

South Durham u3a

Registered Charity Number 1207225

Active in **Darlington, Cockerton and surrounding areas**

<http://www.sdurhamu3a.org.uk/>

Friday 10th January 2025

14th January 2025

Chris Lloyd – Suffragettes

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

Happy New Year to everyone. I'd like to begin by welcoming more new members to South Durham u3a:

- Berni Gibson
- Jane Pinkstone

We hope you find plenty of groups and activities to interest you; this takes our membership to 176 members as we begin the new year.

Your committee has already hit the ground running this month – as we are developing a brand-new website for our group and are busy identifying what information and illustrations we include. I have many photos from our recent activities on file from which to choose – but if you do not wish your picture to appear on our website (or in our newsletters) please tell me so that I can delete those images. If I do not hear from you, I shall assume you are happy for your image to appear on the South Durham u3a pages.

Meanwhile we have a full programme of meetings ahead of us in 2025, half a dozen trips already booked as detailed in this newsletter and twenty interest groups to choose from. And who better than Chris Lloyd to entertain us next week for our first meeting of the year!

Ruth Beckett

southdurhamu3a@gmail.com



LAST MONTH'S MEETING



This presentation was about considerably more than playing instruments. It was also about the challenge and opportunity of retirement. Bev played us a variety of classical and modern tunes, some familiar, others not - interspersed with modest and amusing anecdotes about her personal musical journey, which has enabled her to go on using her languages.



I loved the Semi-Quaver Affair in which an angry conductor sent her and a bunch of kids early to bed for their mistakes!

I also learnt that a flute looks easier to play than a cello, and of the importance of concentration and practice. Actually I knew that already, having got to piano grade 5 at school but giving up as the demands of exams took over. You may want to google the Cobweb Orchestra and dig out that triangle...

I worked alongside Bev for years but know her much better now.

Linda Chadd

LATEST NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

COFFEE & CHAT



Our next meeting will be on 29th January in Binns café.

Pauline Noble



CRAFTING CLASS (also called Jungalow Crafting)

In our last session of the year the Jungalow Crafters made some beautiful Quilted Christmas Baubles.



Next year there is a full programme of crafting opportunities, but these are proving very popular and there is a very limited availability.

30 th January	5D Diamond painted keyrings	31 st July	Silicon Casting jewellery
27 th February	Quilling boxes	28 th August	Japanese Bracelet making
27 th March	Easter egg bauble – advanced and beginners	25 th September	Mandella Weaving
24 th April	Peg Jewellery	30 th October	Snow Globes
29 th May	Glass Painting	27 th November	Bead Work Wreaths – tree decorations
26 th June	Loom Band Bracelets	18 th December	Christmas baubles – advanced and beginners

CREATIVE WRITING



This morning the Creative Writing group met for the first time this year. It was great to welcome Wendy Jones, Margaret Rule and Bernie Gibson as new members of our little band. We beavered away and produced some exceptional pieces for first time writers.

Next month the meeting will have a new time from 10 until 12, as time flew this morning. Contact Dot if you are interested in joining this group

Dot Hullah

FAMILY HISTORY



I shall try to arrange the January meeting at the Local History Department of the Library in Crown Street where there is access to numerous family history records. This will be at 2.00 on **10th January.**

Pauline Noble

FRENCH CONVERSATION



We are all learning and would love anyone else who enjoys speaking some French to join us! Please contact me if you are interested or would like any further information.

Celia Howarth

FRIDAY WALKING GROUP



We begin our 2025 programme on **17th January** with a walk from **Hunwick, Weardale** to be led by Jane. It will be approximately 6 ½ miles long and the footpath is expected to be reasonably firm.

As usual we will meet in Linden Avenue (Coniscliffe Road end) for a prompt start at 9 30a.m. Please bring a packed lunch/fruit/drink.

Members should be confident they are fit to participate and wear suitable clothing and footwear. They should carry information to be used in an emergency (ICE cards).

Judith

INTERMEDIATE WALKING GROUP



The next walk is on **Monday 20th January.** This will be from **Morrisons in North Road**, along the River Skerne towards Haughton and then over towards Darlington Golf Club. We come back via North Road area.

