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SEIZE THE DAY

FORUM

OCTOBER 2023
No. 23/09

u3a

Chair's letter, October 2023

Dear members

Teesdale u3a is a member of The Third Age Trust (TAT - an unfortunate acronym) although we are not a branch and generally deal with our own affairs. We are required to pay TAT, a capitation fee which enables us to obtain general advice and support, particularly insurance cover for members undertaking u3a activities, subject to appropriate risk assessments.

TAT holds an AGM each year with resolutions that we are able to vote on. Details of these can be found on the TAT website. There are 2 resolutions that we have been asked to vote on at the next AGM.

In summary, the first asks that TAT considers a mechanism to give greater status and input to smaller organisations like ours. On your behalf the Committee will vote in favour of this. The second requests that TAT adopts a national strategy to increase membership to at least 500,000 (currently less than 400,000) by the end of 2028 and to undertake promotional activities to enable this goal to be reached. There is no detail as to how this will be implemented and we are concerned that this could lead to increased central staffing and administrative costs which will be funded by increased capitation fees.

We are already successfully recruiting new members. We will vote against this resolution. Currently our membership fee is £20 and our aim is to keep it as low as possible.

If any Teesdale u3a members have views or comments on this or any other matters, then please pass them on to a Committee member.

Ian Reid

INBETWEENERS

Thursday 9 November at 2.30

The Witham Room, The Witham

**An information giving, awareness raising session on
FRAUD and how to protect yourself from CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

Presented by

**Andy Hampson, a police officer from the
Regional Engagement Team**

Cover photograph by Pete Redgrave: Autumn in the Dale

It's Your Forum

Editors: Annie Clouston, Celia Chapple, Ian Royston and Kate Bailey

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All editors receive all contributions and share the email account.

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 7 November 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 or in The Witham shop.

www.teesdaleu3a.org

TEESDALE u3a Officers

Chair: Ian Reid chair@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Tim Meacham memsec@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Business Secretary: Liz Colley bissec@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Treasurer: Hazel McCallum treasurer@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

MEETINGS 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 AT THE WITHAM

Thursday 23 November Behind the Scenes as an RHS judge

Join Martin Fish for a light hearted but informative talk on his role as an RHS Senior judge. Martin has been judging for over 15 years and can be seen at most of the major flower shows across the country with his clipboard in hand!

In this PowerPoint presentation Martin takes you behind the scenes of the flower shows giving you an idea of how a show is set up and how the nursery exhibitors build their fabulous stands. Martin gives some inside information on how the RHS prestigious 'Gold' award is given and what the judges are looking for from the growers.

Over the years Martin has been fortunate to meet many of the celebrities who attend the shows on Press day as well as being allowed to stay in for the Royal visit at Chelsea and he'll end his talk with a few anecdotes about some of them!

U3a CHRISTMAS BASH Friday 1 December at Headlam Hall

**COME AND CELEBRATE A GRAND YEAR WITH US
A two course lunch with welcome drink and coffee and mince pies**

And

TIM'S QUIZ

Cost: £34

Details and how to book can be found on the website, at the monthly meeting and by emailing Hazel McCallum our treasurer

treasurer@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

THEATRE BY THE LAKE

The Little Princess

Saturday 9th December 2023

I have reserved 30 seats for the 2pm matinee. The cost for each theatre seat will be £26.50 p/p and coach (Maude's) £12.00 p/p.

Please let me know by email if you would like places reserved dianamarks813@gmail.com or by calling **07762 626912** or **01833 630469**

I look forward to hearing from you, Diana Marks

THE SAGE, GATESHEAD

Classical Concert

Friday 16th February 2024 at 7.30 pm

Royal Northern Sinfonia Orchestra

Schumann. Symphony in G minor
Clara Wieck Schumann. Piano Concerto
Beethoven. Symphony No 3. Eroica

Dinis Sousa, conductor
Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano

26 seats in Level 2A 3rd row @ £38 70 p/p & coach @ £15 p/p
Cheques totalling £53.70 to Teesdale u3a

Meet Maude's coach at Addisons, Galgate at 5 45pm.

Please send cheque and contact details to:
Elizabeth Formstone, Bridge House, Piercebridge DL2 3SG

Reply to:

elizabeth.formstone6@gmail.com

Closing Date: October 30th 2023

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING : Keith Offord

Have you ever wondered how birds become airborne? Keith Offord, the speaker at the September meeting of u3a, explained how it was done. Basically, birds use air pressure to create lift, just as airplanes do.

Keith explained how birds have evolved from pre-Jurassic reptiles. The proof of this is obtained from fossils of the Jurassic period, 50 million years old. Over a long period, scales were replaced by feathers, which provided insulation so birds could retain their own body temperature. A bird's flight capabilities are determined by its wing loading, defined by relating the mass of a bird to the upper wing area.

Keith went on to describe particular birds which have developed different specialist capabilities. Although ostriches are now flightless, they can run at speeds of up to 50 mph. Vultures, found in hot countries, use thermals to fly and have little need to flap their wings. Many birds need waterproof feathers. Some can produce oil from specialist glands, whereas others need to spread out their wings whilst on land in order to dry. Swifts remain in the air at all times except when nesting and laying eggs. Many wader birds fly in flocks and starlings produce 'murmurations'. The reasons for this behaviour are open to speculation. Some birds have perfected their flight to the extent that they can hover with their heads stationary, e.g. humming birds and kestrels.

Bird migration is one of the wonders of the natural world. About half of the UK's bird species migrate each year, some taking short journeys, others travelling thousands of miles. Arctic Terns make a round trip of about 22,000 miles each year and one has been identified as 30 years old, having travelled nearly 700,000 miles in its lifetime. Also, it appears that bird migratory behaviour is genetic rather than learnt.

This was an excellent presentation with stunning photographs and delivered with humour and enthusiasm.



