

TEESDALE

u3a

www.teesdaleu3a.org

FORUM

MAY 2023 No.23/05



CHAIR'S LETTER from TIM MEACHAM

I must start by saying a warm thank you to Annie, our Chair for the last two 'eventful' years. She has presided over the journey out of lockdown as far more than a figurehead. Her hands-on approach has seen her involved in every aspect of Teesdale u3a. Annie has chaired the committee meetings with a combination of humour, common sense but above all great drive. Similarly her personal touch has been apparent in making the monthly meetings warm and friendly affairs: all present leave with a smile on their faces. This is a rare gift. Oh, and Annie will be back, as part of the shared Chair project she mentioned last month!

In my last letter from the Chair, just before the April 2018 AGM I wrote "time to clear out the old and usher in the new." Well, it seems that the 'old' is back round again, as here I am five years later. In the same letter I gave a brief account of the March 2018 committee meeting at which "the Groups Organiser identified an issue with an odd number of table tennis contestants wishing to play." It all seems so familiar; I could have written something very similar today.

Yet how different the world of 2023 seems looking back those five years. I was speaking to a member last week who apologised for not feeling brave enough since 2020 to attend our meetings. I told her she had been far from alone in this, but that it was great to see her back at last. Hopefully like me, you feel that Teesdale u3a has remained a constant presence in difficult times. Even during lockdown many convenors kept in touch (quizzes posted out, debates conducted on-line, 'Zoom' etc.). So the 'old' met the 'new', and set a pattern for the post-covid era. On we go together to better times.

So, learning from my experiences since 2018 (isn't that what the u3a is all about?) I would now amend my 2018 comment to read: "time to preserve the best of the old while being keen to usher in the new."

I am confident that our committee (a mix of old stagers and some brilliant new blood) is achieving this: from the 'old' world, our groups are fully up and running again, while the general meeting is back to its audiences of 100+ (and with a great new microphone!). For the 'new' world, we have the Saturday workshops – I particularly enjoyed the visit to Evenwood Brewery – or why don't you drop in at one of our new monthly 'Inbetweeners' sessions at the Witham? Whatever your interests, enjoy the great twelve months of u3a activities ahead.

Photo by Andrew Lapworth: *The Lec*, Black Grouse strutting their stuff in Upper Teesdale.

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 for the next edition: **Tuesday 6 June 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.

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TEESDALE u3a Officers

Chair and Membership Secretary: **Tim Meacham**

Business Secretary: **Jane Mathieson**

Treasurer: **Hazel McCallum**

APRIL'S MONTHLY MEETING AT THE WITHAM

Report by Ian Reid

One of our own members, Sheila Petersen, was the speaker at the April meeting. Sheila described an exciting expedition she had undertaken in 2007 to look at ancient manuscripts in Mali. The visit was inspired by the work of the historical novelist, Dorothy Dunnett. Sheila co-led a small group of seven women, with a total age of 434 and all enthusiasts for the author's novels.

The group met together for the first time in Charles de Gaulle airport and then flew to Bamako, the capital of Mali, where they met Jacob who was to be their guide for the trip.

The Ghanaian, Malian and Songhai Empires of West Africa were important centres of Islamic learning in the Middle Ages when subjects such as astronomy, medicine, physics etc. were much more advanced than in most European universities. This knowledge was recorded in manuscripts which proved a valuable trading commodity at that time and some have survived. For centuries the main trade in Mali has been in salt and gold. In the 14th Century King Mansa Musa was reputed to be one of the richest men in the world.

During their expedition, the team visited important sites and cities, including Segou, one of the ancient capitals on the River Niger; Djenné, home of the Songhai people with famous mud mosques including the Great Mosque and then Bamako, the capital of Mali and home of the Bambara tribe. They travelled to the Bandiagara Escarpment with its ancient rock art. This is a spectacular setting for the villages of the Dogon people who are mainly farmers and blacksmiths. For the last 3 days they hired a pinnace canoe and sailed the Niger to the outskirts of Timbuktu. There were 11 people in the canoe and the facilities were fairly primitive.

Timbuktu is famous for its mud mosques, including 2 from the 11th Century and for its ancient manuscripts from the 9th Century. The group examined some of the manuscripts which were suffering badly from wear and tear. Two US foundations are funding a restoration programme.

During the trip, they visited a Water Aid project which was supported by Rotary International and they came across 2 Rotarians from Kirkby Stephen and Appleby, who had decided to have a look at the project. The local people were very proud of this project which had developed into a small soap industry. The group also learned about the importance of the 'plastic kettle', which was used everywhere they went. They spent the last night in tents in the open air, doing their best to avoid the camel spiders.

This was a fascinating journey described in colourful detail and leaving the audience wondering whether they should be more adventurous with their own travel in future.

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: 22 June 2023, Professor Sarah Elton from Durham University Department of Anthropology -*Human Evolution*.

Professor Elton is Deputy Executive Dean, Education and Student Experience (currently seconded as Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) from 1 December 2022 until 31 August 2023) in the [Faculty of Social Sciences and Health](#). Her research interests are in - among other things - Old World monkey biogeography and evolutionary medicine.

27 July Richard Annis—*The Bones found on Palace Green, Durham*

WEEKEND WORKSHOP - Report by Annie Clouston

In April six of us met to make a 30cm drum lampshade with the very able crafter Barbara Lynche Matthews, who operates at the Handcrafters Hub on The Bank, Barnard Castle. It was an astonishing thing to turn a set of seemingly unrelated objects into a work of art, a thing of beauty even, in two hours.



Concentration levels were high and it was interesting to note how many tongues were poking out as the hand-eye coordination effort reached its peak. Barbara was very good at working with us at our pace and helping us with a few tricks of the trade for a professional finish. Who knew that the making of a lampshade involves the blunting of a Nectar card, for example?

The sense of achievement was great and all of us who attended went home with something to be proud of. So a big thank you to Barbara for her care, patience and expertise.

Future workshops: 17 June—Gin Tasting in Whitby. This trip is full but if you are interested in a bus trip to Whitby for the day contact Sue Overton.

We are currently planning for the rest of the year with these topics: A landscape Appreciation Walk, Sound Bath, Playreading, Barnard Castle Street Names—a walking tour, Vegetarian Cooking and Christmas Crafts.

