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FORUM

JUNE 2024

No. 24/06



u3a

Chairwoman's letter by Julie Archer June 2024

Dear Members and Friends

This is my first Chairwoman's letter, and I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me.

I joined Teesdale U3A in 2017, to meet people and make new friends having moved from Sedgefield, County Durham to Teesdale, to use my retirement as an opportunity to continue learning and trying new ideas and skills. In all these aims I have been truly successful, thanks to the vibrancy of the Teesdale U3A. The choice of groups to join was, and still is, wide and varied and I opted to join a book group, the garden group and the lunch group, all favourite hobbies of mine. Since joining the garden group, I have gone on to become one of the conveners and know many of you from our garden trips and meetings. This last month has seen me joining a workshop, cross stitch, and going on a visit to the Potfest at Penrith. The first was something I had not done since the first year of secondary school, and everyone was very helpful with my lack of skills and dodgy thumb. The later was temptation, which with my love of ceramics I could not resist, one garden pot, two pairs of earrings and a hare plaque for my brother-in-law's birthday came back with me.

I joined the committee last year and mainly volunteered to help and talk to new members at the end of the monthly meeting with Liz Colley. Now I have agreed to be one of the three chair persons for this year, scary but exciting. I hope to continue the good work done by my predecessors, and help support the committee in delivering an exciting programme of meetings, groups and workshops for you all. As I write it is just over two weeks to our summer picnic, and by the time you are reading this I hope it has been a success, and I have had a chance to meet, chat and get to know more members.

Last but not least, as it influences our activities, a note on our weather. The first weekend in June was promising with warmth and sunshine, I even risked a summer frock. Let's hope the rest of June lives up to this promise and lets us relax in our gardens, go walking and visit places in the dry.

Until next time

Julie

**Cover photograph: Hubble, bubble, toil and trouble,, Fire burn and Cauldron
bubble**

CAULDRON SNOOT by Bryan Spark

It's Your Forum

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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 9 July. 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.

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May's Monthly Meeting
Jean Harrod: My Life as a Diplomat
Report by Ian Reid

Jean Harrod, top international diplomat and now writer of crime fiction was the speaker at the May 23rd meeting. Jean left school following a careers talk from someone in the Foreign Office and decided to join the civil service hoping for postings abroad. Within a couple of years, she was posted to Geneva to attend an international conference. This was the first of many postings abroad. Jean had a flair for languages and quickly picked up the language of the country she was posted to, including Mandarin and Indonesian. She met her husband, another diplomat, in Geneva. When they married, she was expected to give up work which was the general policy at the time. She was asked to resign on several occasions but the letters were conveniently mislaid in a drawer and she took no further action. In 1975 the Sex Discrimination Act became law and her resignation was not necessary. She was the first married woman in the Foreign Office to be allowed to continue with her career.

Initially she and her husband lived in Berlin at the time of the Cold War and they were aware that the house was bugged and that they were being watched wherever they went. It was often necessary to walk outside to have a private conversation.

Jean described one occasion in China, when she innocently boarded a taxi, and it turned out that she had been kidnapped. The kidnappers were not aware that she spoke fluent mandarin and following a friendly conversation about their respective families, the kidnappers let her go but the outcome could have been very different.

Following a long career, she and her husband applied for early retirement. This was granted to her husband but she was informed that as she was one of the few senior women in the Foreign Office, she would have to stay. Early retirement was eventually granted and she decided to try her hand as a novelist, drawing on her experiences as an international diplomat. The first novel, *Deadly Diplomacy*, tells the tale of a British consul catapulted into a murder investigation in Australia, where Jean was formerly a Deputy High Commissioner. Other novels have followed and feature the jet setting diplomat Jess Turner.

This presentation was a tour de force. Also many women in the audience could relate to their own experiences at work prior to the Sex Discrimination Act.

NEXT MEETINGS AT THE WITHAM

Thursday, 25 July **Richard Annis: *Exciting Finds on Palace Green, Durham.*** Dr Richard Annis, a recently retired Archeologist at Durham University, will describe how he was involved in the discovery of numerous skeletons during construction work on the Palace Green. He reveals how they were found and the information that they provided from a history that extends over 350 years. We are delighted that he can share with us the excitement and fascination of this amazing story.

Thursday, 22 August **Gerald Blake: *Islands.*** Gerald is the leader of our Geography Group and Emeritus Professor of Geography at Durham University. He is a brilliant presenter, and focuses on economic, social and human geography.

26 August **Ronnie Tempest; *Tales of Tempest, Volatile Vanes and Stormy Stewarts***

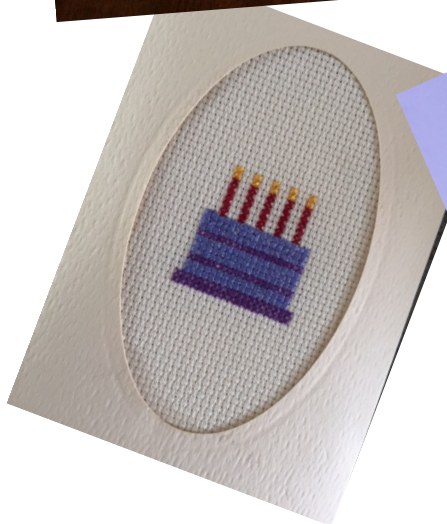
Weekend Workshop Report Cross Stitch led by Elaine Hicks and Janet Sweeting Report by Hilary Dunnighan

Our May workshop was a morning of cross stitch embroidery, ably led by Janet Sweeting and Elaine Hicks. Seven members met in the guide HQ, chatting and reminiscing about sewing our initials on Home Economics aprons and PE bags while at school but realising we might be confusing chain stitch with cross stitch.



Janet and Elaine had come extremely well prepared with books full of suggestions, transfers and traceable letters to give us plenty of ideas for our project. They provided thick cards, complete with envelopes, with cut outs to frame our work, different colours of 14-point binca and a myriad of coloured embroidery strands. We were all set to go, and just had to decide on a suitable design for our greeting cards.

Elaine had provided a completed “letter E” card which quite a few of us attempted to emulate by tracing the letter onto fabric before stitching. She also had a birthday cake card which Annie decided to copy – with great success as shown by the photo. The two hours went quickly, and we all took home a project to finish. A really big thank you to Janet and Elaine for a most enjoyable and instructive workshop.



FUTURE WORKSHOPS

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS OF THE WORKSHOP PLANNING GROUP. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME MEN! WE WANT TO HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTS REPRESENTED SO IF YOU HAVE IDEAS TO SHARE PLEASE CONTACT annie@cloustons.uk

Saturday 6 July 10-12 *CIRCLE DANCING* led by Nic Worsnop. Outdoors at Hill Top Cottage Boldron, or if wet, in Boldron Village Hall

There is a waiting list for this workshop, Enquiries to :Hazel Yeadon:
hazelyeadon@hotmail.com 01833 638710

Saturday 10 August 10-12 *CREATIVE WRITING* led by Anne Fine, published writer of acclaimed adult and children's fiction, Startforth Community Centre.

