

TEESDALE u3a MONTHLY NEWS

FORUM

APRIL 2023 no.23/04



u3a

CHAIRWOMAN'S LETTER - APRIL 2023

Dear Friends

This will be my last Chairwoman's letter for a while. With the consent of the membership we will be sharing the work among four of us during the next year. I handover the role with some regret on my own part, but in the sure knowledge that my colleagues are going to do a good job.

I took on the role two years ago, just after my dear Jim died. I was looking to re-purpose my life after what was personally and globally a torrid year. I shed tears as I write for all we have lost. However the u3a gave me what I needed, what we all need: companionship, trust in others, happy shared learning experiences, and a sense of being valued.

When I became Chairwoman I was honest about my shortcomings – an inability to discern a balance sheet from a laundry list, a shocking disregard for form and formality, an impatience with any document with the words Constitution or National Office in it and a tendency to be vague about what day of the week it was. I want to express my gratitude to my colleagues on the committee for all their attributes and talents that have compensated for my inadequacies. In short, they have been a great team, with admirable patience. Their vision and support have meant that our local organisation has gone from strength to strength, despite what a global pandemic can do to disrupt, diminish and sadden our lives.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your good will, support and contributions to Teesdale u3a. One of my favourite quotations is from John Ruskin – “The only wealth is life”. Developing the quality in our lives, however we can, is good for our well-being. I am grateful for the two years as Chairwoman that have done this for me.

Carpe Diem

Annie

Photo overleaf by Pete Redgrave

A baker's shop in Quillan, France: Sieze the Loaf?

It's Your Forum

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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 interesting articles and silliness we can include! Please limit submissions to 1 page or 400 words and 1 photo, and send them to the Forum Editor at:

forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

DEADLINE or the next edition: Tuesday 9 May 2023

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, in The Witham shop or at TCR Hub.

www.teesdaleu3a.org

TEESDALE u3a Officers

At the time of going to press officers are:

Chairwoman: Annie Clouston

Membership Secretary Tim Meacham

Business Secretary: Jane Mathieson

Treasurer: Hazel McCallum

Registered Charity no: 1176746

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER 2023-24

Thank you to those many of you who have renewed your membership since my reminder in the February Forum. There is still time for others to drop me a cheque or cash, or pay directly from your bank account. Details are below – please don't forget to write 'Number 2 Account' after 'Teesdale u3a' on any cheques. I do hope you agree that, despite the ever-increasing demands on the household purse, £20 per annum remains good value for what we offer. There will be a stall at the March monthly meeting to receive payment by cash or cheque.

Cheque Payments: make out your cheque to '*Teesdale u3a No 2 Acct*' and bring it (with your name on the back) to the next main meeting **or** send it to me at:

T Meacham (Teesdale u3a Membership Secretary), The Sidings, 1a Station Terrace, Cotherstone, Barnard Castle, DL12 9PZ.

Cash Payments: can be posted to me at the address above or handed in at the meeting; just make sure that this is in a sealed envelope showing your name and, if possible, any further identification (address etc.).

Direct bank transfer: simply transfer your £20 (or £40 for a couple) to:

Account: *The Teesdale U3A*. Sort Code: **20-83-73.
Account Number: **23470873**.**

(Please type '**The Teesdale U3A**' in full and quote your name as your reference for the bank transfer to make sure we can identify the source of the payment).

If you have any questions or need more information, don't hesitate to contact me by email at simontimothymeacham@gmail.com or phone (on **07847 182554** or **01833 651845**).

Have a great 2023 with Teesdale u3a!

Tim Meacham

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.

u3a NEXT MEETING

Next Month's talk: Thursday, May 25, 2023 - Hannah Fox - Director of the Bowes Museum will give a presentation on ***Our Vision for the Bowes Museum***

A graduate in design and visual communications, Hannah started her career in the advertising and photography industries before moving her focus to work with non-profit organizations. For the past 20 years, Hannah Fox has developed and delivered creative projects for education, culture, heritage, and health clients in the UK, bringing her experience in human-centred design and co-production methodologies.

Hannah was first engaged by Derby City Council in 2011 to kick start a programme of redevelopment for Derby's iconic Silk Mill and support the founding of a new Derby Museums charitable trust to take on the management of the city's museums and collections.

As Director of Projects and Programmes, Hannah led the Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill, which opened in 2021, securing investment of more than £20m. The Museum of Making is being co-produced with communities and partners as citizen curators and makers, in a fully participative approach that puts people and place at its heart.

Hannah consults on human-centred and co-production methodologies with people and organisations internationally, and teaches on programmes with US-based NAS and the Center for Social Impact Strategy at the University of Pennsylvania.

Report of February's monthly meeting by Ian Reid

What does the future hold for Teesdale in the light of likely changes in the climate? At the February meeting, Kate Bailey provided some possible scenarios. Kate began by summarising the main events which had led to the formation of the atmosphere, the oceans and the creation of the land masses. The earth has been subjected to Ice

Ages, asteroid impact and successive periods of warming and cooling. Water vapour and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere provide a blanket which allows the temperature to be warm enough for oxygen to survive. Kate presented comprehensive statistics to show that overall temperatures and sea levels were rising. Major weather events were also on the increase. The arctic and antarctic areas seem to be warming at a faster rate. There have been no major incidents in the last 150 years which might account for these changes but there is a high correlation with the increase in greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide and methane.

Kate then turned her attention to what the changes in climate might mean for Teesdale. Barnard Castle is 47 miles from Saltburn and the sea and the forecast is for only a slight rise in sea level there. Trends seem to suggest that rainfall in Durham is reducing. However, spring is arriving earlier and becoming drier. Although there are short periods of wetter weather, higher temperatures and more frequent winds, overall the situation was relatively stable. The Kielder reservoir water transfer scheme is currently able to deal with periods of drought and the water authority is confident that the situation is stable for the immediate future. Locally it is hoped that the Great North Bog Restoration Project will lead to an increase in upland peat, although there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that, during periods of heavy rain, the re-wetting process is washing peat away. Some of the Teesdale plants eg the gentian and the violet are 'on the edge'.

In summary, it appears that we are therefore fortunate to be living in Teesdale. However, there are small things that we might do as individuals that could make a difference eg use renewable sources, capture rainwater, compost food waste, recycle more effectively, support local farmers, travel less and move to an ethical bank. Kate's presentation was comprehensive, well researched and evenly balanced.

