passed is thy morn,
And twice it is not given thee to be born'

Two poems about Glasgow by Edwin Morgan, one written in 1972 and the other in 1968 portrayed very different aspects of Glasgow life. Morgan was appointed Makar (the Scottish poet laureate) in 2004. For some of us, the two poems evoked memories of Glasgow as it used to be and how parts of it became 'gentrified' in relatively recent times.

We also heard from Jackie Kay (another Makar) whose poem, *Sound of Sleat* reflected ideas of conflicting cultures and identity from her own personal experience as well as a Scotland that has seen people dispersed to different countries and having to adapt. Carrying on the theme of poems by Makars, Liz Lochhead's poem *View of Scotland / Love Poem* was both a homage to her mother and yet another view of Scotland, this time an account of Hogmanay.

Trying to understand *To Porridge* by WN Herbert did prove challenging, even to those Scots among us, but we got the gist of it.

The first two lines set the tone:

'Captain of oats, braw brose, fine gruel,
you are the Scotsman's constant fuel'

We finished the session with two beautiful poems by John Burnside, *Of Gravity and Light (lighthouse)* and *The Gravity Chair (for Sarah)*. The first is about a father and son standing on a pier, and the second reflecting on old age.

The variety of poems on offer gave us much to discuss and reflect on and proved to be an excellent choice of themes.

What is poetry for?	It's for cravings
It's for weddings	and ravings
and funerals	and low-poetry attacks.
and reading on the train	It's for four o'clock
and for taking a person out of herself	for four of us
and bringing her back more sane.	and for five o'clock
It's for children	for five.
and lunatics	It's for fortitude
and chimney-sweeps and punks	and forums
It's for teachers	for formalists to survive.
and preachers	It's for all we know intelligent
and politicians and drunks.	and rarely less than clever.
It's for dinner	You can get some
and afternoon tea	for nothing
and marvellous midnight snacks.	and remember it

Helena Nelson. From *Down With Poetry!* (Glenrothes: Happenstance, 2016).

Photography Group trip to Thorp Perrow by Pete Redgrave

Thorp Perrow is an Arboretum of note, and at this time of the year, it is an Arboretum definitely worth noting. As the most important Arboretum in the North of England it doesn't disappoint when it comes to sporting spectacular autumn colours. Although the Photography group made a prior visit this year, (that time was to take pictures of the fine display of birds of prey, bluebells and daffodils), it was the blaze of autumn colour that motivated our return trip. Four of the group managed to make it down the A1 to Bedale on what was a fabulous autumn day, clear blue sky and very little wind - both essential for good photography. The clear sky ensured lots of light and interesting patterns of light and shade, while the lack of wind meant that the leaves and other plants weren't flying about like paper kites. The autumn map of the Arboretum helpfully marked areas of 'outstanding autumn colour', and named the trees likely to be of 'special interest' to photographers - *Coitinus*, *Acer friseur*, *Acer rubrum* (I'm guessing that was the red one), and *Acer palmatum*.....where would we be without the *Acers* ? Now I'm not exactly sure which was which, I'm more of a bird man, but I couldn't help but notice that the leaves of some of the colourful trees were disturbingly similar to those of the cannabis plant... that's what a friend told me. After a delightful morning clicking away, we repaired to the cafe that was only serving lunch snacks outside, apparently in response to being unable to cope with too many customers inside...just can't seem to get the staff these days! Nevertheless, after a hearty sausage-roll and a cup of coffee, we set off back to Barney. A good day out and special thanks to Jane Mathieson who deployed her formidable organisational skills to make all the necessary arrangements.



Science and Technology Group - September 2022 Discussion on science and technology questions

Instead of presentations, our usual format, the 8 of us at the meeting informally discussed science and technology questions that were raised.

First was: *How do an internal combustion engine and a battery powered electric motor work together in a hybrid electric car?* The two technologies are very different so there has to be some clever engineering to make them work together in a seamless, efficient way. Although there was not a definitive answer, the discussion went on to include the cost of running a hybrid car, integrated circuit shortages and the supply of cars, the geopolitics of mining the rarer metals in batteries and chips, and the practicalities of charging the batteries in cars at home.