Contact: Annie Clouston :annie@cloustons.uk 01833 637091

Saturday 7 September 10-12 *Street Names of Barnard Castle; a walking tour* led by Tim Meacham and Annie Clouston.

This workshop is full. For enquiries or a place on the waiting list, contact Annie as above.

We have a tentative programme in place for the rest of this year, so watch this space as we confirm our future workshops.

FUTURE DAY AND LONGER TRIPS

20th September - Woodhorn Museum, Ashington

Leaving Barnard Castle at 09:00 returning before 18:00. Cost £27.50

90th anniversary of pitmen artists, so there are going to be more pictures on view . Can you let me know please if you would like to go . Some of you have already put your name down, so can you let me, Jane Mathieson, know if you still want to go on trip please. Payment can be made at the next few monthly meetings by cash or cheque made out to Teesdale u3a.

2nd September Stratford, Lichfield and National Arboretum

There are now 19 of us booked on this trip organised by National Holidays, staying at the Royal Court Hotel in Coventry, D,B&B dinner, for 4 nights, The cost is £299 per person and there is a single supplement of £70. One single room still available and there are 10 places left on the coach. We hope for pick up in Barnard Castle, otherwise Maudes Coaches will get us to the pick up point for a small extra charge.

Bookings: **Kyle Travel 01833 690303** Details: **Dorothy Jameson 01833 637957**

Report of Potfest By Jane Mathieson

A coach load of us had a very good day at the Pot Fest in the Pens at Penrith. The weather was good as the pens are open to the outside. There were pop up food areas which on the whole was fine. There were about 100 stands with varied types of pottery, it is marvellous how so many designs can be made from a piece of clay,. A couple of our group ventured to 'throw their own pot, with varied results, but was very enjoyable.

The day appeared to be a success with tired feet and less money in our purses. The photo shows a few of the stands.



GROUP REPORTS

Android Phone Group

Report by Martyn Radcliffe

Another well attended meeting where we continued with discussing downloading apps to the android phone. We also looked at the icons that appear at the top of the phone screen – wifi, Bluetooth, battery life etc.

Using search engines was also talked about, looking at how to get the best results by using search criteria and how the algorithms create the answers.

Next Meeting is Thursday 4th July 24.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP – Report by Tony Seward

In May, Caroline Chapman, author of *John & Joséphine: The Creation of the Bowes Museum*, joined us for a conversation about her latest book, *A Place Apart: The Artist's Studio 1400-1900*. Using illustrations from the cornucopia of images in the book, she talked us through the development of the studio from its early days as a noisy, busy mediaeval craft workshop,

through the growing professionalisation of artists so that they were no longer dependent on the church or rich patrons for space to work in, to the rise of individual stars like Lord Leighton to wealth and independence. Even so, many of the most successful – Picasso and Francis Bacon amongst them - retained a nostalgia for the austere garret conditions of their early careers, before they achieved fame and fortune.



Interior of a Studio 1845 by Octave Tassaert

Depending on individual temperament, they preferred either to work in well-ordered, comfortable space, in chaos, surrounded by *bric-a-brac* and discarded objects – bus tickets, old newspapers, cigarette packets - which provided inspiration and indeed were sometimes incorporated in their works. But the chaos was often only in the eye of the beholder. The story is told of Degas, whose studio was filled with the accumulation of years, 'the visual rubble he knew by heart', so that when a tiny scrap of paper fell from a package, he pounced on it and threw it into the stove, saying, 'I don't like disorder'.



**Picasso
in his studio 1908**

Caroline enlivened the discussion with many such amusing anecdotes, and contributions from the floor included reminiscences from Roger of his grandfather's experiences painting royalty, and from Peter on technical aspects, such as how to achieve certain colour effects.

To conclude, we looked at a talk by the Director of the Hugh Lane Gallery, who undertook the daunting project of moving Bacon's entire studio from London to Dublin, with every object, every scrap of paper, every bit of rubbish carefully recorded and exactly positioned in its new home. The result is a remarkable evocation of one artist's *modus operandi*, providing enough material to keep the art historians busy for years to come!



Francis Bacon's studio

Next up – On Wednesday 5 June, we will explore the life and work of Dame Laura Knight, and discuss the arrangements for our forthcoming visit to the Auckland Project on 3 July.

AUTOMOTIVE GROUP– VISIT TO NISSAN **Report by David Yeadon**

The noise! Bewildering! These were the emotions on entering the huge Nissan car manufacturing plant in Sunderland, with things happening all around you, and above too. Eight members of our Group and four members of the Science and Technology Group were given a tour of just part of this enormous facility.

Basically, we saw a painted bodyshell on a constantly moving production line, be transformed into a fully working motor car. In this section all of the operations are carried out manually. A complete car comes off the line every 90 seconds, although the operatives are trained to get this down to 57 seconds!



The guys working on the line are young and fit - by the time they're 40 they're ready to move onto something less frenetic. They do three 2.5 hour shifts per day, working on three different parts of the line. Salaries are about £30k for new starters, rising to £40k after two years if they make the grade. The place is immaculately clean, yet very functional. 6000 employees, making the Qashqai petrol and e - power hybrid models. 80% are left hand drive, mostly going into Europe. Wow, what a place - we were exhausted just watching all of this going on!

BIRDWATCHING Report by Andrew Lapworth

20th May 2024: Visit to High Helbeck in Low Cloud

We were fortunate this month to have an invitation by group member Nicolette for us to have a conducted tour of High Helbeck, high up in the North Pennines off the road between Middleton-in-Teesdale and Brough. Eight of us met at the designated lay-by; the previous weekend's sunny

weather had vanished and instead we experienced low cloud and cool temperatures, but at least it didn't rain. From the cars we could hear numerous Curlews calling and an agitated Redshank, even though we could only glimpse them in the mist and low cloud.

Nicolette took us along the designated and well-signposted 3.5 mile trail, described as of moderate walking difficulty "...with some steep terrain.... the ground being boggy in places". We soon caught sightings of Lapwings, Meadow Pipits and Skylarks, and Grey Wagtails alongside the waterfalls and becks. Kestrels and Buzzards were spotted, as well as noisy Greylag Geese.

This upland, moorland site, new to most of us, is being turned into an exciting natural landscape; Nicolette and her husband have embarked on a long-term project to restore natural regeneration of trees and meadows and other ecological enhancements. New scrapes to make wetlands have been made to improve biodiversity, with thousands of trees and shrubs planted. Nicolette explained they wanted to demonstrate a successful working partnership approach between upland landowners, Natural England, The Woodland Trust and the RSPB.



Lunchtime for birdwatchers at High Helbeck

We were soon being tested on our knowledge of British Prime Ministers: landscape zones have been given names to aid locations; we walked through Aberdeen, Portland and even "Parliament Square" but unfortunately didn't get to trample over Truss. En-route we came to the stone barn where we had our picnic lunch on the outside benches and admired the new composting toilet thoughtfully provided. We got to see the ubiquitous and noisy Oystercatchers, plus Stonechats, and Dippers; Willow Warblers were singing from the new plantations. Reed Buntings and Chaffinches were added to our list, with fleeting views of Black Grouse.