Given the current relevance of the topic it was clear that she was warmly supported by the audience.

March Monthly Meeting Report by Ian Reid

Martin Lloyd was the speaker at the March meeting and his talk had the intriguing title of *Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies*. Using three true stories Martin described how particular events had been instrumental in determining the form of our passports

In 1858, Felice Orsini was able to enter France by impersonating the holder of a British passport in order to attempt the assassination of Napoleon III.

Orsini had used a British passport in the name of Thomas Allsop. This use of foreign passports caused political difficulties for Britain and other European countries and eventually brought down Palmerston's government. As a result, the protocol for issuing passports was changed for all time. One state would not be able to issue a passport to a National of another state and no longer could an Englishman travel abroad on a legally issued Belgian or French passport.

The second story began in 1914, following Germany's declaration of war. US tourists were anxious to leave Germany and with the assistance of the American Embassy, Charles Inglis relocated to Edinburgh. Apparently, he took long bike rides where he could overlook the Naval Base at Rosyth. He then moved to Ireland from where he wrote many letters to a contact in Stockholm. These letters contained military information for the Germans and he was arrested by the Royal Irish Constabulary for spying. His real name turned out to be Charles Hans Logi and he had been sent to the US to set up a spy ring, obtaining an American passport in the process. He was found guilty of spying and executed in the Tower of London by firing squad. In future it was a requirement that all passports needed to include photographs.

The third story took place in May 1945, when two British army officers were walking along the German border and noticed they were being tracked by a German who said he was Fritz Hansen. He was actually carrying a British passport in the name of William Joyce, also known as Lord Haw Haw, and he was arrested under the Treason Act of 1945. Only one witness was required to convict him and that turned out to be Inspector Albert Hunt who recognised his voice, from hearing him speak at political rallies. He was found guilty and hanged at Wandsworth Prison; killed by a British passport he should never have had.

Forthcoming Workshops

Saturday 20 May Wire Sculpture. Anyone who saw the superb exhibition at The Witham that showcased the work of local schools under the guidance of Sarah Cox will know that again you will leave the workshop with a thing of beauty! The cost is £25.

Contact Hazel Yeadon to book. 01833 638710 hazelyeadon@hotmail.com

Saturday 17 June we are off to **Whitby for fun and gin tasting.** The gin tasting tour is fully booked but you could be put on the reserve list. There are currently only 2 seats left on the 53 seater bus, so it looks like Whitby will be experiencing a Teesdale tsunami. Cost for the bus approx. £12, Gin tour including sampling £20. Contact Sue Overton.

TEESDALE u3a DAY TRIPS for 2023 - Jane Mathieson

19 May - Ripon & Constable Burton Gardens, leave Barnard Castle outside Addisons, Galgate at 09.00 return about 18.00. Price £14.00 plus price for gardens. Includes time in the morning to look around Ripon - cathedral, museums, lots of shops & eateries, also Booths if you want to do some good food shopping; afternoon at Constable Burton to look around the tulip gardens.

21 July - Bolton Castle, Wensleydale, leave Barnard Castle outside Addisons, Galgate at 09.00 return about 18.00. Cost £19.00. Includes entrance to castle, gardens, wild boar feeding & falconry displays.

15 September - York & York Cocoa House, leave Barnard Castle, outside Addisons, Galgate at **08.45**, about 18.00. Cost - coach £14.00, plus making your own chocolate at the Cocoa house £16.50. Includes time to look around York & a session at the Cocoa House kitchens learning about & making chocolate.

For more information please contact: Jane Mathieson **01388 710741**

A note from Dorothy Jameson about travel trips:

The visit to Norfolk is now fully booked and there are 23 of us being picked up in Barnard Castle on Sunday 25th June.

There is a trip going to Hampshire on Sunday 22nd October which includes a day in Portsmouth and a visit to the Mary Rose, a day in Winchester, a trip on the Watercress Steam Railway, and a horse drawn barge cruise on the Kennet and Avon canal and time in Southampton.

Chilworth Manor Hotel with 5 nights, dinner, bed and breakfast.

Kyle Travel are taking bookings and depending upon numbers the coach will leave from either Barnard Castle or Darlington.

Weekend Workshop Report, March 2023, by Annie Clouston

Birdsong, a workshop to help us identify our native birds by their songs or calls, was led by Andrew (the Lapwing) Lapworth. Andrew and Ruth are ardent and immensely well-travelled birders and photographers and so it was a great privilege to have them share their experiences and knowledge with us. I think the 23 people assembled in Guide HQ would agree it was a tour de force. Andrew's conscientious but light-hearted presentation – if not perhaps his end of term exam – were greatly appreciated, not least because inevitably our outings into the garden, the Dale and the Fells will be enormously enhanced by our increased awareness of our surroundings and the birdsong about us in those habitats.

He gave the following top tips from Lucy Lapwing (no relation):

Start in January ...

Use binoculars to watch a bird singing
Start with the easiest & most common: Robin, Wren & Blackbird
Practice, practice, practice

Find your own way of learning: Phone app; CD; Ring tone; alarm call;
books + think about where you are (ie habitat)

A sample of his references, if you missed the workshop and want to be able
to gain more from your rambles are:

Further listening : *Bird Songs & Calls of Britain and Northern Europe*, by
Geoff Sample. 2 CDs and a book to help you identify bird sounds. Collins
Field Guides, 1996.

RSPB Guide to Birdsong, by Adrian Thomas. Includes 1 CD. Bloomsbury,
2019.

Apps: *British Birds: Birds of Britain and Ireland*. Natureguides Ltd.
www.natureguides.com Collins Bird Guide. William Collins/Natureguides.
(considered the best current field guide)

Radio: Tweet of the day: a year of Britain's birds from the acclaimed Ra-
dio 4 series, by Brett Westwood & Stephen Moss. John Murray 2016. Also:
Kindle Edition with audio

Thanks go to Andrew for a great stimulant to go out and **really** listen.

This photograph of a red grouse is from Andrew's website : www.andrewlapworth.co.uk which has fabulous photographs of native and non-native birds



Birdwatching Group Report by Andrew Lapworth 20 March 2023 Field meeting: The River Tees

We revised our plans for March and did a birdwatching walk from the Green bridge by Thorngate Mill in Barnard Castle to the Abbey bridge and back. Seven of us met in Thorngate on an initially overcast and drizzly morning.