This linked with the next question: *How smart are smart meters?* The answer was that they are pretty dumb! The meter's monitor only shows the actual amount of power either being used at that moment or accumulated over periods of time. They do not identify what is using the power. The smart human has to work that out by experimentation. However, useful information can be obtained: electric kettles cause a massive spike in power consumption and one member calculated that it cost about £3.50 to fully charge his hybrid car's battery, giving a 51 mile range if the petrol engine was not used.

Discussion then moved on to electricity generation and the use of wind turbines, solar panels, fracking, the reopening of coal mines and the social impacts and acceptance of these forms of generation. For anyone who wants to see what is generating electricity and how much is being imported or exported in real-time, the website [G. B. National Grid status \(templar.co.uk\)](http://www.templar.co.uk) was recommended.

There was a short discussion about the best time to have a booster COVID vaccination relative to the decrease in immune response which follows previous injections or actual infection. Delaying the booster by some months was the answer.

The final question was: *What do cows think about while chewing the cud?* Humans tend to vocalise internally their thoughts, be they about immediate actions, abstractions or responses to the body's many sensors. It was felt that a cow's brain, like most animals, was essentially a responder to stimuli and that little thought would be involved. Whether those responses were vocalised, and in what language, was a moo-t point.

Scrabble Group Report by Jeanette Ball

Seven of us met on Monday 3rd, at Judith and Phil's house, for the October Scrabble session and we split into two groups of four and three.

Kate and Phil were winners of the first two games and, together with Judith, played each other for the second game, which was won by Kate. There were no seven letter makes in either game.

We welcomed a new member, Jude, who won her second game, and she has kindly volunteered to host the November session. This will take place on Monday 7th November 2pm at Glenaire (top of the Hagg) in Cotherstone DL12 9QW

Many thanks to Judith and Phil for hosting this session and providing refreshments.

Spanish Conversation by Lusia McAnna

Three of us met to discuss our preferences for crosswords, jigsaws, or other puzzles with written input from a fourth member.

Some studies have linked retirement to poorer health and a decline in cognitive functioning so many experts recommend taking up new hobbies, learning a new language or new skills. Our u3a is perfect for all these and every Forum amazes me at the width of activities and fun outings organised by our fabulous Committee and Coordinators helping us all keep active and sharp.

Within our Spanish group, the consensus was that jigsaws sadly take up a lot of space in the house, but these can now be played on computer websites with little bending or mess.

Crossword puzzles, particularly Cryptic ones, can be very frustrating as sometimes even if someone tells you the answer you don't understand how it was reached by that clue!

Several members enjoy Sudoku and find it logical and calming- whereas I must admit that it completely baffles me.

Relatively new on the scene are 5 letter daily web-based word games like Wordle, where you have to find a 5-letter word in 6 tries and each word you enter helps you get a clue to letters in it. And if you get hooked, then you can try Quordle (www.quordle.com) where you play 4 games simultaneously! Really gets your brain whirring.

Our next topic is *Shopping- love it or hate it?* Stay safe.

Table Tennis Group Report by Celia Chapple

I have been convening the group for the past month in Peter's absence. It's been a lean month as regards participants but that is to be expected as group members go exploring and travelling, and we get to hear of their journeys on their return.

Nevertheless, we have had some very good games, with two members joining the group in September. Both had played before, but with a break of varying lengths, so our games have been enlivened by new players. Also, our newer members have developed their skills over the last year which is good to see.

Table tennis championships continue all over the world and the Greek Para Open has just been held in Argostoli. It was an all-British final in men's class 8 with Aaron McKibbin beating Billy Shilton and Commonwealth champions Jack Hunter-Spivey (men's class 5) and Joshua Stacey (men's class 9) together with Fliss Pickard (women's class 6-7) all taking gold in their respective events.

In the British Para table tennis team, Martin Perry (men's class 6) and Megan Shackleton (women's class 3-5) also took silver and there were bronze medals for Rob Davies (men's class 1), Sue Bailey (women's class 3-5) and Simon Heaps (men's class 5).

Peter will return next month and no doubt take up his discussion on the basic skills of table tennis. If you'd like to join our group to learn the game, improve your skills or just have a bit of fun, please contact Peter Singer

pandjsnger@btinternet.com or

07508 663998



Photos: Billy Shilton

Aaron McKibbin



Shorter Walks Group Report by Phil Johnson
Monday 26th September - Eggleston Circular walk

This walk has been a few years in the making and never fully completed. The last section was thwarted by the presence of a large herd of cows with their calves. After exploration trips in early September, it was deemed that a full circuit was possible with only a few sheep and some milking cows at worse, were likely to be encountered.