Towards the end of the walk we separated aerial Swifts from the Swallows, all swooping low to catch insects.

All in all an illuminating walk to see a special and unique landscape restoration project. Many of us were encouraged to come back to enjoy the walk again, hopefully in warmer and sunnier weather when we could appreciate better the far views to the Eden Valley and distant Howgills. Our many thanks to Nicolete for leading this outing over their special bit of the North Pennines.

Board Games Group - report by Kate Bailey

Week by week the group is welcoming new members and, in May, nine players gathered in the Old Well. The group split into two for the warm-up games of Bananagrams. These are always fast and furious rounds but also cheerful, even though one or two people, who admit to being good at Scrabble, crosswords or other word games, inevitably complete their puzzles ahead of the rest of us.

The newcomers amongst us were then introduced to the complexities of Carcassone. It's a good-natured game of building a landscape with small tiles and claiming territories with meeples (little characters). Tiles have to be laid to connect along roads and between farms, monasteries and citadels. The game is full of choices, whether to add to your own territories or prevent your opponents from expanding theirs, and quite puzzling at first. The beginners amongst us were generously guided through the first round by the more experienced players but it seemed that only one player could remember the complicated scoring system at the end!



Towards the end of the session we were happy to return to the more familiar Bananagrams for a few more rounds. Each half of the group took it in turns to play Peach Snaps, which is a real test of speed and recognition. Players are dealt a pile of cards with one card turned face-up on the table. Everyone plays at the same time, matching colours, numbers and shapes of peaches on the cards. It's fast, noisy and great fun, and it's a relief that the pub landlord seems to welcome our Monday afternoon jollity!

If you're interested in learning new Board games and playing some of the old favourites, do come along and join us on the second Monday of the month. For more information contact the Convenor.

BOOK GROUPS

Book Group 2

Three of us had a very enjoyable meeting on 13th May sharing books we had read recently and enjoyed or were favourites from long ago.

The first book shared was “The Silver Pigs”, a mystery story set in Roman times, by Lindsey Davis. The detective was on a mission to Britain to find out who was stealing the silver pigs. Described as funny and easy to read, though with small print, we learnt that it had been serialized by the BBC. The mysteries were well written with plenty of description, and the mysteries Davis wrote were usually solved! It was thought that if you liked Davis you would also like Raymond Chandler.

Our second book was “The Tattooist of Auschwitz” by Heather Morris. This is a true story and had just been started by our member – but the first few pages had been compelling and the book would definitely be finished. The plot is about a young man who became a tattooist in Auschwitz to escape the gas-chambers and his relationship with a young lady whom he eventually married.

This member also drew to our attention a book by Vikram Seth called “Beastly Tales” – not what she expected. The memorable tale was “The Louse and the Mosquito” and our member was fascinated by the imagination that had dreamt it up! She now wants to tackle “A Suitable Boy”

Our third book was “Whatever Next?” by Anne Glenconner, who was lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret. It was written after her first book called “Lady in Waiting”. Life on Mustique and in a social circle unfamiliar to many was eye-opening to our member who ended up with a great admiration for the resilience and fortitude of Anne Glenconner who coped with a difficult marriage and much sadness in her life, often in the public spotlight. The motto perhaps is never judge a book by its covers. The book was easy to read and not without humour and would be recommended.

Our next meeting is on Monday 15th July at 2.30p.m. and we are keen to recruit new members. If you would like to join us please contact Maggie Cleminson, our Convenor on 01833 640801

Room to Read Book Group

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Anthony Doerr is a Pulitzer Prizewinner, and the author of this epic tale of two young people whose paths cross from very different directions in World War 11. Marie-Laure is a blind girl raised by her father, a locksmith, whose work is in the Natural History Museum of France in

Paris at the outbreak of war. Werner is an orphan with an extraordinary talent in radio technology living in an orphanage in a desolate mining community in Germany.

Werner, after a brutal Nazi training regime, is recruited by an elite unit in the army to seek out enemy radio operators. His work takes him to St Malo in 1944 when it is occupied by the Germans but besieged by the US forces. Marie-Laure has fled with her father from Paris to St Malo. Her father's work has landed him with a poisoned chalice – a unique diamond from the vaults of the Museum that is sought by the Nazi treasure hunters. He is arrested, leaving Marie-Laure with the curse of this stone.

The thread that brings the two protagonists together is a childhood radio listening habit. Marie-Laure has learned how to send messages from the resistance by radio to the Allies. Werner can detect her whereabouts and is ordered to do so. Their shared connection will not allow Werner to betray her.

We all felt that the book was overly long. The ending was cramped and unsatisfactory, and the language at times incongruent with the period in which it is set. The film of the book that some of us had seen accentuates the love story between Marie-Laure and Werner and balks at the unsatisfactory ending, sugaring the pill rather. It appears from reviews that Duerr's intention in writing the book was to engage the young adult readership in considering the impact on their generation of war. As none of us fits that demographic it failed to hit the spot.

Scores on the doors: 3 for book group discussion and 2.5 to recommend to our (mature) friends.

CHESSE report by Diana Marks

We had a change of venue this month and met at The Old Well. There were only three of us so two ganged up on one for our game. Sitting in the garden there were a few distractions so concentration on the game was not always complete. For a while a blackbird feeding its youngster took all our attention. The game came to an abrupt end when the one opponent pointed out to the two how they could achieve checkmate in one move. A bit embarrassing that the two of us couldn't work it out between us!

We agreed that our venue should move to The Old Well in future.

Climate Solutions Discussion Group - report by Kate Bailey

Our planned topic in June was a review of climate, environmental and water -related policies proposed by the main political parties before the July election. It was somewhat depressing to realise that none of them seem to have come up with a robust solution to the sewage pollution problems that



concern us. These will only get worse as rainfall increases and emergency outflows become overwhelmed more often.

We moved on fairly swiftly to more positive topics, for example, reducing waste by recycling pill blister packs, left-over fabric scraps and soft plastic wrappings. We talked about various collection points for

more unusual waste materials and it was agreed that the group, led by Hazel, will submit an article for the next issue of Forum, along the lines of Michael Mosley's "Just One Thing" articles [after his sudden death on holiday, his good-natured health blog will be much missed].

There appears to be great potential for MOFs (metal-organic frameworks) to capture and absorb CO₂ and convert it to useful chemicals, though research seems to be at an early stage as yet. Similarly, www.sciencealert.com has revealed that some plastic-eating fungi can make a meal of hard to recycle polypropylene and polyethylene plastics. In laboratory experiments between 25 and 27 percent of samples were devoured after 90 days, following exposure to UV light or heat, and the plastic was completely broken down into organic molecules after 140 days.



Wildflower meadows in the North Pennines National Landscape

More good news recently included a BBC announcement that in the first 3 months of 2024, windpower became the main source of UK electricity for first time. National Grid also confirmed that April saw a record period of solar energy generation.

