

www.teesdaleusa.org.uk

FORUM

October 2025

No. 25/10



u3a

CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Here we are in October with the leaves turning yellow and red. The shops are full of Halloween items, which seems to have taken over from Guy Fawkes, as I remember it from my childhood. Not too sure which is the most macabre, burning an historic figure or spooky creatures and witches?

I really enjoyed our open morning on 27th September, in the Barnard Castle Guide HQ. There was a real buzz as new members came to check out possible interest groups to join and visitors came to explore what we are all about. We must have been interesting as we gained 5, if not 6 new members, a bargain at £18.00 annual membership. It was also a chance to chat with members and find out what interests they have. Possibilities for new groups or Saturday workshop events? A 'Grow You Own' fruit and vegetables group was talked about and if you would be interested in this please have a word with Hazel, our Groups Coordinator.

Back on 18th September I went along to Kiplin Hall near Richmond, to listen to an History Wardrobe event, celebrating Kiplin Hall's 400 years birthday. It was a fascinating evening based on women's birthday wear from the Edwardian era to the 1990s. If you see one of these events advertised do go. They focus on women's history through costume, and both ladies are very entertaining in bringing alive the costumes and who would have worn them and when. Kiplin Hall's refurbished café and gardens are also worth a visit, the autumnal colours around the lake on a sunny autumn day are beautiful.

I am busy getting ready for a six day visit to Provence, money, passport, paperwork, what clothes to take, remembering all the electrical leads, etc I need to take. Trying not to think about the early start, need to be in Morrison's car park at 6.30am! Not my natural awake time. ?

Looking forward to the October social event, an evening of 60s and 70s music and food. I have my outfit all ready, just hope I have the energy to last the night out, as I will have only just returned from France. It will have all happened by the time you read this article, so you can quiz me at the monthly meeting.

Bye for now

Julie

Cover Photo: Tommy at Seaham by Alan Kenwright

It's Your Forum

Editors: Kate Bailey, Annie Clouston, Jane Kenwright, Alyson Kuby, Tony Seward

This month's editor is Jane: Edition No: 25/10

e-mail: forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Phone: Kate **07867 683195** Annie **07988 625738**

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! Photos should be credited, of high resolution in jpg format and sent separately. 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: 17 November 2025 and next month's editor is Kate. 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: www.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
- Back copies are in the u3a file in the Library or in The Witham Shop.

www.teesdaleu3a.org.uk

TEESDALE u3a Officers

Chair: Julie Archer chair@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Ian Royston memsec@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

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

Treasurer: Jane Mathieson treasurer@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETING – Report by Ian Reid

‘Forensics to Crime Fiction’ was the title of Susan Parry’s talk to the September u3a meeting. Susan described her personal journey from studying chemistry at University, working in forensic analysis and then becoming a writer of crime fiction. Her first job was a short term contract at Imperial College, London, as a research assistant, working on a small (100 KW) nuclear reactor. This led to a permanent appointment and, over a number of years, she worked her way up to become a professor, specialising in forensic analysis using radio chemistry. She also took on consultancy work which involved several high profile crime investigations. She quoted cases where soil analysis using mass spectrometry was used to convict and also to acquit suspects of crime.

She was asked by Wiley, the American publishing Company, to write a text book which was then published in hardback. Later, she bought the copyright and republished the book in soft back. She claimed it was easier to write a text book than a novel as it was factually based and didn’t need much imagination. Several walking trips to the Yorkshire Dales with her family provided the inspiration for her to try her hand at writing. Her first novel, *Corpse Way*, set in the Yorkshire Dales, became the first of the Mills Sanderson Series, with Millie, as a forensic archaeologist. There have now been 13 books in the series, all set in the Dales, although Susan prefers to make the setting as anonymous as possible. When she is writing a novel, she likes to outline roughly how the story and the characters will develop, although she is not always sure where the story will end. For example, Nige, one of the main characters in a story had issues and was to become the villain, but in the end, Susan became attached to him and didn’t maintain the original character. She does not write full time and it usually takes her about a year to complete a book. She has now begun a new series about a Regional Unsolved Crime Unit, featuring DI Miriam Abbott and centred around the town of Hawes.

Most of the audience could empathise with Susan’s journey and there was a long queue of members eager to buy one of the author’s signed copies.

For those members who remember the excellent talk given by Gary Bankhead recently, about the recovery of historic treasures from the River Wear, you can find information about his new book at <https://www.diveintodurham.uk/publications>

NEXT MEETINGS AT THE WITHAM

27 November 2025 Roger Browne (Pianist) “The Golden Age of Radio”

In this presentation, Roger takes a humorous and nostalgic look at how Radio shaped his later life as an entertainer, musician, raconteur and writer. He illustrates his talk with live piano playing and singing.

Please note, there is no monthly meeting in December.

22 January 2026 David Williams “GEORGE STEPHENSON: Tribulations, Trials, Triumphs”

As part of the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the critically acclaimed novel *Mr Stephenson's Regret* by author and playwright David Williams has been republished in an anniversary edition by Wild Wolf. David will talk about railway pioneer George Stephenson from his earliest days, with particular focus on the personal relationships that underpin the fascinating story of the making of the world's first public railway, illustrated with extracts from his novel.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Our workshop on **29th November at 2pm** in the Guide HQ on Birch Road, is a talk by Local Historian Kim Harding. See the paragraph below for a taster of her talk and then sign up to hear the full story!

Medieval Winter

Exploring the customs of the preceding months and how late fifteenth century folk both celebrated and survived the darkest months of the year, Kim Harding's illustrated talk on "Medieval Winter" will reveal how festivities and feasting were only a part of the seasonal activities of Yuletide, New Year and beyond. If you have ever wondered what medieval revelries and Christmas traditions have been handed down to us today, come and find out just how long the season of Christmas really lasted and what outrageous knavery was permitted by both the Church and the royal court in its 'topsy-turvy' days.

Saturday 1st November 1-3pm **Stained glass work: create your own tea light holder.** The workshop is full but if you are interested we will put you on the waiting list.

Saturday 13th December 4-6pm, Thorngate, Barnard Castle
Cocktails for Christmas. Led by the workshop committee.

Saturday 17th January 10-12, Witham Room, The Witham
Peter Redgrave will be following up his talk to the Science and Technology Group on *Perks and Perils of AI* with ***A Users Guide to AI.***

Saturday 21st February 10-12 Guide HQ **Classics in a Nutshell, part 2**
Led by Tim Meacham £5

Book your place by contacting Sue Overton at the monthly meeting, or by email sueoverton@hotmail.com or **07512 368884**

DAY TRIPS

THEATRE BY THE LAKE, 6th December, The Wizard of Oz.
Bookings being taken for our annual trip. Please let Diana know if you are interested. Email - dianamarks813@gmail.com Telephone – **0776 262 6912** or **01833 630469** (leave a message)

LONGER TRIPS – Report by Dorothy Jameson

The day in Stratford and the cruise on the Avon was a lovely start to the Cotswolds holiday. The second day involved the morning in Worcester, the afternoon in Tewkesbury and a visit to the Abbey was wonderful, then after that a trip on a train through lovely countryside.