Starting in front of the Three Tuns Inn, sadly now not a village pub the group of 9 walkers left heading towards the B6278 in the direction of Stanhope. Soon after passing the village play area, Balmer Lane opens up on the left. Following uphill and past the old vicarage and Balmer farm/cottages, we headed for the signposted track coming up on the left-hand side of the lane. The track is highly visible and easy progress was made heading towards the back garden wall of Egglesthope House and then the cottages of Newtown / Woodend some 500m away. The true path itself heads uphill slightly to a visible stile in the approaching dry stone walls. This is narrow and does have a reasonable drop of the far side followed by a scramble down a loose grit path. Self-preservation prevailed and we continued on the wide and level track towards the same destination – the field gate and small stile in front of Woodend cottage. Old maps show a substantial wood, Mickleside Plantation, between Balmer Lane and Newtown. Now sadly and mostly disappeared, with only a thin line of Pine/Larch trees tell of its past glory. However, the whole vista of Teesdale valley and the associated fells can be seen from this track and we could see the rain falling on Mickleton and were glad to be on this side of the valley.

The grass track after Woodend Cottage becomes a metalled track. Various footpaths are shown on the OS maps going both left and right but little or no trace of these can be found. So keeping on until the crossroads are reached; left is the entrance to the caravan park, straight on is an old green lane track but our path led uphill back towards the B6278 where we took the road over the substantial stone bridge and then towards the large building of Blackton Cottage. This area has substantial history as it is close to the site of Blackton Smelt Mill.

There has been a ford, possibly Roman in origin, just below the bridge. A level track is just about visible on both side of the Blackton Beck valley and no doubt was a section of the Roman road leading to Stanhope, then taken over by the pack horses of the lead miners. Blackton Cottage is said to have been the location of London Lead Company's weigh station although the author has found no evidence of that as yet. From Blackton Mill bridge looking uphill and across the valley, substantial spoilt heaps can still be seen, although marked on old OS maps, a site of a lime kiln is close by, but seems invisible in the present landscape.

On reaching the cottage, we took the minor road to the left and downhill. Open fields with grazing for animals were to our right but increasingly dense scrub land and bushes gives way to the steep valley of Eggleston Burn and the well-hidden 4-arched bridge, built by London Lead Company circa 1860, confusingly called Blackton Bridge although over Eggleston burn. [NB This bridge features in the Teesdale u3a 2023 Calendar]

We stood on tiptoe estimating the drop from the parapets to the burn below. The small saddle house soon came into view. There is a plaque detailing the origins and its use just in front. Descending the steep and now very rough track down to Bell Sike at the bottom, its sandstone blocks make up the bed of the ford. To everyone's relief a small bridge is sited to the right which saves wet boots and socks! .

The lane zigzagged through this part of the lower woods, again by using a footbridge at the side of the next ford, we came back to the crossroads above the entrance to the caravan park. The right of way here carries straight on across the office yard but we take a short detour to the left. Having a quick sortie and a discussion, we took to the field to the left and slowly made our way across and up to meet the main access track to Bog House (Farm). Over the cattle grid and in a straight line back towards Eggleston village along the medieval cultivation terraces and a back lane. We did meet with cows and sheep but they were so busy eating they completely ignored us as we walked on. Then with the penultimate stile to go, we found our way blocked. A plywood sheet had been fixed across and looking over we saw a small herd of very content but large highland cattle and a small corral to the side with two calves. Luckily at this point there are alternative routes and with some exertion we gained the main village road and the walk uphill to the cars.



Walkers having just crossed Blackton Bridge.

Photo:
Ian Royston

4-6 Mile Walking Group - Tuesday 13th August 2022
Low Barns Nature Reserve via Witton Castle
Report by Janet Baylis and Fran Hindley

A beautiful warm sunny day welcomed us for this walk in nature. The eight of us started our 6-mile ramble from Low Barns Nature Reserve, then up along the old Witton Le Wear railway track for a short distance before leaving it to drop down to the River Wear. Walking alongside the tree lined river one could enjoy the sight of the river tumbling over rocks accompanied by the pleasing sound of bird song in the background.

