

# South Durham u3a

Registered Charity Number 1207225

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

<https://southdurham.u3asite.uk/>

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**  
**Aycliffe Beekeepers Association**

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

Welcome to our new members

Olive Winchester  
Susan Stewart  
Beverley Stopforth

Welcome to your August newsletter where I'm sure you'll find plenty to inform and entertain you this summer month.

As your Chair I'm constantly looking ahead and have a few updates to raise with you:

- November will bring with it our Annual General Meeting when I shall be standing down as Chair. I've been in the post for 4 years and enjoyed working with our committee to bring a wide range of activities and opportunities to our members. But it's now time for someone else to take the reins. There will be others stepping down from the committee and we need new faces to help us going forward.
- Please consider putting yourself forward to join our committee – if you want to know how we operate come along to one of our meetings, which are held at 10am on the first Tuesday of each month in the community room above the Newcastle Building Society in town. Alternatively speak to any of the committee; we're a very friendly bunch.
- This month marks the end of our membership year, so renewal notifications will be reaching you all later this month. Our annual fees are still remarkably low, only £12 for the next 12 months with monthly meetings only costing £1 for a talk and refreshments! We must be one of the cheapest in the region!
- However, our Bank has recently advised us that they are commencing charging transaction fees. These fees are high for cash and cheque payments. Therefore, to avoid any further increase in future fees, it would be appreciated if membership fees could be paid by BACS transfer where possible.

I'm looking forward to next week's talk by Aycliffe Beekeepers as I haven't seen that many bees around this summer. It will be interesting to find out how the changes in the climate – the very hot weather we had in May/June and the storm recently – how do they affect the bee populations?

*Ruth Beckett*

## LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Alex Mitchell: VOICE: UK National Innovation Centre for Ageing at Newcastle University

At yesterday's monthly meeting we learned about Voice which is community of public, patients and carers who work with researchers. It is part of the UK National Innovation Centre for Ageing at Newcastle University, and supports public and patient involvement and engagement (PPIE) in research.

This is the video that we were shown, but couldn't hear; interesting that it has Italian subtitles! [Voice Member Testimonials // The Value of Contributing \[Italian Translation\]](#) This gives you the opinions of other members of the public who have volunteered with Voice. Some of you may recognise the late John Lloyd - who was a u3a Chair in Sunderland/Wearside.

I am also attaching the application form should you wish to find out more and add your name to their register [Voice: Registration](#)

Their website can be found here [Voice: Voice UK](#).



### **RUTH BECKETT**

Members could be forgiven for being initially puzzled as to the subject of this talk, but things did become clearer. Part of the National Innovation Centre for Ageing, VOICE aims to connect inventors and researchers in this field of study with the older generation - that's us folks.

Alex gave us several examples of research which has benefited from such input - a device for those with late-stage cancer, an online platform for carers' legal advice and a robot which can carry your shopping (can it go up steps?).

It's free to sign up, there's no obligation but there is a possibility of payment in kind or money. Being a nosy kind of person, I'll certainly give it a whirl. To enrol as a member, google voice-global.org. Then click "Get started" at the top righthand corner.

ps. I'm sorry that some members were unable to hear despite the microphone. Polite feedback was given after the talk and was gratefully accepted. A somewhat breathless delivery can be a by product of youth and nerves, I think.

### **LINDA CHADD**

## LATEST NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### COFFEE & CHAT



Everyone is welcome. Just take a break from your shopping, rest your feet and join our friendly group for a coffee and a natter.

Next meeting will be at 10.30 on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August

**Pauline Noble**

## DOT'S JUNGAGLOW CRAFTS



This month my crafting ladies were casting necklaces and key rings in resin.

Using a selection of different shaped silicon moulds, they had a wide range of sprinkles to choose from to produce these lovely necklaces and key chains.

We used a quick setting resin which was cured under a UV light, this allowed the ladies to make several items to take away with them at the end of the session.