Please meet at Morrisons car park, near the antique shop at 10am

The following walk on **3rd February is an Aycliffe wander** led by Dave Boyd. We will meet as usual at Cockerton car park at 10am.

Both walks are approximately 5 miles. You may wish to bring a drink and a snack.

Members should be confident they are fit to participate and wear suitable clothing and footwear. They should also carry information to be used in an emergency (ICE cards)

Susan & Liz

LOCAL HISTORY



What we learn from our holidays?

The last Meeting of 2024 and our very own Linda Chadd continued her fascinating talk about Albania.

Some months ago, Linda took us on a whistle stop tour of the history of Albania, however on that occasion technology let us down and we were unable to see Linda's wonderful holiday snaps. Fast forward to December and Linda returned not only with her 'history of Albania timeline' but with photographs taken on her recent holiday to Albania.

After the fall of communism, a dramatic growth of new development took place in the country, particularly in the capital Tirana with many new exclusive developments being built. From being one of the poorest counties in Europe it is now an upper-middle income country.

Linda toured the mountainous country, visiting many historical sites, before returning to the capital Tirana. One of Linda's photos showed one of the thousands of bunkers scattered throughout the country.

Thank you, Linda, we love hearing about your travels and hope you will return in 2025.

Debbie Hardy

Next meeting on **Tuesday 21st January** at Willow Road Community Centre.

Ruth will continue her **story of William Armstrong – looking at his Legacy in the North East.**

Doors open @ 1.15pm and the talk begins @ 1.45pm. £2 including refreshments and plenty of room for all members! Come and join us.

We are able to give you advance notice of our planned meetings for the next few months:

Jan 21	William Armstrong's Legacy <i>Ruth Beckett</i>
Feb18	Cockerton Soldiers of WW1 <i>Lorna Wilkinson</i>
March 18	History of Darlington- builders and buildings <i>Dave Hogg</i>
April 15	Tees Pumping Station <i>George Beautyman</i>
May 20	Excavations @ Auckland Castle <i>John Castling</i>
June 17	Looking at Hopetown <i>Ruth Beckett</i>
July 15	Gibside in the Derwent Valley <i>David Butler</i>
August 19	Highlights of Roman County Durham – <i>David Mason – county archaeologist</i>

If you wish to attend **Darlington u3a's History** group – this is their programme for the year – contact Steve directly to let him to know you'll be attending from our group.

Darlington U3A History Group, 2025 Programme of Wednesday 2pm meetings (doors open at 1.30pm.)

St Thomas Aquinas Church Hall, 249 North Road, Darlington.

Jan. 29th	Chris Forster	"A county at war- life on the home front 1939-1945"
Feb. 26th	Kathryn Streatfield	"Crofts Crossing" Meet author Kathryn

Mar. 26th	David Reynolds	"William Denton" Born in Darlington in 1823 he was a self taught geologist, preacher and a promoter of occult practices.
Apr. 30th	David Dean	"History's greatest clangers"
June. 25th	Carol Dean	"Age of the suffragette"
July 30th	Darren Billingham	"Ringtons" The history, background and development of this iconic local business whose Head Office remains in Newcastle.
Sep 24th	Richard Annis	"A Roman settlement at East Park Sedgefield." The story of discovery and excavation (partly by the Time Team) of this settlement on the line of Cade's Road.
Oct 29th.	Jenny Cathcart	"Bletchley Park" Enigma and all that.
Nov 26th	David Butler	"Drunken midwives and Common Strumpets"

Steve Keeney U3A History Group Leader

LUNCHEON GROUP



Following a recommendation from Kate Brown, this month's get together will take place at Blackwell Golf Club Restaurant. Whilst the menu is not extensive, the food is of excellent quality & is competitively priced. Marie Graham and I tried it before Christmas & we agreed that it was worth booking for the Luncheon Group.

Therefore, we will meet at 1pm on **Friday 31st January at Blackwell Golf Club.** (It used to be **Stressholme**, if that's any help in locating it). There is plenty of parking but please **DO NOT USE** the postcode for satellite navigation. The staff said that this has led to confusion & customers getting lost. I will provide directions at our meeting on 14th January.

I need to provide menu choices to them by 24th January:

[January Specials 2025](#) and [Daily Menu 2024](#) & I will have printed copies at the meeting.