Crossing Witton Bridge (constructed in 1788) into Witton Castle Country Park and walking in its cool shady realms complete with gentle waterfall, to bring us to the magnificent Witton Castle.



A little bit of history: the castle was built in the early 1400's by the Eure family, a war like family loyal to King Edward I. Witton Castle changed hands several times over the proceeding centuries from about 1698, eventually bought by Viscount Lambton in 1963 and in whose hands it remains today. By an unexpected quirk of fate, this brought the estate back into the hands of a descendent of Frances Eure, wife of Robert Lambton and granddaughter of the 1st Lord Eure and descendent of the ancient owners of Witton! Viscount Lambton did not buy the castle as a residence but more for the creation of a public amenity, which it is today.

Having enjoyed a cuppa in these lovely surroundings, complete with a trio of Peacocks to keep us company, we continued on our walk through Witton Country Park, now following the point-to-point grassy trail through this picturesque parkland, enjoying the sight of heron, graceful swans and other plentiful waterfowl in its large lake. That mystery building since discovered it's a dovecote, not an icehouse!

Our path then took us back to Witton Bridge, crossing over to take a somewhat steep climb back up to Witton Le Wear, re-tracing our steps along the old railway line and back down into Low Barns Nature Reserve. Here group members were able to enjoy a refreshing cooling drink (or cuppa) and lunch before taking the opportunity to explore Low Barns Nature Reserve.

Low Barns was, until the 1960s, a sand and gravel extraction site and when this ceased, it was given to Durham Wildlife Trust who restored it to a nature reserve. The reserve is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest and has become important for wildlife due to the wide range of habitats including wet woodland, grassland, open water and river side, which are home to many different types of birds, mammals, plants and insects.

7-9 miles Walks Group

Walk report for Wednesday 21 September - Baldersdale valley

Fifteen of us collected together at Hury Reservoir. The day was dry, bright and sunny, sandwiched between days of heavy rain. The walk, led by Nicky Grace, promised “an exhilarating walk around the Baldersdale valley with outstanding views” . We walked along the north side of Hury and Blackton reservoirs. We passed a few anglers and ducks, and waited for the sheep to cross a narrow bridge. By the bird hide at Blackton we followed the Pennine Way to Hannah’s Meadow and enjoyed our coffee by the interpretation barn. We then reached our third reservoir for a bracing walk across Balderhead dam. We were rewarded by fine views of Baldersdale, a glimpse of the bridge which marks the mid-way point of the Pennine Way and a view of our lunch-stop target, Goldsborough.



Continued overleaf...

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At Blackton Grange, one of our number asked the contractors about the building works and learnt that the place is to become a wedding venue. We followed the Bowes loop on the Pennine Way until reaching the road and the way up to Goldsborough. In cloudier and cooler conditions we hunkered down amongst the gritstone rocks to enjoy the views and well earned lunch. We then descended gradually on the well marked quad bike track to West Briscoe Farm and our car park. A debate on the length of the walk ensued – the walks book said 7.5miles but the consensus was that we had gone the extra mile!

Next walks:

On Wednesday October 19 our walk will be led by Pete. This is the walk postponed from earlier in the year . The 7.5 mile walk starts at Broom Park and includes the old Deerness Railway, Ushaw college and the old Lanchester railway. Contact Nicky Grace nickygrace729@gmail.com for details.

Our November walk will be led by Margaret in the Richmond Area on Wednesday 16 November . The walk of ~7 miles will go through the golf course, then past Aske Hall, down to Gillingwood Hall then back via Coalsgarth. Contact Nicky Grace nickygrace729@gmail.com for details.

Fell-Walking Group Report by Annie Clouston

It was with some trepidation, invoked by a ferocious looking frontal system ahead of us as we travelled over the Stang, that we embarked on our 10 mile circular walk from Surrender Bridge. At the outset I realised that an earlier debacle, due to my abject map-reading skill and that I never quite figured out at the time, was the result of my setting off from the wrong bridge. Mistaking the first bridge I came to for Surrender bridge and thereafter railing at how wrong an Ordnance Survey map can be, my long-suffering companion and I, on the hottest day of the year, found ourselves wandering pathetically in search of waymarks we were never going to find. We both survived, but I think trust will be forever an issue in our relationship!

Q: Why is it called Surrender bridge? A: I give in! (Thanks to James Dykes for that).