Day Trips

21 July - Bolton Castle, Wensleydale, leave Barnard Castle outside Addisons, Galgate at 09.00 return about 18.00. Cost £19.00.

15 September - York & York Cocoa House, leave Barnard Castle, from Addisons, Galgate at **08.45**, Return about 18.00. Cost - coach £14.00, plus making your own chocolate at the Cocoa house £16.50. Includes 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: 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.

THEATRE NOTICE

Sunderland Empire Wednesday 20th September 7.30pm

Straight from the West End

The musical: *WE MUST TALK ABOUT JAMIE*

16 seats are available in the upper circle at £46, the coach from Addisons at 5.30. will cost £5 return. Please send cheques for £55pp made out to Teesdale u3a and enclose contact details to Elizabeth Formstone, Bridge House, Piercebridge, Darlington DL2 3SG elizabeth.formstone@gmail.com

ART APPRECIATION GROUP - Report by Tony Seward

The first meeting of the revived group was well attended, with 20 participants consisting of 18 former members and two new recruits (including the Convenor!) The technology worked (almost) without a hitch, coffee and tea appeared on cue and everyone enjoyed being together again.

We have acquired a course on 'The World's Greatest Paintings', presented on DVD by Professor William Kloss of the Smithsonian Institution. The first lecture was his Introduction, a short masterclass in how to look at paintings, its main message being to remain as open as possible to the unfamiliar and not to prejudge whole categories as being 'not for me', as for example, pictures of dead animals (a frequent subject of still lifes). This was followed by an explanation of the criteria he used in choosing his paintings. He emphasised that any such selection must always be subjective, a personal set of choices which will inevitably be different from someone else's.

The course comprises 24 lectures, each 30 minutes in length, ranging across the whole of Western art from Giotto to Jackson Pollock. A lecture will typically cover three artists (for example Vermeer, Velasquez and Rembrandt), focusing in each case on one of their major works. Kloss's style is affable and unshowy, but carefully considered – he has clearly thought long and hard about his subjects, and the 10 minute cameo of each artist unfailingly offers interesting insights. He also rather cleverly mixes world-famous paintings with others that may be new to the audience, so one has the feeling of discovering fresh masterpieces in his genial company.

We then showed his succinct account of Botticelli's 'Primavera', followed, after the break, with part of an hour-long BBC programme describing the painting's reception and afterlife. This included a survey of the many species of flowers depicted in it, the rediscovery of Botticelli by the Pre-Raphaelites and the gay Victorian painter Simeon Solomon, and the modern multiplication of Botticelli images appearing across all sorts of different media, from posters to tote bags to tea towels.

For the next few sessions I suggest we keep to this pattern: a lecture from William Kloss, followed by something else related to it, either on DVD or streamed online. We don't necessarily have to follow strict chronology, but can move back and forth across the centuries if so desired. It's early days, so let's just play it by ear...

Next up – Kloss on *The Majesty of Duccio and Giotto* followed by a broader look at these and other early Italian masters in their historical and artistic context.

Giotto: The Kiss

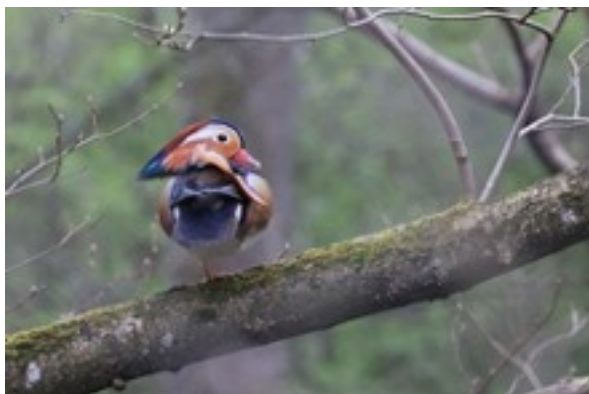


BIRDWATCHING GROUP - Report by Andrew Lapworth

Deepdale nature reserve 17th April 2023

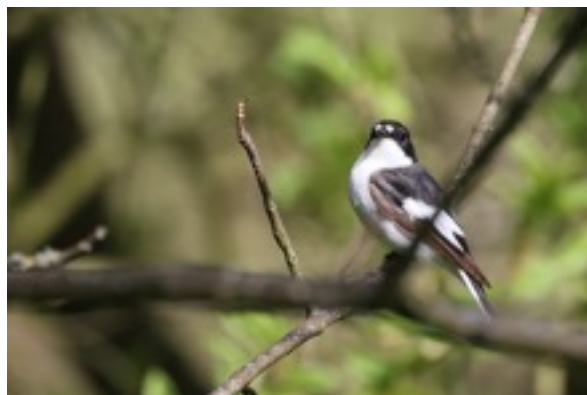
A good turnout of 14 of us met in Raby Avenue or the car park in Deepdale on an overcast but dry day. We walked down the slope of Orchard Brae and crossed the Tees on the aqueduct bridge; Dippers flew along the river there, and noisy Oystercatcher pairs flew over.

In Deepdale the feeders were attracting the usual Blue, Coal and Great Tits, Robins and Dunnocks; Wrens were singing loudly along the path. We enjoyed good close views of a Dipper in the beck and also a pair of beautiful Grey Wagtails. Chiffchaff song was conspicuous but we found it harder to listen to the flutey song of the newly arrived Blackcaps (the “Northern Nightingale”). Stopping to look at the large new nest boxes installed to attract Goosanders,



Charlotte alerted us to a stunning male **Mandarin Duck** quietly perched nearby on a bough; despite his bright and gaudy plumage he was easy to overlook. We thought the female might have been in the nest box. Mandarins have become naturalised in the UK since the 20th Century; in the last few years we are seeing more of them locally along the Tees.

Some of us saw some nearby Treecreepers, and a high over-flying House Martin, newly arrived from Africa. We crossed the bridge over Ray Gill and walked up through the wood to the horse fields, hoping to find our first



Redstart along the woodland edge; we weren't in luck with a Redstart but we did see and hear a Mistle Thrush, a fine calling Curlew and heard a Tawny Owl calling from Deepdale.