I hope that you will give this different type of venue a chance.

Stella Barnes

NEW MEMBERS (and not-so-new members!) COFFEE MORNING



This will take place the fourth Tuesday of each month- in Café Zest Binns 10.30- 12.00.



We will resume on 28th January 2025.

Our aim is to allow new members to get to know each other in a less busy setting than the monthly Bowen Road meetings. There will be committee members present should you have any questions to ask. We hope that this will help you make new friends and meet with our recently joined members in a relaxed environment. No need to book, just turn up.

Jenny & Brenda (New member Liaison)

PLAY READING



Next meeting at 2pm on **Tuesday 21st January**

Muriel Jones

READING GROUP 1



The group met for our annual December meeting at Joan's and were welcomed by the lovely seasonal smell of mulled wine! We enjoyed a delicious buffet, to which we had all contributed, accompanied by both alcoholic and non-alcoholic mulled wine.

Lorna had devised an excellent quiz where we had to identify Christmas carols from the given first line of the second verse. This was surprisingly difficult; all around the room tunes were being quietly hummed!

Thanks to Joan for such a lovely welcoming venue.

Our next meeting is on **January 8th** at Gillian's home, where we will be discussing **The Single Thread by Tracy Chevalier**.

Our February meeting will be at Lorna's on **February 12th**, and the book chosen is **You Are Here by David Nicholls**.

Ann Tomlinson

READING GROUP 2



Our last meeting of 2024 was more of a social gathering over coffee at Blackwell Golf Club. Some suggestions were made for books to read on an individual basis over the Christmas period. In addition, several ideas for future reading for the group to discuss in 2025 were proposed.

The New Year meetings begin with

Friday 10th January – The chosen book is 'How to solve your own murder' by Kristen Perry. It is not available through the library group lending scheme but can be purchased through Kindle for 99p. To be held at Judith's home.

Friday 14th February – We have chosen a detective story by L J Ross titled 'Holy Island.' The library has a small number of copies. Meeting to be at Gill's home.

Judith Bryant

PHILOSOPHY OF YOGA

Normal service resumes on 23rd January @ 10am.



Barry and Pat Garnett

Weekend Volunteers Wanted

Mind Retail Charity Store

2 Duke Street, Darlington

Saturday or Sunday or both!

Whether 1 hour or more, it's up to you!

Your contribution is invaluable

If you are interested, please call or text me, Julie Walker

I look forward to hearing from you.

TRIPS WITH SOUTH DURHAM U3A – Advance notice of what's to come

Wednesday 2nd April

[Wentworth Woodhouse](#) near Barnsley

Coach leaving Cockerton Library 9-30am

Admission to house: Guided tour £17-50 House & Garden £14-50 Gardens only £8-50.

Unfortunately, no lift available in the house If you are interested, contact Carol Boyd asap

Wednesday 7th May

[Harewood House](#) near Leeds

Coach leaving Cockerton Library 9-30am

Admission £16-50 plus coach fare

Wednesday 11th June

[Hovingham Hall](#) the former home of Katherine Worsley Duchess of Kent

Coach leaving Cockerton Library 9-30am

Guided tour £23 (includes Scone Jam & Cream) plus coach fare

Afternoon will be free time in Helmsley

Thursday 3rd July

[Harlow Carr Gardens](#), Harrogate

Coach leaving Cockerton Library 9-30am

Admission £13-35 plus coach fare

RHS Members gain free entry plus one guest

Monday 11th August

[Walking with Alpacas](#) – Leven Bank near Yarm

More details to follow

Friday November 14th is a double day in Newcastle

Morning: [Lit & Phil](#) – a guided tour of the largest independent library outside London @ 10.30am

Afternoon: [Victorian Tunnel](#) – tour 1.30–3.30pm

Members can do both tours or only one and make their own travel arrangements accordingly

November 18th 2025

Lees Coaches: Christmas at Castle Howard

Ring Lees Coaches to book seats on 01913780653 - Saying you are South Durham u3a

I will give more details about each visit nearer the time. I have made extensive enquiries about each property.

Carol Boyd

Welcome to 2025



We've had the gales, we've had the snow,

We've had the floods as well,

We think they may be over now

As far as we can tell.