A Brown Pelican

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Saturday 11 November

Vegetarian Cookery

Leader:- Annie Clouston

11am - 2pm at Kirkby House, Thorngate, Barnard Castle

Cost: £10 includes lunch with wine

Contact: Annie Clouston - annie@cloustons.uk

Saturday 2 December

Co Crafty at Christmas—an interactive workshop pooling ideas, skills and inspiration.

There will be mulled wine!

Leader:- Hazel Yeadon

10am - 12noon at Boldron Village Hall

Cost: £5 includes refreshments

Contact: Hazel Yeadon - hazelyeadon@hotmail.com

Saturday 6 January 2024

Ann Lee: How to use a sketchbook (to fill in boring winter evenings)

Convenor: Hazel Yeadon

10-12am Guide HQ, Birch Road Barnard Castle

Cost £5, bring A4 or A5 Sketchbook and pens, pencils or any preferred drawing implement.

FEBRUARY—to be confirmed

Saturday 9 March 2024

The Great Teesdale Sewing Bee Transformation Challenge

Come and be playful with a range of materials to create a mystery (at least before you arrive) garment.

Convenor: Annie Clouston

10-12 Boldron Village Hall

Cost £5. Bring Sewing machines, sewing equipment, bits and bobs for decorative purposes (over the top preferred).

Contact—Annie annie@cloustons.uk

Any ideas you have for activities you want to explore will be gratefully received by the Workshop Group: Please contact Annie Clouston, Hazel Yeadon, Sue Overton or Hilary Dunnighan. No idea too left-field to be considered!

ART APPRECIATION GROUP—Report by Tony Seward

For our September meeting Professor Kloss introduced us to three painters active in Paris in the 1880s: Edouard Manet, Georges Seurat, and John Singer Sargent.

Close analysis of Manet's groundbreaking 'A Bar at the Folies Bergère' (1882), from the Courtauld Institute, revealed subtleties in composition and perspective that few of us had noticed before, even though the painting is so familiar – especially the way in which most of the scene is in fact a reflection in the mirror behind the barmaid.

Seurat, who was only 31 when he died, pioneered the technique of pointillism, building up colour and shading through clusters of small dots of carefully contrasted colours, so perhaps taking the first steps towards modernist abstraction. 'A Sunday Afternoon on La Grande Jatte' (1884), from the Art Institute of Chicago, depicts Parisians from a variety of classes strolling on an island in the Seine. It has an oddly stiff, formal air, partly influenced by his study of Egyptian art, and is probably the only famous painting that has inspired a musical: Stephen Sondheim's 'Sunday in the Park with George', 1983.

Sargent's 'The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit' (1882), from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, is not well known in Britain as it has never been exhibited here. It is, however, regarded by the Americans as his masterpiece. Clearly inspired by Velasquez' 'Las Meninas' it portrays the four girls, ranging from a toddler on the carpet to a teenager leaning in profile against one of two massive Oriental vases. The painting's grand scale, its sombre tones and mysterious depths, plus the apparent lack of communication between the girls, draw the viewer into an experience that is rich and strange. After the break we explored this great painting further, with a lecture from Sargent expert Erica Hirshler describing how it came to be painted, and leading on to some of Sargent's other major portraits and the great success he achieved after moving from Paris to London.



Next up – Wednesday 1st November. 'Living and Dying – Bruegel, El Greco, Caravaggio'.



Edouard Manet's *A bar at the Folies Bergère*



George Seurat's *A Sunday Afternoon on La Grand Jatte*

BIRDWATCHING GROUP – Report by Andrew Lapworth RAINTON MEADOWS

Rainton Meadows, between Durham and Sunderland, is Durham Wildlife Trust's HQ and major nature reserve with a lovely little cafe and visitor centre. It was created when Rye Hill Opencast coal mine was restored in the late 1990s. It's an unlikely setting for "meadows" as it is on the edge of a large industrial park that you drive through to get there. However, when you walk around its grasslands, reedbeds, woods and large ponds you realise what a superb haven for wildlife has been created; "*if you build it, nature will come*".

Five of us had a splendid morning there, despite the prospect of heavy showers; we were in the main hides when we did have a downpour. The large ponds held all the usual suspects: Mute Swans, Canada and Greylag Geese, Great-crested and Little Grebes, Mallard, Tufted Duck and Gadwall, Coots and Moorhens. There was a large roving flock of Goldfinches feeding on the seed heads in the meadows. Of the waders, Lapwings and Golden Plover were conspicuous by their absence, however we did find a couple of roosting Common Snipe. But we were treated to two more unusual and rarer species which we viewed from the hide: a **juvenile Knot** (a small wader) and a fantastic **Great White Egret**.



Knots (now officially called Red Knot) are seen in their many thousands on muddy estuaries in the Autumn and Winter around the UK; their huge flocks are one on nature's spectacles. An inland sighting of this bird, newly returned from above the Arctic Circle, was exceptional for Rainton, and we were able to study it through the 'scopes. No 'scopes were needed for the Heron-sized Great White Egret, but we used them to see the detail around its eye and large dagger-like bill, as it successfully caught numerous small fish.

We enjoyed a well-earned lunch in the cafe. Before leaving, some of us went up to the feeding station and we soon managed to see the rare **Willow Tits** (very similar to our local Marsh Tits). Rainton is holding on to a good local population of them.

Photo: Great White Egret at Rainton Meadows; photo by Andrew Lapworth

ROOM TO READ BOOK GROUP - Report by Sue Neill

The book we discussed in our September meeting was *Three Hours*, the fourth book written by Rosamund Lupton. This book concerns the siege of a school by armed gunmen, and we agreed that the suspense is such that it is best read in one go, if not in the three hours of the title. As part of her research for the book, Rosamund investigated books and interviews relating to the Columbine school siege and the narrative would suggest that she was particularly influenced by the testimony of the mother of one of the perpetrators of this massacre as she chronicles her son's teenage years.

Some of us inevitably reflected on what our own response would have been, had we been teaching in a school faced with this horrendous scenario or indeed related to one of the perpetrators..