Ian left us to walk back but was soon stopped when he alerted us to a male **Pied Flycatcher** investigating nest boxes. Pied Flycatchers are

and now have a mainly westerly distribution in the UK. They are one of over 70 “Red Listed” birds nationally declining in the UK; thanks largely to the nest boxes installed by volunteers, in Deepdale there were 31 pairs in 2021: a nationally significant population.

On our return walk we enjoyed the woodland’s emerging flora, including Moschatel (“Town hall clock”), the Hazel parasite: Toothwort, and some remaining Yellow Star of Bethlehem flowers, a scarce local flower of damp woods.

Our next monthly meeting is on **Monday 15th May**. Details will be emailed to group members.

BOARD GAMES GROUP - Report by Jane Kenwright

Our game for April was an introductory session of Settlers of Catan, which was German Game of the year in 1995 and US Game of the Year in 1996. It is described as a game of discovery, settlement and trade and we certainly did all three. We took some time initially to set up the board, allowing the players new to the game to get a feel for how the game works.



Once underway, players were soon planning which lands and seaports to build settlements and roads on to ensure they could gather resources to trade with friends and foes in the hope of becoming the master of Catan. Jane and Hazel had played before and started off with a cooperative and supportive approach, but it did not take long before the other players became more ruthless in their deployment of the robber (who knew that Sue had a cut throat streak!) and took some strategic trading decisions.

We were having so much fun that we played on for an hour longer than planned with Jane taking a narrow lead, although Judith and Hazel were hard on her heels.

We will play Settlers again in May when we hope to consolidate our understanding of the finer details of the game and no doubt have more than a few laughs along the way.

ROOM TO READ BOOK GROUP - Report by Ruth Lapworth

The book we discussed this month was *A gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. The novel begins in the 1920's, spans several decades of Russian history and is set in the (real) Metropol Hotel in Moscow. The hotel is a microcosm of society and acts as a meeting place for people of influence from whichever regime is in power at any particular time.

Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov (an aristocrat born in 1889) is under 'house arrest' in the hotel following his conviction by a Bolshevik tribunal. He is assigned to move from his luxury suite to cramped quarters in the hotel attic. Although not allowed outside he has access to all parts of the hotel. This includes a weekly visit to the barbers and dining in the hotel's smartest restaurant. A stash of gold he has hidden in the legs of his desk enables him to continue to live in the style he has been accustomed to.

Rostov becomes friends with a 9 year old Ukrainian girl, Nina staying in the hotel and also has a relationship with a film star/actress. Over the years he develops a close friendship with a number of hotel staff including the chef, maitre d'hotel (an ex circus juggler) and seamstress. Ironically, the Count becomes an asset to the hotel management, working as the chief waiter producing diplomatic seating plans for dinners organised by the Communist Party.

His daily routine is shattered when Nina flees Moscow to follow her husband to Siberia, leaving her 5 year old daughter, Sofia, in the Count's care. Rostov raises Sofia as his daughter and she grows up with him in the hotel. Sofia is able to leave the confines of the hotel and becomes a brilliant pianist. She is invited to play on an official trip to Paris with her music academy. This spurs the Count into action and he devises a plan for their escape!

We all agreed the book is long. This was not a problem for those that loved it. Half of us thoroughly enjoyed the story, found it humorous/whimsical and liked way the Count adapted to his change in circumstances. Some disliked the unbelievable nature of the story and the depiction of Russian history by an American author. However we agreed it was a very good book for discussion and rated it 4.5 with a score of 4 for recommendation to a friend.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Our March meeting had to be cancelled on the day because of heavy overnight snow so this was our first meeting for two months. It had been decided in February not to have a main topic but to spend our time discussing items of news. We were more than able to fill in our allotted time! Our subjects included: new build housing on farmland; driverless cars; air BnB's; sponsorship and football; the junior doctors strike; Tupperware®; the SNP; begging on the street; election ID (did you know that you will have to show photo ID when going to vote?); and the proposal that we should all have 7 recycling bins.

Our next meetings will be on Friday, 12th May and Friday 9th June, 10.15am at Andalucia's. It was decided that we would continue with just discussing news items as this had proved to be very interesting. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

Glen Howard 01833 631639

GARDENING GROUP - Report by Julie Archer and Kate Keen

May saw the first trip out of the year for the gardening group. We visited the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) garden at Harlow Carr, Harrogate.

Many Members had not seen the garden for some years and were pleasantly surprised at the extensive improvements that have taken place. We were able to visit the main borders, streamside walk, kitchen garden and the new Thalanía Bridge. The extensive display of tulips in full bloom was magnificent.

Of course Harlow Carr has the world famous Betty's tea room on site so we were able to treat ourselves to delicious food and cakes.

There is a large plant sale area and shop and many Members enjoyed purchasing plants and other items.

Our June event will be the visit to Lowther Castle Gardens in Cumbria.

Gardening Group trip to Lowther June 2nd

Due to demand, I have booked the larger coach, a 53 seater which can accommodate 9 more people. We do not get a group discount for this visit as they have a special exhibition of ceramic daffodils running until the end of June <https://tenthousanddaffodils.org/>.

The entry price is £14 per person, plus coach price. If you are interested can you contact Julie Archer for more information please, julie@coffee22.plus.com

In July we will visit Alnwick Gardens in Northumberland.

GENEALOGY GROUP - Report by Alan Swindale A Helping Hand - again

May's meeting started with a discussion of a programme for the next year's meetings and an appeal for assistance in running the group. Regrettably nobody volunteered to help! This was followed by general discussion and another practical session where members helped each other to advance some part of their family history research. The main sources for the family history researcher are the traditional Birth, Marriage and Death Registration records, Parish Registers, Census Records and Wills. Then there are electoral rolls, various tax records and newspaper reports. Modern technology has added DNA testing to the tool box. Fortunately, much of this information has been indexed by a combination of volunteers and commercial organisations and these indices are available on the internet.

Websites such as FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast and MyHeritage can search all their records to find records which may be relevant to the ancestor you are researching and present them to you, giving those most likely first. Other sites such as FreeBMD, FreeReg, FreeCen, or the On-Line Parish Clerk projects only give access to a single database but can be more effective searching that data base.