The last day was spent visiting the well known villages.

The hotel was excellent, I personally found the itinerary a bit hectic. The driver, did that and little else! He was a very good driver, but a very poor communicator.

The firm we travelled with was 'Just Go'. I hadn't used them before and as far as I am concerned in future they can just go without us!

We now have our trip to Scotland to look forward to In April.

TEESDALE U3A OPEN DAY- 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

With balloons, cakes and a buzz in the air our Open Day had a very festive atmosphere. Over 50 people attended and five new members joined.

Many thanks to the 19 convenors who contributed to making the morning a success. There were eye-catching displays which encouraged plenty of interest. There was an opportunity for discovering what goes in the different groups with many people expressing interest in joining new groups. It was also a chance for members to catch up with each other and have a chat.



Photo by Peter Colley

Thanks also goes out to the team: Julie, Annie, Sue, Hilary, Hazel, Liz and Pete who made the morning happen and provided the excellent coffee and cakes.

From Board Games through to Philosophy, Teesdale u3a continues to be a vibrant, social and welcoming organisation. Do get in touch if you have any suggestions for groups or events you would like to join.

GROUP REPORTS

ART APPRECIATION GROUP – Report by Tony Seward

Episode 2 of *The Story of Welsh Art* covered the period from the early 18th century to the end of the 19th. It began with Richard Wilson (1714-1782), who has been called ‘the father of British landscape painting’. He was one of the first to combine ideal classical composition in the manner of Claude with accurate topographical observation – in particular of the rugged mountain scenery of his native Wales. After training in London, he followed the well-trodden Grand Tour route to Italy and spent time with other artists in Rome, before becoming one of the founder-members of the Royal Academy.

Fellow Welsh artist Thomas Jones (1742-1803) followed a similar path, and his greatest paintings, much admired today, were a series of small oil studies on paper, of the walls of rundown buildings that he studied closely from the window of his studio in Naples. These were nothing short of revolutionary, minutely observing their humble subjects in realistic detail and organising them into semi-abstract arrangements of shape and colour that have been compared to Mondrian. They were made entirely for his own pleasure and not rediscovered until nearly 200 years later.



A House in Naples, by Thomas Jones, 1782 (*Amgueddfa Cymru/Museum Wales*)

JMW Turner frequently toured in Wales in search of the Picturesque and in his usual fashion converted the scenery before him into visions of the

sublime. The energy and power of his work could not be ignored by those who came after him.

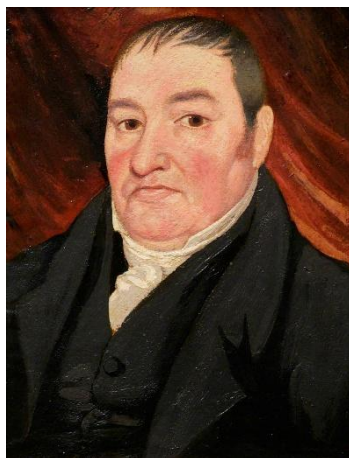
We then turned to the impact of the Industrial Revolution in Wales and looked at Penry Williams' (1800-1886) dramatic evocation of the steelworks at Merthyr Tydfil, with its smoke and fire, elegant architecture and toiling workers. William Jones Chapman (1808- c. 1870) was a pioneer in creating portraits of individual industrial and agricultural workers, and a uniquely Welsh tradition developed of self-taught artisan painters who travelled the country recording the appearance of ordinary people and their families.



Portrait of roller William James, by William James Chapman, 1835 (*The Crawshay Workers' Portrait Series*)

One of the most notable practitioners of the trade was Hugh Hughes (1790-1863). Sadly, the coming of photography killed off this honest and appealing artistic sub-genre.

Lastly, we were introduced to high Victorianism in the shape of the artists' colony that developed at Betws-y-Coed. It was a harbinger of what was to come, attracting artists from all over Britain and Europe, and introducing a new cosmopolitanism to Welsh art. It inspired two masterpieces by English artists; 'The Welsh Funeral' by David Cox (1783-1859), reminiscent of Courbet's realistic treatment of rural people, and 'The Rainbow', reflecting the new awareness of deep geological time, by Henry Clarence Whaite (1828-1912).



David Morley, cabinet maker, by Hugh Hughes (Carmarthenshire Museums)

AUTOMOTIVE GROUP – Report by David Yeadon

U3A Automotive Group gets all steamed up at Hopetown as part of the 200th anniversary of railways.

A number of our train/plane/car/boat enthusiasts visited Hopetown in Darlington where, as part of the celebrations, the famous engine, 'Sir Nigel Gresley', named after its designer, was steamed up and moved noisily away from the engine sheds in clouds of steam and smoke.

This engine holds the post war steam speed record of 112mph in 1959.

It's sister engine, 'Mallard' no. 60022, still holds the world steam speed record of 126mph achieved in July 1938. Any schoolboy from the 1950s will tell you this - well, I could!

The engine driver of the 'Sir Nigel Gresley' knew every nut and bolt on his magnificent 165 ton behemoth - question,

"Have you been a train driver all of your working life?"

"No, I ran a model train shop in York!"



Photos by Peter Colley

BOARD GAMES – Report by Jean Bartle

If you enjoy games and are looking to combine a quiet afternoon spending two hours playing, this may not be right for you. However if you want to spend one afternoon a month having a laugh in good company while learning new games and playing familiar ones, come along to the Old Well on the second Monday afternoon of the month.

In September ten people turned up to have fun and work their brains just enough not to be stressed. Two groups were established, first to play Rummikub, in which intellect is not required, but a certain amount of cunning is useful. It is important in this game not to panic as your 14 starter tiles mount up to 30 whilst an opponent's are reduced to one.

After 3 games both groups switched to SkyJo, which is probably the noisiest game played by this group, with plenty of 'ooh's, 'aah's, 'oh no's and many an extra loud 'yes'. In both games knowledge of the rules is helpful, but not essential, as they do tend to change from person to person! Nowhere is 'sorry' said with such insincerity, as an opponent blocks another player's move!

If you don't mind being a "glorious loser" occasionally, do come along.

BOOK GROUP 2 – Report by Ruth Stables

Every now and again, we meet and share books we have enjoyed and may be unknown to others in our Group. Such was our meeting on the second Monday of September and a good time was had by all.