Firstly we looked at the various Gulls on the Tees, and were soon identifying the differences between Black-headed, Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gulls. The LBBs were adept at finding and eating the invasive American Signal crayfish. Next we walked along the Demesnes to the Mill, all the while accompanied by a handsome drake and duck Goosander pair, hunting as they drifted down river. Dippers were found at the Mill (they nest in the race below the mill). Beyond the cottages there were the common birds such as Wrens, Robins and Blackbirds, Blue and Great Tits, but very noticeable were the lots of Chiffchaffs (a “little brown job” warbler, photo left, just arrived from southern Europe and Africa): a real sign that Spring had arrived. Chiffchaffs are one of the earliest and most numerous summer visitors in the Dale. This is a bird best found and identified by listening

out for its jaunty “chiff-chaff” song. Along the river we saw several delightful Grey Wagtails; these are smart grey-and-yellow birds of becks and fast flowing rivers. People often mistake them for Yellow Wagtails, but these are now scarce in the Dale and are birds of grasslands and meadows.

We walked back along the higher path through several fields; Oystercatchers and Curlews were seen and heard. We also enjoyed good views of a party of Long-tailed Tits. Along the tree-lined walls nearer the Bowes Museum we saw and heard a Song Thrush, and finally found a male Greenfinch, “wheezing away” at the top of a tree. The clouds lifted as we got back to town; all in all we saw 26 species of birds.

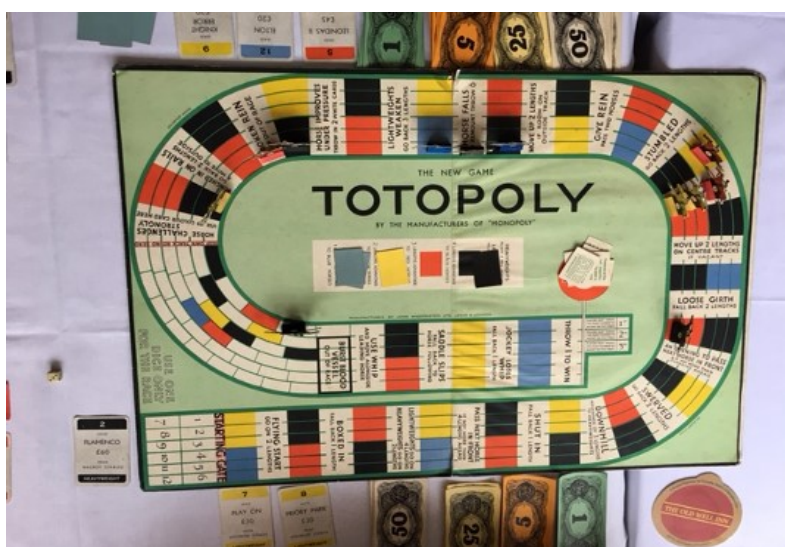
Many U3a members went up to Bowes village on some evenings to see the mesmerising murmur of Starlings: one of the great winter spectacles.

Board Games Group 13th March report by Hazel McCallum

As a change of venue we met in the Breakfast Room at the Old Well Inn, which was a lovely bright room, ideal for playing board games. The game of the session was Totopoly, a horse racing game first sold in 1938. We were delighted to learn that we were playing on a very early edition of the game, with all original board pieces, cards and horses.

The game comprised several stages. The first being the horse auction, with Sue doing the auctioneer duties with some gusto. The first board involved training your horses by progressing around a track trying to gain advantage cards by earning favourable trainer's reports and paying large amounts to the Forage Merchant (Alan) and Vet (Jean). The second board was revealed by turning the 'pages' of the board. This was the race track, with fairly complex rules on scoring and positioning your horses. Fortunately, we had Judith to keep us right (it was her game, after all). Although Hazel's horse took an early lead which was maintained almost throughout the race, her horse was overtaken at the finishing post by Jean's in first, Jane's in second and Judith's in third.

This game was great fun, with a lot of laughter from our group which reached all rooms in the pub (we are told!). It has yet to be established whether we will be able to continue using The Old Well as a venue!!



Room to Read Book Group Report by Annie Clouston

This month we discussed *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, a book that has, both in hardback and paperback, been at the top of the fiction best seller lists in 2023, I would say deservedly so. It is a bravura performance of wit and story-telling.

The heroine is Elizabeth Zott (not to be confused with Violet Elisabeth Bott, though she shares some of her characteristics), an extraordinary character who finds her career as a research chemist in 1950s America is constantly sabotaged by sexism and the limited (to marriage and motherhood) expectations of the era. She is sexually assaulted by a male academic (her teacher) and when she reports this to the police, surprise, surprise, it turns out that her attacker rather than she is treated as the victim. When she does get a job in a lab, she is told to be grateful that she is even allowed to be a technician, while less able male colleagues steal the kudos of her results. She falls in love, highly improbably, and she and Calvin and a dog named Six-Thirty, exist in a romantic bubble, burst tragically by Calvin's death when he is run over by a car. Elizabeth is pregnant, a state that she has shunned—along with matrimony—and remains in denial about until she can deny it no more when out pops Madeline.

The novel is the story of Elizabeth Zott, Mad, and Six-Thirty, a dog who manages to learn the meaning of at least 750 words, and a cast of sympathetic supporters. Elizabeth becomes a highly popular TV cook with literally a revolutionary approach, when she can no longer sustain her employment in the lab because of the moralistic and patriarchal attitudes of the times (she was an unmarried mother). She exacts a glorious revenge on her persecutors – and that's why you should read the book!.

I loved this book because it made me hoot with laughter over and over again. My fellow readers had some criticisms that I will allow – it could have been edited to fewer pages, it was somewhat contrived, it was certainly not a novel to win over the patriarchy (but who cares about that?) and though we loved Six-Thirty his way of being was very fanciful. Overall we were glad to have read it and would want others to. 5 stars for Book Group discussion and 4.5 to recommend to friends.

Climate Solutions Discussion Group April Meeting 2023

Report by Kate Bailey

The group has been 'following the money' - looking into funding for fossil fuel projects and thinking about whether our own financial decisions could make a difference. Influencers such as Richard Curtis, the co-founder and organiser of Comic Relief, Make Poverty History and Make My Money Matter, advises us to move our money away from Bank accounts, Pension funds and ISAs that are invested in fossil fuel projects. The former Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, gave the Reith lectures in 2020. In the fourth talk, 'From climate crisis to real prosperity' he argued that there are great opportunities for green economic growth if we move rapidly towards sustainable 'net zero' solutions.