When carrying out your family history research it is important to use the right tool at the right time. For example, if FamilySearch finds your ancestor in in the 1841 census, the 1851 census and the 1861 census but not in the 1871 census then it is likely that your ancestor died between 1861 and 1871 not far from where they were living in 1861. FreeBMD is the best tool to find that death. The more experienced researcher will know when to swap from one tool to another. One person may be familiar with FamilySearch and another with FreeBMD. We can all learn from each other.

The next meeting of the Genealogy Group will be on Thursday 1st of June at 2 p.m. at Enterprise House. The topic will be 'Using Wills in Family History'.

GEOGRAPHY GROUP - Report by Jane Harrison

Gerald Blake has a great interest in Africa having lived and travelled there, so his talk on "The Geography of pre-Colonial Africa" was a fascinating one in which he drew on his personal experiences and observations. He began with some facts about Africa which brought home its sheer size. The Mercator map projection, found in most atlases, distorts the true size and shape of the continent which is as

wide as it is long and accounts for 20% of the earth's land surface. The UK would fit into Madagascar. Africa extends from north of the Tropic of Cancer to south of the Tropic of Capricorn, giving rise to huge differences in climate and vegetation.

Exploration began with the Romans along the Mediterranean fringes and later Arab merchants sailed down the east coast to trade. From the 15th century the Portuguese began the mapping the west coast but very little was known about the interior. Rivers were often difficult to navigate upstream because of swamps, cataracts and waterfalls, and diseases spread by the mosquito and the Tsetse fly threatened health and hindered progress. By the 19th century explorers had started to map areas further inland and often renamed geographical features in the process.

Africa was plundered for labour from Roman times. During the 400 years of the Atlantic slave trade, 11-12 million young and able-bodied people were taken to the plantations of the Americas. This decimated communities, affected agricultural production, and created political instability. A lesser-known fact is that Arab and Indian traders also took slaves and an estimated 17 million were taken from East Africa and the Sahel over a thousand-year period.

The political map of Africa today largely still reflects the carve up of the continent at the end of the 19th century. Germany, Britain, France, and Belgium led the scramble for a share of its land and resources – a process that largely ignored existing boundaries and ethnic groups. It was often forgotten that Africa was populated long before its 'discovery' by Europeans. African kingdoms had risen and declined over the centuries, and many had had highly effective governments, extraordinary cultures, and extensive trade routes over land and sea. The Kingdom of Zimbabwe, the Mali Empire of West Africa, and the Kanem-Bornu Empire are examples.

Following this excellent introduction, the Geography Group will continue the African theme in July.

Next meeting: Thursday 15th June 2023. 2.10pm in the Witham. Dr Frederick Smith *Lithium: what's it all about?*

GEOLOGY GROUP - Report by Bob Tuddenham

The group had an excellent well attended field trip on April 25th when our expert, Trevor Morse, explained the geology around the River Tees at Barnard Castle. We met at the Demesnes picnic site and looked at the waterfall near the mill. Trevor explained the various strata in the area with a dip to the north as the result of the Middleton Tyas anticline.

We then walked over the green girder bridge to see limestone in the river and the sandstone base of the County Bridge. Finally after crossing the back over in the Deepdale Aqueduct we walked alongside the base of the castle to see that it was built on sandstone and Crag Limestone.

HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT- Report by Tim Meacham

For our first outdoors visit of 2023 we were fortunate to be offered a second walk around Bowes. In July 2017 the late Cliff Brown led one of our first ever group visits there with a main focus on the village's schools in the Dickensian era. Nearly six years later our new vicar David Tomlinson took up the reins by offering a second visit; by chance there was little cross-over between the two events which very much complemented each other.

We met David at the village hall car park as storm clouds threatened overhead. Light drizzle was falling as we moved along the main street, once the busy A66 but now comparatively quiet. David pointed out unusual features: early cottages built with rough stone; a bus stop constructed from Roman stones – a first for me; two buildings sporting plaques to show their affiliation to the national cycling association; the last blacksmith's shop which remained in business into the 1960s. The inevitable stop at Dotheboys Hall was accompanied by anxious glances heavenwards, but we made it to the church in the dry; in fact while David was showing us the two ancient fonts and fine Roman relics within, the weather outside was brightening up considerably. The one problem with the riches on display was that accessibility was difficult: a fine inscription relating to the Emperor Septimius Severus is tucked away behind a table. David explained that the Bowes Heritage Group is working on a project to convert a section of the church to ensure that these important objects can be properly displayed. Our group signed a letter of support for this.



90 minutes were speeding past as we moved on to examine the castle remains before crossing the cemetery, where David had recently conducted two interments, and viewing the remains of what had once been a fine Roman bathhouse in the field behind. Listening to David's very informative commentary, it was hard to remember that he has been in post for less than a year. Fittingly he has recently been in touch with Molly, the widow of our previous guide, Cliff. Both these walks were a pleasure to take part in and many of us will be revisiting the village soon for a further, more leisurely look. Hopefully this will not be David's last contribution to our u3a and his determination to improve signage and facilities in Bowes is to be applauded.

iPad & iPhone GROUP - Report by Mike Sweeting

We settled quickly into our new venue in Enterprise House.

As usual we looked at some security issues including those associated with charging phones in public spaces and the use of QR Codes which are being seen everywhere since the pandemic.

We finished off last month's topic covering Accessibility functions on our devices intended make them easier to use for some.

The main body of our discussions was around the use of Kindle for iPad, how to use it, how to import books, papers and other types of documents and how to synchronise the library across all devices. Along with the discussion generated, it also raised a number of topics for future sessions.

Before we finished we briefly touched on YouTube and Google Maps and we will cover these in more detail later in the future.

The next session is at 13:30 on 26 May 2023 in the Dales Room in Enterprise House.

LUNCH GROUP - Report by Fiona Douglas

On a sunny but windy day, a party of 12 women met at the High Force Hotel for lunch. The other group balanced us by being a party of bikers having a run up the dale! The service was excellent as was the food. Fish and chips, beefburgers, risotto, soup and sandwiches were all enjoyed as was coffee, and a few even had room for pudding. The dining room, spacious and panelled, was very attractive.

Two first timers making friends and a lot of laughter makes a very good way to spend time together.

PHILOSOPHY GROUP - Report by Ruth Sansom

The Mind

Our session this month asked some searching questions, and resulted in some differences of opinion – always a healthy premise on which to argue!