First up was "Broken Country" by Clare Leslie Hall, a love story based on a farming family. The children of the parents fall in love prior to going up to Oxford but neither set of parents approve and are determined to keep them apart. The story, using a dual timeline, unfolds around the themes of love and loss, grief, betrayal and class conflict. This is a book of complex family relationships, described as "the most addictive love story of the summer" and set in rural England. Whilst our reader found the story compelling, she was not sure she would recommend it – the men were too "wishy-washy" and the story hopped backwards and forward too much.

The second book was Gervase Phinn's "The Other side of the Dale" which our member found "a sheer delight" and we all shared in much laughter at the now well-known school inspector's tales of children and schools in the

dales. If you want cheering up this is the book for you – a thoroughly delightful book – and never doubt that children have wise insights and can tell it as it is.

The third book was “Balcony over Jerusalem” by an Australian journalist, John Lyons. The book described his 6 years in Israel and Palestine with all its attendant dangers. The author admitted Israel was winning the military battle and in the settlements but Israel was not winning the Public Relations battle. The book was written well, so if you want a thought-provoking read, this is the one for you.

The last book was “Death at the Sign of the Rook” by Kate Atkinson, a book in the detective, Jackson Brodie, series. This book was found to be overcomplicated and even hard to follow, with too many differing strands. The reader did not recommend it, despite its being written by a well-known author whose other books the reader had enjoyed.

Our next meeting is **on Monday 10th November at 2.30p.m.** when we are all reading “Precipice” by Robert Harris. New members will be very welcome so please contact the Convenor if you would like to join us.

CHESS GROUP – Report by Diana Marks

There were seven of us this month. I was happy to give it a miss, having just returned from holiday the night before. It was fun watching the cogs turn as the others battled with each other!

We meet again on the first Thursday of the month at The Old Well. I think we'll move to our winter quarters, the breakfast room, as it's getting too cold in the conservatory. Hope to see you there.

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FORUM – Report by Kate Bailey

Over the last few months, as we explained in last month's Forum, our group has been working to find practical solutions to local environmental issues. We are delighted that Sue has found a sustainable recycling system for empty medicine blister packs and this is proving to be popular amongst members who have found the system in Boots shops to be inconvenient. We will be providing a collections bag and a donations box at each monthly meeting and the group convenors will also be accepting empty blister packs. The Terracycle 'bin' will hold 7500 blister packs and, because we have to

pay for its collection and recycling treatment, we are asking members to make a small payment every time they donate their blister packs.

In October we shared news of 'Clothes Swaps' and 'Textile Recycling' projects that will put our discarded items to good use. We also learned about the many innovative ways that fabrics for clothing are produced without oil being the principal raw material. Some of these projects started as solutions to plant waste from food production, following estimates that about 1.3 billion tonnes of food produced for human consumption are disposed of each year.

For example, wine-making grape waste in Italy is being turned into fibres, yarns and even leather substitutes for clothing in H&M shops. The Swiss QWSTION back-pack company is using 'Bananatex' yarn made in Taiwan from banana plant fibres; the plants regrow within a year so these products are very sustainable. In Kenya the stalks of green nettles, planted to prevent soil degradation and erosion, are used to produce fibres similar to the linen from flax plants. Bamboo, coconut, apple, mango, cactus, pineapple leaf and banana peel waste is being dried and processed in different countries to produce yarn for clothing and textiles and to reduce the vast quantities of plant waste going to landfill.

There is 'Good News' this month about the world's first microfibre recycling plant, recently opened in Bude, Cornwall, which aims to stop plastic particles, shed by synthetic fabrics during washing, from polluting rivers and oceans. Two different fungi, that release enzymes that digest polyurethane plastics, have been discovered in Pakistan and the Amazon Basin. There are hopes that these organisms may lead to the development of affordable 'nature-based' solutions to plastic waste that will operate in weeks rather than centuries. The BBC reported this month that renewable energy has overtaken coal and the world's leading source of electricity in the first half of 2025. And the International Energy Agency has forecast that global renewable electricity generation will increase by almost 90% between 2023 and 2030. In 2025 China (with a sixth of the world's population) has supplied or installed about half of the world's new renewable energy equipment but remains, with the USA, one of the biggest emitters of CO₂.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD GROUP - Report by Sue Overton

We did not meet in October but here is the solution to last month's clue :-

Centre of club, I'm bonny airhead (5)

This is a 'hidden' clue type.

Definition = 'airhead', Indicator = 'centre of'

Solution = BIMBO

Now try this one:-

Engineer can't find site for debugging aid? (12)

Our next meeting in the Guide HQ is at **2pm** on **Wednesday 12th November**. If you would like to join us, contact me **Sue Overton 07512 368884** sueoverton@hotmail.com

FAMILY HISTORY INTEREST GROUP – Report by Alan Swindale

A dozen members of the group listened to Pam Taylor's talk entitled 'Family History: Tools in Concert'; how to use a number of different websites along with Ancestry to carry out family history research.

Pam uses Ancestry to build a family tree but believes other online resources have their particular strengths and dips in and out of them to find information and then records the information in Ancestry, using Ancestry as a repository.

After swiftly running through her favourite sources she set the group a set of test exercises where, after coffee, they had to use these sources to answer a series of family history questions set out on a sheet.

The next talk will illustrate the use of wills to progress your family history research. It will be held on the **second Thursday of November (13th), at 13:30 in Enterprise House** and followed by a practical session "Help your neighbour", so please all bring laptops or your usual devices.

An index to other past talks is at
<https://www.fivenine.co.uk/U3A/tutorials.html>

GARDENING GROUP – Report by Julie Archer

September saw the last Gardening Group visit for summer 2025, and it was to Sizergh Castle and gardens, near Kendal.

Sizergh Castle is a beautiful medieval house with rich gardens and estate, now managed by the National Trust, but the family still live in one wing of the house. The rich gardens include a mirror lake, colourful herbaceous border, a working kitchen garden, apple orchard and limestone rock garden. The 1,600-acre estate contains wetlands, limestone pasture, ancient woodland, farmland and orchards and is home to a variety of wildlife and flowers.



Photo: Sizergh Castle Mirror Lake

The medieval manor is filled with items collected by 26 generations of the Strickland family, including the internationally recognised Inlaid Chamber. Most if not all the group managed to tour the house which proved to be the cosiest castle I have visited, if rather rambling. The video made by the present family member, Henry Hornyold-Strickland on the history of the family and the estate was certainly worth watching and conveys his love of

the history of the place. His family have lived at Sizergh Castle for almost 800 years and while the parts of the house open to the public fit that image, his living quarters in the north wing are much less opulent. The other very effective video was made by the National Trust was to illustrate a flood that took place two years ago in one of the upper floor rooms. Using lights and film a very visual video placed you in the centre of the action watching the flood and its effect on some valuable paintings. The items affected are just starting to be returned after intense repair and restoration.

