

# FORUM

JUNE 2023 No.23/06



u3a

## CHAIR'S LETTER from TIM MEACHAM

It's June and as a friend remarked yesterday, it's already only three weeks to the longest day! Putting aside the thought that that means we will soon be heading towards winter again, it does remind us that every day is one to be seized, as the poet Horace suggested. We in the u3a are quite good at this and at following the linked slogan 'do not put off until tomorrow ...' etc. On a personal level, since I wrote last month's letter, Mandy and I at last stopped talking about how nice it would be to undertake an Odyssey to Ithaca in the steps of Homer and actually did it. But that's enough classical allusions! We are back refreshed to find the sun shining here (rather more than it was on some of our days in Greece!) and determined to make the most of all that is planned for the key summer months just starting.

Last month in my letter I mentioned our new 'Inbetweeners' sessions, held at The Witham halfway between the 'normal' monthly meetings. It might be helpful if I say a few words about the rationale behind these and what they are, and are not intended, to be. We had heard that a number of other u3as have introduced a second monthly get-together to complement the more formal monthly meetings. These seem to have been most successful where they provide an opportunity for members to mingle in an informal setting and we decided to give it a go on a trial basis. There will be no agenda, no hierarchical addresses; rather an opportunity for all members to meet over a cup of coffee (other beverages are also available) to chat, ask questions and find out more about our groups and other activities. A number of committee members and (more importantly) group convenors will be present, not to deliver talks but to chat about their group activities and hopefully to hear some good ideas for future ventures. Non-members interested in finding out what we have to offer will be most welcome. Occasionally we will arrange for a specialist in some area to be present to offer individual advice, but again this will not take the form of a public address. So, if you are free on the afternoon of the second Thursday of the month, why not pop along for an easy hour of conversation? See elsewhere in this Forum for more precise details and timings.

Tim Meacham. June 2023.

## 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](mailto:forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk)

### DEADLINE for the next edition: Tuesday 11th July 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](mailto: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](http://www.teesdaleu3a.org)

### TEESDALE u3a Officers

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Treasurer: Hazel McCallum

# MAY'S MONTHLY MEETING AT THE WITHAM

Report by Celia Chapple

## Hannah Fox, Bowes Museum: *Our Vision for the Future*

Hannah Fox, new Executive Director of the Bowes Museum, started her talk with a description of her childhood and working background and how it relates to her new rôle.

Born in North Wales, she experienced a transient childhood which ended in a family breakdown, and by the age of 17, she was truly unhappy. Walking out of an unfinished English A-Level exam changed her life. A teacher, Vernon, asked her a simple question: 'What do you need?' This enquiry focused her not on what 'other people' provided or considered acceptable, but on finding out who she was and what she wanted out of life. She travelled and worked in Europe whilst her school art teacher submitted her art work to the A-Level Board to gain her a certificate and subsequently a place at University of Derby, despite her lack of qualifications.

She went on to work in advertising and then as a consultant and designer for educational providers, hospitals, etc. She was involved in strategic programmes such as *Design Thinking* with people who want to affect change. Put simply, *Design Thinking* identifies the problems you wish to solve before searching for solutions.

This appears to be the strategy that she is employing at the Bowes Museum and they are currently in the feasibility phase although the projected strategy reaches 2092. The focus is on strengthening foundations, making the museum financially robust, and on purpose-led provision for international and regional visitors so that their experience is a personal one - they can be involved and be themselves at the museum. For example, they are rethinking how some areas might encompass people's need to express themselves and make noise. The new management team are also re-appraising the patchwork investment in building works to maximum impact; the very spacious, prominent and accessible grade-listed gatehouses' refurbishment will cost between £750,000 to £1 million.

Like most museums, they have about 5-7% of their acquisitions on display, and they are discovering untold stories in their archive.

Josephine Bowes was a significant painter in her own right, influenced by impressionist artwork before the 1<sup>st</sup> Impressionist Exhibition in 1874, the year she died.

The museum receives frequent requests for loans of her and other's work. Hannah wishes to expand the loan system between museums to a two-way one so that major pieces are on display at The Bowes. She has also discovered an archived painting by Caterina Van Hemessen, the first artist to produce a self-portrait of an artist at work at the easel.

## MEETING AT THE WITHAM

### Meetings assemble from 10.00am for a prompt start at 10.30am

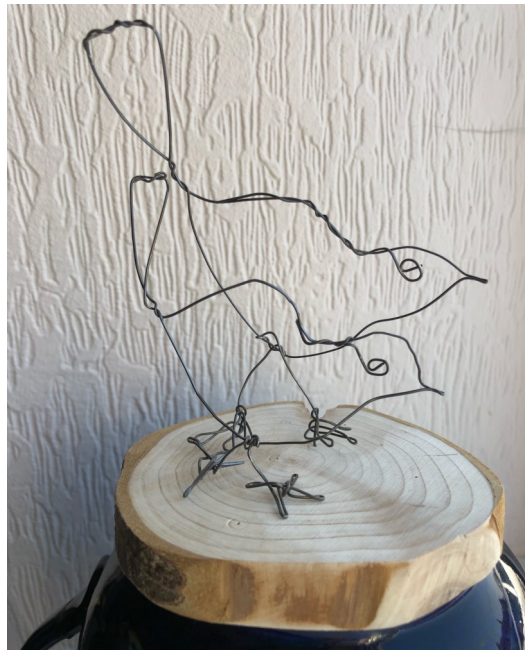
Guests are welcome to attend one of our meetings as a 'taster' before deciding whether to join. Children under 18 are NOT allowed to partake in group activities as guests, as they would not be covered by our insurance.

**Next meeting: 27 July 2023, Richard Annis — *The Bones found on Palace Green, Durham***

## WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

### WIRE SCULPTURE WORKSHOP - Report by Hazel Yeadon

It was yet another workshop when the weather was glorious, and it would have been nice to be outside, but we were soon totally absorbed and forgot about the sunshine. Sara Cox, our demonstrator, had given us the remit to take along an image of our chosen bird in lots of different poses, printed out or on an iPad, but suggesting wetland/wader birds, as they have very varied and interesting shapes. As an 'ice breaker' we started with a game in pairs, attaching the correct beaks and legs to bodies of various birds. We progressed to 'playing' with wire to get used to bending and twisting it, before we were given a silhouette of a swallow that we had to reproduce in wire.



We then started on our chosen bird – making a 2D image of this to stand on a wooden plinth – Sara had the idea of us making three birds to display artistically on the plinth – but most of us were happy with one or two! After coffee and biscuits, everyone relaxed as they saw their sculpture take shape and by the end of the morning we were delighted with what we had produced. A big thank you to Sara for all her help and patience!