We talked about the lack of interest in climate solutions within our own older generations, even though most of us are thoughtful consumers with

savings, pension incomes, voting rights and enough leisure time to explore easy ways to 'make our money matter'. Is it lack of curiosity, media nonsense, peer pressure or maybe even fear of ridicule by others?

Looking at where global wealth is held and who owns what, it seems that even the major banks' and billionaires' reserves are overwhelmingly outnumbered by funds such as financial derivatives held by global institutions, for example, Black Rock in the US. Derivatives are financial instruments or contracts between two parties who trade specific risks - interest rate, commodity price, equity, currency risks - in financial markets without necessarily trading the primary asset or commodity.

So we had to conclude that moving our own savings into 'non-fossil-fuel accounts' will have a negligible impact on the global economy. But we still prefer to do something rather than nothing and try to become ethical consumers by using our spending power more wisely.

March Geography Report by Jane Harrison

March's 'smorgasbord' of five presentations was enjoyable and entertaining. Some serious points were raised during the meeting but there was also much laughter.

Ian Royston set the ball rolling with an amusing account of his travels around the country's rail network. Since taking up 'The Challenge', which he started whilst at university, Ian has endeavoured to travel on all Britain's passenger network. This has involved lengthy consultation of timetables and rail atlases and some early departures to catch a service running only at rush hours or over a freight line. We discovered that some trains don't appear on timetables but still carry a few passengers who are aware of their existence. This keeps the line open as the closure of a line is complicated and must follow legal procedures set down by Parliament.

Les Knight had found a fascinating book in the Book Exchange at the Grinton Literary Institute. "Brilliant Maps", written by Ian Wright, includes some intriguing maps, for example, global variations in plugs and sockets, countries with the most Miss World winners, countries with no McDonald's and alternative names for Christmas gift-bringers! A few of us are planning a visit to Grinton to see what other literary gems can be found!

Jane Harrison then introduced the research projects which the Geography Group hopes to undertake with the Climate Solutions Group. These would investigate aspects of the weather and climate in Teesdale. The possible project titles were outlined and there was some discussion as to where information might be obtained and how the research might proceed.

After the break, Ann Richards reviewed Ross Clark's *Not Zero: How an Irrational target will Impoverish You, Help China (and Won't Even Save the Planet)* which she thought might provide useful background reading. A lively discussion ensued.

The meeting closed with a presentation by Jane Harrison on biogeography. This focussed on the flora of an alpine valley in the Haute Savoie. She outlined the factors influencing the vegetation, looking in particular at the influence of climate and topography. She concluded by briefly considering the impact of man on these habitats, particularly given the recent mild winters. Many thanks to Hazel Yeadon for stepping in to chair the meeting at the last minute.

Next meeting: Thursday 18th May 2023. 2.10pm in the Witham. ***Celebrate Africa*** – an afternoon of talks about the continent.

Geography Group Report by Annie Clouston – A day in the woods

On Thursday 30 March seven of us went planting in Ashgill Woods, a 150 acre site on the right immediately before the bridge over Ashgill Force on the Middleton to Alston road. The weather was clement, though evidence, ie mud, of rougher conditions clagged up our boots and, by the end of the day, smeared our faces. The site is a privately owned coniferous wood, though the owner is committed to replanting mixed woodland with an eye on carbon capture.

We planted mainly willow, hazel and blackthorn between the conifers in places where the light can penetrate and by the gill to stabilise the banks. In all, we put around 200 saplings into the earth and then sat around a campfire in true rancher style swapping stories and banter and refilling our energy tanks—see photo.



This is a lovely piece of woodland that has been developed as a tranquil camping place for tree-lovers with roundhouses with turf roofs and nothing much in the way of 21st century conveniences.

Pete and I rounded off the experience with a slither and a fall or two down the perilous-when-wet path to see the magnificent waterfall.

Reckless as I am I still didn't fancy the hole in the rocks descent that would have been quicker and deadlier than the route we took, and foolhardy as I am, I didn't fancy a skinny dip in the pools below the falls – but maybe another day ... Tea and cakes by the fireside at the High Force Hotel rounded off what was a memorable and energising day. Thank you Gerald for organising it.

Geology Meetings 13 and 27 February

We had two one hour Zoom meetings in February. David Saville continued his talks on ***Introduction to Geology*** with a presentation about the chemical formation of sedimentary rocks such as limestone and anhydrite. Trevor Morse then gave a brief explanation of the geological background to the dreadful earthquake in Turkey/Syria. This was followed by an interesting presentation about the minerals found in Teesdale – how to impress your friends/grandchildren!

There was a guest speaker for our final Zoom meeting of the winter. Richard Evershed gave a fascinating talk on ***Planetary Poles*** and outlined some of the quite amazing features on the planets. Back down to Earth, Trevor Morse gave further geological details about the recent earthquake in Turkey/Syria. He ended the meeting with a talk about ***Fossils in Teesdale***. What you are likely to see in the rocks on a walk.

U3A Geology meeting 27 March

Jane Harrison gave a most interesting talk about the Middleton Tyas Copper Orefield which was exploited in the 18th century and was then unsuccessfully restarted in the 19th century. Jane showed us photos she had taken of remains still visible near the village today. There were also copper mines in Richmond by the Swale and in other locations in the area. In the second half of the meeting Trevor Morse covered a range of geological topics that have been in the news including the recent landslip on the Norfolk coast and the exhibition in London of a huge reptile, Titanosaur, whose bones have been found in Argentina. He concluded the meeting with an invaluable talk about the different types of geological maps and how to use them.

Historical Environment April 2023 report by Tim Meacham

In March Tim delivered part two of his talk on the ***Railways Around Barnard Castle***. Following a brief historical survey we were taken on a visual trip by means of 'then and now' photographs along the two lines emanating from Barnard Castle not covered in Part 1. These were the main line route over Stainmore and its local branch line, the Tees Valley Railway which left the Stainmore line at Tees Valley Junction, just west of Barnard Castle, and proceeded to Middleton-in-Teesdale.