*Dot Hullah*

## CREATIVE WRITING

This is our 10<sup>th</sup> month of meeting together as a group. Over that time, we have produced many fantastic stories and poems. We have learned about characterisation, length of story and have explored lots of different ways to bring our creative thoughts together. Our monthly flash fiction section at the beginning of the meeting as an ice breaker has proved most useful and is dreaded and enjoyed in equal measures by the group.

It was decided that we will collate our body of work and self-publish so look out for news of that in future newsletters. An example of some flash fiction using a photograph has been included in this newsletter.

This month's home homework was entitled The Garden Party.

Next Meeting is September 3rd from 10 until 12 noon at 15 Elton Grove.



*Dot Hullah*

## FRIDAY WALKING GROUP

"You may think that our Friday walks aren't too difficult from this picture of ice cream and coffee at Reeth on market day, but I can assure you we had just walked about 7.5 miles so were ready to cool at one point we had a 365 degree panorama of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. We spotted Surrender Bridge, though no-one was sure of how it got this name. We saw lapwings, a buzzard, oystercatchers and a meadow pipet and many wild flowers. We headed downwards back to Reeth over quite a large number of stiles, some of which one of us was quite lucky to be able to actually get through as they are so narrow. Thank you Gail for leading us on this walk and keeping us well informed about other walks in the area.

The next walk on Friday 15 August will be around Reeth and Grinton, and be about 7 miles, beginning with a steady climb. It may be muddy in parts and there may be some cows along the way. You may wish to bring a packed lunch, fruit and drink. Members should be confident they are fit to participate

and wear suitable clothing and footwear. They should also carry information to be used in case of an emergency. (ICE cards)."

## Penny Moon

### INTERMEDIATE WALKING GROUP



Nine intrepid adventurers set off to Barnard Castle. We crossed the footbridge, along the road and turned up the hill. As we kept on going up a small, excited dog came to greet us his owner came to speak to us and when told where we were going he wished us "Good Luck". We soon found out why!



Waist high vegetation including thistles and nettles not quite hiding the path and when we escaped from this jungle there was an interesting collection of stiles in various states of repair. Add to these the thrill of bulls, cows, a horse, numerous seep and young

cattle. The latter were very interested in us and came to the fence to get as close as possible. When they finally ran off to the other side of the field it was like a mini stampede.

Our lunch break was at convenient picnic tables at the small village of Boldron, close to the site of Boldron Well which was the water supply for the village until 1958. As we were leaving the village a kind man, who was opening the Pinfold Club offered the use of the toilet. He also let us see the interior of the community club which was a converted Primitive Methodist Chapel. So, thank you to this kind gentleman.



Then towards Eggleston Abbey back across the River Tees and gradually up towards the road and into Bowes Museum for a welcome drink.

Thanks to Susan for leading the walk which was new territory for most of us giving us the opportunity to overcome the challenges which the walk afforded us.

## Liz kay

"The walking groups' reports this year have almost all been in superb weather and the intermediate's group walk on 21 July was no exception, despite some rain being predicted. 10 of us set off from Gilling West and walked across fields of grain and alongside streams to Skeeby. We all admired some of the cottages and houses in the village and their gardens which were looking very colourful and commented that it was nice to see the actual names of the cottages instead of missing them because of driving past them in a rush as we might do usually. At this stage we stopped for lunch, when 2 of the group hurried on ahead as they had to get back. We then wound our way back to Gilling West,



enjoying the views on the way, and then headed off to the Mocha cafe at Aske Hall where some enjoyed ice cream to cool down and others something involving chocolate!

Penny Moon"

The next walk is on **18th August**, from Locomotion at Shildon to Heighington. Gail has offered to lead this walk. It is approximately 5 miles, with 2 stretches of very gentle uphill, stiles, fields, lane and a bit of pavement walking.

The following walk on **1st September**, is a “Mines and Railway walk” around Shildon and again starting from Locomotion. Liz has offered to lead this walk. It is approximately 5 miles with a couple of stiles and may be muddy.