## **SOUND BATH WORKSHOP - Saturday 15 July**

And now for something completely different!

A combination of gentle yoga moves and relaxation whilst bathed in sound which can be done seated or lying down.

Saturday 15 July 10am - 12 noon at Startforth School

Cost: £12

Leader: Susan Lodge, a highly qualified yoga teacher with 20 years' experience.

Susan says: "My previous career was in primary education then 10 years ago, when a family member became very unwell, I found my understanding of yoga and sound to be an enormous support in very difficult times.

I explored sound further, as a source of comfort, reassurance and connection. Convinced by its potential for therapeutic application, I have since been training, exploring and presenting sound-based community sessions for health and healing. I now work with mid-life-and-beyond adults, using group sound baths and individual sound massage, to support personal growth including relaxation, stress reduction and relief of overwhelm which are common aspects of our lives in this phase.

I welcome newcomers and questions".

If you would like to attend this workshop, please contact Sue Overton on **07512 368884** or email [sueoverton@hotmail.com](mailto:sueoverton@hotmail.com)

## **UPDATE ON BRIDGE WORKSHOP - Report by Sue Overton**

If you have knowledge of other groups in the area, please send the details to me [sueoverton@hotmail.com](mailto:sueoverton@hotmail.com)

## DAY TRIPS

**21 July - Bolton Castle, Wensleydale**, leave Barnard Castle outside Addison's, Galgate at 09.00 return about 18.00. Cost £22.00.

**15 September - York & York Cocoa House**, leave Barnard Castle, from Addison's, 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 22 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

**EMPIRE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND**

**Wednesday 20 September at 7.30 pm**

Straight from the West End, the musical:

## **WE MUST TALK ABOUT JAMIE**

I have 16 good seats in the upper circle at £46.

The coach will cost £5 return; meet at Addison's at 5.30 pm

Please send me a cheque for £51 made out to Teesdale u3a and enclose your contact details (Tel. No. & email address).

Elizabeth Formstone. Bridge House, Piercebridge Darlington DL2 3SG  
[elizabeth.formstone6@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.formstone6@gmail.com)

## AUTOMOTIVE GROUP - Report by Peter Colley

The Automotive Group met for the first time in May with a superb turnout of motoring enthusiasts with a wide variety of interests and vehicles.

The group will cover the past, present, and future of motoring.

Our inaugural meeting planned several activities including: -

A visit to the Motorist (<https://www.themotorist.com/>) at Sherburn-in-Elmet

Attending the BTCC races (British Touring Cars Championship) on Sunday 30 July at Croft (<https://www.croftcircuit.co.uk/racing/btcc>)

We will meet at the circuit on the day.

Enjoying the Cumbria Classic Motor Show at Dalemain near Ullswater on Sunday 20 August (<https://www.dalemain.com/events>)

In the coming months we will look to sharing experiences, taking drives out and running projects on servicing and repairs.

Members interested in joining the group can contact Peter Colley via email at [petergcolley@icloud.com](mailto:petergcolley@icloud.com)



British Touring Car Championship at Croft



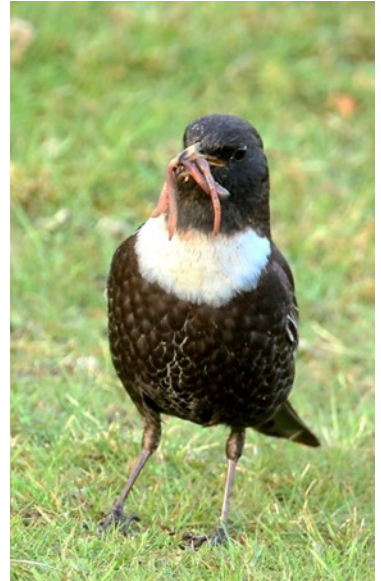
## BIRDWATCHING GROUP - Report by Andrew Lapworth

### Upper Teesdale: Widdy Bank Farm Monday 15 May 2023

On a rather cool (but thankfully dry) day, 7 of us met on the road to Cow Green reservoir from Langdon Beck for our walk out to Widdy Bank Farm and back. En route we enjoyed great views of the breeding waders, namely Lapwings (many had fairly grown-up chicks), Curlews, giving their evocative bubbling songs and calls, noisy Oystercatchers and at least one rather distant drumming Snipe; we also disturbed two Snipe at close range in the ditches. All the way we had good views of singing Skylarks, comparing their appearances to the more numerous Meadow Pipits. We noticed smart Wheatears, but what really caught our eyes were the hundreds (thousands?) of beautiful pink Bird's Eye Primroses, scattered all along the track and spread across the meadows as far as the eye could see.

We passed through the herd of Belted Galloways, admiring their cute new-born calves, and as we approached the farmyard, we began scanning for our target special bird: the Ring Ouzel or Mountain Blackbird. We didn't have any luck as we approached the farm yard but lingered there, scanning the dry stone walls and rickety fence lines. Two Pennine Way walkers far ahead of us disturbed what looked like a pair of Ring Ouzels as they went through the stile, but we couldn't relocate them. We found a sheltered spot to have our elevenses on the banks of the Tees, and spotted Pied Wagtails and Common Sandpipers; Wrens were singing loudly and could be heard over the sound of the river.

We went to make our return walk but were stopped in our tracks when we suddenly spotted two Ring Ouzels gathering earth worms in the field behind the farm; they were distant but we watched them fly across the Tees and up to the boulder-strewn slopes of Cronkley Fell, no doubt to their nest. Pleased to have found these elusive birds we went back through the farm, only to enjoy a brief but really good view of a fine cock bird, showing his bright white chest crescent.



When we returned to our cars we decided to drive along “Snipe Alley” to see if we could see some waders perched along the lane: nothing! A House Sparrow was added to the morning’s list. We ended our morning being shown a convenient site to see Spring Gentians (thank you Linda and John); we saw the site but alas, no Gentians were visible.

### Langdon Beck Black Grouse Lek Thursday May 18 May 2023

***“Males with their chests puffed out, their tails spread to make themselves look as big as possible, making the loudest noises they can, irresistibly remind me of the bar of an Australian pub near closing time”.*** (Natalie Bennett, Red Sixty Seven. BTO: 2020)

I picked up just two group members, Jim and Judith, for a pre-breakfast trip up to Langdon Beck to see the spectacle of the lek (display ground) of Black Grouse. We arrived there at just after 05:00 on a fine, still morning and parked to view the lek from the car. Winding the windows down we enjoyed the magical bubbling sound of the 21 or 22 male birds, with their occasional raucous calls. At first the lek was fairly quiet, but when several females turned-up, the males became excited and began displaying and fighting with each other. A wonderful wildlife spectacle we are still fortunate to be able to enjoy here in Teesdale.