This novel is not just a suspenseful page turner, however, as it also contains themes of extremism fed and sustained by the global mass media, radicalisation and the on line 'dark web', 'influencers' and the plight of asylum seekers enduring unimaginable horrors in their bid to cross Europe. Some of us felt that the book was perhaps over ambitious as it attempted to weave together all these strands, but overall our response to the book was positive, and we had a lively discussion veering into a consideration of how some current influencers with a huge on line following can be so powerful in affecting beliefs, perhaps particularly amongst young people, who may not balance what they see on line with a knowledge of facts from other sources.

We rated it 4.5 as a book for discussion by a book group, and 4 for recommendation to a friend.

Future meetings:

Wednesday 15 November *Without Warning and Only Sometimes*
by Kit de Waal

Wednesday 13 December **Poetry and Room to Read Groups combined
end of year special featuring favourites of the year**

Wednesday 17 January *The Lost Daughter* by Elena Ferrante

Wednesday 21 February **Members are bringing books that have
significant impact on them**

All meetings start at 10.30 and are held in Annie's house. For further information contact annie@cloustons.uk

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS - Report by Kate Bailey

Coincidentally our group met just after the 300 year old 'Sycamore Gap' tree had been felled, in what Northumbria Police have called "*a deliberate act of vandalism*". An outpouring of outrage and grief has come from people all over the planet. On the same day, the '2023 State of Nature' report stated that "*the UK is currently classified as one of the world's most nature-depleted countries*". "*Evidence from the last 50 years shows that intensive farming and the continuing effects of climate change are the two biggest drivers of nature loss.*" These news items led us to consider the distressing lack of respect of humans for the natural world and also the indifference that most of us in Teesdale display towards the current reality of mass extinctions.

Our group had previously decided that our main topic for discussion would be around farming practices, past and present. Government statistics (June 2023) state that the "*utilised agricultural area accounts for 68% of the total area of England.*" A 2019 book by researcher Guy Shrubsole estimates that 65% of the land in the UK is owned by 0.36% of the population and that the rest of us have "open access" to only 10% of the total area.

We are aware that, over many generations, farmers have been driven by the demands of governments and supermarkets to produce cheap food. In intensively managed monoculture fields herbicides and pesticides are used to control the 'unwanted' plants and insects that provide breeding and foraging habitats for small animals and birds. Reliance on oil-based fertilisers and other agro-chemicals that have dramatically increased crop yields has resulted in huge damage to wildlife and to our soils.

"*The UK is 30-40 years away from 'eradication of soil fertility', warns Gove*" was a headline in 2017. But since we left the Common Agricultural Policy in 2020 many of the environmental gains that the EU funded, for example 'set-aside' land, uncultivated field margins and 'Beetle Banks' and the valuable habitats that they hosted, have been eradicated.

Always looking to discuss positive ways that u3a members can help to undo some the damage that humans have caused, and are continuing to cause, to the global systems that make Earth habitable for our species, we talked about the growing importance of 'regenerative farming practices'. These seek to improve the health of depleted soils and thus the nutritional value of seasonal crops.

Measures involve mixing crop rotations with livestock production, 'no-dig' cultivation to reduce soil erosion and keep carbon in the ground, minimising herbicide, pesticide and antibiotic use, replanting hedgerows and managing field margins to increase species diversity and improve water quality in rivers and streams. We concluded that we can take

positive steps to support farmers like these by choosing to shop locally, in farm shops and outlets that sell local produce where we can, by buying fewer imported food products and avoiding plastic packaging, and by growing where we have space, and eating, seasonal fresh food. Hopefully we'll become happier and healthier !



Sycamore Gap tree photo Rob Cowen



Sycamore Gap tree felled. Screenshot from Sky News website

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD GROUP - Report by Sue Overton

A lot of group members were away on holiday this month so it was left to only eight of us to work out the solutions to a list of sandwich/container clues. I hope those of you who received the latest clues made a good attempt to solve them – assuming you took them with you on holiday!

Is it just me, or are the clues getting more difficult each time we meet! It certainly helped to work together as a whole group and we'd solved all of them prior to the refreshment break.

Those of you reading this in the Forum or on the website might like to try a couple:

Quantity of electricity or power brought into Channel Island (5)

Terrible rip in chair? I see what you're saying! (3,6)

(Contact me for answers.)

For the second part of the afternoon, we worked in pairs on the Times quick cryptic crossword brought by Tim (thanks Tim) before completing it as a whole group. We're definitely getting better at these.....I can feel the old grey matter sparking into life if only for a brief moment!

There are a variety of crosswords available online including ones with just anagram clues ... a quick search produces all sorts of options.

If you would like to join us contact Sue Overton on **07512 368884** or email: sueoverton@hotmail.com

GENEALOGY - Report by Alan Swindale

Pam Taylor's talk "***Ancestry in Concert - how Ancestry works and how to use it to build a tree (but diverting to other sources when it is easier or faster to find the info needed)***" generated so much interest and questions from the group that she was unable to complete her talk.

Consequently, Pam will be continuing the subject in November's meeting on Thursday 3rd November at 2 p.m. at Enterprise House.

So far Pam has shown how using Ancestry's Family Tree Builder not only efficiently builds a family tree but also documents the sources used to create the tree. Next month she will be exploring beyond Ancestry to discover additional information and then add it back into their Ancestry family tree.

Genealogy Group Closure

Very regrettably there will be no meetings of the Family History Group in January and subsequent months due to the ill-health of the current convenor UNLESS someone steps forward to organise subsequent meetings. They do not need to be a family history guru; there is plenty of material online to provide the educational element. However, someone is needed to select the online material, collect the attendance fees and pay the room hire. Writing a monthly report such as this one is a desirable extra. These tasks can be shared between individuals. If anyone feels they can contribute, please contact me.

GEOGRAPHY - Report by Jane Harrison

In September, the Geography Group held a joint meeting with Probus, at the Barnard Castle Cricket Club when Gerald Blake spoke about “the History and Geography of Durham Regatta”. Gerald has had a close connection with the regatta having coached Durham University crews for many years.