Naturally, members of the group took the opportunity to visit both café and the shop. The café uses seasonal produce grown in the vegetable garden. While the shop tempted many members with gifts, cards and of course plants purchases. All in all another successful garden visit, with our amazing coach driver squeezing through another tight gateway.

GEOGRAPHY GROUP - Report by Jane Harrison

Our speaker was Professor Martin Pratt, who is an expert in boundaries and territorial dispute resolution. Martin runs Bordermap Consulting and is based in Canada, so we were very fortunate that he was able to speak to our group whilst attending a conference at Durham University.

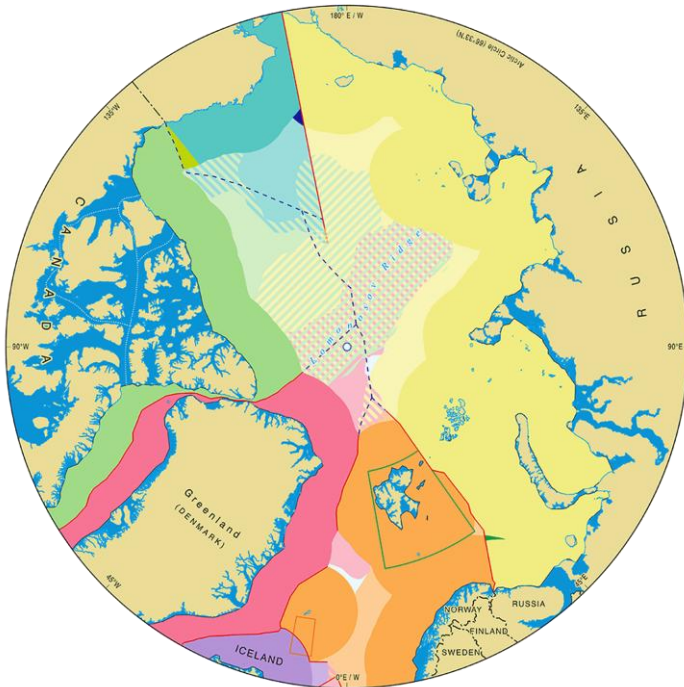
Martin was previously Director of Research at Durham University's International Boundaries Research Unit (IBRU). To illustrate his talk on "The Next Cold War: Boundaries and Geopolitics in the Arctic" he used maps from the acclaimed IBRU's Arctic Map Series.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which came into force in 1994, now governs the use of the oceans and their resources. Over 170 states are now signed up. Coastal states and islands have sovereignty over their inland and 'Territorial' seas up to 12 nautical miles and have exclusive rights to the resources in their 'Exclusive Economic Zone' (EEZ), which extends up to 200 nautical miles.

The maritime boundaries between the territorial seas and EEZs of neighbouring Arctic states have largely been agreed upon but there are some unresolved issues. Canada, for example, claims that its Arctic archipelago lies in inland rather than territorial waters and therefore holds that there is no right of innocent passage for foreign shipping. This could become more contentious with global warming as the Northwest Passage becomes ice free for more of the year.

More disputed are the areas of 'Extended Continental Shelf' (ECS) which lie beyond 200 nautical miles in 'The High Seas'. Where claims overlap, states must make submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). These are costly, time consuming, and voluminous.

Central parts of Arctic Ocean contain extensive areas of shallower water, such as over as the Lomonosov Ridge and Mendeleev Rise. These areas, which include the North Pole, are the subject of overlapping submissions by Canada, Denmark and Russia. This complex situation can be seen on the accompanying map.



Map used with permission from IBR, Durham University, UK

The key and briefing notes are available on the website.

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/ibru-borders-research/maps-and-publications/maps/arctic-maps-series/>

The CLCS has already made some recommendations for the Arctic and others are pending. Its decisions are considered final and binding, but it is up to a state to determine the outer limit of its continental shelf. With untapped resources, such as oil, gas and minerals, to be exploited, tensions could increase if agreements cannot be reached.

There are only two tiny areas of Arctic Ocean which are not subject to any claims. These areas of very deep water form part of 'The Area' and are administered by the International Sea Bed Authority.

Next meeting: In the Witham at **2pm. Thursday 20th November** "The physical, political and social geography of ice" Gerald Blake.

GEOLOGY GROUP – Report by Bob Tuddenham

After the break in August, our first meeting of the autumn took place at the Witham on Sept 22nd. The meeting was led by Trevor Morse and was in a tutorial style, encouraging members to raise questions.

In the first half Trevor returned to his interesting 'Barnian hypothesis' which looks at the unique geological conditions for life on Earth and whether these are likely to be found on other planets. It was a useful opportunity to revise some key principles of geology such as uniformitarianism, plate tectonics and the Milankovitch cycles. The ability of DNA to mutate and drive evolution is also another of the key conditions essential for life. It was explained that there is, so far, no evidence of plate tectonics on any of our three nearest rocky planets. This topic stimulated considerable discussion leading to questions as to whether man's exploitation of the planet (the Anthropocene epoch) runs contrary to the overall balance and compensatory cycles of the Earth (the Gaia hypothesis) and whether this will eventually lead to our extinction.

In the second half, Trevor showed some of the high quality geology learning resources from the OUGS that are available on the internet and social media. As an example, the meeting looked at some excellent slides illustrating mechanisms of mass movement such as avalanches and mudflows on land and the formation of turbidites in water.

Our next meeting will be at The Witham on Monday morning **October 27th at 10 am**. All are welcome to join us. Please contact the convenor for details.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT – Report by Rob Pearson

The Durham Miner Illustrated – A talk by Glynn Wales

Glynn was a History teacher at Ferryhill Grammar School who went on to train teachers at Durham. His wife, Gillian, set up the Gemini Collection with Dr Robert McManners and they all live in Bishop Auckland. They have collected over 400 paintings of coal miners, their families and their way of life, which forms the nucleus of the Mining Art Gallery in Bishop Auckland.

Glynn gave a fascinating talk to a packed house. He had been brought up in a mining village, where his father owned a corner shop, having chosen not to go down the pit. He discussed the population explosion in County Durham through the 19th century as workers flooded in from all over Britain. Many would work in the pits, others in the iron and steel works, locomotive works and shipyards.

Some miners became artists through the Spennymoor Settlement. Some left mining and painted full-time, even entering academic life. They had come to the pits from different directions, some followed in the family's footsteps, others had been "Bevan Boys". The talk was illustrated throughout with appropriate images from the artists, such as Norman Cornish, Tom McGuinness, Tom Lamb, Ted Holloway and many others.