### BOOK GROUP 2 – Report by Maggie Cleminson

#### ‘From the Dark we Rise’ by Marion Kumerow

After some illnesses and necessary absences had depleted our already small group numbers for a few months, we were delighted to welcome our new member as a full house.

We discussed ‘From the Dark we Rise’ by Marion Kumerow. The author is a German speaker writing in English, about the atrocities unleashed by the Nazi Regime in 1940. It is the second book in a series, which made the beginning slightly confusing as events occurred prior to the start of the novel which were not entirely explained in this sequel. The book had a mixed reception, from ‘terrifyingly upsetting’ to ‘rose tinted’ perhaps the latter rather hopeful message as set out in the title, emanated from Kumerow’s own family history as her grandparents fought in the German resistance.

The story centres on the precarious position of the protagonist and the suspense develops from this. In this way the author separates the main story from the horrors going on in the background. This was found to be a weakness of the book as it seems to divide into two separated stories.

Another aspect which caused comment was that the Nazi officer in charge of the munition factory, inflicting unspeakable and inhuman treatment on workers, was also capable of great love for his wife. The descriptive writing was considered to be excellent, something quite often missing in many modern novels.

## **ROOM TO READ BOOK GROUP - Report by Kate Bailey**

### **'Hamnet' by Maggie O'Farrell**

The historical novel, 'Hamnet' by Maggie O'Farrell, a fictional account of the life of Shakespeare's wife and the death of his son in 1596, has received national acclaim and awards such as the Women's Prize for Fiction 2020. The paperback cover reviews are effusive ('staggeringly beautiful and unbearably poignant, radiant, a thing of shimmering wonder')! Our book group mostly admired and applauded the book; one or two of us thought the lyrical writing was over-wrought.

Hamnet is an eleven year old twin. His sister, Judith, falls ill as the story opens, and as the boy searches frantically for someone to help her, O'Farrell's absorbing portraits of the unexpectedly absent people in and around their gloomy home draw the reader in. The convincing descriptions of large families living in cramped conditions in Tudor times reminded one reader of the present-day Shambles in York.

Hamnet's mother, Agnes, is a countrywoman, brought up to marry a farmer, now away from the town gathering medicinal herbs, delays her return to coax swarming bees back into their hives. Pivotal moments tend to be a central theme of O'Farrell's essays and novels. Hamnet's life turns on this delay; his mother reflects "it will lie at her very core, for the rest of her life" as she tries to make sense of her grief.

Shakespeare is never mentioned by name; he is 'the Latin tutor, her husband, the father'. His relationship with Agnes (Anne) starts as a scandalous love story. She is a strong-willed young woman - gossips say she is fierce and savage and "capable of souring milk by touching it" - and determined to marry him. He claims to love his children but becomes a consistently absent father, two days ride away in London writing and producing his plays.

Agnes is a highly perceptive person, absorbed in nature, protective of her family; she becomes a natural healer but can't save her precious son. Much of the dialogue takes place in her head; the scenes of walking to their wedding, the workings of the glove factory, laying the child out for burial, are moving and evocative. But her husband rarely communicates his feelings and only at the very end does she come to an understanding of his reasons for writing the play 'Hamlet'.

The group agreed that the book would be hard to read for anyone who has lost a child; it moved some readers to tears though others thought the author was being self indulgent. Overall it is highly recommended - scoring 5 for a book group and 4.5 for a friend.

## **CLIMATE SOLUTIONS - Report by Kate Bailey**

In May we focused on collective solutions and actions we can take to address climate change and biodiversity loss. We discussed the possibility of setting up a project that has a positive impact on wildlife in and around Barnard Castle.

Jane and I have made contact with Climate Action North-East, a not-for-profit organisation that works with communities and "provides practical solutions and actions for local groups, communities, schools and businesses in the region." Their initiatives include Pollinator Parks, increasing the biodiversity of places where people can enjoy nature and Global Wilders, educational activities "focused on people, places, plants, and animals to restore nature, and conserve biodiversity."

For example, at Darlington Denes, a "meadow of over 700 wildflowers has been created around a play area, to increase biodiversity, supply a haven for insects and birds, and give people a place to enjoy nature".

Link: [www.climateactionnortheast.org.uk](http://www.climateactionnortheast.org.uk)

The first step is for our group to discuss what sort of project we'd like to create, and find out whether there is any interest from other Teesdale u3a members, community organisations and businesses in the area. Finding a site or sites for the project won't be easy - the land must be available for the public to enjoy as an accessible open 'green space' and with a landowner who is committed to managing it for wildlife in future years.

In June we'll begin to map out a plan for our project, and make contact with people who may be interested in supporting us. Climate Action NE's ecologists can help us to deliver the project by undertaking an initial site survey and advising on planting, funding and future maintenance.

If any members of Teesdale u3a would like to be involved, or can suggest a local site that might be suitable for a small wildflower meadow, or a community orchard, or a native hedgerow planted for birds -

- Please email [kate@katebailey.co.uk](mailto:kate@katebailey.co.uk), phone Jane on **07816 845 557** or Kate on **07867 683 195**

## DISCUSSION GROUP - Report by Glen Howard

We covered a lot of ground in May. Subjects raised included: mining for lithium for use in batteries; wind farms; conservatories; demonstrators; our supply of weapons to Ukraine and possible repercussions; farming Herdwicks and Belted Galloways for regenerative farming; Ofsted; dentists going private; and women covering up when visiting Iran.

Our next meetings will be on Friday 14 July, 10.15am at Andalucía'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](tel:01833631639)

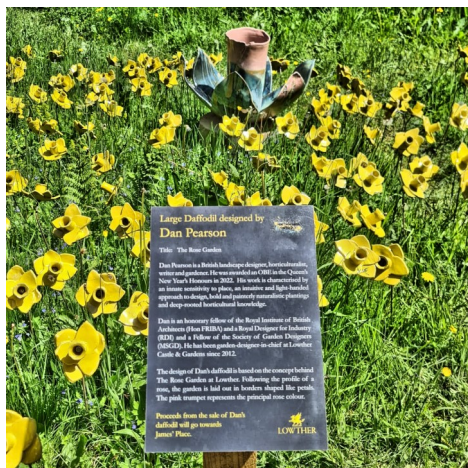
## GARDENING GROUP - Report by Julie Archer and Kate Keen

In early June the gardening group visited Lowther Castle Gardens in Cumbria. It was a glorious day with the sun shining and just the right temperature.

Lowther Castle is a ruin but has some restored areas with a history of the site dating back to the Vikings. The Lowther crest is a dragon which has been picked up in the willow sculpture in the entrance courtyard by the pleached trees,



The garden has been redesigned by Dan Pearson. We were able to view the Parterre, Garden in the Ruins and the Rose Garden, although we were a little too early for the roses. There are plans in progress to redevelop the Sweet Scented Garden, Japanese Garden and the Rock Garden and we look forward to a return visit some time in the future to see how these areas look when complete.