[Reminder: by 2035 the UK aims for all of its electricity to have net zero emissions, although some new solar and wind sites will have to wait up to 15 years to come online because of delays with getting connections to the grid.]

Various news items about whale numbers recovering after commercial whaling bans in many places (though not Japan), included Giant Sei whales in the Pacific Ocean, observed recently along the Patagonian coast of Argentina. In the UK a pod of Orca killer whales, hunting a grey seal close inshore, was spotted by people standing on the cliffs at John O'Groats.

Next month's plan is to visit the wildflower meadows near Ravenstonedale that we hope will be at their best despite the disappointingly cold and damp weather recently. We are always on the look-out for ways of rewilding parts of our own gardens but "No-Mow May" has left some of us with our own hayfield-lawns to bring back under control!

Cryptic Crossword Group May Report by Sue Overton

An elite group of 8 crossword solvers met in the Guide HQ and tackled a warm-up of anagrams and mixed other clue types before progressing to the new 'cryptic definition' clue type. This is a difficult clue to solve in some respects as no indicator is ever given though that helps to identify it as does the presence of a question mark. It lacks component parts and consists of a misleading, usually one-dimensional way to describe the solution. To find the solution, ignore the surface meaning and look for double meanings.

Examples:

Clue: In which all but one party lose their seats (7,6)

Solution: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Clue: What's made only to snap in bits? (7,6)

Consider the double meaning of 'snap' and 'bits' (bits = binary digits as in computing)

Solution: DIGITAL CAMERA

Contact Convenor Sue Overton 07512 368884 if you would like to join us

DISCUSSION GROUP MAY 2024

We were a very small group this month but were still able to have a good discussion of topics that had caught our attention. These included the efficacy or otherwise of 'health' products; what about a hung parliament?; Dominic Cummings as PM?; food security and solar panels.

Our next meetings will be on Fridays, 14th June and 12th July. If you would like to join us please give me < Glen Howard, a ring on 01833 631639.

GARDENING GROUP report by Kate Keen



U3A Gardening group June report for Forum by Kate Keen

In June we had our second outing of the year with a visit to RHS Bridgewater on the outskirts of Manchester.

RHS Bridgewater is the newest of the Royal Horticultural Garden sites. There was a TV documentary series covering the restoration of the gardens a few years ago. The site covers 154 acres so there was plenty of scope for wandering around admiring the plants.

The walled garden has been renovated to include the Paradise garden and the formal Kitchen garden with an abundance of plants in bloom at the time of our visit. The walled garden covers 11 acres and is the same size as the Chelsea Flower Show! It is surrounded by further gardens including the Community Wellbeing garden, the Bee and Butterfly garden and the orchard.

Following a landscaped path we could visit the Chinese Streamside garden and Ellesmere lake. The lake sits below the historic site of Worsley New Hall which no longer exists as it burned to the ground some years ago. The grotto on an island in the lake is to be restored in the future.

RHS Bridgewater is amply served with cafes, a large shop and a plant sale centre. As group visitors we were given a discount voucher for the shop and many of us made purchases which were stored in the luggage section of the coach on the return journey.

All in all this was another wonderful day out with the opportunity for our Members to visit another RHS garden after our visit to RHS Harlow Carr last year.

On Friday 5th July we visit Brodsworth Hall and Gardens.
On Friday 2nd August we visit Castle Howard.

Late bookings are sometimes available so if you are interested in these trips but have not yet booked please contact Julie Archer.

Photos on previous page by Fran Hindley

Geography Group

Report by Jane Harrison

May's talk had the intriguing title "A Time of Waste: Sustainable Environmental Geoscience Solutions". Our speaker was Chris Greenwell, who is Head of Chemistry and Professor of Geochemistry, in the Department of Earth Sciences, at Durham University.

We are living at a time when waste is being challenged and zero waste options explored. We discovered that in the UK there are legal definitions of what is 'waste'. Government guidelines outline when a material is 'considered to be waste', 'likely to be waste' or 'might be waste'. The Waste Framework Directive even sets out the criteria whereby waste may cease to be waste after it's undergone a recovery operation, which might include recycling. This is to ensure a high level of environmental protection, as well as environmental and economic benefit.

Waste has been a byproduct of industry down the centuries. Chris is particularly interested to identify where chemical waste might be removed, repurposed, and reused. He described how at Saltburn, a product of ironstone quarrying on the Cleveland Hills, known as ochre, has been extracted from the river. This has been used to coat sand granules, which in turn have been successfully used to capture phosphates in the local water treatment works, thus reducing the need to buy-in iron salts.

Mining waste enters the river systems of large parts of upland Britain, including the South-West and North of England and Wales. Overlying Carboniferous limestones help to reduce the acidity of mine waters in areas like the Pennines but toxic heavy metals such as lead and zinc remain. Durham University have been involved in research to find sustainable natural materials to use in mine remediation. Seaweed – often a waste product itself – has been found to naturally contain high amounts of zinc, manganese, copper, and nickel. Biopolymer beads, created from seaweed, have been successfully used to extract those metals from river water. Initial experiments in the Ystwyth valley, in mid-Wales, demonstrated that in water with a zinc content of 20,000 parts per million, 90% of the zinc could be removed in 20 minutes. In theory metals could also be abstracted from the beads, but the amount removed would be small and unlikely to be commercially viable. The project is now being upscaled and its impact assessed. What might be next?

Little did we realise that waste could have so much potential - we went home with much to think about.

Next meeting: Thursday 18th July, 2pm, in The Witham. Geographical Smorgasbord.

GEOLOGY May Report by Bob Tuddenham

We had an interesting and varied meeting at The Witham in May.

In the first half, David Saville continued his excellent series of presentations on the basics of geology. This talk was an 'Introduction to Palaeontology'. This is the study of ancient life prior to the end of the last ice age and includes the study of fossils and the environments in which they lived.

David gave us a brief history of palaeontology and some of the key steps in the development of this important science. Familiar names such as Mary Anning, William Smith and William Buckland were just three of the many fossil collectors and geologists who made important contributions in the 19th Century. Before the introduction of radiodating in the 20th century, the relative dating of strata could only be established using zone fossils. David also mentioned the schoolboy Roger Mason who found the first pre Cambrian fossil (*Charnia masoni*) in 1957 while climbing in Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire in 1957.

After the coffee break, Trevor Morse outlined the geology of the Faroe Islands following his recent cruise which went past these islands and then onto Iceland. He then showed a photo of the recent volcanic eruption on Iceland but from some distance away!