Durham regatta will be 191 years old in 2024. Celebrations to commemorate the victory at Waterloo had been held on the river since 1815. Durham University began in 1833 and in 1834 the first regatta was grafted on to the Waterloo festivities. Professional oarsmen competed for cash prizes, while the gentlemen amateurs competed for silver medals (as shown over the page).

Racing in rowing boats was commonplace for centuries among the professional watermen working on the rivers of England. The watermen sustained the economic life of towns and cities on rivers. By the 17th century there were tens of thousands of them, notably on the Thames and Tyne. Boat-building and oar-making thrived to serve the watermen. Harry Clasper on the Tyne was the most innovative boat builder of his day and he competed frequently at Durham regatta.

During the 19th century amateur sports of all kinds took off in England and scores of clubhouses, pavilions and boathouses sprang up across the country. Amateur rowing developed rapidly from the late eighteenth century as Oxbridge colleges and Thames side schools took it up. The first Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race was in 1829.

Durham regatta flourished throughout the 19th century, with more clubs competing and the railways bringing large crowds of spectators from far and wide. In the 20th century the regatta continued to increase in popularity although there were no regattas between 1914 and 1918. Gerald told the moving story of the Bede College crew who won the Grand Challenge Cup in 1910, four of whom were on Gravenstafel Ridge on April 25 1915 when the Bede Company of the DLI suffered grievous losses.

The introduction of women's events in 1946 brought new life to the regatta and a fresh wave of enthusiastic competitors. Today's regatta is a logistical miracle, with races starting roughly every three minutes, all day long for two days. In 2023 there were 10,000 visitors and 1,400 competitors from 50 clubs, almost half of which are based on the Wear in Durham.



Next meeting: Thursday 16th November, at 2.10pm, in the Witham. This will be a “Geography Smorgasbord” of members’ contributions.

GEOLOGY - Report by Bob Tuddenham

We had a very interesting and varied meeting at the Witham in September to start the autumn season.

Les Knight gave us a superb talk on ‘Asteroid Impacts’. He explained how we think asteroids form and the three types with different compositions. We are not able to see evidence of the vast number of impacts on Earth through history because the impact craters are removed over geological time by erosion and tectonic changes. This explains why the surface of the moon is covered in craters. Probably the most well-known asteroid impact was the huge Chicxulub impact at the end of the Cretaceous period some 66 million years ago that triggered the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction with the loss of 75% of all plant and animal species and the end of all non-avian dinosaurs. Understandably there is ongoing concern about when the next big asteroid will hit the Earth and whether we can do anything to prevent this happening!

After the interval, David Saville gave the second presentation on igneous rocks as part of his excellent series of talks on ‘Introduction to Geology’. He explained the formation of mafic and felsic igneous rocks and how their properties differ as a result of their different mineral composition. A most useful ‘Igneous Rocks’ summary sheet was sent out after the talk.

Trevor Morse had also brought his fossil box to the meeting and we were able to look at the various specimens, many of which can be found in the North Pennines.

Our next meeting is at The Witham on Monday morning October 23rd at 10 am. All are welcome.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT - Report by Tim Meacham

At our September meeting we thoroughly enjoyed a talk with a difference from our member Jon Price who transported us back to the world of Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire, in the early to mid 19th century.

Jon's focus was on a pair of local brothers, Elisha, a hat-maker born in 1807 and John Sinkler born in 1811, a clock-maker by trade. As they grew up, both turned their talents to poaching for which they were convicted but failed to pay their fines. Jon gave us an insight into the workings of the law at that time: in 1831 Elisha had already spent time on remand in Ripon jail but was found not guilty and released. Apparently unconcerned by this warning he and John continued their poaching and badly beat an assistant gamekeeper who tried to arrest them when he caught them in the act. As a result four police officers based in Ripon were sent to Pateley Bridge to arrest Elisha, the prime mover in the assault. Despite meeting strong resistance the officers eventually restrained Elisha and started to remove him before John and a friend intervened, seriously harming the two senior officers and freeing Elisha. A reward was offered and Elisha was later arrested, tried and condemned to death. This was commuted to transportation for life after an appeal from many local dignitaries (Elisha seems to have suffered from mental problems possibly resulting from mercury poisoning which was common among hatters).

Following a chequered career during ten years in Australia Elisha absconded and by 1842 had somehow returned to Pateley Bridge! Meanwhile brother John was still living there despite there being a hefty reward on his head. Rather than keeping a low profile, the two continued their criminal and violent ways, again injuring an officer sent to arrest them. Six months later Elisha was again arrested, receiving a good beating. Found guilty of returning from transportation he was again transported, this time to Norfolk Island. In 1844 he was joined there by brother John, at long last brought to justice. In 1853 John was released for good behaviour and returned home, followed by Elisha three years later. Back in Pateley Bridge they resumed their lives of crime, were arrested but got away with it yet again! Elisha died in 1874 aged 67, while John lived on as a local legend until he died aged 87.

Many thanks to Jon for his fascinating tale, well-supported by contemporary reports and illustrations. Jon brought to life the social norms and contradictions in this small corner of 19th century Yorkshire exemplified by these brothers who led charmed lives while the law seemed unable to restrain them.

LUNCH GROUP - Report by Hazel McCallum

Nine of us met at the Forresters in Middleton-in-Teesdale. The restaurant is bright and airy with a French ambience. Popular main course choices were beef bourguignon, chicken fricassee with other selections including guinea fowl, croque monsieur and Chinese chicken. The food was extremely tasty and appreciated by all. Four of us moved on to puddings, all picking the Eton Mess which again was pronounced highly satisfactory.