The view from the Western Terrace over the River Lowther and beyond was stunning.

At the time of our visit there were 10,000 ceramic yellow daffodils in situ as part of a charity project. There were also larger ceramic daffodils which had been individually painted by people with a connection to the garden.

The site has a pleasant café area serving snacks and delicious lunches.

In July we will visit Alnwick Gardens in Northumberland.  
 In August we will visit Levens Hall near Kendal, Cumbria.  
 Our September visit has changed to Harewood House.

## OPEN GARDENS 2023 - Annie Clouston

Thank you to all the generous and sociable people who visited our gardens in Thorngate, Newgate, the Demesnes and Startforth. The sun shone erratically but it was a sunny experience for us all and raised £681.50 which will be split between the Red Cross Crisis Appeal for Ukraine and the Hub's food bank.

## GENEALOGY GROUP - Report by Alan Swindale

At the start of the meeting two members of the group stood up and announced they had discovered they were second cousins! A DNA match had alerted them to the connection and a little research had revealed the details.

The June topic was using wills to assist in Family History.

The best value to be discovered from wills is family relationships.

Catherine Lewis was associated as the aunt of Sir George Henry Lewis, a prominent lawyer in Victorian London. However, his uncle's will made no mention of this sister, Catherine, despite many other relatives being mentioned. This family, however, was a Jewish family and Catherine had married an Irish Roman Catholic, George Keogh. Disowned!

Nonetheless, In the will of Sir George's aunt, Sophia, she left a bequest to her sister Kate Keogh. Thus Catherine (Lewis) Keogh was the daughter of Sir George Henry Lewis's grandfather, Noah Edward Lewis (a rather colourful individual).

Catherine Keogh's own will mentions 19 relatives, a boon in reconstructing the family.

From 1530 to 1782 a will needed to be accompanied by an inventory detailing the possessions of the deceased individual. The will itself might mention some possessions in bequests but the inventory listed all the worldly possessions left by the deceased testator (excepting land and buildings). The inventory gives a lively impression of the lifestyle of the deceased person.

The will may indicate other details such as date of death, probable place of burial and religion of the deceased person. If you can find a will do not ignore it! As the title of an earlier talk put it, "Where there's a Will there's a Way!"

The next meeting of the Genealogy Group will be on Thursday 6 July at 2p.m. at Enterprise House. This will be another 'Helping Hands' meeting where anyone is invited to pursue their research with the assistance of their neighbour or, indeed, the whole group!

## GEOGRAPHY GROUP - Report by Jane Harrison

In May we welcomed back Professor Philip Steinberg, Director of the International Boundaries Research Unit, at Durham University, and on this occasion he talked about “Managing the Oceans”.

Coastal states have long claimed rights over their immediate coastal waters, but as untapped resources are found far out to sea the oceans have again become new frontiers. International agreements are needed to control their exploitation and maintain biodiversity. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), which came into force in 1994, established a legal framework to govern the use of the oceans and their resources. Maritime zones were established which defined territorial limits. The ‘Territorial Sea’, over which a coastal state has sovereignty, extends up to 12 nautical miles from a baseline around its shores. Foreign shipping is allowed ‘innocent passage’ through these waters but activities such as fishing, broadcasting and displays of military strength are not. Exceptions: to allow ‘transit passage’ through narrow straits of strategic importance.

The ‘Exclusive Economic Zone’ (EEZ) extends from 12 to 200 nautical miles. There, coastal states have exclusive rights, but not sovereignty, to the living and non-living resources both in the sea itself and on the continental shelf. Beyond that are ‘The High Seas’, which cover two-thirds of the world's oceans and are beyond national jurisdiction. A coastal state may still have rights to the non-living resources on the sea bed on the ‘Extended Continental Shelf’ (ECS) but not in ‘The Area’, which lies beyond the continental shelf and is administered by the International Sea Bed Authority.

Although over 150 countries and the EU are parties to UNCLOS, conflicts have arisen because of issues concerning sovereignty, strategic ambiguity, geophysical dynamism as coastlines change, muscle-flexing, challenges to old compromises caused by the discovery of new resources and the cost of surveillance and enforcement. Progress is still being made however, and earlier this year the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreed the framework for Marine Protection Areas and conducting environmental impact assessments in the High Seas area, but there still is a long way to go.

It was a very informative and fascinating talk and as usual there was considerable discussion afterwards.

Next meeting: Thursday 20 July 2023. 2.10pm in The Witham. ‘A Celebration of Africa’ – contributions by members of the Group.



## GEOLOGY GROUP - Report by Bob Tuddenham

This was a well attended meeting at The Witham where we were treated to a fascinating talk by Les Knight, 'Seismology and Deep Earth Structures'. He covered the types of waves caused by earthquakes and what these waves can tell us about the substructure of our planet. Les also explained how our understanding of faults has changed significantly over the last 30 years; they can be quite short and do not necessarily extend the distances as previously thought. The final comment Les made was that we seem no nearer to being able to accurately predict when earthquakes will occur!

In the second half of the meeting, Trevor Morse outlined the mapping exercise he had had to undertake as part of his Geology degree course at Durham University. Living locally, Trevor chose a well known part of Teesdale and so he had some detailed and very interesting observations to make about the geology of that area.

Our next meeting is at The Witham on Monday morning June 26 at 10 am when there will be a talk by Bob Tuddenham on 'The Iron Industry in the North East'. All are welcome. Please contact the Convenor or just join the meeting on the day.

## HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT- Report by Tim Meacham

We have not held a meeting since the last report as it has been necessary for various reasons to rearrange the programme. The planned visit to Thornborough Henges has been postponed until Summer 2024. The next two visits will now be as follows:

**Thursday 13 July** Walking Tour of Cockfield Fell Part 2.  
Leader Rob Pearson.

**Thursday 21 August** Visit to Altogether Archaeology Dig  
at Cotherstone.

For further details or to join either of these outings, please contact Tim Meacham. [simontimothymeacham@gmail.com](mailto:simontimothymeacham@gmail.com)

## iPad & iPhone GROUP - Report by Mike Sweeting

After an introduction to the latest nefarious activities threatening our quiet existence as iPad users, we moved on to talk about Siri, Apple's virtual assistant. Using voice, instructions can be given to carry out assorted tasks. Examples include instructions to phone a friend, find the best route to your destination and translate an English phrase into a foreign language.