Our photographic journey started at the 'new' Barney station as we 'joined' the last ever passenger train from Bishop Auckland heading west

towards Tebay on 6th August 1962. We headed over Percy Beck viaduct before crossing Thomas Kennard's 'Tees Viaduct' (£25,119 to build, with its five iron piers and height of 132 feet) which was demolished in the early 1970s. From Tees Valley Junction where the Middleton line diverged we followed the Kirkby Stephen line for a mile or so before arriving at Lartington. Here the ornate station survives in private ownership, recently restored. The track bed onwards is a fine footpath passing the remains of Lartington West signal box before ending dramatically at the gap where once stood Thomas Bouch's Deepdale Viaduct. Built in 1861 this just lived to see its centenary, closing in 1962. We then saw photographic evidence of the final demolition train passing under the A67 road bridge removing track in 1963.

After viewing a little-known halt (for workmen at the nearby Hulands Quarry) we traversed an open stretch of line to the next station proper, Bowes. Onwards from this wayside station, now in a state of final collapse, the line has been largely obliterated by the doubling of the A66; in its day it climbed steadily to cross Stainmore where since 2011 a modern replica of the old railway sign has marked the actual summit. Here the line parts company from the A66 and heads through remote countryside to Barras, our third local station, which has enjoyed a better fate than Bowes as it is now a fine private house. It simply remained for us to imagine crossing the most celebrated of the line's three spindly viaducts, Belah, west of Barras which like Deepdale was totally demolished before reaching the restored Kirkby Stephen East station with its new steam railway.

We then returned to Tees Valley Junction to consider the Middleton Branch. Details of this section of the talk and a fuller version of the Stainmore section can be found on the Historic Environment page of the Teesdale u3a website.

Lunch Group Report 15th March by Hazel McCallum

Eleven of us met at the Coach House Cafe at Eggleston Hall. The Cafe is bright and airy and a very pleasant venue. Popular main course choices were Tomato, Chive and Wensleydale Quiche, Salmon, Leek and Cheddar Fishcakes and Steak and Guinness Pie. The quality of the food was very good, with particular recommendations going to the chips (which were everything you hope a chip might be, crunchy outside with a soft centre) and the gravy which accompanied the pie. The portions were generous yet there was still space for some puddings to follow. Dessert highlights included the Eton Mess Sundae and the Chocolate Brownie Sundae.

The service was very good, with one disappointingly hollow fishcake being happily replaced.

Next meeting is 17th May at the Brownlow Arms, Caldwell - 12 noon start. We welcome new members.

NEEDLECRAFT - APRIL 2023—REPORT BY GLEN HOWARD

Another happy meeting of like minds (or perhaps I should say fingers). Works in progress included knitting, crochet, quilting and patchwork. Everyone looked through bags of wool that had been given to us if anyone could make use of them, plus some completed tapestry. Adding to our stashes is always a very welcome occurrence!

We decided not to meet in May as the first Monday is the May Day Bank Holiday and the second Monday is the Coronation Bank Holiday. So our next meeting will be on 5th June. Please get in touch with me if you would like to join us. Glen Howard 01833 631639

Photography Group report by Jane Mathieson

Thirteen of us met at Saltholme RSPB on a gloriously sunny & warm day. After having our usual cuppa we all set out on different routes round the site. We all sighted & in some cases managed to photo lots of birds, 43 types being seen in all including Great Crested Grebe, Water Rail & Avocets, these photos can be seen below. A good day was had by all which was discussed over more food.



Great Crested Grebe

On 4 April, seven members of the photography group went on an outing to the general area of Kirkby Stephen. We met in the Mulberry Bush Café for the traditional “cuppa” before setting out to take photos. We went first to Stenkrith Bridge to see the strange rock formations in the gorge and then walked up the disused railway to Podgill Viaduct, enjoying the beautiful weather, fabulous scenery, and interesting features along the trackside including the easily overlooked semi-natural sculpture of an ape’s face (see pic overleaf). We returned to Kirkby Stephen for lunch before moving on to the ruins of Brough Castle for ice-creams and more photos, and returned to Barnard Castle mid-afternoon as the clouds began to gather. A very enjoyable day out!



Avocet above

The upcoming outings of the group will be to Hackfall Woods, near Masham, on May 2nd, and then to take pictures of wild flowers in Teesdale on June 6th (exact locations to be confirmed closer to the dates)



Stenkrith Ape ?

Poetry Group Report by Annie Clouston

March's Poetry Group focussed on **American Beat Poets**. I think we all had a few prejudices and misconceptions... stream of conscious blah, rebellious iconoclasts, a sort of early arty BratPack of the Greenwich village etc... However, two hours later we had all, probably, revised our ideas, because we found some gems.

"Beat poetry evolved during the 1940s in both New York City and on the West Coast, although San Francisco became the heart of the movement in the early 1950s. The end of World War II left poets like Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Gregory Corso questioning mainstream politics and culture."
(www.poets.org)

Possibly the most controversial and acclaimed poem of the generation is Allen Ginsberg's **Howl**, which begins:

*I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by
madness, starving hysterical naked,
dragging themselves through the negro streets at
dawn looking for an angry fix,
angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient
heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the
machinery of night . . .*

The Beat Poets were not exclusively male. Diane di Prima was a popular choice of members, and in some ways (perhaps exacerbated by gender) was more shocking to US society (this was also the era of McCarthyism) for her bold and sexualised imagery. Her poem **The Quarrel** is difficult to find even today, and it was censored in the States. Here is her touching **An Exercise in Love**:

My friend wears my scarf at his waist
I give him moonstones
He gives me shell & seaweeds
He comes from a distant city & I meet him
We will plant eggplants & celery together
He weaves me cloth

Many have brought the gifts
I use for his pleasure
silk, & green hills
& heron the color of dawn

My friend walks soft as a weaving on the wind
He backlights my dreams
He has built altars beside my bed
I awake in the smell of his hair & cannot remember
his name, or my own.

Diane di Prima, "An Exercise in Love" from *Pieces of a Song*. Copyright © 1990 by Diane di Prima. Reprinted by permission of City Lights Books.

Our next meeting is devoted to the works of R S Thomas. If anyone would like to join our group or receive a copy of any of our poetry files, please email annie@cloustons.uk.