Glynn took us underground, with images of Hewers and Putters, who worked closely together and were "Marras". The equipment changed from a simple pick to hew the coalface, to pneumatic tools. Development of the mines had been fragmented, under-mechanised, undercapitalised and strife/strike torn. However, the pits created intensely loyal communities, often tribally at odds with their neighbours!

We went into miners' homes, with the tin bath in front of the range; into their pubs, where they replaced the fluid losses from their hot, sweaty work. Mining was hard work and dangerous and we saw the harrowing faces of those who waited at the surface for news of loved ones after an accident or explosion underground.

Workers in the pits had limited prospects, with maximum earning capacity for the majority actually reducing with age as they were overtaken by fitter, younger men. Bright children went to the grammar schools and on to further education, with only a minority returning to their geographical roots. Glynn, his wife and Bob McManners were exceptions.

Pits closed - Harold Wilson overseeing the closure of more pits than Margaret Thatcher. There was unemployment and the descendants of the men who had travelled far to come to County Durham did not wish to leave their tight-knit communities.

These artists reflected on all facets of life in the Durham Coalfields. They developed their own characteristic techniques and styles of painting, when working underground using whatever media came to hand - bright, resourceful men, recognised now for their art and for the archive that they have left us of an era that has passed.

iPAD and iPHONE GROUP – Report by Mike Sweeting

Back to Basics this month covered updating the operating system to latest version launched on 15 September. We also looked at travelling abroad with the iPhone, changing sounds and haptics (vibrations) and using the Action Button.

We had a topical look at VPN's and their role in protecting the privacy of users and finished off with how to troubleshoot WiFi in the home if performance is not as expected.

The next meeting will be on **28 October 2025 at 1:30pm in Enterprise House**. Please note that there will be no meetings thereafter until 27 January 2026.

LUNCH CLUB – Report by Julie Archer

In September 8 members of the Lunch Group met at the Black Horse, Ingleton. We met for an early evening meal at 5.30pm as, like a lot of pubs now, food at lunch time is restricted to a Friday to Sunday offer.

It was a happy group catching up on news individual, local and national. The food was good, though Italian dishes (mainly pizza) are now only available Thursday to Sunday. The sea bass with seafood risotto was considered to be the best main dish and the lemon and lime cheesecake was the most popular desert, although it's biscuit base was a bit of a challenge. Our only issue was the 1 hour long wait for our food to appear. The staff were very friendly and helpful.

In October the lunch group will be having a meal at the High Force Hotel.

NEEDLECRAFT – Report by Sheila Kilgarriff

A small group of us went to see the superb exhibition at Darlington Library. There were 77 exhibits all undertaken by the Darlington Stitches and Create Group (Previously called the Embroiders' Guild). More than 40 members have taken a year over one theme 'The Darlington and Stockton Railway and their work was exquisite, a truly worthwhile visit.



PAINTING GROUP – Report by Val Hobbs

Only a small handful of us met on Friday at the Community Room at St. Mary's.

Anne's project for us was to draw and paint irises the most majestic of garden plants.

The idea was to sketch the irises and then apply the paint in a way which created 'bleeding' effect, rather than a solid block of colour. Anne demonstrated how to wet each petal/stamen and stalk individually, and then 'drop' the paint in at a point where the flower colour was darker, and to let it spread in the wetted area to create a gradation of tones. This was easier said than done, and we were all tempted to 'push' the paint rather than let it make its own way. We used violets, blues and plum reds, emulating the natural colours, and then applied yellow greens for the foliage. It was a technique we all loved using, and no doubt, we will all continue to do so.



Please contact Val Hobbs on valblackhobbs@gmail.com for more information.

PHILOSOPHY GROUP – Report by Pete Redgrave

Machine Consciousness?

Will machines ever become conscious? Never say ‘never’ especially after watching the movie *Ex Machina*, (currently streamable on Amazon Prime – it’s good). However, despite optimistic projections from Silicon Valley, I don’t think we need worry about conscious machines any time soon. Why not? Because the wilder notions of machine consciousness are usually made without reference to the complexities of biological consciousness. In our August meeting we discussed some of the obstacles that would have to be overcome if a conscious machine was somehow constructed.

First, the state of consciousness would have to be more reliant on the computational algorithms being implemented than on the hardware, or wetware (e.g. the brain), doing the implementing. Given both computers and brains operate according to laws of physics and chemistry, this possibility cannot be ruled out as a matter of principle.

However, assuming consciousness is a software issue, a conscious machine won’t happen by accident, it will have to be built, by humans – so what might it need to be conscious of? Necessarily, it would be based on known aspects of biological consciousness, otherwise it would be called something different. First, the machine would be subjectively aware of its external environment – i.e. given sensory perception. We know when we get hungry, so maybe it should also be aware when its batteries need charging. We do things, and know what, when, where and why we do them – a conscious machine would need behavioural volition. We are conscious of our ideas and memories – no problem there for the machine, but it would need its idea generator and memory banks available for subjective introspection. A conscious machine would also need selective attention – to stop it trying to do incompatible things at the same time. Moreover, if it can learn it would need to be consciously aware of good and bad outcomes. Finally, would a machine need to be conscious of itself – if so, maybe it could be embarrassed!

Insofar as the latest artificial intelligence still has problems understanding abstract concepts that humans find easy, our view was that a fully-fledged conscious machine is further over the horizon than contemporary computer scientists think. Whatever, the problem of how a machine could be recognised as conscious, as opposed to being a functional zombi, will remain....especially as current chatbots are brilliant at simulating consciousness – “if it talks like us, it must think like us”.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP – Report by Alan Kenwright

In October, nine members of the photography group met indoors at Enterprise house. The meeting was partly administrative – to discuss possible themes for future calendars and possible venues for visits in the coming year, but there was also time for presentations and discussion on a couple of technical aspects of photography. The first of these dealt with metering modes and, in particular, “spot metering”, which can be extremely useful in situations where there is a lot of contrast (very bright areas and very dark areas in the same image). The second area for discussion was the fraught subject of “cropping”. We explored the areas of necessity and aesthetics; when you need to crop just to get an image that has the required aspect ratio to fit on the page of a calendar, for example, versus when you might want to crop an image just to make it look better (to lose unwanted details around the edges of the image or tweak up the composition). There are no hard and fast rules, it seems, but it is certainly a useful skill for the photographer to master.



Photo by Pete Redgrave

Our next meeting will be some time in November when we will meet up at Grassholme to try our luck with astro-photography. Exact date and time to be confirmed depending on the weather and the phase of the moon!

POETRY GROUP – Report by Marilyn Normanton

'O to be in England/Now that April's there' is the well-known first line of Robert Browning's "Home-Thoughts, From Abroad" and a suitable starting point for this month's selection of poems about Place. We hear the homesickness of a traveller, his memories of a burgeoning English Spring, with blossom and birdsong. In that same landscape we may see "The Barn", described by Edward Blunden, with its 'Rain-sunken roof...Dishevelled eaves...And idly-pencilled names and jests upon the posts within.'