Trevor then gave a debrief of the field trip to Teesdale in April covering the types of rocks in the area and the structure of cyclothems. This local geology was very useful not just for those who had attended the trip itself.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT June report by Tim Meacham

Apologies for the lack of Historical Environment reports in recent Forums. We have held a series of fascinating indoor meetings with attendances that have threatened the capacity of our Enterprise House meeting room. To bring you up to date, for our March meeting, our member Christine Price delivered a research-based talk on Compulsory Smallpox Vaccination in 19th Century Keighley, Ripon and Teesdale. This was an fascinating presentation full of original source material and addressing some issues which remain controversial today. At the May meeting member and regular contributor Marilyn Anderson gave an authoritative and engrossing account of the life and death of the British nurse Edith Cavell. This was an emotional topic followed by considerable discussion among the audience. Many thanks to both these members for their excellent presentations. By the time you read this we will have undertaken our first outdoor visit of the year. This will be a follow-up to my January talk on the significance of

the iron age fortification at Stanwick, near Richmond. There will be a full report on this in the July magazine. For those who remember the song 'The Court of King Caractacus', it is believed that Stanwick was the place where the heroic British king of that name was handed over to the Romans by the Brigantian tribal queen Cartimandua.

We are currently very close to our maximum number of members. Anyone else wishing to join the Historic Environment group should contact Tim Meacham to ensure that they are added to the list.

iPad and iPhone Group May report by Mike Sweeting

After a discussion of experiences with potential scams and the how useful paid for defensive measures might be, we moved onto Apple Wallet and Apple Pay. Interest was expressed in having a practical 'workshop' to help get cards set up in Apple Wallet and to provide experience using Apple Pay in a safe environment. We will try to set something up for July.

We finished off the day by having an in-depth look at Calendar, its functions and its many benefits.

Italian Conversation - Marie Jenkins

We meet weekly at Andalucia Café at 82A Galgate. Over coffee we talk in Italian about current affairs. We also read a passage of a book in Italian which we have already prepared at home, and then each person reads and translate part of the passage. Contact **Marie Jenkins** on **07754 205664**

Lunch Group - Report by Jane Mathieson

We had a good evening gathering in June at Brownlow Arms Caldwell. We did have to wait, which is usual, but that gave us time for a lot of talking on a wide range of topics. Our meals from their long list of choices were delicious, with us choosing starters, mains and a few of us managing a pudding to round the meal off.

Our next meeting will be on 17th July at The Black Horse, Ingleton, at 5pm'

NEEDLECRAFT June report by Glen Howard

As usual there was knitting and crochet in evidence, also patchwork and the revamping of old curtains which we all thought was very good practice. There were many different conversations going on at the same time including talk about side effects from the covid jabs, the apparent new philosophy of the museum and politicians!

Our next meeting will be on Monday 1st July. New members are always welcome and you certainly don't need to be an expert to join us, just enjoy stitching with like-minded folk. Please give me a ring if you are interested.
Glen Howard
01833 631639

PAINTING GROUP Report by Val Hobbs

Six of us met at our room in Startforth Community Centre, for the May meeting. Linking in to March and April's projects, which involved using Chinese paintbrushes, we each worked on a seascape. Dividing the paper showing sky, land and sea, the idea was to create a sense of distance, with the sea in the foreground. After tea and shortbread, we used white gouache and white pastel sticks to create the foam, and then added the finer detail with the Chinese brushes. A difficult but very enjoyable experience.

Please contact Val Hobbs on 07900497503 for further details



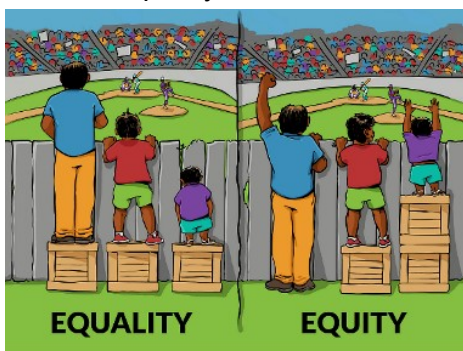


Philosophy Group: Equality — Report by Ruth Sansom

Our philosophy meeting focused on the theme of Equality put forward by Glen Scrivener, a Christian, in his book, *The Air we Breathe*. Scrivener starts his arguments with a quote from Lord Sumpton, 'I don't accept that all lives are of equal value.'

First, we defined Equality and proceeded to identify propositions put forward by pre-Christian philosophers. There are many types of equality and we decided that Scrivener was talking about moral equality: which is the principle that human beings, despite their differences, are to be regarded as one another's equals...often also called 'human equality' or 'basic equality' or 'equal worth' or 'human dignity'.

In pre-Christian times, moral equality was a bit thin on the ground if you happen to be a woman or a slave although many societies, such as the Greeks and the Romans, were very keen on developing equality for what they called "citizens", meaning adult males. However ancient Hebrews believed in equality for all people as they were all so far below God. Ancient Jewish law seemed to be similar, regarding people as equal regardless of age or class. The cartoon proved to be a talking point about the difference between equality and fairness:



Then we looked at philosophical proposals since the time of Jesus.

Celsus, a late 2nd Century anti-Christian philosopher, declared that Christians and Jews were too anthropocentric (human centred). He said they wrongly believed that man was put in charge. Nature is unequal.

We briefly considered the practices of monasticism, abolition of slavery and the 1689 Bill of Rights, much of which was based on the ideas of philosopher John Locke (1632 – 1704).

Rousseau (1712 – 1778) declared that all people should be free and equal, 'Man was born free and everywhere he is in chains.'

Kant (1724 – 1804) believed that all humans have equal worth and deserve equal respect.

Scrivener argues that in the Biblical story God created people in his image. Every human possesses an inviolable dignity and equality so that no one deserves to be trampled down simply because they are smaller, weaker or poorer.

Photography group trip to Paddy's Hole - May 2024 Report by Pete Redgrave

On a grey and murky morning members of the photography group assembled on the narrow, mostly single-track dead-end road leading to the South Gare lighthouse on the Tees estuary. Professional photographers I think would call the location, an 'industrial seascape.' The scene is captured by not exactly luxurious pleasure and fishing boats moored in Paddy's Hole, a side inlet off the estuary.



Across the dead-end road, serried ranks of mostly green huts of the South Gare Fishermans Huts Association clustered against marram-covered dunes. The dwellings were protected by a bold sign from the South Gare Fishermans Association declaring "PRIVATE LAND NO DOGS ALLOWED" – dogs and fish don't mix well? One of the huts had broken rank and seemed to be attempting an escape over the dunes.

In this atmospheric place there was plenty to catch the photographers' eye; including, a large tanker being ushered into port by three powerful tug-boats, a gentleman repairing a marine engine, a man walking his dog, piles of lobster pots (given recent news on dredger-related disturbance of toxic sediment, I'm not sure I would pick Teesmouth lobster from the menu), abstract patterns of weathered drift wood and beach boulders, lichen covered stones, peeling paint on rotting boats,

and a beautiful purple iris. One item sadly missing was the enormous defunct steel works (or was it part of the Billingham chemical complex) – all now gone. Battalions of bulldozers, earth scrapers, and land flatteners have created a smooth waste land on which the ultra-modern Teesside Free Port will be, or might be, situated. So, in memory of past glory:



Photography group trip to Hadrian’s Wall June Report by Peter Redgrave

On a grizzly grey Tuesday morning a forecast-depleted photography group set off for Hadrian’s Wall. We arranged to meet at The Sill, which is very close to where Sycamore Gap used to be (the gap is still there, if not the tree – more on that later). The Sill is a recreational centre from which “the delights of the Northumberland National Park can be explored”, and of course Hadrian’s Wall “just a stone’s throw away.” After invigorating ourselves with the Sill’s coffee we repaired to the Steel Rigg Car Park, here we prepared to assault, well, at least look at the wall from the Scottish side. The weather wasn’t looking good, but that provided an authentic murky and moody look to our photographs.