Scrabble Group

This month's meet was at Judith's on 3rd April and nine of us attended. We split into 3 groups of 3 for the first round. Judith, Liz and Jane each won in their group and went on to play the second round against each other. The others split into two groups, Liz H, Marilyn and Lillian and Pete, Ray and Phil for the second round. Jane also won her 2nd round game with a score of 269, not quite beating her winning 301 score in opening one. Liz H. won her 2nd round game and Phil won his with a 7 letter FLEETED with a score of 96, (his 2nd 7 letter of the day). Judith also had a 7 letter word in the opening game, (QUICKEN) for a score of 75. Jane had the best score of the meet with 301.

Thanks to Judith for the teas, coffees, Choc Fridge Cake and Hot X Buns and for having us all. No meet in May as it's Bank Holiday. **Next meet, Mon 5th June at Lillian's. 01833 650628 if you would like to join us.**

TABLE TENNIS GROUP Report by Peter Singer



The table tennis group continues to flourish – or, at least, around eight to ten of us turn up regularly on a Friday afternoon to wave our bats around in pursuit of that pesky little white ball and, in between games, put the world to rights, swap holiday anecdotes and so on. In fact, as previous reporters have noted, our standard of play has been improving and we do, from time to time, manage an exciting rally or two or even a tense and hard-fought game. One member complained last week that some of the victory celebrations were a little too enthusiastic (yells, fist-pumping etc), but to be fair we don't slide along the ground like footballers do (would be a bit painful on the wooden floor!).

By contrast and to see how it really should be played, two of our group headed off on Sunday 26 March to watch the finals day of the England National Championships, which were held in the excellent David Ross Sports Village on the campus of Nottingham University. The action started at 9.30am and, ten matches later, finished around 5.30pm, so it was a tiring day for the spectators as much as the players, although surprisingly the time passed quite quickly and it wasn't at any stage boring. The play was fast and furious and at times very dramatic, with players exchanging fore-hand and backhand smashes from a couple of yards beyond the table. Tin Tin Ho, from London and studying medicine at Nottingham, won the

women's singles, beating Emily Bolton 4-0 and then went on to win the doubles title with Emily Bolton – it's a small world in elite table tennis! Tom Jarvis, from Skegness, retained the men's singles title, afterwards having a long hug with his grandad, his mentor, who had been unable to see Tom's victory last year. The two para finals were equally compelling to watch and Jack Hunter-Spivey retained his title from 2022 in the Class 2-5 (wheelchair) event. On one point, he deployed his trademark shot, in which the ball crossed the net correctly and immediately spun back over his own side of the net, making it virtually unplayable. He beat Simon Heaps, who at 67 was forty years Jack's senior – so there is definitely hope for us all yet.

If you would like to learn the game, improve your skills or just have a bit of fun, please contact Peter Singer (pandjsinger@btinternet.com 07508 663998). All are welcome, whether you play regularly, have not played for some time or have never played before.

WALKING GROUPS **Shorter Walks Group Report by Deb Nicholson**

Fourteen members met on a beautiful afternoon for a 4 mile circular walk from Cotherstone. We set off from the church to beautiful blue skies, some walkers were even wearing sunglasses and sun hats! We headed west along the railway path towards Romaldkirk, carefully avoiding the many rabbit holes. We all enjoyed the surrounding views over towards the hills and moors surrounding Folly Top, Eggleston and the nearby fields where lots of newly born lambs limbered up around the fields with their mums.

We crossed the River Balder viaduct and stopped on a nearby seat for a quick drink and traditional mints from Sue. When I did a recce of the route with my husband only 3 weeks earlier, lots of lapwings and curlews sky-danced around the fields adorning the railway which was a wonderful sight to see and hear! Spring is here...? None however were visible on this day, sadly, though I did hear one curlew a little further on.

The impressive background and primulas lined the embankment as we left the railway path to join the 'C' road at Wilden Beck. We took a right turn, following the road past the old scarlet fever hospital and headed towards the main road that leads to Romaldkirk. At the junction we turned right and followed the main road for approximately 200 metres. We then turned left off the main road and back onto a nice grassed track towards Woden Croft. This was our point to head back east following the river Tees back to Cotherstone. A buzzard was flying overhead on the opposite banks. The only muddy path we had to endure was near to where the footbridge crosses the Tees. Here was one of the dales' art structures, an iron branch that I walked past not realising it wasn't a real branch (see overleaf)!

We continued to walk straight on and over the Balder footbridge towards The Hagg where one final uphill trudge led us back into the village and our cars. We all enjoyed the walk aided by the beautiful blue skies.



7-9 Mile Walk Hamsterley, 7 miles – report by Nicky Grace

There were 10 of us starting out from the layby in Bedburn, initially taking the footpath following Bedburn Beck into Hamsterley Forest. Then past the Green Man into North Crag Wood. We had our coffee break at the ruins before climbing up up up to Doctors Gate Quarry where we had wonderful views. Then a gentle meander along Stanhope Lane, though Hoppyland Farm, which was very muddy and one of us decided to go playing in the mud, not by choice but after a brief pause he was able to continue. We dropped down into a lovely silver birch plantation for lunch, then continued over the footbridge by the ruins of Harthope Mill and down the road to Howlea Bridge. Into the caravan site, past the riding stables and back to the cars – still all 10 of us!



The Green Man at Hamsterley Forest

We were lucky with the weather for this walk as we had some sunshine and no strong winds so could enjoy the views. Many thanks to Lynda Bares for leading the March walk.

In May our walk on Wednesday May 17 will be led by Kathleen. Details to follow but as usual let me know if you would like to join the walk nickygrace729@gmail.com

Fellwalking Report by Annie Clouston

Eight of us set off from Muker on a sunny day that would have been perfect walking weather were it not for a forecast of heavy rain at 2pm and the presence of a wind that whipped us like a vicious cat-o-nine tails with increasing zeal the higher we climbed. So it was a marvellous if exhausting twelve miler with quite literally a sting in the tail when the expected rain turned to malevolent hail not long after lunch stop. In the midst of which one of us was heard to say “Remind me again, why do we do this?”

The route took us from Muker across the meadows to Gunnerside, along Gunnerside Gill, over Gunnerside Fell and back via Swinnersgill and Kisdon Force. A democratic (welcome) decision was made to avoid the ankle-breaking upper path along the Pennine Way back to Muker, a decision that was unopposed on account of the severe wetting we were exposed to by this time. Funnily enough – haha – we drove home in sunshine!