In "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, a traveller comes across 'Two roads diverged in a yellow wood / And sorry I could not travel both ... I took the one less travelled by,/ And that has made all the difference.' A metaphor for the choices we face in life perhaps.

Thomas Hardy's "Beeny Cliff" looks back to a time when he and his wife 'laughed light-heartedly aloft' as they looked over the 'opal and sapphire of that wandering western sea.' That happiness didn't last and after his wife's death he seems to look back with some guilt and regret. 'What if still in all its chasmal beauty looms that wild weird western shore/The woman now is – elsewhere -... and will laugh there nevermore.'

For those of us who love the strange and wonderful place names found on an OS map, John Betjeman's "Dorset" is a treat. As the parishioners of 'Binghams Melcombe, Iwerne Minster, Shroton, Plush,' scrub up for church, we see 'Gloved the hands that hold the hymn book, which this morning milked the cow.'

Gerard Manley Hopkins "Inversnaid" describes 'This darksome burn, horseback brown/ His rollrock highroad roaring down. ... Degged with dew, dappled with dew/are the groins of the braes that the brook treads through.' He finishes with a plea for Nature, 'O let them be left, wildness and wet;/ Long live the weeds and the wildness yet.'

Some of our local poets featured in this month's selection with Meg Peacocke's "Sightseers in New York City", giving us a bird's eye of 'The toy cars going and stopping,/ The random moves of dots we assume/to resemble ourselves.' Sharing the view is a 'young black man ... pointing out/ to his visiting folks just where/he lived above the deli ... meeting their proud astonished eyes.'

“Riverbank” by Ray Lee describes a ‘droning Bee heavy Day, where
‘Leaves shimmer./ A stone/ Clops/ Against bedrock.’ And
‘Downstream/Children shriek.’

Mike Catling’s “Glasshampton Monastery Garden” is a powerful evocation of the serenity found ‘in this garden of tranquillity’, where ‘Silence here seeps into my soul’. ‘And with this silence the soul’s ear cupped/to enjoy the symphony of silent music.’

SPANISH CONVERSATION - Report by Michael Harris



The Spanish Conversation Group has found a new venue. We are now able to meet at the Bowes Café.

We are not a teaching group but if you would enjoy resurrecting some previously learned Spanish then you may be able to pick yourself up and start playing the trombone!

Contact Michael Harris on [07799051389](tel:07799051389)

TABLE TENNIS GROUP – Report by Peter Singer

Tilly Norwood. Does that name, which has been in the news recently, ring any bells? Not, as you might guess reading this report, the latest US table tennis prodigy, nor a successor to Twiggy, nor even a Beatrix Potter character (a distant cousin of Squirrel Nutkin, perhaps?). Tilly Norwood is the first AI-generated “actress”, currently causing a stir amongst the acting community, fearful for their jobs. AI seems to be (and probably is) everywhere in our lives these days, which for many of us is a scary prospect. If Tilly makes you feel, as one journalist put it, “...a sense of untameable dread for the entire future of humanity” and you agree with the US trades union Sag-Afra that creativity is and should remain “human-centred”, the place for you to escape to could just be our table tennis group on a Friday afternoon.



We can guarantee that all our members are genuinely human performers and have not (yet?) been replaced by “synthetics” (apart maybe from the odd hip or knee replacement) For one thing, no self-respecting AI table tennis player would produce some of the “creative” mis-hits that grace the tables at the leisure centre, usually accompanied by appropriate, if not always respectful commentary. The most basic of these is simply missing the ball completely – those shots that leave you thinking “is there a hole in my bat?” It’s very frustrating and shouldn’t happen, although we have seen semi-professional players miss too. The available advice offers three tips, which include relaxing (try not to get too uptight when things aren’t going well) and anticipation (think where the next shot by your opponent is going to come from and try to be ready). But the most important is probably focusing on the ball. Don’t stand admiring your last shot or looking at where you would like your shot to land, focus on the ball and watch it all the way over the table and onto your own bat. So, three steps to heaven and none of them AI-created - why not come and give it a try?

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.

UNDERSTANDING CLASSICAL MUSIC – Report by Ian Royston

We continued with Simon Russell Beale’s History of the Symphony with Episode Two entitled “Beethoven and Beyond” continuing the story of the latter part of Beethoven’s life and compared and contrasted his works with those of the French composer Hector Berlioz, mentioning Schubert and Liszt on the way.

In 1808 a four-hour concert in Vienna saw the premiere of two Beethoven symphonies, the 5th and 6th. Both were very different, the second radically so as it broke the conventions by having five named movements and was an early example of seeing the symphony as a story not in words, but in in music.

After Napoleon’s defeats a new period of optimism swept through Europe and after a gap of 12 years Friedrich Schiller’s ‘Ode to Joy’ provided the

inspiration for Beethoven's Ninth, 'Choral' Symphony incorporating ideas which had been gestating for all his adult life. This was the first symphony with a significant part for the human voice and the main theme has been expropriated to provide a backdrop to the Nazis, Ken Russell's Clockwork Orange, The European Union and as a tribute to those who died in the Twin Towers terrorist action.

Hector Berlioz abandoned a promising medical career to pursue music, inspired by Beethoven, and is remembered mostly for his Symphony Fantastique, another piece where he attempts to tell a story through music. Berlioz's ideas became more extravagant and he attempted to redesign the orchestra to his own specification of 467 players. Berlioz's fantasies in music also extended to his ultimately tragic pursuit of teenage English actor Harriet Smithson for whom he latterly wrote his *Roméo et Juliette* symphonie dramatique as it was her debut in that play in Paris that had first brought her to his notice.



Hector Berlioz by Josef Kriehuber [Wikipedia]

Simon Callow started in Madrid, briefly exploring the music of Albéniz, a young, rebellious composer who started with piano pieces in the typically Spanish "zarzuela" style before looking at the better-known works of Manuel de Falla.

Simon then headed east to Serbia to the little-known composer Stevan Mokranjac. Often called the "father of Serbian music," Mokranjac is revered for his choral works and efforts to preserve Serbian folk melodies. He is credited for promoting the ancient singing societies of Serbia which despite Serbia's place in the heart of many European conflicts continue to thrive and promote Serbian culture to today.

We plan to continue with the **History of the Symphony "New Nations and New Worlds"** looking at the works of Brahms and others and explore other musical cities next month **at 10:00 on Friday 24 October at Startforth Community Centre.**

The group will move to Enterprise House, Montalbo Road from January. Ideas of how we will run the meeting from our new venue are welcome, as of course are new members.