Intrepid members of the group had not come all this way not to scale the crag, which was duly scaled.



In the hollow, the base layers of Emperor Hadrian's wall were clearly evident, along with what might have been the remains of a turret from which his Romans Legions could keep watch for marauding Scots heralded by the dulcet tones of bagpipes – I'm guessing the latter at least was not widely appreciated by the lads from Italy.



Sadly, our temperate maritime climate precluded optimism for an extended photography session without interruption, and so it proved. After just three quarters of an hour, the threatening clouds delivered, and our mood moved firmly in the direction of the Twice Brewed Inn, for a very reasonable lunch. Being the pub closest to Sycamore Gap there were many beautifully arty pictures of the tree, sadly no longer with us, in snowy conditions, backed by northern lights, and silhouetted against a perfect sunrise. I was appreciating the wonderful photographs with the Inn's receptionist when, with a conspiratorial wink, she divulged secret evidence concerning the motivation responsible for the

arboreal vandalism. Apparently, or should I say allegedly, a disgruntled landowner had been denied planning permission to develop whatever it was he wanted to develop by the Northumberland National Park Authorities. And in his case, revenge was best served with a chainsaw....we will see what transpires in the court case. It was still raining so we went home.

SCRABBLE GROUP report by Ray Thompson

We met at Lillian's on the 10th of June, there were six of us this month. We split into two teams of three. Phil, Marilyn and Lillian in one and Ray, Judith and Liz.

In the first games, Lillian won hers with a score of 211 and Judith won with a score of 244, including a 7 letter, (SCRIBES) for 67 points. We then stopped for tea and coffee and Lillian's lovely homemade Victoria sponge and biscuits.

The two winners played with the next highest scorer, so the teams were, Lillian, Judith and Phil and Ray, Liz and Marilyn. The winners of these games were Phil, with a score of 274 including a 7 letter (RESTAGES) for 79 points and Ray with a score of 302 including a 7 letter, (DOMINEE)) for 74 points.

Thanks to Lillian for hosting this month's meet.

There is no meet in July as people are away. The next meet therefore will be on August 12th but we're not sure of the venue yet, so please phone Judith on 01833 650150 if you wish to join our friendly group.

Spanish Conversation report by Michael Harris

Stella Kirton is now kindly hosting our conversation group at her home near Hamsterley. We have lost members recently for a variety of reasons and we Spanish learners seem to travel a great deal so attendance is erratic. Perhaps all that travelling is why we learn Spanish!

We have recruited one new member recently, there is no waiting list so if you feel inclined ...!



Me during my Spanish exam wondering what is the gender of a washing machine:

Our next meeting is on Monday July 1st and our homework is set.

Washing machine in Spanish is LAVADORA which is feminine. Crockery is VAJILLA and is feminine. Yet a dishwasher LAVAVAJILLAS is masculine. No wonder that child is crying!

Michael Harris U3A Spanish Conversation 2024

TABLE TENNIS GROUP Report by Peter Singer



The Mickleton Muckers go from strength to strength and show that table tennis is a great way to make friends, loosen up the limbs and take out one's frustrations on an innocent plastic ball. There is something very satisfying about wrong-footing an opponent with a delicate dip over the net, whilst a full-throttle smash certainly gets the endorphins flowing. Who needs cognitive behavioural therapy?

A recent, exciting development has been the arrival of a robot in our midst. The table tennis section of Mickleton Village Hall has purchased an automatic serving machine and we have been allowed to try it out as well. The machine, which is attached to one end of a table, serves the balls over the net for one or two players to hit back and has a surrounding net to catch returned balls. It will either oscillate, serving to one side then the other, or can be fixed in one position if a player wishes to practice the same shot repeatedly. The speed of the service and the amount of topspin or backspin can be adjusted, so it is quite a sophisticated robot.

This is a great way to brush up one's technique, although it does become tiring quite quickly, as there are no breaks between games, the serves are relentless and it requires maximum concentration. Definitely best in small doses, but ideal for players who may be waiting for a game. There is also the job of collecting all the balls that are sprayed around the hall by players desperately trying to keep up with the serves. Part of the kit is a cleverly designed tube with a strap across one end, which can just be pushed down onto a ball and it magically stays inside the tube. Once full, the tube can be emptied into the net for the robot to fire out once more. The future is here, folks!

If you would like to join our group to learn the game, improve your skills or just enjoy playing and socialising, please contact Peter Singer (pandjsinger@btinternet.com 07508 663998). All are welcome, whether you play regularly, have not played for some time or have never played before.

Wildflower Group - Report by Anne Thomson



Photo by Nicky Grace



Birds Eye Primrose



Spring Gentian

Photos: Jane Mathieson

Eighteen of us met on a dry but breezy afternoon at Cow Green Reservoir (Wednesday, 8th May). Sadly the sun did not make an appearance so the gentians, bar a few, did not open up their petals. Despite this we all enjoyed identifying Bird's eye primrose, Blue moor-grass, Field woodrush, numerous Mountain Pansy and Common Violet, Ribwort Plantain, Gentians, Spring sand wort/leadwort and Wood Anemones.

After Cow Green a number of us proceeded to Langdon Beck where 24 flowers were identified including Early Purple Orchid spotted by a keen-eyed member.

We adjourned to the Langdon Beck Hotel for refreshment.

We had an extra walk on Tuesday, 21st May when 14 of us met at Bowlees and identified 50 plants. We congregated in the car park then headed in the direction of the Visitor Centre identifying flowers as we went. As we ascended the steps we almost trod on a Scarab Beetle! Proceeding down the road in front of the Visitor Centre we followed the route down to Wynch Bridge, crossing over towards Holwick stopping for a rest on the hump-back bridge. Then re-tracing our steps to Wynch Bridge we walked along the riverside towards Scoberry Bridge catching the last of the Bluebells.

YOGA Report by Michael Harris



A view from the floor this month, well the mat actually!

This morning (June 10th) sounded the easiest session of yoga possible. All we had to do was sit on a chair and the chair had to sit on the mat. It was sure to be an effortless session, after all who doesn't know how to sit on a chair? Well we didn't! There was no slouching allowed or leaning back for a start. We sat on the edge of the chair on our sitting bones! If you don't know what they are, don't worry you will do after an hour of chair yoga with our wonderful tutor Angela. This amazing teacher who has continued to teach us

despite having a broken foot - and has continued to demonstrate her perfect, straight back poses.