A more sober answer came from Judith, who did some research and found that it is not the site of military capitulation as myth would have it. The most likely explanation is that it is named after the adjacent Surrender Moss, a peaty expanse whose name derives from the old English **sur**, meaning 'sour, damp, course'.



Swaledale from above Low Gill - Photo: Judith Coleman

In the capable hands of John Peat, and the weather being altogether better than our expectations, we had an absolutely brilliant walk with gorgeous views of Swaledale and Gunnerside Gill. Interesting pun in the name – we were delayed for some minutes, anxious not to be made colanders by gunshot, by shooters up on the moorland. The grouse population that had cackled away companionably as we walked was sadly reduced that day.

The fells are hummocked with spoil from old mines and it was interesting to see that while there cannot have been any disturbance in the topography for well over a hundred years, the spoil was completely un-rehabilitated and bare of vegetation.

Our day, but not our spirits, was slightly dampened by rainfall in the last half-mile. It was a great walk, among good companions, and as always - for me at any rate - boosted my feel-good hormones a treat.

Our next walk will be led by Lynda Bares, a ten mile circular from Bowes onto Gilmonby Moor to Citron Seat to meet the Pennine Way and back down vis God's Bridge to Bowes. Please contact Annie if you would like to join the group in any of our walks.

Wildflower Group September Report by Kate Keen

During the month of September, the Wild Flower Group held our final walk of the year led by Anne Thomson.

This walk started at Barnard Castle Desmesnes and took the route along the River Tees to Abbey Bridge returning along the footpath and lane on the other side of the river. 9 Members took part in the walk and identified 45 plants. As well as the plants we saw Robins Pincushion on a wild rose; this is a form of gall wasp.

It was an eventful walk. Along the way the group were entertained watching a family of kingfishers, for many this was their first sighting of these colourful birds aside from in books and on TV. Shortly after this the group saw some canoeists enjoying the full flow of the river after recent rain. After crossing Abbey Bridge, they met a school cross country run.

Crossing the fields towards the caravan site, they saw an abundance of elder berries, sloes and hundreds of acorns – this autumn yield will benefit insects, birds and all manner of wildlife to sustain them through the winter months.

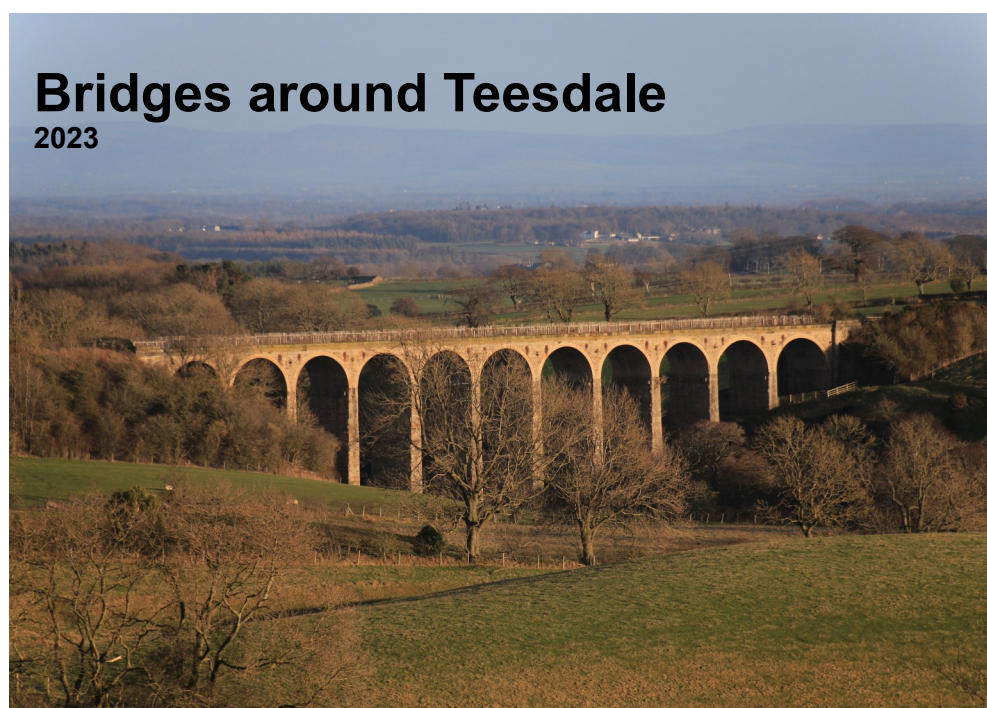
Old World Wine Notes - Report by Time Meacham