Siri and other similar systems could be said to be the precursor to machine learning or 'AI' systems now the subject of many newspaper articles. We looked particularly at Google Bard. We quickly produced a sonnet extolling the virtues of Barnard Castle and articles on the latest stock exchange results. It is important to ask the right questions and to carefully review the results. Information is drawn from the vast library of data on the internet, not all of which is accurate. With this in mind, it can still be a useful tool.

Our next meeting will be on 23 June 2023 at 1:30pm in the Dales Room at Enterprise House.

## LUNCH GROUP - Report by Jane Mathieson

Eight of us had a marvellous evening meal at The Brownlow Arms, Caldwell for this month's meeting. The menu was extensive, so it took us quite awhile before we had made our choices. The Lamb Shanks in Red Wine, Luxury Chicken Kiev, Venison in Wild Mushroom Sauce, Chicken Fajitas, Seabass, and Monkfish and Prawn in Thermador Sauce, were agreed by us all to be delicious, with added vegetables and chips, just to fill us up even more. Even then we all had room for puddings, Knickerbocker Glory, Baileys Chocolate Cheesecake, Chocolate and Cherry Trifle, Raspberry Brulés, and Meringue Roulades which were also mouth-watering. Although the food took some time to arrive, it was worth waiting for and the service was good. We shall be returning.

The next venues are:

July 19, The Black Bull, Moulton

August 16, Rose & Crown, Romaldkirk

September 20, Forresters, Middleton in Teesdale

October 18, Runa Farm, Barnard Castle

November 15, Fox Hole, Piercebridge

December **6 Christmas Meal**, Three Horseshoes, Barnard Castle

All meals start at 12 noon

## NEEDLECRAFT - JUNE 2023 - Report by Glen Howard

We met on a lovely sunny afternoon where we enjoyed catching up with each other's news after having missed meeting in May because of all the Bank Holidays. Most of us were busy knitting, but there was also some quilting in progress. Our talking included comments about the birds, especially the swifts, that we have been watching but also about eulogies! All I can say is that it was not sombre and we all had a good laugh.

Our next meeting will be on 3 July. Please get in touch with me if you would like to join us. Glen Howard **01833 631639**

## PAINTING GROUP - Report by Val Hobbs

The last meeting took place at Startforth School with the artist, Anne Lee, taking the group.

Here are some examples of our work from that day:





## PHILOSOPHY GROUP - Report by Pete Redgrave

### Philosophy: A mind's design

At the May meeting of the Philosophy Special Interest Group I gave the second part of my presentation entitled 'Mind the Gap'. The gap in question is the 'hard consciousness problem' – how personal subjective experience can arise from the workings of approximately 3 lbs (1.4kg) of squishy tissue, namely the brain?

This issue remains unresolved and is a profound gap in our knowledge and understanding of brain/mind.

However, we now know that everything that is thought of as mind – sensory perceptions, thoughts, intentions, decisions, memory, motivations, personality, emotions, movements, and actions – are associated with neural activity in different brain circuits. They can all be altered, manipulated, or abolished when different regions of the brain are stimulated or inactivated.

Our minds can be thought of as a society where each member plays a specific role.

Examples would be members that look after our energy balance (hunger), our fluid balance (thirst), and those that keep us safe (defence). There are many others.

However, the idea of our minds having many independent members all serving different functions entails a major problem. It's not good to try to do incompatible things at the same time, i.e. in any situation, which member should have control of the muscles? In all vertebrates, this problem is solved by part of the brain called the basal ganglia – a group of structures that prevents clashes by selecting between members of the mind's society – who should control the muscles and who shouldn't. On what basis are such selections made? The answer is simple – the mind's members can all 'shout' at the selector (basal ganglia). All the selector does is select the one shouting loudest and puts a block on all others.

The next question was 'who or what determines the relative strengths of the competing shouters?' The answer is genetics (e.g. pain always comes in with a good shout), and experience in the form of reinforcement learning.



Because we choose neither, it's difficult to see where the concept of free-will might fit in. This brought up a final question. 'If you make choices, but play no prior part in what is chosen, how can the legal system hold you responsible for your actions?' I proposed that making laws and having individuals held responsible is society's way, by means of individual reinforcement learning, of encouraging pro-social choices. No change in the law required!

Next Philosophy meeting Tuesday 27 June at 10am at Enterprise House, when we conclude our study of the Mind by examining the question of whether we have freewill. On Tuesday 25 July we begin to look at 'The philosophy of Art.' All welcome.

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

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***A Spring Gentian - Photo by Jane Mathieson***

## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP - Report by Alan Kenwright

On 6 June, a group of five intrepid photographers assembled at Cow Green Reservoir with the intention of photographing some of the rare and beautiful flowers of Teesdale. But despite it being June the weather at Cow Green was unpleasantly chilly and breezy so most of the flowers were shut up tight and dancing about in the wind. After half an hour, common sense prevailed and the group headed back down the dale, calling in at Forest in Teesdale, Bowlees, and Low Force to photograph the flowers they could find there (in much warmer and calmer conditions!). After lunch at the Bowlees Visitors' Centre the sun managed to put in an appearance and some pleasing images were recorded, so the day was far from wasted.



## POETRY GROUP - Report by Gaynor Hemming

Our theme for this meeting was "Rivers" which resulted in an eclectic mix of poetic choices. A beautifully read "Composed upon Westminster Bridge" by Wordsworth gave a fresh enjoyment to all of us of what could be considered a rather hackneyed poem, and there were other well-known offerings, including Gerard Manley Hopkins' "Inversnaid", chosen by two members of the group. What could be more relevant today than Hopkins' impassioned wish: "Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet!" as our wild spaces become increasingly rare?

There were 3 poems about the Tees (see one below), one set in New Zealand and one by Mary Oliver linking the river to religious experience. As always the poems were not only enjoyable in themselves but were a way in to sharing memories, spiritual belief/non-belief, laughter, sadness.

### ***In Teesdale by Andrew Young***

No, not tonight  
Not by this fading light,  
Not by those high fells where the forces  
Fall from the mist like the white tails of horses.

From the dark slack  
Where peat-hags gape too black  
I turn to where the lighted farm  
Holds out through the open door a golden arm.

No, not tonight,  
Tomorrow by daylight;  
Tonight I fear the fabulous horses  
Whose white tails flash down the steep watercourses.

We're continuing the watery theme by sharing poems about the sea at our June meeting.

## SCRABBLE - Report by Ray Thompson

We had our June Scrabble meet on the 5 June at Lillian's home with six players; we split into two teams of three.

The two teams for the first leg were :- Marilyn, Ray and Phil, and Lillian, Judith and Liz.



Phil won their game with a score of 256 including a 7 letter word "TOSSING" for 66. Liz won their game with a score of 247.

The two winners and the next highest scorer (Ray) then played the second game, while Marilyn, Judith and Lillian played theirs.