I reiterate, this is a marvellous walk, the views were fabulous and our lunchtime break was in a delightful if daunting landscape of old lead mine workings and gushing streams. We reminded ourselves that however tough we found it, the leadminers who toiled in that terrain for twelve hours a day at least, in all weathers, and still had to tread wearily home at the end of their shift, and do the same six days a week, were unimaginably heroic.



April Wine Report by Tim Meacham

For our March meeting we visited Sue's to sample a selection of wines on offer in Lidl's 'Italian Wine Festival'. This was one of our most enjoyable sessions of recent times and helped prove once again that Lidl can provide excellent wines for a reasonable price.

Perhaps the festive feel was aided by starting for once with a sparkling number, a **Colli Piacentini Malvasia** (11.5%; £6.99). Certainly the fizz was present and all praised the crisp tones of this 'Prosecco alternative' from the Piacenza district; it 'had more about it than a Prosecco' as one member put it. Also unusually, we followed this up with a Rose, a **Mithus Basilicata IGP Rosato 2021** (13.5%; £9.99) from Acaenza, in the south, the 'heel' of Italy. This example of the Negroamaro grape (better known as a red wine grape) was the one relative failure of the day. The promised mineral undertones were there, but left a rather harsh aftertaste and did not find general approval.

That brought us to our two whites. Moving from the deep south to the far north, a **Weissburgunder 2021** (12.5%; £7.99) from Trentino in the Alto Adige proved to be a deceptively simple but extremely refreshing wine. The closeness to the Austrian border made it no surprise that this version of the Pinot Blanc grape had great flavour with a touch of nuttiness. Equally enjoyable was the **Greco Di Tufo 2021** (13%; also £7.99) from the Naples area where the volcanic terrain added a more pleasant minerality than the earlier Mithus. Both these wines would be great for a summer afternoon with friends, and at a very reasonable price.

So we finished with our reds: you can't do Italy without a Chianti and Lidl provided a really good example. The **Medici Riccardi Chianti Montelbano 2018** (13%; £7.99) was appreciated even by the 'non-red brigade.' There was great surprise when the price was revealed, as the mellow flavour and long pleasant finish suggested a quality wine perhaps in the £15 range. I went back for more on the following day but they were sold out! After this the **Duca Di Sasseta Toscana Riserva 2016** (13.5%; £10.99), an example of a self-proclaimed *vino nobile di Montepulciano*, was a slight let down, pleasant enough but no match for the Chianti despite both being from the Sangiovese grape and grown in adjacent areas of Tuscany. All in all however, we enjoyed a nice selection and at a good price.

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed an April tasting of 'unusual world wines'. A report will follow.

A very Australian joke, sent by Ann Richards

Bert was in the fertilised egg business. He had several young pullets and ten roosters to fertilise the eggs. He kept records, and any rooster not performing went into the soup pot and was replaced. This took a lot of time, so he bought some tiny bells and attached them to his roosters. Each bell had a different tone, so he could tell from a distance which rooster was performing.

Now, he could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report by just listening to the bells. Bert's favourite rooster, Old Butch, was a very fine specimen, but this morning he noticed Old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all! When he went to investigate, he saw the other roosters were busy chasing the pullets, bells-a-ringing. But the pullets, hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover.

To Bert's amazement Old Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring. He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job and walk on to the next one. Bert was so proud of Old Butch, he entered him in the Brisbane City Show and he became an overnight sensation with the judges. The result was that the judges not only awarded him the "No Bell Piece Prize" but also the "Pulletsurprise" as well.

Clearly Old Butch was a politician in the making. Who else but a politician could figure out how to win two of the most coveted awards on our planet by being the best at sneaking up on the unsuspecting populace and screwing them when they weren't paying attention? Vote carefully in the next election – you can't always hear the bells.

An exciting new exhibition ...

... has recently opened in the Museum of Archaeology, Palace Green, Durham City. The free-to-view exhibition called **'Stories from the River: Explore the collection of Gary Bankhead, an underwater archaeologist'** runs from 20 February 2023 - 16 April 2023. You can find out more about it here: [Museum of Archaeology : Event details - Durham University](#)

In addition, the **'Hidden Stories from the River Wear Exploring 1000 years of Durham History'** online exhibition I mention during my talk is still available to view and can be accessed here:

[Hidden Stories from the River Wear \(durham.ac.uk\)](#) Also, details of my new book (based on objects recovered from the River Wear) can be found here: [publications \(diveintodurham.uk\)](#)

A NOTE FROM TONY SEWARD ABOUT ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Following Roger Stanyon's announcement in last month's Forum that I would be restarting the group, I'm delighted to say that the first monthly meeting will take place on Wednesday 3 May in the Dales Room at Enterprise House, Harmire Road. As before, the session will last for two hours from 2.00 pm, with a break midway for tea/coffee, discussion (and biscuits!) I look forward to meeting existing members and any others who may be interested in joining, and hope to come away with a sense of how the group would like the programme to develop - the balance to be struck between watching DVDs and streamed talks online, trips to museums and galleries, inviting outside speakers, and any other ideas members may wish to suggest. In terms of content, we could also perhaps look at how we want to approach the vast subject of art history - through individual artists and artworks, periods, schools of art, art of other civilisations - or a rich mix of all these and more.

To start us off (and celebrate Spring!), we will take a close look at Botticelli's *Primavera*, a supreme masterpiece that we all know - or do we? I for one only realised how little I understood it when I spent some time *really* looking at it - and listening to the experts.



**APRIL QUIZ set by Phil Clarke
DITLOIDS**

eg 36= I in a Y is 36 Inches in a Yard

1. 3= BM
2. 3= S to H
1. 6= W of H the E
2. 6= Z in a M
3. 10= Y in a D
4. 12=S of the Z
5. 12=I in a F
6. 12=K of the RT
7. 12=D in a G
8. 12= D of C
9. 13 =BD
10. 13=C in a S
11. 8=N in a O
12. 7=S on a FPP
13. 7=C of the R
14. 7=H of R
15. 5=R on the OF
16. 5=L in a L
17. 5=T on a F
18. 4=A in a P of C
19. 4=H of the A
20. 4 =A in a Pof C
21. 3=T a L
22. 2=W on a B
23. 3=T a L
24. 2=-TOEPN