(I wonder what Angela really thinks as she sees us wobbling or trying to maintain a straight leg supposedly pointing to the ceiling. I know that mine is only at about thirty degrees but Angela is so kind that we get gold stars for effort, not necessarily for achievement.)

I was really looking forward to the chair yoga as perhaps I could learn some techniques that I could practice under the Witham desk while whiling away the hours waiting for the next customer. The lesson proved to be something rather special. For instead of having to concentrate on four limbs all together, plus the position of my hips, my feet, my back and anything else that could be out of alignment, half of me was anchored to the chair, on my sitting bones of course, and my hips were facing forward.

Angela took us through some of our learnt routines only this time we didn't wobble in the slightest or face the wrong way. This was 'Secure Yoga'! Like any exercise, or even a walk to the shops, it can be approached actively or leisurely. We chose actively and it was a surprisingly strenuous session. Thank you Angela, Namaste!

Next term will run from June 24th to July 15th. There will be no sessions in August but we hope to resume in September. All the current places are booked but you can be added to our waiting list. Please contact:

Angela Griffiths - angelagriffiths5@icloud.com or

Merrion Chrisp - mfchrisp@gmail.com

WALKING GROUPS



SHORTER WALKS GROUP May Report by Liz Colley

EGGLESTONE ABBEY

Hurrah, the weather was kind to us today, being warm and dry. Thirteen of us gathered on the Demesnes for a favourite walk to Egglestone Abbey and back. Led by Godfrey we set off over the green bridge to take the path to the caravan park and up over the fields. This walk offers the opportunity to observe a great selection of trees and plants along the way. We spotted an oak tree that had been covered in flowers so we anticipate it could be a mast season for acorns this year.

Today we detoured to the Abbey itself to learn about the history of the building and the Premonstratensian Order who lived there. We had a lively discussion on whether they were a benefit to the local community or not. Although there are only ruins to be seen, they still tell a story of the life at the monastery.



Photo: Ian Royston

Crossing the Abbey Bridge we took the return path down through the woods. The wild garlic banks were just going to seed. Mid-May is such a glorious time of year when, everything has leafed afresh. The hedgerows are bulging, there is every shade of green to be seen. The birds are busy and this walk through the fields along the river allows the opportunity for viewing water birds as well.

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon in good company and were able to appreciate living in such a glorious location. Our next walk will be on June 24th, I will send out an email the week before with joining instructions.

7 to 9 mile walking group Walk report on May 15 2024 by Nicky Grace



A small but perfectly formed group of 5 met in the car park of Bowes and Gilmonby village hall as the rain drizzled down. We set off towards Gilmonby, the rain ceased and it was dry for the rest of the walk. We climbed up gradually on the road to Sleightholme and turned off heading south by a clump of trees and a disused barn reduced to 8 rusty pillars pointing skywards. We walked by the wall across several slightly boggy fields. Low cloud deprived us of the view across Teesdale but we did spot a cuckoo at the top of a tree. Our walk continued parallel to Eller Beck with a slight diversion and tricky style due to the leader crossing the other side of the wall too soon. Luckily her new OS maps app

on her phone came in handy! We regained the correct wall and came up to Citron Seat where there was neither a lemon nor a seat – any ideas how it got it's name?



So who it is who had reached the skyline already? Not a keen walker but a shop mannequin used to chase off black headed gulls!

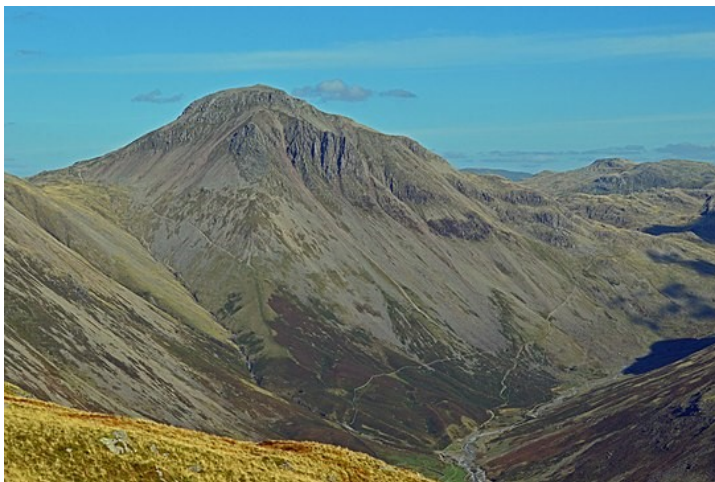
After a refreshment stop, looking south across the moors, we descended through open access land which was very boggy in parts. Walking past the Seven Hills, we rejoined the Sleightholme road and turned off beside The Trough. We had an enjoyable walk back to Bowes via Mellwaters where Sleightholme beck meets the River Greta. It was different walk in a place frequented by curlew, oystercatchers and lapwings – and very few walkers. Our June walk will be led by Peter on June 19th starting from near the CB inn in Arkengarthdale the walk will be a 7 mile exploration of the upper dale including Whaw and High Faggergill.

In July Pete will be leading a 7 mile walk on July 17 starting in Barnard Castle and taking in Lartington and Deepdate woods. Please contact nickygrace729@gmail.com if you would like to join either of these walks.

FELLWALKING

Alas our planned walk around Baldersdale and up to Shackleborough in late May was a write-off. It was just about the most hideous day of the year, and we've had some horrors, haven't we? Our next walk is from East Witton, and there may be a miracle underway that brings the clement weather we need to raise our spirits.

Peter Singer (of whom more later) has a yearning to climb Great Gable, a tough one at 2949 feet, and there is a plan to do this in July. If you'd like to join us, please let me know: annie@cloustones.uk



Great Gable from Yewbarrow

Walk for Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) by Peter Singer



On Saturday 1 June, I took part in a sponsored walk to raise funds for the GNAAS. The weather was perfect, the group was very friendly and I completed the 10-mile course without any problem (apart from a slightly sore toe!). The walk, which was in the upper reaches of Coquetdale in Northumberland, was beautiful, with stunning scenery the whole way round and panoramic views from the summit of Windy Gyle.

This was a very remote area that I had never visited before and it is a real gem. The meeting point was along an increasingly narrow and winding road, the last six miles of which, beyond the hamlet of Alwinton, were completely empty, apart from the numerous Cheviot and Scottish Black Face sheep and lambs (many of them determinedly sitting on the road). We met at the Wedder Leap car park, the name based on a story about a “lifter” who stole a wedder (a castrated sheep) and made off with it tied around his neck. Unfortunately, he was pursued by the farmer and his only possible escape seemed to be to jump across the Barrowburn, which he spectacularly failed to do and thus drowned.