WILDFLOWER GROUP - Report by Anne Thomson

Our September walk was, again, a railway walk when 9 of us identified 31 flowers along the Tees Railway from Mickleton towards Middleton-in-Teesdale.

The forecast rain did not materialise but we had a gentle breeze instead. We identified three Willow-herbs - Rosebay, Great and Broad-leaved; Harebells hiding in the undergrowth; Wild Raspberry; and Water Mint in the ditch.

A complete list of flowers identified on both walks was sent to the Group members.

Please contact the Convenor for further information of the Group.

WIMMIN' SWIMMIN' GROUP - Report by Ruth Lapworth



With 2 of our group away and almost certainly swimming in warmer climes the rest of us resorted to the tranquil waters of the pool at Teesdale Leisure Centre. The less experienced are now getting used to bringing and using the various accessories needed for an enjoyable swim. These include a good cap and goggles, a pair of flip flops to get from the changing room to the pool as well as shampoo and body wash and of course a good towel for drying off after a warm shower at the end of the session.

Great progress has been made by two of the group who were unable to swim when they joined. One is now floating with the aid of a noodle and the second is confidently swimming breaststroke over a short distance. The rest of us take the opportunity to practice our strokes or just enjoy the opportunity to relax in the water without worrying about bumping into other swimmers.

For any female u3a member who has never tried to swim or perhaps did so many years ago but now lacks confidence to have a go, this is a perfect opportunity to try in a friendly and welcoming environment. The next sessions are **25 October and 22 November from 4-5 pm**. Please contact Sue Overton if you would like to join us.

WALKING GROUPS



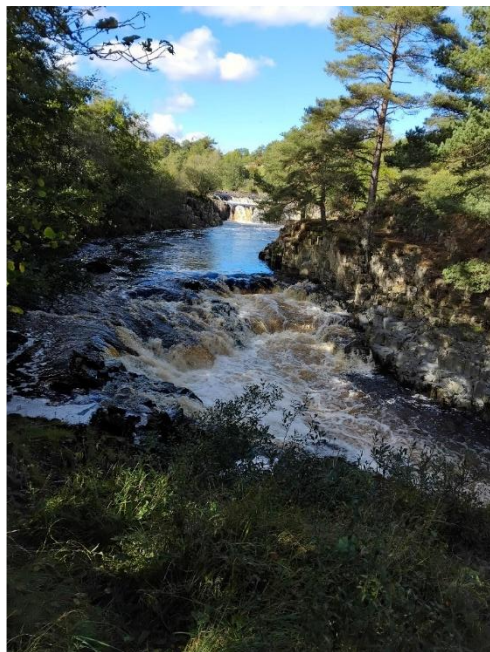
SHORTER WALKS - Report by Sue Overton



Thankfully, the weather was perfect for our September walk after the previous weekend's deluge. We set off from the car park at Bowlees and walked over the beck, up the steps and past Bowlees café. We immediately turned left on the road behind the row of houses and crossed a rather broken-down stone stile into the wood. Here a path led to a gate opening onto the main road. Across the B6277 road we walked down a long farm track, through the farmyard and on into fields heading towards the river and

Scoberry footbridge constructed in 1971 (an older bridge was damaged in the floods of 1942). Interesting fossils here at the edge of the river.

Over the bridge and climbing up steps to the riverside walk we went through a gate on our left into the fields and made our way up towards Holwick Scar. Cattle and sheep seemed untroubled by our passage and apart from muddy gateways there were no obstacles and only one easy stile out of the field onto the minor road. We paused to admire the magnificent views and noted the remnants of an old settlement at the top of the field.



Turning right, we continued along the road past farms and well-placed holiday cottages on our right. The next right took us on a long downhill stretch of road back towards the river with 360 degree panoramic views all the way.

The road leads to a farm on the left, but we continued straight on down through fields following the path which leads to Low Force and a photo stop to capture the very familiar falls. Over the Wynch bridge and back to Bowlees, where some of us visited the painting exhibition upstairs before returning to the car park.

The walk was nearly 3 miles long.

FELL WALKING GROUP – Report by Jane Johnstone

Heather, Splendid Views, a Lovely Path and an Adder!

This month's walk started in Eggleston. We were a small group of seven, unusual for our group but many members had opted for a late summer break. However, all present were ready to tackle the challenge of the day!

From the village green we headed north on the Teesdale Way and made our way down to Blackton Beck, crossing the water using the newly installed foot bridge. It was a fine day, everyone was enjoying the gentle walk winding through the trees alongside the stream. Yes, we were being lulled into a false sense of security, not many of our walks start with a descent! However,

the gentle stroll was short-lived, and we started to ascend to the locally named 10-ton bridge to cross Eggleston Burn and follow it until the footpath led up to the B6278. We had a short reprieve of road walking before turning onto a grassy track running above the road with open views up the Egglesthope Valley and over to Monks Moor. The ascent had begun, and we proceeded with the steep climb up a shooting track to head over Eggleston Common towards The Knotts. The walking was challenging as the heather was camouflaging uneven terrain, which required an 'eyes down' approach rather than scanning the countryside. Nevertheless, good communication amongst the group ensured we did have opportunity to appreciate the excellent views of the Lunedale reservoirs and southwards down Teesdale. We were also able to admire an ascent from a previous walk when we had climbed the Knotts, this time we were skirting them!

We made our way across the Knotts Allotment, avoiding a rocky descent to a lower level and started our search for two walls and a gate! We eventually found the correct gate, passed through it and stopped for lunch.



Once refreshed we recommenced our 'heather ramble/stumble' and headed round a hushing dam, skirting it to our left. It was here that we came across *Vipera berus*, the only venomous snake in the UK. We thought adders were shy, non-aggressive animals. However, the one we encountered was happy to pose for photos! No slithering away, rather rearing up and giving clear warning to keep our distance.



After taking our leave of the European Adder, we set off up shooters track, down over Spurlswood Gill then cutting across more burnt/cut heather looking for a fence. Our group leader had assured us of a 'lovely path' that we would join from the fence to start our descent. There had been much discussion as we traversed the Common as to whether we were following a path, a track or a trail, or were we forging a new route! However, our leader did not disappoint. On meeting the 'lovely path', which was wide and grassy, it provided us with a wonderful view of Hury, Blackton, Selset and Grassholme reservoirs, and Mickleton. We gently meandered down our path, descending to Neamour Hill and continuing over three stiles (there were only four in the whole walk - that is very unusual!) before returning to Eggleston.

COFFEE AND CHAT



**The final Coffee and Chat of 2025
will be:**

Thursday 13 November

**2.30 – 3.30pm at Cotherstone
Community Cafe**

ANOTHER (groanworthy) MONTH IN AMBRIDGE – REPORT by Annie Clouston

Surprise! Not a lot has happened in our everyday story of countryfolk. The deadweight of trivia, monotony, and blandness lumbers on like a tractor pulling tonnes of mangel wurzels up Lakey Hill, where the sheep, bored and depressed, say “Oh no, not that mouldy fodder again!”.