Do you believe that your mind and body are two separate entities?

Or do you believe that the physical mind is all there is? Everything your mind decides is a result of physical connections in the brain.

The philosophy of Mind studies the ontology (nature of being), and nature of the mind and its relationship with the body.

Those who believe the physical is the only aspect are called **physicalists**, and those who believe that the mind is an independently existing substance are called **dualists**.



Cogito ergo sum - I think therefore I am. The famous saying of **René Descartes** (1596 – 1650) who argued that the mind is an independently existing substance, identifying him as a dualist.



However, **Baruch Spinoza** (1632 –1677) argued that there is only one substance, which is absolutely infinite, self-caused, and eternal. He called this substance "God", or "Nature".

This led us on to a brief look at the nature of religious belief in the three monotheist religions, and left us with the following questions:

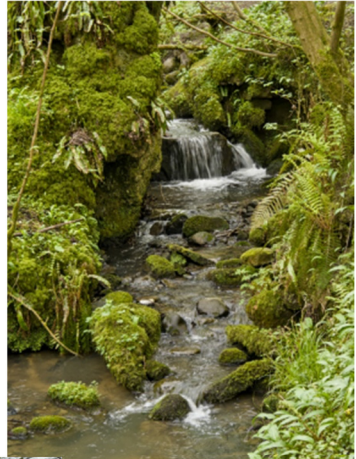
1. In most religious thought the soul is regarded as important. Is the soul what we mean by the mind?
2. For physicalists does the mind cease to exist when the body dies?
3. For dualists who have no religious affiliation, what happens to the mind on death of the body?
4. If AI can (or will be able to) replicate human thought and behaviour, what role will the mind play?

On May 23rd we continue to look at the Mind from a scientist's point of view when Pete Redgrave concludes his analysis of the brain. On June 27th Wallace will present some views on Free Will.

Do come and join our small and attentive group on the **4th Tuesday of the month at 10am at Enterprise House**. We have fun too!

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP - Report by Alan Kenwright

On Tuesday 2nd May, six photographers and one fellow traveller with nothing better to do travelled to Masham to visit Hackfall Wood. After the traditional rendezvous and cuppa in Masham we made our way to the nearby woods, which were landscaped in the 18th century by landowner William Aislabie and liberally sprinkled with follies and waterfalls. Although the weather was not ideal, being grey and overcast, we enjoyed a pleasant walk in the woods with lots of opportunities to admire the views and the wild flowers that were just coming into bloom. After a couple of hours we made our way back to Masham for lunch and then spent another couple of hours exploring the beautiful old village and its magnificent church. Predictably, just as we were all putting the cameras away and preparing to set off for home, the sun finally put in an appearance. Although an “interesting challenge” photographically, the day was an excellent excursion in fine company.





POETRY GROUP - Report by Mike Catling

In our latest gathering, the Poetry Group shared and reflected upon the poetry of RS Thomas, the Welsh poet-priest (1913-2000), one of a long line of such poet-priests that includes George Herbert and Gerard Manley Hopkins in its ranks.

Over a career spanning most of a century – his first collection was published in 1946 and his last during his lifetime in 1995 – he was able to breathe thinner air than most of us but then, he had travelled further up the mountain and commanded a rarer view. His poetry was not written for entertainment, but to be of use to people as they lived and died. And yet, his austerity was full of unexpected tenderness; he was, at times, a magnificent love poet. Writing about his first wife, Mildred Eldridge, to whom he was married for some 50 years, in the poem *The Way of It*, he says:

If there are thorns
in my life, it is she who
will press her breast to them and sing.

However, he is remembered especially for his arguments with God that repeatedly appeared in his later poetry.

In *Pilgrimages*, for example, he writes:

He is such a fast
God, always before us and
leaving as we arrive.

And in *Moorland* picturing the harrier (Thomas was an ardent birdwatcher) he speaks of it:

Hovering over the incipient
scream [of its prey], here a moment, then
not here, like my belief in God.

Yet we occasionally find him writing about what Christian mystics refer to as 'the sacredness of the present moment.' In what is probably his most quoted poem, *The Bright Field*, he writes that:

Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush.

Perhaps this is a timely reminder to many of us who are always thinking about rushing on to the next thing or agonising over past mistakes.

One further aspect that the group reflected upon was his pastoral sensitivity and contrasting ire regarding Wales and the Welsh. In *Good* he refers to the generations of hill farmers like 'the old man [who] comes out on the hill / and looks down to recall earlier days / in the valley,' whilst his grandson 'is there / ploughing: his young wife fetches him / cakes and tea and a dark smile. It is well.' In contrast he ends his poem *Reservoirs* accusing the Welsh of 'elbowing our language / into the grave that we have dug for it.'

It was an enjoyable and thought-provoking morning.

TABLE TENNIS - Report by Ruth Lapworth

Our very friendly group meets once a week. Numbers vary depending on players' other commitments. It is now the start of the holiday season for those of us lucky enough to be able to go away and not have to rely on school holidays. This means that some weeks numbers might be low but as long as there are 2 of us we can have a game! Mostly we play doubles but the occasional singles match is also played, often with the tally of previous wins or defeats in mind to seek revenge.

Why play table tennis? It is a great game, can be played at various levels depending on agility and technique and is FUN. Table tennis is included in an increasing list of activities that can be beneficial to your health. Recently it has been proposed that table tennis may help in delaying the onset of dementia. This is because of the complex neuronal connections required to ensure coordination for appropriate movement, judging where

to place the ball, hitting it to land on the other side of the net (hopefully in the designated place) and then moving out of the way for your partner to return the next shot if yours wasn't a winner!

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.

WILD FLOWER GROUP - Report by Kate Keen

Our first walk of the month was held on the 12th April 23. The weather forecast for the afternoon was poor, the temperature was only 4 degrees and we had rain on and off. 7 hardy souls turned out for the walk. The walk started from the car park at Eggleston Abbey, we walked down Abbey Lane towards the meadow logging our finds as we walked. We noticed that the moschatel (town hall clocks) had moved their position again. On the opposite bank of the Tees we could see a mass of yellow gorse flowers. Into the meadow and by Thorsgill Beck we saw swathes of butterbur as well as violets, barren strawberry, and two types of golden saxifrage. As we crossed over Abbey Bridge we were able to see the stunning sight of the banks being covered in wood anemones. We saw lots of native bluebells in flower already. A full list of the plants in flower is in the separate list sent to the group. We compared our list of flowers with last years walk which was a similar date, there were less flowers this year with the wood avens in particular not yet in flower.