For our September meeting we met at Judith and Phil's (thanks both!) to try out a current Majestic promotion *Old World Wines*. Before wandering from these shores, however, we were lucky enough to sample an English wine presented to the group by a fellow u3a member; thank you, Chris, for the kind thought. This was a fruity **Shawgate Jester 2019** from one of Norfolk's oldest vineyards, a first for us from this county. One member described this Reichensteiner and Muller Thurgau blend as her 'wine of the day'; it was generally well-received.

Moving on to the main event, our first Majestic white was their French **La Belle Angele 2021** (12% and on offer at £6.99). Named after a former muse of the French impressionists, this self-proclaimed 'elegant, refreshing aromatic Sauvignon Blanc' found favour, especially at the reduced price. In fact, the long finish contrasted noticeably with our second white, the **La Toledo Gavi 2020** (13% and £10.99 – down from £14.99): this Italian wine, produced from the Cortese grape, was initially promising but had little or no finish; not a great example of this popular brand. Our Rose offering, Majestic's own **Definition Provence Rose 2021** (12.5% and on offer at £8.99), a mix of four grapes, featuring the fruitiness of Grenache alongside the floral qualities of Cinsault, all added up to an easy drinking wine which most members enjoyed. A thumbs up here.

That left our two reds, both of which were pronounced 'good' by Roger, our resident expert. The French offering, a **Chapoutier Cotes-du-Rhone 2021** (14% and £8.99), was both mellow and nicely lingering on the tongue. The Italian equivalent, the **Primo Appassimento 2020** (14.5% and £7.49) was also well-received, if perhaps not quite as warmly as the French wine. The group would recommend either of these well-priced wines to accompany Sunday lunch or simply as a glass to round off a winter evening. Overall, this selection of Old World wines confirmed that while the New World continues to challenge with excellent wines, France and Italy in particular still have much to offer.

The next meeting will take place at Roger's on Tuesday 18th October. At present, the group size has reached a point where we have had to bring in a waiting list. Increasing the membership would necessitate seeking an external venue which would dramatically raise the costs. Apologies for this, but for now we will continue to meet in members' houses.



Bridges around Teesdale

2023

The 2023 Photography Group Calendar **Bridges around Teesdale** will be available at October, November and December meetings or by contacting Jane Mathieson, Business Secretary 01388 710741

bissec@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Samhain and Halloween

Samhain is a pagan religious festival originating from an ancient Celtic spiritual tradition. In modern times, Samhain (a Gaelic word pronounced "SAH-win") is usually celebrated from October 31 to November 1 to welcome in the harvest and usher in "the dark half of the year." Celebrants believe that the barriers between the physical world and the spirit world break down during Samhain, allowing more interaction between humans and those who dwell in the Otherworld.

During these celebrations, fires were lit to ensure the sun would return after the long, hard winter. Often priests would throw bones of cattle into the flames – "bone fire" became bonfire.

Halloween is celebrated each year on October 31. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honour 'all saints'. Before long, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween.

Halloween Poem

If You've Never

by Elsie Melchert Fowler

If you've never seen an old witch
Riding through the sky--
Or never felt big bat's wings
Flopping, as they fly--

If you've never touched a white thing
Gliding through the air,
And knew it was a ghost because
You got a dreadful scare--

If you've never heard the night owls,
Crying, "Whoo-who-who?"
And never jumped at pumpkin eyes
Gleaming out at you--

If all of these exciting things
You've never heard or seen,
Why then--you've missed a lot of fun,