Phil also won his second game with a score of 292 including another 7 letter "REVILES". Judith won their game scoring 185.

Thanks to Lillian for the delicious Victoria sponge, chocolate biscuits and liquid refreshments.

The next meet is on Monday 10 July at Judith Fanner's house, phone: **01833 650150**. Please get in touch if you are interested in playing.

## SPANISH CONVERSATION - Report by Michael Harris

Our meeting was held at Hamsterley, kindly hosted by Stella Kirton.

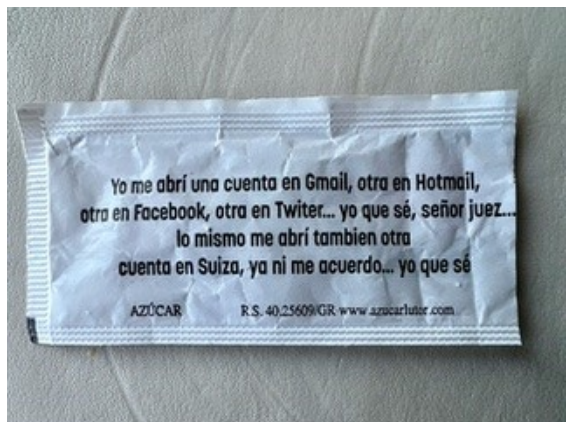
We are going to use a well documented technique for language learning which uses a book from our native language translated into the learning language. We are using Roald Dahl's 'Matilda' which at 287 pages long may see some of us out! Hence I will make a regular precis to move the story forward each month.

Whenever we order a coffee, a tea or even a very sweet hot chocolate in Spain, the drink always arrives with two sugar sachets despite telling them otherwise. These sachets are always worth reading as sometimes they have philosophical quotes, sometimes jokes.

It reads:

"I opened an account in Gmail, another in Hotmail, another in Facebook, another in Twitter ... I don't know your Honour

I also opened another account in Switzerland, I don't even remember... I don't know!"

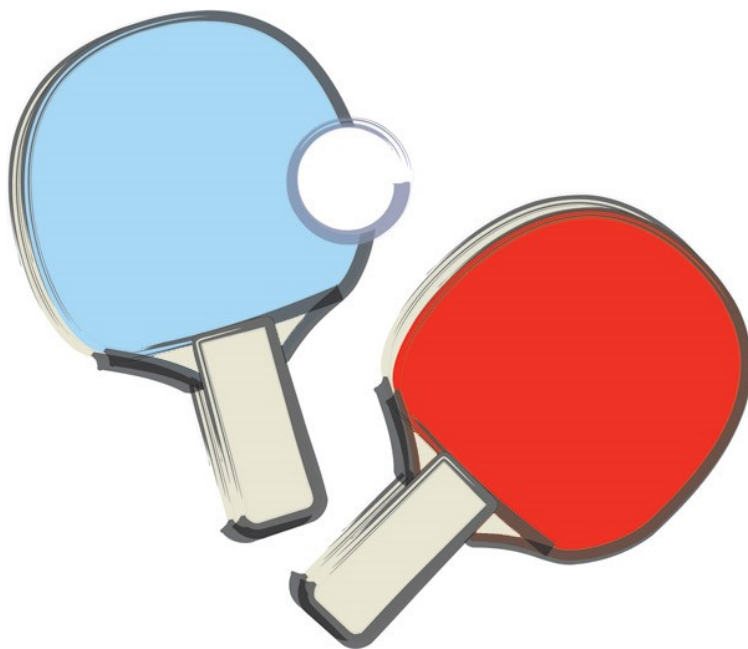


## TABLE TENNIS - Report by Nicky Grace

The table tennis group continues to meet weekly at the Teesdale Leisure Centre. It is a friendly group in a friendly place. Two tables are set out for us, usually in the large hall. One week the heavy rain and thunder were so noisy that it was difficult to hear the score. This last week, on a glorious sunny day, five of us met for a series of games, singles, threesomes, and doubles. The writer's scores varied from losing to love to a tightly won victory 12-10. I am unsure whether I am on an improving trajectory but I thoroughly enjoy the hour of exercise and banter. I apparently have a unique frying pan stroke (not often successful!). Prior to joining the group, the last time I played was in my teens within the confines of our garage. It is good to avoid the hazards of crashing into bicycles or hitting the ball up the car exhaust ! It also means that having to retrieve the ball from the huge sports hall is a novelty and adds to your steps for those who are counting.

Table tennis is also a good way to make friends. On a recent holiday in the Dolomites I teamed up with a fellow Brit for a couple of games. Being out in all weathers the table was rather spongy, or at least that was our excuse. However on the fine day that we played the views were fantastic.

If you fancy taking up the sport or refreshing long forgotten skills do contact Peter Singer [pandjsinger@btinternet.com](mailto:pandjsinger@btinternet.com) **07508 663998**



## WILD FLOWER GROUP - Report by Kate Keen

Our first walk of the month was held on the Thursday 18 May. The weather forecast for the afternoon was fine and 15 of us met at Bowlees Visitor Centre for the walk. The walk started from the car park and we spotted a number of wild flowers before even leaving this area. We walked up to the quarry where we saw lots of crosswort, marsh valerian and even a butterwort just opening up. After this, we crossed over Wynch Bridge and could see early purple orchids on the cliffs. We turned right after the bridge and saw more orchids and lots of globe flowers by the edge of the Tees. The last flower we saw was the rare alpine bistort; after this we returned to the visitor centre for refreshments.



### **A selection of wild flowers seen in Teesdale in May**

Our next walk took place on Tuesday 23 May meeting at the entrance to Deepdale Woods. 18 of us turned up on a lovely sunny afternoon. Among the interesting finds were some flowers of the avens group, we saw what were clearly water avens with their delicate peach drooping flower heads, we saw similar plants with a lemon flower and then what was clearly wood avens with a yellow erect flower head. After consulting a plant guide we found that the lemon flower is a hybrid of the other two. We were also pleased to find evidence of otters living in the area and feeding on crayfish. A full list of the plants in flower has been sent around to the group. Thanks to Anne Thompson for leading the walk.

In July we will be visiting Hayberries on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

## WALKING GROUPS



### SHORTER WALKS GROUP - Report by Jean Kipling

The weather was glorious as fifteen members of the group met at Romaldkirk for a four-mile circular walk on 22 May. We joined the Tees Valley Railway Path and soon became aware of the diversity of

wildflowers growing there. These included wood cranesbill, cowslip, cuckoo flower, greater stitchwort, Jack by the hedge, water aven, germander speedwell, forget-me-not, bugle, violet, bluebell, red campion, wild strawberry, red clover, ribwort, plantain, herb Robert, daisy, dandelion and the list goes on. Thanks to the wildflower identifier in the group most of us learnt the name of an unfamiliar flower or two (the problem is remembering them!!)