For both walks please meet at Cockerton car park to leave promptly at 10am. You may wish to bring a packed lunch/ drink/fruit. It may be advisable during the summer months to wear long trousers, especially if we are walking through long grass/ growth and woodland. Members should be confident they are fit to participate and wear suitable clothing and footwear. They should also carry information to be used in case of an emergency. (ICE cards)

Susan -

Liz -

## LOCAL HISTORY



**LOCAL HISTORY, TUESDAY JULY 15: DAVID BUTLER** on “GIBSIDE - GRANDEUR AND MAGNIFICENCE” David strikes me as a very precise person with an eye for detail, just what you want in someone who was chief archivist for County Durham. He always brings us handouts too, in this case illustrating a) the lineage of Gibside’s owners, mainly the Bowes family and b) the topography of the place with its close links to the early development of railways in the Durham coalfield. Unusually for the National Trust, it acquired the estate bit by bit years after it had been broken up due to decline from the 1880s onwards. David’s take on this story reminded me of previous trips and talks we’d had over the years, including the former Bowes residence at Streatlam, Mary Eleanor Bowes with her ghastly husband, John and Josephine Bowes of the museum and Sunderland’s Hylton Castle which had also formed part of the Bowes estate. I do hope a trip to Gibside is in the offing...

**LINDA CHADD**

| Month     | Local History   |
|-----------|---|
| August    | Highlights of Roman County Durham – <i>Dr. David Mason – county archaeologist</i> |
| September | Church Recording – <i>Vivien Clear &amp; Rosalind Platts</i>                      |
| October   | Women of the Stockton & Darlington Railway <i>Caroline Hardie</i>                 |

This month's meeting will be on **Tuesday 19th August** @ Willow Road. Doors open at 1.15 for refreshments and talk begins at 1.45. £2 per person. This month it's Dr David Mason talking about Roman County Durham - so prepare to be educated as he knows his stuff - he was a senior archaeologist in County Durham.

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.**

|                 |                      |   |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| <i>Sep 24th</i> | <i>Richard Annis</i> | “A Roman settlement at East Park Sedgfield. “The story of discovery and excavation (partly by the Time Team) of this settlement on the line of Cade’s Road. |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|

|           |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|
| Oct 29th. | Members day<br>Ken Bowman                  | Come early for tea, coffee and biscuits, before being entertained by Ken's "Local tales of South Durham" Folklore, myths and memories. |
| Nov 26th  | David Butler<br>Former County<br>Archivist | "Drunken midwives and common strumpets"<br>Great title for a great talk by a great speaker.  |

**Steve Keeney Darlington U3A History Group Leader**

### 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



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**

### FRENCH CONVERSATION



We have talked about Mother's Day in France and had some quick speed- dating conversations! We all love to learn from each other and really enjoy trying to improve our French conversation. We would welcome new members to the group! Our sessions are from 11.15-12.15 at the Newcastle Building Society and in the Autumn will run on Mondays:

September 8 and 22

October 6 and 20

November 3 and 17

December 1 and 15.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

**Celia Howarth**

### READING GROUP 2



Six of us met to discuss "Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles, which was a number one New York Times best seller about the Lincoln Highway that stretches across USA from California to New York City. The book describes the journey of four people travelling together, Emmet, recently released from a young offenders Institution, his younger brother Billy, who he is returning to take care of, and two youths who have absconded from the same Institution as Emmet, by hitching a lift in the Wardens boot. What transpires is a convoluted journey in what is effectively the opposite direction intended by Emmet because of circumstances and incidents along the way.

We generally enjoyed the book, although some were irritated by the lack of punctuation, and also by the fact that the journey was not completed despite the book being quite lengthy.

The next book we are reading is "You are here", by David Nichols, and we will meet on **8th August** to discuss it.