The scriptwriters seem to have put all their content eggs into one basket at present and that basket is the Whining Grundy Tribe. Eagerly awaiting Egregious George’s release from prison there was an inevitable plot twist, intended no doubt to be a cliffhanger to engage our waning attentions. Someone planted a shank (prison parlance for an everyday object fashioned into a vicious weapon) in George’s cell and then whispered in a screw’s ear, just five days before his due date. The shank was discovered and the cacophony of whining began...Emma (EG’s mother) blamed Jolene because she could see a connection between the plant, and George tipping the wink on the whereabouts of the Bull saboteur. To be fair, EG is such a toad the queue of people wanting to do him over is as long as E Wing, particularly if the cons, like us, have had to listen to him banging on and on about how much he is in lurve with the most bootiful girl in the world, Empty Amber. Needless to say it all turned out well in the end – a hearing was had and EG was found innocent. Yellow ribbons were tied around old oak trees and the welcoming committee, the Whining Tribe, came out to meet their wunderkind proclaiming “Our George is a great lad” (Eddie, now Patriarch of the Tribe) conveniently dismissing the facts that argue with that. The soppieness of EG and EA is going to be nauseous, so buckets at the ready, while they plan their nuptials.

The only other non-story of note, so desperately banal it makes doing the washing up seem exciting, is the acquisition by Stella of a new dog, Cleo. The choosing and the training were tedious enough, but alas, I think we have months ahead of misdeeds, dietary accidents, socially unacceptable habits to come. Clearly this dog is the plot substitute for that entitled cantankerous creature Hilda (Ogden) the cat, made in the image of Peggy Woolley.

I expect some of you will have come straight to the bottom line, to find the answer to last month’s Ambridge quiz: Boxer!



TEESDALE DAY CLUBS

ABOUT US

Having provided a range of support services throughout Teesdale, for over 30 years, Teesdale Day Clubs is a charity which is part of the local heritage. The Lunch Clubs are at the heart of our communities, providing the opportunity for people to come together for companionship, laughter, to forge social connections and enjoy a hearty home-cooked meal. Our board of trustees are all local, and they run the charity with support from a small part-time team and a dedicated group of volunteers. We have a part-time office located in the centre of Barnard Castle.

OUR LUNCH CLUBS

Our Lunch Clubs are held weekly throughout the year apart from Christmas week, in village halls and other community buildings which are easy to access. Currently they take place in Barnard Castle, Cotherstone, Evenwood, Mickleton, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staindrop, Startforth, Winston and Woodland. Transport, using trusted local taxis and minibuses can be arranged for anyone without transport and/or mobility issues.* Every Lunch Club has a staff Club Leader who is responsible for making sure everyone is comfortable, safe and happy. One of our Chefs prepares a freshly cooked meal on the day. We can cater for most dietary requirements, including allergies, diabetes and other health conditions.



Everyone must be able to independently access our venues. We cannot provide personal care and support. Sometimes we can subsidise travel depending on individual circumstances and available funding

MORE THAN JUST A LUNCH

Everyone who joins a Lunch Club has access to our free one-to-one community support service, which can help with a range of issues, including filling out forms, applying for benefits, and supporting referrals to more specialist services.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In partnership with local organisations and businesses, we provide a range of wellbeing activities throughout Teesdale to reach out to individuals who feel isolated or would like to be more connected to their local community; recent examples include: slow stitching, sheep therapy and a gentle introduction to water sports. We provide the Time Together Befriending Project in partnership with UTASS.

To join one of our Lunch Clubs or for further information, please contact:

Phone: 01833 695822

Email: contact@teesdaledayclubs.org.uk

For details about all the activities and support services we offer please see our

Website: www.teesdaledayclubs.org.uk

CALENDARS

The 2026 Calendar called 'Reflections & Shadows', featuring photographs taken by our Photography Group, will be on sale at the next Monthly meeting, cost £7.50. It is also on sale in the Witham.

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	1 st 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
Family History	2nd Thurs pm	Alan Swindale 01388 488348
Gardening	1 st Fri pm	Julie Archer 07774 903377
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	Kate Keen 07880 741151
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	Every Mon pm	Ruth Lapworth 07787 978696
Poetry	2 nd Wed am	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Science and 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 07591 095765
Understanding Classical Music	4 th Fri 10am	Ian Royston 07818 046938
Wildflower Group	2 nd Wed 2pm	Anne Thomson 07928 594404
Wimmin' Swimmin'	Saturdays	Sue Overton 07512 368884
Wine Group	3 rd Tues pm	Tim Meacham 07847 182554
Walking Groups		
Shorter walks 3-4 miles	4 th Mon pm	Liz Colley 01833 695197
Walking 4-6 miles	2 nd Tues 10am	Janet Bayles 07887 834346 Patrick Neill 07881 811518
Walking 7-9 miles	3 rd Wed 10am	Nicky Grace nickygrace729@gmail.com
Fell Walking	4 th Wed	Jane Johnstone 07771 657440

Highlights at your Community Arts Centre

Fri 24 Oct 7.30pm	SWING & JAZZ – Customs House Big Band
Sat 25 Oct 7.30pm	SOUL MUSIC – Soul Junction With dance floor
Tues 28 Oct 7pm	SCREENING – National Theatre Live: Mrs Warren's Profession (12) Starring Imelda Staunton
Wed 29 Oct 7.30pm	SPOKEN WORD – The Stockton & Darlington Railway: The Railway that got the World on Track (9+) Caroline Hardie and Niall Hammond
Fri 31 Oct 7.30pm	TRIBUTE – The Ultimate 70s Show – 100% Live
Sat 1 Nov 8pm	COMEDY – Hal Cruttenden: Can Dish It Out But Can't Take It (16+)
Wed 5 Nov 7.30pm	COMEDY – Neil Delamere: Achilles Neil (14+)
Sat 8 Nov 7.30pm	FOLK MUSIC – Tom McConville
Sat 8 Nov 10am to 2pm	FUNDRAISER - The Witham Wardrobe Sale
Sun 9 Nov 2pm	REMEMBRANCE – Barnard Castle Band in Concert
Thurs 13 Nov 7.30pm	FOLK MUSIC – Colum Sands
Fri 14 Nov 7.30pm	THEATRE – Charles Dickens Telling Tales
Fri 21 Nov 7.30pm	TRIBUTE – Tina Live: The Tina Turner Experience
Sat 22 Nov From 5.30pm	SOUL MUSIC & DANCE – Barnard Castle Soul Club

www.thewitham.org.uk

Box office: 01833 631107