Answers to DITLOIDS overleaf

Here are the answers to the April Ditloids

1. Three Blind Mice
2. Three Steps to heaven
3. Six Wives of Henry V111
4. Six Zeros in a Million
5. Ten Years in a Decade
6. Twelve Signs of the Zodiac
7. Twelve inches in a Foot
8. Twelve Knights of the Round Table
9. Twelve Dozen in a Gross
10. Twelve days of Christmas
11. Thirteen- Bakers Dozen
12. Thirteen Cards in a Suite
13. Eight Notes in a Octave
14. Seven sides on a Fifty Pence Piece
15. Seven Colours of the Rainbow
16. Seven Hills of Rome
17. Five Rings on the Olympic Flag
18. Five Lines in a Limerick
19. Five Toes on a Foot
20. Four Aces in a Pack of Cards
21. Four Horseman of the Apocolypse
22. Three Times a Lady
23. Two wheels on a Bicycle
24. TWO--THE ONLY EVEN PRIME NUMBER

Green Quiz Answers for April Forum

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Greenbaum | 2. Cumberland |
| 3. Green Grow the Rushes Oh! | 4. He was abducted
by Irish pirates |
| 5. 1999 in European Parliament | 6. Wisconsin |
| 7. District | 8. Chicago |
| 9. Robert Greene | 10. Anne of Green
Gables |
| 11. Soylent Green is people! | 12. Bangladesh |
| 13. Chlorophyll | 14. Theatre |
| 15. Greendale | 16. Norman Lincoln
Green |
| 17. March 17 th was the day of St. Patrick's death | |
| 18. Green for Danger | 19. Barium |
| 20. Kermit the Frog | |

A RECIPE TO TRY?

Beetroot gratin

This is an easy and impressive dish to make in Spring. May be a main dish served with a spicy salad or as a side to serve with a vegetarian quiche or frittata but equally good with a roast.

Serves 4

1kg fresh uncooked beetroot
2 cloves garlic, crushed
100ml double cream
1 tsp finely chopped rosemary or thyme
Salt and pepper

1 Preheat your oven to 160C/325F/gas mark 3. Peel the beetroot and finely slice it into rounds a couple of millimetres thick. Some food processors have an attachment that can do this for you.

2 Place in a bowl along with the rest of the ingredients and gently mix together. The cream should just coat the beetroot. Season well.

3 Place in a shallow ovenproof dish. You can layer it up neatly or tip it all in. Squash it down and arrange the top layer beautifully.

4 Cover with foil and bake in a preheated oven for 40 minutes. Remove the foil and finish in the oven for a final 10 minutes. Serve.

You can use exactly the same recipe with parsnip, Jerusalem artichoke, celeriac or sweet potatoes or King Edwards. You can use different seasonings and add other [vegetables](#). Try adding a tbsp of hot horseradish sauce to the cream before you mix it through the beetroot slices. Shredded leeks make a nice addition to any gratin.

Health Benefits of Beets

- Many nutrients and few calories. ...
- Could help keep your blood pressure in check. ...
- May help fight inflammation. ...
- May improve digestive health. ...
- May support brain health. ...
- May have some anti-cancer properties. ...

Group	Meeting Time	Contact details
Art Appreciation	1 st Wed pm	Tony Seward 01833 630050
Birdwatching	3 rd Monday am	Andrew Lapworth 07962 038052
Board Games	2 nd Monday pm	Hazel McCallum 01833 316484
Book Group 2	2 nd Mon pm	Maggie Cleminson 01833 640801
Book Group 3 Room to Read	3 rd Wed pm	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
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	Julie Archer 07774 903377 01833 637576
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
Photography	1 st Tues	Jane Mathieson 01388 710741
Poetry	2 nd Wed am	Annie Clouston 01833 637091

Group	Meeting Time	Contact details
Science and Technology	2 nd Mon am	Roy Tranter 01833 638288
Scrabble	1 st Mon pm	Lilian Smith 01833 650628
Spanish Conversation	3 rd Thurs 10am	Sue Overton 07512 368884
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
Wildflower Group	2nd Wed 2pm	Kate Keen 07880 741151
Wine Group	3rd Tues pm	Tim Meacham 07847 182554
Walking Groups		
Shorter walks 3-4 miles	4 th Monday pm	Sue Overton 07512 368884
Walking 4-6 miles	2 nd Tues 10am	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

Most meetings are held in or near Barnard Castle though the walks may start further afield.

For further details of any group; to confirm the start time and venue, or if the meeting is going ahead, please contact the Convenors/Group Leaders shown in the table.

**Coming up at your
Community Arts Cent**



Thurs 27 Apr 6.45pm	SCREENING – Royal Opera House: The Marriage of Figaro Mozart's comic opera will surprise and delight you at every turn.
Fri 28 Apr 8.00pm	JAZZ – Strictly Smokin' Big Band: Harlem '58 A full 18-piece big band including vocalist, Alice Grace.
Sat 29 Apr 2.00pm	SCREENING – National Theatre Live: GOOD (15) David Tennant n C.P. Taylor's powerful, political play.
Sun 30 Apr 2.00pm	CLASSICAL – Sunday Classics: Aquarius Quartet Including works by Haydn, Dvorak, Prokofiev, Ernest Moeran and Percy Grainger.
Tues 2 May 7.30pm	FOLK – Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening
Thurs 4 May 7.30pm	FOLK – Sarah McQuaid
Thurs 11 May 7.00pm	FILM – Living (12A) Starring Bill Nighy.
Sat 13 May 7.30pm	MUSIC – An Acoustic Evening with Singer Song-writer Ian M Bailey
Tues 16 May 7.30pm	COMEDY – Richard Digance Live (10+) BAFTA Nominated entertainer.
Thurs 18 May 7.00pm	SCREENING – National Theatre Live: Best of Enemies Jeremy Herrin (All My Sons) directs this blistering political thriller, filmed live in London's West End.
Fri 19 May 7.15pm	BLUES ROCK – When Rivers Meet: Breaker of Chains Tour Support from Arielle (electric trio) and local acoustic duo, Izzy & Sam.
Wed 24 May 7.15pm	LIVE SCREENING – ROH: The Royal Ballet: Sleeping Beauty Tchaikovsky's ravishing music and Oliver Messel's sumptuous fairytale designs
Thurs 25 May 7.30pm	FOLK – In The Footsteps of Ewan MacColl Bob Fox, Jez Lowe and Julie Matthews, have put together a selection of songs from the 2006 new Radio Ballads for a concert performance.

www.thewitham.org.uk

Box office: 01833 631107