**Pat Robson**

## LUNCHEON GROUP



In July the Lunch group met at the Bay Horse at Middridge. It was the smallest group of members attending - just 9 of us, since the group started over 3 years ago. Unusually, we were seated upstairs as there was a booking for a funeral wake occupying the entire ground floor of the pub. That meant that, sadly, a couple of regulars withdrew due to mobility problems with the stairs. Those members who attended thoroughly enjoyed it as the food is always delicious & the staff are lovely. It is one of our favourite venues & we will return.

There is **NO LUNCH GROUP MEETING IN AUGUST** as I will be on holiday.

... *Stella Barnes*

## SCRABBLE GROUP



This is a fairly new group, and we need some new members. We are a mixed ability group so whatever your level you're sure to fit in. Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month in The Travellers Rest, in Cockerton

Interested? Contact Brenda Ellidge

## PLAY READING



Our last meeting before the summer and our last play of those borrowed from Richmond Amateur Dramatic Society, RADS for short; it was 'The Real Inspector Hound' by Tom Stoppard which showed the workings of a complicated mind. The cast of the original 1968 West End production involved Richard Briers, Ronnie Barker and Josephine Tewson, names strongly connected to comedy theatre. As it was quite a short play, we managed to read through it in the one session which is good for, as you will have realised if you've read our reports, our memories are not our strong points. The fact that we read from two different editions didn't help our afternoon as there were chunks of dialogue left out of one of the editions. Some characters seemed to inexplicably change their identities - very confusing. Anyway . . . We will see what our new borrowing from Gainford brings for us. We shall not be meeting in August, so our next meeting is on **16<sup>th</sup> September** at 2pm at Isabel's.

*Muriel Jones*

## READING GROUP 1



At our July meeting we discussed "Eden Close" by Anita Shreve.

The title was chosen from a wide-ranging selection of books available for loan to reading groups from Darlington library.

The author, born in Boston, U.S.A., in 1946 was a prolific writer who received her first literary award in 1976, but only achieved world recognition in 1999 when her novel "The Pilot's Wife" was selected by Oprah Winfrey for her book club choice.

Anita had four husbands and travelled a great deal. These experiences helped to provide the plots of her many novels.

Eden Close (a person, not a street) is a young woman whose life has been blighted by a devastating experience 19 years prior to the start of the story. She is the focus of interest of Andrew, an advertising executive returning to his hometown in upstate New York for his mother's funeral. The story starts with

his dream about the tragic events when his neighbour was fatally shot and the victim's adopted daughter, Eden, blinded.

The story is slow-paced, building momentum until the dénouement, finally unravelling the secrets which have remained hidden for so long.

The book received a lukewarm response from some group members, but I personally was totally gripped by it, having been an admirer of Shreve's work for many years.

With many thanks to Lorna for hosting the meeting and providing the delicious refreshments.

On August 13th we'll be meeting at "The Spotted Dog" in High Coniscliffe for our summer lunch and for our September 10th meeting, hosted by Ann, we'll be discussing "The Ship beneath the Ice" by Wensun Bound.

***Toni Carr***

### ITALIAN CONVERSATION

Our group is always fun and everyone is very supportive! We have learnt how to say some phrases about the weather. The group is continuing in the Autumn, and we will learn how to talk and understand about health and illnesses - often useful on holiday! Our sessions will be from 10.00-11.00 at the Newcastle Building Society on Mondays:

September 8 and 22

October 6 and 20

November 3 and 17

December 1 and 15

***Celia Howarth***

### SCAMPSTON HALL

We left Cockerton by coach at 9.15am in bright sunshine bound for Scampston Hall in Yorkshire.

We'd been allocated times for viewing the Hall. Some traffic holdups meant that our coach arrived just in time for the 11.30 group to join the guided tour.

This gave me an hour to explore the walled garden, which was stunning. My Merlin app told me that chiffchaff, linnet, robins and blackbirds were all in the trees around me. Iridescent blue dragonflies (or damselflies, I'm never sure which), danced above the pond, where ducklings enjoyed swimming lessons from mum.