The walk was full of border history and lots of natural interest, all delivered with great good humour by our walk leader, Cliff. On the long, steady climb from the start of the walk, we passed near to Murder Cleugh, where Robert Lumsden murdered his pregnant girlfriend, Isabella Sudden, in 1610; learned how to make a candle out of rushes and were told a very practical use for sphagnum moss that has been squeezed dry. We had lunch spanning the English-Scottish border at Russell’s Cairn on Windy Gyle (2,034 feet), a Bronze Age burial cairn that was later named after a Lord Francis Russell, who was slain at a meeting “under truce” nearby in 1585 by the Scots. Our return along the old drove road Clennel Street took us by the site of the Slimefoot Pub (catchy name for an inn), where drovers, soldiers and reivers would have met to drink, gamble, gossip and fight. It was a wonderful day out and a very rewarding walk. Luckily, I raised just over the required £100 in donations (of a total of over £1,800 so far) and so a huge thank you to those who contributed – every little helps!.

Another month in Ambridge

Just when I had reported on an incredibly tedious month in Ambridge, all HELL breaks loose...would it be arrogant to assume that the scriptwriters desperately seek out Teesdale's Forum as a barometer for how their work is going down?

To help you catch up with the drama of the last four weeks, here is a summary. Alice's drinking reached a crescendo; she was found plastered in her car by George Grundy, who took it upon himself to drive her home. In the struggle to stop her falling out of the car while needing to vomit, he lost control of the wheel and then collided with another car on the bridge over the Am. Both cars plunged into the swirly depths, drowning only averted by the heroic efforts of Alistair the Vet (poor soul, thwarted by these events from having a mucky weekend with Denise) and George Grundy who between them fish out four bodies, including Alice. George neglects to mention he was driving and - dastardly-deed - he transfers Alice's body in the course of the rescue to the driving seat, thus making her responsible for the accident. She's too tanked up to remember anything, is breathalysed, charged and demonised. George is declared a hero, with Alistair the Vet getting a silver medal in the hero-department.

In the course of hospital check-ups it is revealed that near drowning victim Fallon – wife of Sergeant Burns – was pregnant despite her strongly expressed aversion to her becoming a mother (ladies, do not place 100% confidence in the coil), but then miscarries the next day. Sergeant Burns goes into meltdown about the loss of “our baby” revealing that his previously expressed acceptance of non-parenthood was not real. This causes an outbreak of extreme ham-acting that was very nearly intolerable to listen to – but I do have a duty to listen so you don't have to - and I forebore. It all looks as if this relationship will collapse under the strain of all this ham-acting, but somehow, Fallon forbears.

Meanwhile, very much persona non grata, Alice has attempted to escape ignominy by decamping to London. George Grundy hasn't fessed up. Will he when Alice's trial date and the risk of a custodial hoves into view? He is a toe-rag, and my views on his moral turpitude have been extensively covered in previous chronicles. Anyone want to lay odds?

I didn't receive a single nomination for favourite character in Ambridge from the readership. I did think it was a hard ask, so no recriminations on that score. I suppose if I were to nominate a least obnoxious candidate it might be Martha, daughter of Alice and Christopher, the farrier, and that's probably because she is pre-verbal. If anyone wants to argue the toss on that, feel free.

In the meantime, please enjoy the 78 minutes per week you are not listening to the Archers.

Annie

UPCOMING COFFEE AND CHAT SESSIONS

Date	Where
Thursday 11 July 2.30pm	Staindrop Scarth Hall
Thursday 8 August 2.30pm	Andalusia, Barnard Castle
Thursday 12 September 2.30pm	Winter's Middleton in Teesdale
Thursday 10 October 2.30pm	Witham Room, Newcastle Building Society talk about keeping your resources safe
Thursday 14 November 2.30 pm	Cotherstone

Please join us to have a chat with committee members and each other in an informal setting. Its your opportunity to hear about what's on offer in the interest groups, what's new and how your ideas can help us develop.

PHOTOGRAPHS ARE STILL WANTED FOR THE FORUM. PLEASE SEND TO: forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org
This month we are enjoying the (almost) unseasonal pictures of the Dale by Bryan Spark



Group	Meeting Time	Contact Details
Android Group	1 st Thurs pm	Martyn Radcliffe 07975 970088
Art Appreciation	1 st Wed pm	Tony Seward 01833 630050
Automotive	3 rd Tues am	Peter Colley 01833 695197
Birdwatching	3 rd Mon am	Andrew Lapworth 07962 038052
Board Games	2 nd Mon 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 am	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Chess	2 nd Thurs pm	Diana Marks 07762 626912
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
Genealogy	1 st Thurs pm	INACTIVE
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

Group	Meeting Time	Contact Details
Photography	1 st Tues am	Alan Kenwright 07731 122399
Pickleball	1 st & 3 rd Mon pm	Ruth Lapworth 07787 978696
Poetry	2 nd Wed am	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Science & Technology	2 nd Mon am	Roy Tranter 01833 638288
Scrabble	2 nd Mon pm	Judith Fanner 01833 650150
Spanish Conversation	3 rd Thurs 10am	Michael Harris 07799 051389
Table Tennis	Every Fri 3pm	Peter Singer 07508 663998
Theatre	Varies	Elizabeth Formstone 07979 204212
Travel & day trips	Varies	Jane Mathieson 01388 710741
Understanding Classical Music	4 th Fri 10am	Bill Heyes 01833 640885
Wildflower Group	2nd Wed 2pm	Anne Thomson 07928 594404
Wine Group	3rd Tues pm	Tim Meacham 07847 182554
Yoga	Every Mon am	Angela Griffiths 01833 630170
Walking Groups		
Shorter walks 3-4 miles	4 th Mon 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

Highlights at your Community Arts Centre

Sat 29 June 6.00pm	THEATRE – Turrets Youth Theatre Juniors: Space Girl
Tues 2 July 7.00pm	SCREENING – Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show
Wed 3 July 7.30pm	COMEDY – Edinburgh Previews: Tom Stade & Gareth Mutch (16+)
Thurs 4 July 7.30pm	TRIBUTE – This Flight Tonight: The Songs of Joni Mitchell
Fri 5 July 7.30pm	COMEDY – Richard Herring: Can I Have My Ball Back? (14+)
Sat 6 July 8.00pm	TRIBUTE – Quo Connection Playing many of Quo's hits plus some incredible album tracks.
Thurs 11 July 6.30pm	LIVE MUSIC – Little Brass Bash Part of Durham Brass Festival – FREE.
Fri 12 & Sat 13 July Various Times	MUSICAL THEATRE – Teesdale Operatic Society – Six: Teen Edition (8+)
Thurs 18 July 7.00pm	SCREENING – National Theatre Live: Present Laughter (PG) Starring Andrew Scott
Fri 19 July 7.30pm	DANCE – 70s & 80s Disco Night (18+) With DJ Andrew Nicholson
Sat 20 July 6.00pm	COMEDY – Edinburgh Previews: Craig Hill, Connor Burns & Kai Humphries (16+)
Tues 23 July 7.30pm	COMEDY – Edinburgh Previews: Steve Bugeja & Chris Cantrill (14+)
Sat 27 July From 5.00pm	COMEDY – Edinburgh Preview Day (16+) Lauren Pattison, Justin Moorhouse, Alun Cochrane & Andrew White
Sat 22 June to Sun 25 Aug	The Witham's Summer Festival Free entertainment and live music every weekend in the café garden.