**October / November Quiz
'and things that go bump in the night'**

1. Is pumpkin a fruit or vegetable?
2. Who wrote the horror classic *Frankenstein*?
3. In which country did Halloween originate?
4. In which Shakespearean play do three witches say, "double, double toil and trouble"?
5. From which two words did 'bonfire' originate?
6. Which phobia means you have a fear of Halloween?
7. Every Halloween Charlie Brown helps his friend Linus to wait for what?
8. What is a lycanthrope better known as?
9. Who wrote the gothic novel *Dracula*?
10. *The Ghost Train* is a 1923 play written by which Dad's Army actor?
11. How many ghosts visited Ebenezer Scrooge in the book *A Christmas Carol*?
12. What is *Allium sativum* better known as?
13. What do pumpkins grow on?
14. Which supposed 16th Century witch was born in a cave in Knaresborough, Yorkshire?
15. The 'Day of the Dead' is a holiday celebrated in which country?
16. Which region of central Romania is normally associated with Dracula?
17. What is the name of the White Witch in *The Chronicles of Narnia*?
18. What vegetable was originally carved to create a Jack-O'-lantern?
19. What is a group of witches called?
20. What does the old English word "Hallow" mean?
21. In the correct spelling of Halloween, where is the apostrophe placed?
22. What is bobbing for apples called in Scotland?

Continued overleaf...

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September / October Answers

Pre-decimal money

1. 240
2. The Roman denarius
3. 10d
4. 6d
5. The wren
6. A $\frac{1}{4}$ of a penny
7. Silver
8. 4 pennies
9. Copper –nickel mix
10. 12 sides
11. 20
12. Libra, solidus, denarius LSD/£sd

General

13. 15 February 1971
14. The decimal $\frac{1}{2}$ p
15. A numismatist
16. 1983
17. 7 sides
18. The Tower of London
19. Llantrisant, Glamorgan, Wales,
20. Obverse

Be A Guest Editor

Would you like to try your hand at editing the Forum? As a Guest Editor, you will assist the Forum Editor to assemble a booklet online, make decisions about what to include, write fill-in pieces, and prepare and organize the printing of a hard copy.

Please contact Annie and Celia if you are interested. Telephone numbers are on page 3.

Email: forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

From the Teesdale Mercury September 1st 1915

**FOR SALE, Humber, 1 seater, in going order,
6 to 8 horse power, must sell, owner gone
to front; £20 or near offer: Bargain. — Apply,
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Modern small cars have up to around 120bhp
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contactus@rebootrepairs.co.uk www.rebootrepairs.co.uk**

Group	Meeting Time	Contact Details
Art Appreciation	1 st Wed pm	Roger Stanyon 01833 631758
Birdwatching	3 rd Monday am	Andrew Lapworth 07962 038052
Book Group 2	2 nd Mon pm	Groups@teesdaleu3a.org.uk
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	1st 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 07979 204212
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 27 Oct to Sat 29 Oct 7.30pm (Sat matinee 2pm)	MUSICAL THEATRE – Little Shop of Horrors Teesdale Operatic Society present the sci-fi, smash-hit musical.
Fri 28 Oct 10am and 1pm	THEATRE – Halloween Spooktacular! A fangtastic family friendly pantomime for half term.
Sun 30 Oct 1pm	SUNDAY CLASSICS – Aquarius Quartet A wide-ranging programme featuring early and late quartets by Haydn, a premiere and arrangements of songs by Jerome Kern.
Thurs 3 Nov 8pm	COMEDY– Alun Cochrane: Stuff and Nonsense (18+)
Fri 4 Nov 7.30pm	MUSIC – The Pitmen Poets Ride Again A night of songs and stories laced with Northeast humour and humanity.
Sat 5 Nov 7.30pm	MUSIC – Fool's Gold: Beat The Drum First World War Remembrance Show combining live acoustic music, interwoven with powerful stories and projected visuals.
Fri 11 to Sat 12 Nov 7.30pm (Sat matinee 2pm)	THEATRE – The Tenant of Wildfell Hall The Castle Players perform Anne Brontë's novel of courage, integrity and love.
Sun 13 Nov 2.00pm	MUSIC – Barnard Castle Band: Remembrance Concert
Wed 16 Nov 7.15pm	LIVE SCREENING – The Royal Ballet: A Diamond Celebration
Thurs 17 Nov 7.30pm	MUSIC – The Lindisfarne Story: 50 Years of Fog Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the classic album.
Sat 19 Nov 7.30pm	MUSIC – Tom McConville Band Regarded for many years as the top fiddle player in the country.
Tues 22 Nov 7.30pm	COMEDY – Justin Moorhouse: Stretch & Think (14+)
Thurs 24 Nov 7.00pm	FILM – Where the Crawdads Sing (15) with subtitles A captivating mystery-drama, based on the 2018 novel of the same name by Delia Owens.

www.thewitham.org.uk

Box office: 01833 631107