At 12.30 it was my turn to have the guided tour of the Hall, which was very interesting. The guided certainly knew her stuff and informed us all about the history of the Hall and its residents. The Hall had been sympathetically restored by the current owners who live in part of the house.

This still left time to wander through the extensive Capability Brown- designed grounds. Across the stream where I did spot Heron but sadly didn't see any kingfisher. Quiet and tranquil, you would never guess that you were only yards from the busy A64.

I had taken my own packed lunch but those who ate in the cafe told me that the food was good. At 3.30pm we all piled back onto the coach, tired and happy. An excellent day out.

Thank you, Carol Boyd, for organising

***Bernie Gibson***

## SHANDY HALL



*The 17th Century Panelled Dining Room*

A group of U3A travellers arrived at the charming village of Coxwold, to view Shandy Hall, the delightful home of Laurence Sterne. He was the parson of the village and the acclaimed author of, 'The Life and Times of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman,' (pub 1760-1761). 'A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy,' (pub 1768) and a number of books of sermons.

Patrick Wildgust, the custodian, gave us a very entertaining conducted tour. Starting outside, we viewed the Grade 1 building and what had once been the

communal bread oven. Then we stepped down into the kitchen, circa 1480, where we were entertained with extracts from Sterne's famous novel. Next, we had the privilege of seeing his study. Here, impulsive and untidy, dressed unconventionally in purple jerkin and yellow slippers, without a wig or cap, he would work well into the night.

The dining room and cosy sitting room were viewed next. It was easy to see why Sterne wrote, 'good air, a quiet retreat and quiet reflection, do wonders!' He loved the house and was a well-respected vicar. 'Not a parishioner catches a hare, or rabbit, or trout, but he brings it as an offering,' he wrote.

The village church of St. Michael was our next stop, with its beautiful stained glass, heraldry and family tombs. Once again Patrick gave us an interesting tour, finishing at the memorial stone and grave of Laurence Sterne, who died in London March 18th 1768.

After lunch we all reconvened to explore Byland Abbey. Here Linda gave an introductory talk on the Carthusians and handed out a very useful map. Throughout the day the weather smiled on us and the company was excellent.

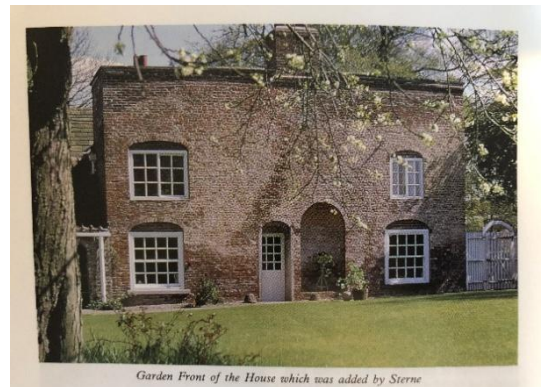
Thank you, Linda, for organising such an excellent trip.

**(Marie Graham)**

POSTSCRIPT TO OUR SHANDY HALL VISIT - "A COCK AND BULL STORY"

I've just watched this 2005 film starring Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon as two self-obsessed actors trying and failing to make a decent film about Laurence Sterne's best known work - a task which is of course doomed to failure from the outset by the nature of the novel. I think Sterne would have thoroughly enjoyed this piece of nincompoopery! Stephen Fry has a scene depicting our very own guide Patrick sitting in Sterne's study. Let me know if you want to borrow the DVD.

**LINDA CHADD**



*Garden Front of the House which was added by Sterne*

## CREATIVE CORNER

Something a little different in the Creative Corner this month. Over the last 10 months our seven Creative Writers have been meeting at Dot Hullah's house to share their wonderful creative writing. At the beginning of our last meeting, they were given an old sepia photograph and just a mere ten minutes to come up with a story or poem. We thought you would like to see and read some of the amazing offerings from the group.