The next meeting is at The Fox Hole on 15th November and new members

PHILOSOPHY - Respect Pete Redgrave

At the September meeting of the Philosophy Special Interest Group I gave a presentation on the concept of 'respect'. The choice of topic was motivated by some deeply unsatisfactory discussions I've had over the years with conspiracy theorists. Typically, they ended something like this.... "I 'respect' unreservedly your right to hold that opinion, despite thinking that your reasons for holding it are rubbish. Moreover, in the absence of any good quality evidence supporting your view, it means I don't have to take what you say seriously." Such discussions were never destined to have a good outcome. But how can one talk productively with someone who thinks the earth is flat, the moon landings were a hoax, MMR vaccine causes autism, Biden stole the 2020 election, Brexit has been an economic success, and human activity has had no effect on climate?

One place to start is to consider why denying the obvious is so prevalent. Here are some reasons In an uncertain world, simple explanations for complex problems give a comforting sense of understanding (e.g. MMR vaccine as the cause of autism). Special knowledge from the guy on the internet that it was a CIA plot that downed the twin towers on 9/11 2001, gives the conspiracy theorist a superior sense of knowing something important the rest of us don't. If natural variation, not humans, is to blame for climate change, it means I can keep driving my gas-guzzler. For people populating conspiracy chat rooms a sense of community and belonging is provided that is often unavailable elsewhere. If social media is your only source of news, and the algorithms ensure you only get more of what you like, you receive an increasingly limited range of news items, while thinking you're well informed...with the truth.

Finally, a lack of basic thinking skills confers vulnerability to non-evidence-based opinions. For example, failure to appreciate that correlation does not necessarily imply causation, and something we are all susceptible to...confirmation bias – seeking out or taking note of information supporting our views and suppressing or ignoring anything running contrary.

So how can one have a civilised discussion with conspiracists? Remain calm and respectful without using inflammatory or belittling language. Listen carefully, and ask questions, rather than simply present counter evidence. “Tell me, when you say the earth is flat, what exactly do you mean by flat?” “When you say MMR causes autism are you making the assumption that because vaccination and diagnosis occur at approximately the same age, one is causing the other?” “What testable predictions are made by your view that the world is flat?” “If human activity has no effect on climate change, do you think hundreds of scientists in different countries are all making up their results and collaborating to tell a different story?”

Many of the arguments with conspiracy theorists come down to differences of opinion over the quality of evidence. Generally, good evidence comes from peer-reviewed science, accredited reporters, and acknowledged experts. An arm-chair expert in a chat room on the internet is less likely to provide relevant, valid, or reliable information.

However, at the end of the road there is always the nuclear question: “Can you think of anything that would change your mind?” If the answer is no, then perhaps it’s time to talk about how Newcastle United beat Sheffield United 8-0.

To conclude, we considered with a lively and spirited discussion how far the cultural customs and practices of different societies should be respected? Patriotic respect – ‘my country right or wrong’, or the authority of the Royals? Respect for the ‘Institution’ – the Law, the NHS, even in instances when they are manifestly flawed? Lastly, there was the question of respecting personal privacy – identity cards, security cameras, digital privacy? We ended by thinking any one of these issues could serve as a discussion topic in future meetings.

As that great contemporary philosopher, Alexei Sayle philosophised:

I’m pink, therefore I’m Spam

PHOTOGRAPHY - Report by Alan Kenwright

On 3 October eight members of the photography group journeyed to the border of Stockton and Middlesbrough to visit the International White Water Centre at the Tees Barrage. Despite it being relatively late in the year we were lucky to have beautiful blue skies and mild weather. Although there was no White Water activity on the day we visited (so no “action pics”!) there were plenty of photo opportunities, both at the barrage itself and with the significant amount of wildlife in the immediate area, which included cormorants and a few seals.



There was also the opportunity to stroll up the banks of the river Tees, some of us even making it as far as the “Infinity Bridge” on the outskirts of Stockton, whose innovative design lent itself to some interesting compositions.

After lunch, a group of six moved on to visit the Tees Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough. Although access to the magnificent Victorian structure is currently restricted due to safety concerns, it still provided a stunning backdrop in the brilliant afternoon sun. Overall, another great day out in excellent company.



POETRY GROUP - Report by Peter Lind-Jackson Theme 'EXILE'

Men Only!

Not, be it said, because of an outbreak of sexism, but because all our female members, for various reasons, 'exiled' themselves. So only five of us were at Startforth Community Centre.

In the absence of our Convenor Annie, disporting herself in Croatia, Robert took the chair with aplomb, and a wide range of verse was presented.

Annie left us a gift from the incomparable William Topaz McGonagall, 'Bill Bowls the Sailor', telling of a youth pressed into service in the Napoleonic Wars, who, slightly wounded himself, watched as his beloved commander, struck by a ball, 'fell dead with a groan', as a result of which

'Because, for the loss of Captain Ward, the men felt woebegone,
Because in bravery, they said, he was next to Admiral Nelson'!

Mike found an unusual and challenging poem 'Refugees' by Brian Bilston, which on first reading from top to bottom is a right-wing rant against unwanted foreigners, but, read the other way up, is totally the opposite! (worth a Google, that one).

'Before Exile' by Louise Mack, an Australian poet, lamenting her departure from her homeland to England in 1901, apparently for ever, was Roger's choice. (She actually returned home after fifteen years).

'Exile' by Julia Alvarez, came from Robert, a moving account of her childhood flight from the Dominican Republic to New York with her family, with all that meant of fear and apprehension for a six-year-old.

Terry had two of Thomas Hardy's poems, 'Drummer Hodge', an anti-war comment on the Boer War leaving a simple young country lad dead in a strange land 'Yet portion of that unknown plain will Hodge for ever be', and 'The Ruined Maid' siding, against moralistic Society, with a woman who chose comfort over chastity!

Peter brought a Victorian Romantic musing by Mary Coleridge (great niece of Samuel), about a Roman legionary posted to Germany, longing for home.

All in all, an instructive, improving and enjoyable morning.

On 8th November our theme will be Joy, after an emotionally gruelling but beautiful set of poems on **Loss** in October, we all felt the need...