Our next walk took place on Wednesday 26th April 2.00pm meeting at the Parsons Lonnen gate at the top of the Demesnes. Again the weather was rather cool for the time of year. 16 of us turned out for the walk. A full list of the 37 plants in flower has been sent round to the group. We were thrilled to see globe flowers in bloom by the beck. It was also great to see the cuckoo flowers thriving in the meadow. On a willow tree we saw lots of bees feeding on the pollen and looking around for suitable nest sites. Thanks to Celia for leading the walk.

In May the group will again have 2 walks:
Thursday May 18th 2.00pm Bowlees Visitor Centre
Tuesday May 23rd 2.00pm Deepdale Woods

On 14th June the group will be venturing further out to Smardale Gill Nature Reserve near Kirkby Stephen.

Globeflower (left) and Cuckoo Flower or Milk Maid (below)



WINE GROUP - Report by Tim Meacham

In April we held only our third ever 'Unusual Wines' tasting. Past sessions have featured wines remote parts of the world (including India & China!). This time we had an extended look at Greece and made quick visits to Georgia and Romania. The opener, our **Georgian Tbilvino Quevris Rose 2020** (12%,M&S, cost £6.67) found little favour ('ghastly', 'undrinkable' to quote two members. Interestingly this country has produced wine for at least 8,000 years, and that production methods include this wine being buried underground for months in Quevris (amphorae). By contrast our Greek Rose was much better received. **Myrtia 2020** (12.5%,M&S, cost £8.00 down from £10),a blend of two Greek grapes, Moschofilero 80% & Assyrtiko 20%, was a crisp delight with its long refreshing finish: blended in the Peloponnese it made an excellent aperitif and quickly banished the memory of its Georgian counterpart.

We moved on to our pair of whites wines both from Greece. Starting again in the Peloponnese we tasted Leonidas Nassiakos' **Moschofilero Roditis 2021**(12.5% and £8.50, M&S). English buyers (Aldi and M&S in particular) have widened their range recently to include a number of Greek wines, and this blend, adding the Roditos grape to the Moschifilero met in the last wine, was a good, easy-drinking alternative to the more common similar citrus-flavoured examples from Italy and France. We spotted honey undertones here and a saltiness making it a good accompaniment for fish. Then we moved across the 'wine-dark' Aegean to the island of Crete to taste the **Armi Thrapsathiri 2020** (12.5% Lewis & Cooper at a pricey £18.99): tasting this offered proof that sometimes you get what you pay for! This was a complex white wine, based on the Thrapsathiri grape, with a luscious immediate flavour, but one which then proceeded through various layers of complexity, each exquisite in its own right; an absolute revelation for what is, when all is said and done, an untrumpeted Greek wine!

That leaves our pair of reds to mention. Our last Greek offering was another blend, a **Xinomavro Mandilaria 2020** (13.5% from M&S at £9.50). This 'elegant but flavoursome blend' using Xinomavro grapes 'from the mountainous north' and Mandilaria grapes 'from the Aegean islands in the south' completed a quartet of more than acceptable Greek wines for this month. Smoother than one would expect given the so-so reputation of Greek reds, this one got the thumbs up from Roger, who was then equally impressed by our final wine, a Romanian red, **the Balla Geza Kadarka 2020** (14% from Lidl at £8.00). Dr Balla, the winemaker sends his wines out in a brown paper wrapping to emphasise the quality of his 'gift' to us all. Light in body, this was extremely fruity and provided a very positive end to a session that started unpromisingly in Georgia, improved through Greece and ended well in Romania.

There will be no meeting in May. The next session will be on Tuesday 20th June.

WALKING GROUPS

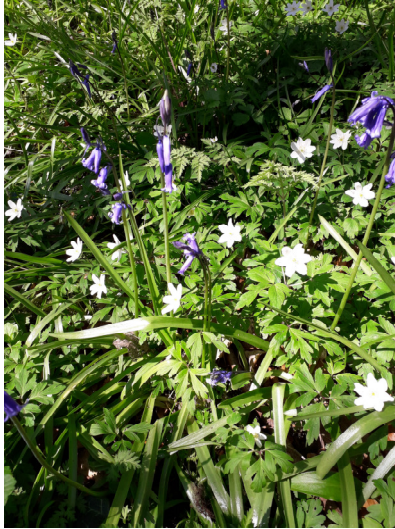
SHORTER WALKS GROUP - Report by Sue Overton

We experienced extreme changes in weather – rain, hail, icy wind and a bit of sunshine – on our 4.5 mile walk from Whorlton to Barnard Castle on Monday 24th April. Seven intrepid walkers survived a hairy 10 minute bus ride (no.70 from stand A in Galgate at 13.37) to Whorlton as the driver did a very good impersonation of Lewis Hamilton! Two more joined us as we walked through the village towards the bridge but turning a sharp right at the top of the hill to take the well designated path behind gardens and high above the river.



Mostly level walking on the path through fields with good views of the Meeting of the Waters. But, there are two places with steep descent and ascents before reaching the wooded area leading to Abbey Bridge. It was quite sheltered in the wood and not too muddy. The wildflowers were beautiful – bluebells, primrose, wood anemone, bugle, wild garlic, campion and avens. We crossed the road at Abbey Bridge to enter the wood on our homeward stretch – rather muddy on this woodland path but we were soon back in fields and were rewarded with great views of the Abbey on the other side of the river.

T



The experts in our group identified many different birds as we walked from Egglestonsone Abbey past the sewage works towards the Demesnes – Goosander, sandpiper, pied wagtail, grey wagtail, mallard, dippers, swallows, heron and a kestrel.

Thank you to all the knowledgeable people in the group and apologies to Hilary for chopping you off the photo.