*Photographing the giant redwood: I took several minutes to ensure that no-one moved whilst the camera whirled. The lumberjacks froze, unsmiling, for they knew this photograph would be viewed with awe and reverence for years to come. Arthur lounged against the hacked trunk with William, both of whom had been transported from England, from the orphanage, several years previously. Now grown men, they were part of the group of hard-drinking, hard-working gang who supported each other in good times and bad.*



*Years of my being squandered on the ground  
Shards of my life all around  
Cheery banter from man and boy  
The deep wound glaring  
Like a gash in your knee  
Soon it will be over  
And my soul will be free*

*Redwoods.  
How many men does it take  
To kill a tree?  
A tree that has grown in the forest of  
Tennessee.  
A beautiful straight trunk,  
A coating of strong bark,  
A lifetime of many men  
Who wish to make their mark  
On the world's beauty.*

*Stan had played in this forest since he was a little boy. His father was a logger, and his grandfather before him. His grandfather used to tell him stories about how he had helped plant some of these trees. But the giant redwood was a mystery to Stan. No-one in his family knew when it was planted, by whom, or how long it had been here. It had always been there as long as Stan could remember. Today Stan was feeling a mixture of emotions: sadness – this tree was part of him, part of the fabric of his life. Excitement? it was a coming of age for Stan – being included in the process of cutting the tree meant he was accepted by the men of the neighbourhood. He was a man.*

*The Giant Redwood had stood for thousands of years, or was it millions? It was there long before men had walked through the western forests of North America, possibly since early mankind found his way from the plains of Africa northwards into Europe where he'd settled and thrived. The native Indian tribes had revered the tree which stood straight and tall, prominent among its fellows. They had kept their distance and allowed it to dominate the forest. Only now, men dared to approach and claim their dominance over the tree, to weaken it and hope they could make it fall.*

*Here I am on the left at the top of this picture. I still don't know why I'm here, really, nor do I know what on earth made me leave my beautiful Lakeland to come to this god-forsaken place. I'm posting this to you, my dear sister, to show you that I am still here but oh, how I miss the mist-covered lakes and small farms like Billy Simpson's with its cows rattling down the road each morning and tramping back at night. Here all I see are huge, gigantic unreal trees and hear different accents and have to guard my few paltry possessions – to death, almost. There are no scruples here. It's winner takes all.*

*Don't know why we have to stand down here when that lot are sitting like lords up there. I wouldn't want to be up there – it's a very dodgy platform and you can hear the tree creaking. We're better off down here so we can make a run for it. It's going to fall inwards so it'll damage a good lot of the forest. Mr Lord Almighty Jackson sitting there wouldn't know how to use a fretsaw, never mind cutting this*

wonderful tree. I feel as though I'm at a funeral. Hark up, Jack, this is the only way we can feed our furnaces.

Just then there was a loud crack.....

### Rhyme Time

"I'm bored!" my grandchild  
moaned at me  
So, I told her to write me a rhyme  
"Cos that would keep her  
occupied  
And I'd get some peaceful time,  
I thought it was lovely when she  
wrote  
"My grandma is very sweet...."  
But then she followed it up with



....  
"And she's got smelly feet"

**Kate Brown.**

### Grandads Flowers

They told me Grandad had died on Tuesday.

On Wednesday it was in the Northern Echo. On Thursday we went to the funeral, and I had a whole day off school.

I didn't mind the day off school because it was double maths with Mr Croft, but I didn't like the funeral. I'm not going to another.

Mam was crying and so was Auntie Molly. I looked at the flowers. The old woman who lived next door to Grandad, said, "What a waste of money, no one will come to look at them flowers. They'll just rot away".

But it wasn't a waste of money because I looked at them. I looked at them for a long time. I looked at their shapes and colours and smelled their damp smell and thought about Grandad on his allotment instead of in his coffin.