**Cowslips**

The bird cherry bushes were resplendent and the hawthorn blossom was just beginning to burst.

Leaving the railway path just before the viaduct, we walked through fields with views of woods, the river Balder and the impressive Balder Grange to our left. Passing Doe Park (a former hunting lodge) and the ruins of Balder Water Mill, we reached Balder Bridge, having learnt from another member of the group that the River Balder was appropriately named after Balder the Beautiful, the Norse God of Beauty, Peace and Light.

Turning left at the bridge we walked the short distance up the hill to Thwaite Hall and experienced Teesdale's rush hour (on the recce we only saw two vehicles!!) From Thwaite Hall we took a track along the edge of two fields and entered a wood, making our way carefully down a narrow track through the bluebells and wild garlic.

Having crossed the little bridge over Wildon Beck we made our way up the other side of the gill.

As we emerged from the wood, Woden Croft Lodge came into view. The first section of the lodge was built as an academy for boys in 1792 and more was added as the demand for places grew. The name used is another



reference to the Viking presence in Teesdale, 'Woden' being the Old English name of the Norse God, Odin, who is portrayed as the father of Balder, Thor and many other sons.

The footpath took us directly in front of the cottages and farm buildings into more fields. We noticed the marker pointing to the gateway that leads to the Fairy Cupboards, but continued on our route through more fields, passing interesting derelict buildings and enjoying the views towards Eggleston before joining a lane which brought us back to the lower green of Romaldekirk.

## 7-9 MILE WALKING GROUP - MARSKE - Report by Janet Bayles

On a beautiful, clear, sunny, warm spring day, 12 of us met at Marske near Richmond for a 7mile walk. Following footpaths and old tracks, the walk took us through woodland, pastures and across moorland to the lead mining area of the Marske Valley - a classic example of glacial meltwater channel resulting from the Stainmore Glacier. To the north the rugged beauty of the area was dominated by the limestone cliffs of Clints Scar.

After a steady moorland climb towards the highest point of the walk a brief stop in the sunshine for a cuppa was most welcome.

Having already enjoyed our stop in the sun, the group later avoided the temptation to cross Helwith Bridge to the farm café and continued walking to then stop a while and watch the antics of the stub-nosed pigs (possibly the middle white breed) in a field adjacent to the farm.

Making our way along the Marske valley, a significant landslide and numerous potholes/rabbit holes needed to be carefully negotiated. There was an abundance of yellow primroses clinging to the valley sides and of particular interest were the ruins of old mining buildings -a reminder of industrial activity in the area.



Lead mining was not as extensive here as in Arkengarthdale and Gunnerside but both mining and smelting took place around Marske. A lunch stop in the valley provided another welcome break. Before long we were descending through Clints Wood, awash with wild garlic, towards Marske. On the approach to Marske we got a glimpse, through the trees, of Marske Hall and the obelisk. Marske was an estate village, farmers being tenants of Marske Hall. Matthew Hutton (the then Archbishop of York) bought the estate in 1597. The obelisk is his burial place.

At the end of the walk, we passed by St Edmunds Church. The church was connected to the peregrination (the wanderings) of St Cuthbert whose bones rested in Marske for a time before finally being put to rest in Durham Cathedral. Slow worms (legless lizards) are regularly seen in and around Marske and we were fortunate to spot one at the church gate.

Many thanks to Kathleen for leading, in great company, a very varied and thoroughly enjoyable walk.



Forthcoming walk:

The walk on 19 July will be led by Nicky and the current plan is to start from Middleton in Teesdale and walk to Monks Moor via Hudeshope, a 7.5mile walk. Please let Nicky Grace know if you would like to come along. [nickygrace729@gmail.com](mailto:nickygrace729@gmail.com)

## FELLWALKING GROUP - Report by Annie Clouston

Bob Tuddenham led this month's walk starting at Middleton-in-Teesdale, up along the Pennine Way then over Harter Fell, where we stopped off at the Trig point (653m) and then across the moor to descend Holwick Scar, down to the south bank of the Tees by the Wynch Bridge at Low Force, and back along the well-defined path to Middleton.



Nine of us headed off from the Fountain at 10am on the most glorious of days, sunny, dry and not much wind. Walking conditions were good, no mud, easily fordable streams and the views, particularly from the Trig Point, were 360 degrees and fabulous. Lovely flowers, particularly by the river, and birdsong and curlew-mobbing characterised our progress. It was truly delightful.

We ate perched on slabs of rock at Holwick, whose precipitous descent proved a little trying for the digestion. I am always intrigued by what walkers bring to eat, the variety, the means of keeping it safe in the potential mosh-pit of a rucksack, the ritual of keeping up energy stocks when the need is great. I personally favour a really simple solution – a whacking great slab of Christmas Cake, calorie- and booze-loaded, easy to carry, easy to eat even when your hands are frozen solid, and definitely a mood-enhancer. Fell walking is the only time I allow myself (tightly disciplined in the ‘naughty but nice’ department) to enjoy the fruits of my annual October labours. This way it lasts a whole year and seems to get better as the year wears on. My companions carry an array of their personal preferences – soup, very neat precision cut and packaged sandwiches, fruit (fresh and dried), KitKats, even vacuum-packed chestnuts! Never underestimate the value of good snap.

On the subject of which, we ended our walk at the very hospitable Samuel James Deli café in Middleton, where, because the sun was still shining, we were able to sit en masse outdoors. The whole day was special, so thank you to Bob and my excellent companions.

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## JUNE ‘JUNE’ QUIZ

1. June takes its name from Juno. Of what institution was Juno the goddess?
2. The longest day of the Northern Hemisphere takes place in June. On which four calendar dates can this occur?
3. This June played alongside Terry Scott in an eponymous sixties sitcom.
4. From which Rodgers and Hammerstein musical comes the song “June is bustin’ out all over”?
5. What time is sunrise in Barnard Castle on Midsummer’s Day?
6. What takes place at Worthy Farm in June?
7. Trooping the Colour takes place on the Sovereign’s Official Birthday, but which monarch decided on it being always in June for better weather?
8. On the day of the summer solstice the sun is overhead on which line of latitude?
9. Which of Shakespeare’s plays features Quince, Snug, Bottom, Flute and Snout?
10. She played alongside James Stewart in the ‘Glenn Miller Story’.



## ANOTHER MONTH IN AMBRIDGE by Annie Clouston

I was listening the other night and it got me thinking – why is it that the cast don't mutiny? If I had some of those lines to deliver as a self-respecting actor I think I would sooner chuck myself in a bed of nettles. The scriptwriters have clearly got a hold on them – probably it's a job for life, pension kind of thing – that keeps them spouting the soap-operaisms that lead me to gasp with despair – “We need to talk”, endless unnecessary apologising for inoffensive nothings, out of character aggressive outbursts just when, quite feasibly, the listener could be nodding off, the odd completely anodyne non-political criticism of farming subsidies.