4-6 MILE WALKING GROUP - Report by Christine Copping GRETA BRIDGE



Five members turned up to do this walk on a nice sunny, though still a little chilly morning. We climbed over a wall and down number of hidden steps into a field following the grassy track up and then down to the remains of an old Church (St Mary's). After a quick look we headed down towards the river bank through a gate and along a tree lined path where we decided to stop for refreshment and enjoy the sounds of the river. By now we had some warm sunshine so a few of us peeled some layers off before climbing up and then entered the forest again on a very stony and muddy path which ran along a steep sided gorge with the river Greta below. Our eyes were firmly fixed on the ground as we walked along this section. We followed the path out of the forest until we came to a road. A short walk to Brignall and then retraced part of our walk back to Greta Bridge.

As it was Mark's birthday it was decided to have a celebratory drink in the Morritt Arms. A most enjoyable way to end to a lovely walk.

GOLDILOCKS WALKING GROUP - Report by Nicky Grace

On Wednesday 19 April, 13 members of the group assembled promptly at 10:00 at the village hall car park in Bowes. After only a short delay the person who was supposed to be leading the walk also turned up(!) and the group set off west along the Pennine Way, past the ruins of Bowes Castle, heading for the charmingly named God's Bridge (a natural limestone feature crossing the River Greta). This leg of the walk took us through farmland well stocked with spring lambs. After a brief coffee break at God's Bridge, we turned north, passed under the A66 and continued over the rough open moorland north of the road for a couple of kilometres, dropping down into the quiet valley of Sled Dale where we stopped for a luxury lunch – luxury because the local grouse shooting fraternity kindly, if unintentionally, provided us with chairs! After lunch we headed east along the shooting track that runs the length of Sled Dale. At this point the fresh breeze blew away the grey clouds that had accompanied us on the first part of the walk, the sun came out and it suddenly felt properly springlike. Arriving at West Stoney Keld we joined a minor road that turned south and took us through the interesting and slightly troubling remains of RAF Bowes Moor, before dropping us back down into Bowes. If you want to know why I think it is interesting and troubling, look up [RAF Bowes Moor](#) on Wikipedia. A really enjoyable walk taking in a good range of landscapes with fine views and some historical interest thrown in.

The May walk will be led by Kathleen from Marske near Richmond. It will be a 7 mile walk across fields and moors

The June walk will be led by Peter in Arkengarthdale. Starting near the CB inn it will be a 7.5 mile walk to Whaw, Low Faggergill, High Faggergill and back. It includes the lovely Arkle Beck, a couple of hill farms and some open moorland. Please let Nicky Grace know if you would like to come along. nickygrace729@gmail.com



FELLWALKING GROUP - Report by Annie Clouston



Twelve of us, including two new members, set out at just after 10am on this ten miler from Hanging Shaw over the Tees, up on to Cronkley Fell, and back down the south bank of the river.

Though cool, the noticeable absence of wind, and the warmth of the sun breaking through made for excellent walking conditions. The views were breathtaking and from the trig point at 544 metres there was a 360 degree panorama of great wild beauty.

The quarry directly across from the lovely Bleabeck Force was the only blot on the landscape, but easy to turn our backs on, even if the noise from it was insistent all the way up the fellside, where it competed with heavy breathing as we gasped and panted to the top. Astonishing to us all, three mountain bikers were doing even heavier breathing during a shared ascent and we clapped and encouraged one young woman, with legs going like pistons, who managed to stay in the saddle up one 1 in 4 stretch. Hats off to her, though I often wonder when encouraging others in feats of endurance and effort whether we are putting them at risk of doing themselves permanent injury.

Judith and Jim had done a splendid reccie that included precise locations for our coffee and lunch stops which combined comfort to the backside with delightful views. Just before lunch we came upon a tarn glittering with sunlight where greylag geese were resting in numbers until our approach when they took off gracefully on a flightpath into the western sky.



We made a good pace, given the terrain and were back at Hanging Shaw before 3pm. Ready for a cuppa we made for the High Force Hotel. Many

MAY QUIZ GUESS THE PLACE - British Isles

1. Offal snooker (8)
2. Part of a ship (4)
3. Colourful vehicle (6)
4. Ship's company (5)
5. Spielberg showing his years (9)
6. Bing's town (6)
7. A dirty place to swim (9)
8. A modern fortress (9)
9. Neither rich nor poor (7)
10. Escort for Mr Pitt (8)
11. Cattle (5)
12. Journeys end for Doctor Foster (10)
13. A Cook's meadow (9)
14. Detectives need these (5)
15. Old car (6)
16. Multiply by two (6)
17. " I spot the car" (4 /5)
18. Stuck in a bottle (4)

UPDATE ON BRIDGE WORKSHOP - Report by Sue Overton

Since the Beginners Bridge Workshop held in January, many of the participants have continued to meet in their efforts to improve their knowledge and skills. However, this is not as yet, a specific u3a interest group of our Teesdale u3a mainly because of the difficulty in catering for all the different level of skills in one group.

Currently, a few of us (beginners) meet fortnightly with a couple of experienced players, some people attend the Wednesday evening Duplicate Bridge Club at the Glaxo Sports and Social Club, some attend a group in Eggleston and I have recently been informed that there is an intermediate group who meet every Friday 10am – 12noon at the golf club in Bishop Auckland (contact is David Wilkinson).

If you have knowledge of other groups in the area, please send the details to me sueoverton@hotmail.com

ANOTHER MONTH IN AMBRIDGE

Well of course the village has been in celebratory mode. Surprisingly, more for Eurovision than Coronation. Eurovision is of course an extravaganza of Camp, and with the arrival recently in the village of camper-than-a row-of-tents Paul, the veterinary nurse, Ambridge doesn't quite know what's hit it. AND Paul teaming up with Linda Snell, to make a formidable gruesome-tuosome, AND achieving a guest appearance of Rylan (him off Celebrity Big Brother) for THE event of the merry month of May, the excitement is a killer. For every anode there is a cathode, and this is personified by Jim Lloyd the Pompous Party-Pooper and eminent Classicist, who by sleight of hand made only possible by a shifty scriptwriter has become inveigled into taking part. Now tell me that isn't something to miss!