He grew vegetables in the main part of the allotment and then round the tool shed he had roses. We used to go to Fitzgerald's stable for horse manure to put round the roses. I liked that. Going with Grandad pushing the wheelbarrow and remembering to take the fork. There was always a heap of manure behind the red barn. You could see the steam rise up from it.


Grandad used to laugh when I made a face at the awful smell and say, "Where there's muck there's money. Take deep breaths it's full of vitamins"

Then he would laugh again and that would set me off laughing and we would trundle along with the barrow load of horse manure laughing out heads off.

So, the flowers weren't a waste. I know Grandad would like the smell of them wafting up to heaven. It would put him in mind of our trips to the stable and I know he would be smiling.

**Margaret Rule**


## Opportunity for Members



**AN EVENING WITH ANNIE GARTHWAITE**

**"From the Wars of the Roses to the dawn of the Tudor age, this is a story of mothers and sons; of maternal ferocity and female ambition - all they can build and all they can destroy."**

Annie's best-selling novel reveals the Wars of the Roses through the eyes of the women who shaped them: Cecily Neville, King's Mother; Marguerite of Anjou, deposed Queen; Elizabeth Woodville, betrayed wife; and Margaret Beaufort, mother to an exiled son.



**7pm Monday, 15 September**  
**St Mary's Parish Hall, Newgate, Barnard Castle DL12 8NQ**  
**NDR3G members £2 / Non-members £3**  
**Pay on door**  
**Questions? Call Kim on 01833 637018**

**Copies of The King's Mother will be on sale**

## Helping Hands & Group Leaders Garden Party



On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, we celebrated our Group Leaders and Helping Hand Volunteers by holding a garden party in Dot Hullahs garden. The day was a great success. The weather was a bit iffy in the morning but it got out in the afternoon and by the time the guests arrived it was a



beautiful sunny afternoon. A large gazebo was provided to shelter our volunteers incase they needed to sheler from the sun or the rain.



### MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKERS

| Monthly Meeting           | Speaker & Title  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> July      | Alex Mitchell: VOICE: UK National Innovation Centre for Ageing at Newcastle University   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> August   | Aycliffe Beekeepers Association  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> September | I AM ROADSMART Helping to make better drivers and riders through education and upskilling (formerly the Institute of Advanced Motorists) |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> October  | Kate Streatfield: Croft's Crossing- her experience of researching and writing a book   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> November | AGM & Stuart Miller - Lee Miller war photographer  |

## GROUPS ON OFFER

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Bridge – David Dixon                               | Travellers Rest                                      | 1.30 -4pm every other Tuesday from 10th 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 3rd Monday of the month                           |
| French, Advanced<br>Celia Howarth                  | Above Newcastle Building Society, Market Place       | 11.15 on 2nd & 4th Monday of each month                               |
| Friday Walking<br>Judith Bryant                    | Park cars in Linden Ave (nearest Coniscliffe Rd end) | 9.30am on the 3rd Friday of each month                                |
| Intermediate Walking<br>Susan –                    | Cockerton car park                                   | 10am on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month                            |
| Italian for beginners<br>Celia Howarth             | Above Newcastle Building Society                     | 10-11am on 2nd & 4th 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           | Willow Road Community Centre                         | 1.30pm on the 3rd 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<br>Jenny Hurt | Binns café   | 10.30-12 on 4th Tuesday of each month                                 |
| Play Reading – Muriel Jones                        | Members’ homes                                       | 2pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month                                   |
| Reading Group 1 – Toni Carr                        | Members’ homes                                       | 2nd Wednesday of each month   |
| Reading Group 2 – Judith Bryant.                   | Members’ homes                                       | 10.30am on 2nd Friday of each month                                   |
| Rummikub – Liz Kay                                 | Members’ homes                                       | 10am-12 noon on the 1st Friday of each month                          |
| Scrabble<br>Brenda Ellidge                         | Travellers Rest Cockerton                            | 2pm on 2nd & 4th Monday of each month                                 |

Send your creative gems to the  
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