Anyway, if you are reading this, which I doubt, you will be expecting an update so that if you care at all about the Archers you won't have to do catch-up on iPlayer. Salient events include the growing threat from evil-doer, Rob Titchener, who despite the choleric and cardiac-arrest threatening endeavours of Tony Archer (erstwhile father-in-law), seems to have many episodes of behind-the-scenes intimidation left in him. Will he get visiting rights? Will he attempt another kidnapping? For goodness sake, what are the Family Courts thinking of?

Then there is the continuing rise, by wholly corrupt means, of George Grundy. Clearly no-one at Berrow Farm has ever done an Equal Opportunities recruitment course. George is in a unholy alliance with that dastardly Martin Gibson. I am beginning to wonder if there's a touch of the *This Morning* going on... Hostilities between the tiger mother and grandmother, Tracy Horrobin, mother of Brad the Dafty, and Susan Carter grandmother of George the Crafty, over the Grey Gables Bench Affair have been temporarily suspended. This has enabled Susan to organise Tracy's Hen Night. It promises to be a riotous affair that will no doubt involve all the soap-operaisms referred to earlier.

And in other news? Sorry, there doesn't seem to be any. So there it is – another month in the Archers and what have we got? Intimidation, treachery, employment law violations, family ructions and the usual ebb and flow of characters. Perhaps that's why there is no mutiny – the cast know the scriptwriters have the ultimate power!

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### QUIZ ANSWERS

- |    |                               |     |                           |
|----|-------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| 1. | Marriage.                     | 6.  | Glastonbury Festival      |
| 2. | 20th 21st, 22nd or 23rd June. | 7.  | Edward VII                |
| 3. | June Whifflefield             | 8.  | 23.4°N, Topic of Cancer   |
| 4. | Carousel                      | 9.  | A Midsummer Night's Dream |
| 5. | 04:31                         | 10. | June Allyson              |

Group	Meeting Time	Contact details
Art Appreciation	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed pm	Tony Seward 01833 630050
Automotive	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday am	Peter Colley 01833 695197
Birdwatching	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday am	Andrew Lapworth 07962 038052
Board Games	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday pm	Hazel McCallum 01833 316484
Book Group 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon pm	Maggie Cleminson 01833 640801
Book Group Room to Read	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed pm	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Climate Solutions	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs am	Kate Bailey 07867 683195
Discussion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri am	Glen Howard 01833 631639
French Conversation	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs pm	Stella Kirton 01388 488919
Gardening	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri pm	Julie Archer 07774 903377 01833 637576
Genealogy	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs pm	Alan Swindale 01388 488348
Geography	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 2pm	Gerald Blake 01833 650899
Geology	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon am	Bob Tuddenham 07812 378004
Historic Environment	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs 10am	Tim Meacham 07847 182554
iPad & iPhone	4 <sup>th</sup> Fri 1.30pm	Mike Sweeting 01833 630005
Italian Conversation	Every Wed am	Marie Jenkins 07754 205664
Lunch Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed noon	Jane Mathieson 01388 710741
Needlecraft	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon pm	Glen Howard 01833 631639
Painting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri 10am	Val Hobbs 07900 497503
Philosophy	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 10am	Ruth Sansom 01325 401850
Photography	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	Jane Mathieson 01388 710741

Group	Meeting Time	Contact details
Poetry	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed am	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Science and Technology	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon am	Roy Tranter 01833 638288
Scrabble	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon pm	Lilian Smith 01833 650628
Spanish Conversation	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 10am	Michael Harris 07799 051389
Table Tennis	Every Friday 3pm	Peter Singer 07508 663998
Theatre	Varies	Elizabeth Formstone 07979 204212
Travel and Day trips		Jane Mathieson 01388 710741
Understanding Classical Music	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday 10am	Bill Heyes 01833 640885
Wildflower Group	2nd Wed 2pm	Kate Keen 07880 741151
Wine Group	3rd Tues pm	Tim Meacham 07847 182554
<b>Walking Groups</b>		
Shorter walks 3-4 miles	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday pm	Sue Overton 07512 368884
Walking 4-6 miles	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 10am	Gillian Barnes-Morris 07941 852165
Walking 7-9 miles	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 10am	Nicky Grace <a href="mailto:nickygrace729@gmail.com">nickygrace729@gmail.com</a>
Fell Walking	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Annie Clouston 01833 637091

Most meetings are held in or near Barnard Castle though Photography and 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

## Coming up at your Community Arts Centre

<b>Thur 22 June</b> 7.00pm	<b>FILM – TAR (15)</b> Set in the international world of classical music, starring Cate Blanchett. Shown with subtitles.
<b>Fri 23 June</b> 7.30pm	<b>POP ROCK– The Blow Monkeys</b> Celebrating 40 years with the original 80s band.
<b>Sat 24 June</b> 7.00pm	<b>FUNDRAISER– The Community Orchestra: Summer Sizzler Concert II</b> Music from the shows, light classics, pop, standards and novelty numbers. With guests, Green Lane CE School Choir.
<b>Sat 1 July</b> 7.30pm	<b>TRIBUTE– The Carpenters Experience</b> The UK’s leading Carpenters show, featuring eight top class musicians.
<b>Thurs 6 July</b> 7.30pm	<b>MUSIC – Rob Heron &amp; The Tea Pad Orchestra</b> A signature blend of classic country, rhythm, and blues, with room for dancing.
<b>Sat 15 July</b> 7.30pm	<b>DANCE – 90s Disco Night</b> Fundraiser for The Witham with DJ Andrew Nicholson.
<b>Thurs 20 July</b> 7.00pm	<b>THEATRE – Turrets Youth Theatre Juniors: Dexter and Winter’s Detective Agency</b>
<b>Tues 25 July</b> 11.00am & 2.00pm	<b>FAMILY – The Tortoise &amp; The Hare: A Suitcase Story</b> A relaxed and interactive story for under 6s and grownups – with live music and puppetry.
<b>Wed 26 July</b> 8.00pm	<b>COMEDY – Scott Bennett: Work in Progress (14+)</b>
<b>Thurs 27 July</b> 7.00pm	<b>FILM – Allelujah (12A)</b> Starring David Bradley, Judi Dench and Jennifer Saunders. Shown with subtitles.
<b>Sat 29 July</b> From 5.00pm	<b>COMEDY – Edinburgh Previews – 4 shows</b> Up and coming stars of the UK comedy scene present their new shows ahead of the Edinburgh Festival and UK tours.