WALKING GROUPS

4 - 6 MILE WALKING GROUP - Report by Patrick Neill Hudeshope and Coldberry Mine



The group at Hudeshope - All photos by Ian Royston

The 4 - 6 mile walkers met at the fountain in Middleton-in-Teesdale for a 6-mile circular walk around Hudeshope with clear weather affording fine views.

For the intrepid 14 of us, we set off up the hill turning left onto the single track Beck Road following the Hudeshope Beck through the woodland until the valley starts to narrow to a gorge ahead. At this point, we turned left following the steps up a steep hill taking us out of the woodland and into fields above the tree line. Here we had spectacular views of Hudeshope Valley whilst we got our breath back, before following the path across several fields to Club Gill Farm - again there were fabulous views looking back over Teesdale and Kirkcarrion. It was at this point we met a woman walking her dog with a map; as she was uncertain of the way, she joined the group so 14 started and 15 finished!

We then proceeded to Coldberry Mine, which was in use to about 1950, for a



much earned coffee break. It was disappointing to see that several windows and door had been vandalised. Having recovered from our exertions to the highest part of the walk at 1283 feet we zig-zagged down to the road and took the signed footpath to the right. Given all the recent rain, crossing several becks might have been problematic, but fortunately the couple of dry days made them much easier to negotiate. We then followed an easy grass track passing abandoned mine-working buildings and spoil heaps, across several fields, and taking the footpath down into woodland high above the beck, passing Skears Quarry and Parker's Lime Kilns, as we joined Beck Road.

We then followed the road towards Middleton passing Horseshoe Falls in full spate after the heavy rain; here we were entertained by some youngsters water canyoning. From there we crossed a green metal bridge to complete the walk back to the starting point.



7-9 MILES WALKING GROUP

There was no walk in September, but here are the notices for the On November 15th the walk will be led by David from Wolsingham to Elephant Trees, returning via White Kirkley and River Wear.

This is a walk of just under 9 miles. Please let Nicky know if you would like to come along nickygrace729@gmail.com

There will be no 7 -9 mile walk on 20 December

SHORTER WALKS GROUP - Report by Godfrey and Lynda Irving

The group met at the corner of the Demesnes and Gray Lane for an approx.



**Group at Egglestone Abbey -
photo by Ian Royston**

3.5 mile circular walk along the banks of the River Tees, crossing Abbey Bridge and passing by Egglestone Abbey.

On our return along the opposite side of the river, we crossed farmers' fields and continued through the caravan site back down to the river and crossed Green Bridge to our start point.

16 members of the group took part and although the weather was breezy at the start, it proved to be a bright autumnal day with good conditions underfoot. Autumn colours were seen along with various wildlife including Red Admiral butterflies, a low flying buzzard being mobbed by crows and a

dipper on rocks in the river. Also spotted were a Goosander, mallard ducks and an Egret flying swiftly up the river.

Good walking conditions with lack of rain, mild temperature, beautiful scenery and good company made this a most enjoyable afternoon's activity.

If you would like to join our group, contact Sue Overton **07512 368884** or email: sueoverton@hotmail.com

FELLWALKING - Report by Annie Clouston

There seems to be a curse on Cross Fell, at least as far as our walkers are concerned. For the second time we planned to get up there, see the sights and eat a pleasant picnic and then merrily return with a glow of satisfaction –

JOB DONE! But no, Storm Agnes had very different plans for us, i.e. slog up there in a force 8, shrouded in mist, eat a soggy and disconsolate bit of snap, and return thoroughly drenched and wiped out. NO THANK YOU!

Our esteemed leader, Lynda, had a plan and this was altogether more convivial. Staying the right side – east – of the Pennines seven of us walked from Bowes to God's Bridge then through a smelly and littered corrugated tunnel under the A66, up and over to Race Yate and Cotherstone Moor along the Pennine Way, leaving it to return to Bowes some 4.5 hours later having walked 10.5 miles.

The weather remained mostly calm until the last three miles, when a steady patter of rain fell on our heads. Underfoot there was plenty of sogginess and a few pesky rabbit holes wherein foot was put then body went splat, but aside from that, our alternative walk was much enjoyed. The Greta valley is a gem and the views from the moor are 360 degrees, so lots to like. Thanks to Lynda for adapting the plan to keep us all safe and happy.

WINE GROUP - Report by Tim Meacham

It is over two years since our last vineyard trip to Gloucestershire and Wales, so we decided it was time for a shorter, single vineyard visit. We approached Ryedale Vineyard near Malton and booked a tour and tasting for ten of us which also incorporated a meal at the nearby Jolly Farmer pub. I am please to report that the outing was a great success largely due to the friendly welcome we received at both establishments, the quality of the tour, and the standard of the pub food (at a very reasonable price).

The vineyard was not easy to find being situated out in the country near the villages of Westow and Leavening in North Yorkshire. Here a three-person family team met us in the shape of Jon and Michelle Fletcher and their son Jack who (along with absent son Kit and volunteers) form the total workforce. Ryedale is one of the UK's most northerly vineyards, but the family make light of the problems this brings and have, since taking over in 2016, increased the productivity by extending the number of vines to allow the production of 10,000 bottles of wine annually. Jon split us into two groups and he and Jack took a group each for an hour's tour. The production area was essentially contained within a two-room shed which allowed us to get a close-up view of the apparatus; it also made understanding the process relatively straightforward and Jon went to great pains to answer all questions. Ryedale make a full range of still white, red and rose wines, as well as both white and rose sparkling versions and we were taken through the differences between the various production methods. Jon then took us out to the rows of vines, which are based on grapes known to be resistant to the weather of northern England. These feature a number we came across on the Welsh trip, including the red Rondo and Pinot Noir grapes and our old white favourite Bacchus; new to us were the white varieties Paradise and Solaris.