Meanwhile, George Grundy has been out and about, becoming (after Jim Lloyd that is) Ambridge's most obnoxious resident. More devious than even his Grandad, that lovable rogue Eddie, he has set about corrupting the unbelievably naïve Brad Horobin (easily led, though a recent scriptwriter led us to believe he was astonishingly bright) by involving him in an act of sacreligious vandalism whereby a commemorative bench was demolished. Fessing up to the crime to Sergeant Burns of the Borcestershire Constabulary, George comes out smelling of roses for his honesty but has dropped Brad in it by persuading him with menaces to present a denial of such manifest tosh the King's golden coach and horses could drive through it without touching the sides. Watch out for Brad's sister Chels's revenge.

Throughout all this there has been the Sword of Damocles (embodied in that Evil Rob Titchener) hanging over Helen, whose life was almost destroyed by the coercive control that drove her to stick a knife in his ribs some years ago. A failed kidnap attempt had him exiled from our shores, but he has returned for his mother's funeral and looms somewhere, waiting for the scriptwriter to reprise his role.

So, it's all there for us listeners: Camp! Pomposity! Devilment x2! My mother would be wringing her hands and saying "Whatever next?"

Annie Clouston

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Liverpool | 2. Hull | 3. Redcar |
| 4. Crewe | 5. Stevenage | 6. Crosby |
| 7. Blackpool | 8. Newcastle | 9. Norwich |
| 10. Bradford | 11. Cowes | 12. Gloucester |
| 13. Sheffield | 14. Leeds | 15. Bangor |
| 16. Dublin | 17. Port Isaac | 18. Cork |
| 19. Bedford | 20. Drumchapel | |

**OPEN GARDENS IN BARNARD CASTLE
SUNDAY 28TH MAY 2023 FROM 2-4PM**

**WE ARE RAISING MONEY FOR:
THE FOOD BANK AT THE HUB
And
UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL
Programmes will be available at
AMEN CORNER**

These are super-doooper for breakfast

ROSIE SYKES'S PEAR AND PRUNE PANCAKES

Serves 4

2 eggs

350ml milk

½ tsp salt

220g plain flour

1 tsp baking powder

30g soft brown sugar

2 medium-size firm pears, peeled, coarsely grated and tossed in lemon juice

80g pitted prunes, roughly chopped

Grated zest and juice of half a lemon

Flavourless oil for frying

1. Whisk together the eggs, milk and salt.
2. Sift the flour and baking powder into a large bowl, stir in the brown sugar, make a well in the centre and gradually pour in the liquid until you achieve a smooth batter. Stir in the pears, prunes and lemon zest.
3. Heat a thin layer of oil in a heavy-based frying pan over a low-to-medium heat. Drop a large spoonful of batter into the pan and flatten it out a little to ensure it cooks in the centre, then fry until the bottom is set and golden brown.
4. Flip the little pancakes over and cook them for an additional two or three minutes until firm. They can be served immediately with a dollop of creme fraiche, but will happily stay warm for a while.

This is a really easy and scrumptious pud

PEACH AND BLUEBERRY BRIOCHE PUDDING

Ingredients:

4 peaches (could use tinned)

175 gms of brioche

2 eggs

500mls ready made custard

Zest of a lemon

150 gms of blueberries

2 tablespoons demerara sugar

Method:

1. Preheat oven to Fan 160C.
2. Halve and stone peaches, cut flesh into bite sized chunks
3. Cut brioche into bite sized chunks
4. Crack 2 large eggs into a mixing bowl and combine with custard, lemon zest, blueberries and the peaches and brioche
5. Pile into a shallow ovenproof dish, sprinkle with 2 table spoons of Demerara sugar
6. Bake for 35-45 minutes or until set. Eat warm



"AND FOR YOUR DINING PLEASURE THIS EVENING WE ARE OFFERING TWO CHOICES: TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!"

On The Farm by R S Thomas

There was Dai Puw. He was no good.
They put him in the fields to dock swedes,
And took the knife from him, when he came home
At late evening with a grin
Like the slash of a knife on his face.

There was Llew Puw, and he was no good.
Every evening after the ploughing
With the big tractor he would sit in his chair,
And stare into the tangled fire garden,
Opening his slow lips like a snail.

There was Huw Puw, too. What shall I say?
I have heard him whistling in the hedges
On and on, as though winter
Would never again leave those fields,
And all the trees were deformed.

And lastly there was the girl:
Beauty under some spell of the beast.
Her pale face was the lantern
By which they read in life's dark book
The shrill sentence: God is love.

R S Thomas featured in this month's poetry report.
He loved Wales, and the farming life and those who lived it.

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 1.30pm	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 Centre**

Thurs 25 May 7.30pm	FOLK – In The Footsteps of Ewan MacColl Bob Fox, Jez Lowe and Julie Matthews, a selection of songs from the 2006 new Radio Ballads
Fri 26 May 7.30pm	RHYTHM & BLUES – Dr. Feelgood featuring Kevin Morris on drums, Phil Mitchell on bass, Gordon Russell on guitar and Robert Kane.
Wed 31 May 7.30pm	COMEDY – Emmanuel Sonubi: Emancipated
Thurs 1 June 7.30pm	FOLK – Martin Carthy & Eliza Carthy
Fri 2 June 7.30pm	JAZZ – Claire Martin Trio featuring guitar legend Jim Mullen
Tues 6 June 7.30pm	MUSIC – SuRie: Cover/Me Singer songwriting pianist performs original music i
Fri 9 June 8.00pm	POETRY – Henry Normal: COLLECTED Poems and other landfill. As heard on BBC Radio 4.
Thurs 15 June 7.00pm	SCREENING – National Theatre Live: Fleabag Written and performed by Phoebe Waller-Bridge.
Sat 17 June 7.30pm	TRIBUTE – The Jerseys Live Celebrating the timeless music of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons.
Thurs 22 June 7.00pm	FILM – TAR (15) Set in the international world of classical music, starring Cate Blanchett.
Fri 23 June 7.30pm	POP ROCK– The Blow Monkeys Celebrating 40 years with the original 80s band.
Sat 24 June 7.00pm	FUNDRAISER– The Community Orchestra: Summer Sizzler Concert II Light classics, pop, standards and novelty numbers. With guests, Green Lane School Choir.
Sat 1 July 7.30pm	TRIBUTE– The Carpenters Experience The UK's leading Carpenters show, featuring eight top class musicians.