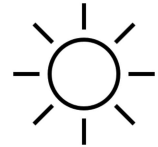
And summer's just around the bend,

The sun will shine a lot –

And then of course we'll all complain

That we're too blooming hot!

Kate Brown



CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY
in aid of the
LISTENING POST

THE GRANGE HURWORTH TEAMS OF FIVE OR SIX £6 PER PERSON 7PM START 41 HURWORTH RD DL2 2BN

BOOK YOUR SPACES / TEAMS BY EMAILING
SECRETARY@DACYM.CO.UK

Made with PosterMyWall.com

I am secretary of the organisation which includes the work of the Listening Post in Darlington.

The Listening Post is a listening and mentoring project that seeks to help young people with low level mental health and well-being issues in order to prevent them escalating into something more long-lasting. Volunteers are placed within every secondary school in Darlington.

As a charity, we are holding a quiz as per the poster below, and if you and any members of your families enjoy a quiz then please contact me on the email shown in the poster or have a word with me at the monthly meeting. I do hope to see some of you at the event. Many thanks.

Penny Moon

2025 Monthly Meetings	Speaker & Title
14 th January	Chris Lloyd: <i>Suffragettes</i>
11 th February	Carol Tetlow: <i>From Doctor to Author</i>
11 th March	Commonwealth War Graves Commission
8 th April	Darlington Assistance for Refugees

13th May	John Thorley: <i>Cern and after: The Large Hadron Collider</i>
10th June	Denis Fox: <i>History of Cinema</i>
8th July	Alex Mitchell: <i>VOICE: UK National Innovation Centre for Ageing at Newcastle University</i>
12th August	Aycliffe Beekeepers Association
9th September	I AM ROADSMART <i>Helping to make better drivers and riders through education and upskilling</i>
14th October	Kate Streatfield: <i>Croft's Crossing – her experience of researching and writing a book</i>
11th November	AGM & Stuart Miller <i>Lee Miller war photographer</i>
9th December	TBC

Bridge – David Dixon	Travellers Rest	2-4pm every other Tuesday from 10 th December
Canasta – Sylvia Elliott	Travellers Rest	2pm alternate Thursday of the month. £2 each – includes refreshments.
Coffee & Chat - Pauline Noble	Binns cafe	10.30-12.30am last Wednesday of each month
Creative Writing – Dot Hullah	Leader's home	10-12am first Wednesday of each month
Current Affairs – Gill Turnbull	Members' homes	10am-12 noon on the 3 rd Monday of the month
Family History	Members' homes	2 nd Friday of each month
French, Advanced -Celia Howarth	Above Newcastle Building Society, Market Place	11.15 on 2 nd & 4 th Monday of each month
Friday Walking Judith Bryant	Park cars in Linden Ave (nearest Conniscliffe Rd end)	9.30am on the 3 rd Friday of each month
Intermediate Walking Susan	Cockerton car park	10am on the 1 st & 3 rd Monday of each month
Italian for beginners -Celia Howarth	Above Newcastle Building Society	10-11am on 2 nd & 4 th Monday of each month
Jungalow Crafts – Dot Hullah	Above Newcastle Building Society, Market Place	10am-12pm Last Thursday of the month
Local History – Ruth Beckett/Linda Chadd southdurhamu3a@gmail.com	Willow Road Community Centre	1.30pm on the 3 rd Tuesday of the month
Luncheon Group – Stella Barnes	Pubs/restaurants	1.00pm on the last Friday of each month
New Members (and old) coffee morning Jenny Hurt	Binns café	10.30-12 on 4 th Tuesday of each month
Philosophy of Yoga Barry and Pat Garnett	Members' homes	10am-12 noon on 3 rd Wednesday of each month
Play Reading – Muriel Jones	Members' homes	2pm on the 3 rd Tuesday of the month
Reading Group 1 – Toni Carr	Members' homes	2 nd Wednesday of each month
Reading Group 2 – Judith Bryant	Members' homes	10.30am on 2 nd Friday of each month
Rummikub – Liz Kay	Members' homes	10am-12 noon on the 1 st Friday of each month
Scrabble - Sylvia Elliot	Travellers Rest Cockerton	2pm on 2 nd & 4 th Monday of each month