So the tasting followed. We tried no fewer than seven wines, the two sparkling flagship wines, both retailing at £30 per bottle and five of the still varieties. Opinions were mixed where the sparkling were concerned. Several members preferred the rose ('refreshing'; nice hints of apple') while the white was met with 'nothing special'. The Solaris still white had character ('I love it!') but again views were mixed on the 'Yorkshire Lad' and 'Yorkshire Lass' whites with the former in particular being 'rather ordinary'; the 'lass' produced more positive responses ('lovely and aromatic'; 'this is my favourite' etc.). The still 'Rosie' rose (named after a vivacious Yorkshire aunt!) was quite well received, while that problematic British attempt at red (The Strickland Red, based on Rondo, and our strongest tasting at 11.5%) had a nice bouquet but rather a short finish. Michelle provided a fabulous range of cheeses to accompany the wines (and even a small pot of curry). All in all this was a most enjoyable evening and we would thoroughly recommend a visit to Ryedale.

The next meeting ('Recent South African Wine') will be held on Tuesday 17th October at Stella and John's at 2.00 pm.

WANTED



A volunteer with some knowledge of how to get the best from Android mobile phones. You don't need to be an expert, a basic understanding of how to use them would suffice. We already have a list of members eager to learn and there is support to assist in organising the new **Android Phone Interest Group.**

For more information contact Sue Overton **07512 368884**
or email sueoverton@hotmail.com

Anyone for CHESS?

From beginners to experts, all are welcome to join this new Interest Group.

Contact Sue Overton **07512 368884**
or email sueoverton@hotmail.com

And Finally...PICKLEBALL

...is looking like a goer. Watch this space!

Refugees by Brian Bilston

(This poem needs to be read twice. Firstly from beginning to end as is usual and then in reverse from the end back to the beginning. The reader will see why)

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

Brian Bilston wrote a poem each day during the pandemic—sometimes poignant, sometimes parodic and silly, always clever. His book *Diary of a Somebody* is a good read if you want to laugh out loud. (Ed)

ANOTHER MONTH IN AMBRIDGE - Review by Annie Clouston

“I love pulling up Ragwort with you Brad!” – now where else would you hear such an impassioned exclamation (is it the Ragwort or Brad that’s the main attraction?) - but in steamy Ambridge? The teenage romance between Brad and Mia the Innocent (or she was until a few weeks back when Let’s Get Physical appeared on their playlist) goes on apace while the big question is, will it last? For this week the incredibly soapy but reportedly very intelligent – hard to believe – Brad is off with Trace and Jazzer to view his future potential sites of learning providing he gets his grades. If he does, he will be the first Horrobin to go to a higher education institution (other than those that specialise in crime) and his mother, Trace, will combust with pride.

I know all you who rely on this column for the headlines, rather than undergo nightly bursts of tedium, will want to hear about the Dastardly Rob. He’s turned up in a location near Ambridge intent on having his immortal soul saved to join the Choir Invisible at his can’t-come-soon-enough-for-some demise. (Incidentally, a conspiracist friend of mine reckons he’s faking it – let’s face it, that would be typical psychopath behaviour and would be an unending gift to the scriptwriters). It appears that at some point in the past, the vicar Alan made a rash statement to DR that no one was beyond redemption, words that have come back to bite him on the bum. What a quandary! What’s a God-fearing vicar to do? Risk the opprobrium of his parishioners by giving succour to such a fiend, or deny a dying man the baptism he so earnestly, and so recently, desires? As if DR isn’t sufficiently manipulative with the sob stuff, in piles his brother, another damaged human who reveals something of the horrific parenting that gave birth to the psychopathy that seems rife in the family. My money’s on the Rev Alan giving in to the pressure and then having the vicarage torched by an angry mob. *I predict a riot, I predict a riot!*

Meanwhile, *Lark Rise to Candleford* has suddenly become the must-read of Ambridge. This enthusiasm has been sparked by the Horrobin clan of all people. Emma has been thwarted in her managerial ambitions and has turned to Literature as a start for her quest for qualifications. Thus a one-off spin-off was born, with the cast of the *Archers* breathing life into the classic on Radio 4 on Sunday afternoon. At least the ebb and flow of *Archers*’ scriptwriters cannot perform, we hope, acrobatics with that script.

So there we have it; sex, religion, breakdown in Laura Norder and nostalgia, all for the taking in an everyday story of country folk, six times a week, plus a bonus on Sundays.

OCTOBER QUIZ

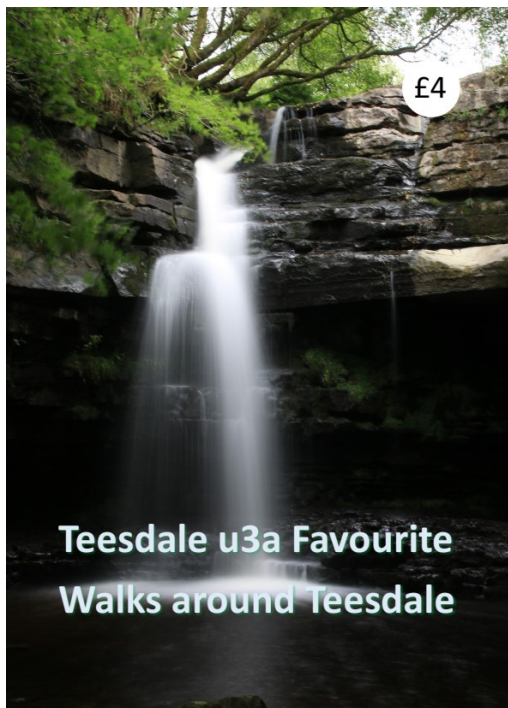
Quizmaster, Phil Clarke

1. Which technology company shares its name with a race of people in Gulliver's travels?
2. Martin Bryce, played by Richard Briers, is a character in which BBC sitcom?
3. Who won a Pulitzer Prize for her novel The Colour Purple?
4. Which artist released the album Evermore in 2020?
5. In France what type of graph is colloquially known as "un camembert"?
6. Which property on a London Monopoly board is the only one located South of the River Thames in real life.?
7. Who was married and widowed in the 1963 novel On Her Majesty's Secret Service?
8. What is the only Central American country to lack a coastline on the Caribbean Sea?
9. Which artist portrayed his parents Kenneth and Laura in the 1997 painting "My Parents"?
10. Steve Martin made which musical instrument a major part of his early stand-up routine?
11. Played by Timothy Watson which villain returned to the "Archers" recently?
12. in which Spielberg film was a speak and spell modified to send a signal to outer space?
13. How many runs did Johnny Bairstow score in the 2023 Ashes 4th Test?
14. Which famous singer died in late July 2023 aged 96?
15. Sarah Brightman was married to which famous musician 1984-1990.
16. What does ULEZ stand for?
17. Which woman holds the record for the most appearances on the front cover of TIME magazine? Try and guess how many.
18. Which city has been called the " World Capital of Pop"
19. Raleigh is the capital of which American state?

Wrecks & Ruins 2024



**Teesdale u3a Photography Group Calendar
now on sale - Only £6.50
Available at monthly meetings
or by contacting Jane Mathieson**



**Teesdale u3a Favourite Walks
around Teesdale is now on
sale.**

**A booklet of maps, guides and
illustrations of 14 walks in and
around Teesdale which are
familiar to members of
Teesdale u3a and which are
written from first-hand
experience.**

**This new, 2023 edition is
available at Monthly Meetings
for only £4.**

**Ideal as a present for visitors
to the dale and for walkers of
all ages and abilities.**

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Yahoo
2. Ever Decreasing Circles
3. Alice Walker
4. Taylor Swift
5. Pie chart
6. Old Kent Road
7. James Bond
8. El Salvador
9. David Hockney
10. Banjo
11. Rob Titchener
12. E.T.
13. 99 not out
14. Tony Bennett
15. Andrew Lloyd Webber
16. Ultra Low Emission Zone
17. Hillary Clinton with 23 appearances
18. Liverpool
19. North Carolina
20. Newgate

By popular request...My favourite Carrot Salad (V V healthy)

60 gms almonds skin on, roughly chopped

600 gms carrots coarsely grated

1 banana shallot or three spring onions chopped

60gms raisins, soaked in hot water for 15 minutes

25 gms of mint leaves, chopped

1 tablespoon of cumin seeds roasted then ground (if you can be bothered)

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1-2 lemons

Flaky salt to taste

Mix all ingredients except the juice of the lemons and salt. Then add juice and salt to taste.

The Summit by **Simon Armitage** (who “returned from the Arctic with a handful of poems and a sense of shame”.)

When I met the glacier face to face
there was no coming together
of skin and ice,
just washy clouds and a weepy sky
floating upside down
in a silver lake, and the eyes
looking up from the water were mine.

It was hard slog
in a valley more like a Scottish Glen,
along hillsides more at home
in the English Lakes.
A day’s trek up a narrow track
between harebell and birch
and to do what:

to say the arctic looks like this
or looks like that, to breathe
its cool breath then scratch a name
in the visitors’ book
and give the glacier a human form:
tongue, body, mouth and heart ...
In any event

I was too late.
Looking up from the milky pool
I saw the whiteness in retreat,
the bedraggled hem of the bridal train
heading into the heights
towards deeper winter and truer north,
trailing a stony path.

When I met the glacier face to face
there was no close encounter
of ancient snow and body heat,
just weepy clouds and a washy sky
hanging upside down
in a zinc-coloured lake, and the eyes
staring out of the water were mine.

Poet Laureate in the Arctic started on BBC Radio 4 on 10 October. Available on BBC Sounds. *The Cryosphere* by Simon Armitage (£8), a signed and limited edition pamphlet of poems, is available via faber.co.uk.

Group	Meeting Time	Contact details
Art Appreciation	1 st Wed pm	Tony Seward 01833 630050
Automotive	3 rd Tuesday am	Peter Colley 01833 695197
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
Cryptic Crossword	2 nd Wed 2pm	Sue Overton 07512 368884
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 Tue 1.30pm	Mike Sweeting 07565 925412
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	2 nd Mon pm	Lilian Smith 01833 650628
Spanish Conversation	3 rd Thurs 10am	Michael Harris 07799 051389
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	2 nd Wed 2pm	Kate Keen 07880 741151
Wine Group	3 rd Tues pm	Tim Meacham 07847 182554
Yoga	Every Monday am	Angela Griffiths 01833 630170
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 Photography, Walks and occasionally other groups 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 local
Arts Centre**

Thurs 26 Oct 7.00pm	FILM: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A) Starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton
Sat 28 Oct 7.30pm	TRIBUTE – Abba Sensation One of the best Abba Tribute Acts.
Sun 29 Oct 2.00pm	MUSIC – Sunday Classics: Aquarius Quartet Includes works by Haydn, Dvorak, Prokofiev, Ernest Moeran and Percy Grainger.
Tues 31 Oct 7.30pm	MUSIC – Sinatra: RAW The critically acclaimed, multi award-winning show, starring Richard Shelton (Emmerdale) accompanied on piano.
Fri 3 Nov 7.30pm	TRIBUTE – Qween UK: The Live Queen Experience
Tues 7 Nov 7.30pm	THEATRE – Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back Good, old-fashioned theatrical entertainment with actor, Jonathan Goodwin.
Thur 9 Nov 7.30pm	THEATRE – Enid Blyton: Noddy, Big-Ears & Lashings of Controversy performed by Liz Grand (Mrs Churchill).
Sun 12 Nov 2.00pm	MUSIC – Barnard Castle Band: Remembrance Concert A fundraiser for The Witham and Barnard Castle Band.
Fri 17 – Sat 18 Nov 7.30pm	THEATRE – The Castle Players: Our Town Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer prize-winning play. (matinee Sat 2.30pm)
Tue 21 Nov 7.30pm	COMEDY – Paul Foot: Dissolve (16+)
Wed 22 Nov 7.30pm	FOLK – Ward Knutur Townes Lucy Ward, Svavar Knutur and Adyn Townes. Their debut album is released in October 2023.

Community Arts Centre

www.thewitham.org.uk

Box office: 01833 631107