

South Durham u3a

Registered Charity Number 1207225

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

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

Thursday 7th May 2026

May 12th - MEDICAL TRANSPLANTS

Kirstie Wallace from Newcastle's Freeman Hospital

NEWS FROM YOUR CHAIR

Welcome to our new members

April Prince

Doreen Barrass

Barry Cartman

Joan Josey

Here we are at the end of another busy month with four more members to welcome into our friendly u3a. I am sure that they will be able to find groups and activities from the ones on offer that they will enjoy.

After the very successful first 25th Anniversary Event at the college on the 24th of April, we are now preparing for the next event.

You will see on the following pages that the event is to be held in Cockerton Club and is open to all members. It is going to be a Fish and Chip lunch, which will be provided by Cockerton Fisheries. You will also have a local Ukulele band to entertain you after your meal. Please look at the full-page advert for this event and if you haven't already signed up for it, but would love to join us, please follow the instructions held within it.

As our numbers grow month on month, we are beginning to notice that Bowen Road is becoming a little overcrowded at times. This has meant that we have been actively looking for other venues in Darlington that would accommodate our meetings. Rest assured when we find that place you will be fully informed of any changes which will happen.

Sadly, I have been informed that our good friend Zena Lumley has sadly passed away. Heartfelt sympathy goes out to Peter from all the committee and members of South Durham u3a.

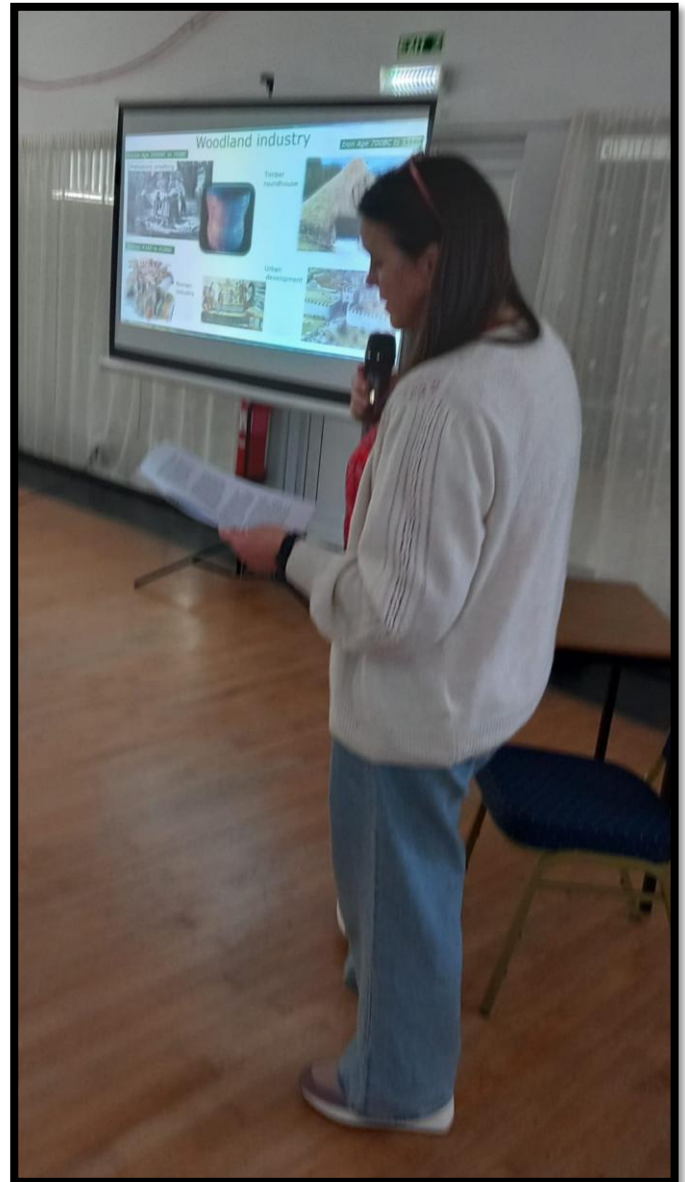
Dot Hullah
Chair

LAST MONTH'S MEETING The Forestry Commission

CATRIN JENKINS OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION, TUESDAY APRIL 14.

Who knew this government body employed archaeologists? Catrin gave us a smartly paced history not only of the Commission but also of woodland in the British Isles from 60/70% overall cover in prehistory to a measly 10% in England now. I venture to say that we all left convinced of the good work done by this quango (often a term of abuse). On the way we were reminded of benefits like biodiversity, land improvement, exercise and mental wellbeing. And of challenges like global warming, wildfires, storms and demand for new housing. We asked loads of questions and went away with informative literature and all the freebies. I just got the last pencil... ps. By coincidence, Radio 4's Open Country the following Thursday featured a professional deer stalker employed by the Forestry Commission to keep the population down.

LINDA CHADD




IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Our bank began imposing charges on Charity Bank Accounts in November 2025.

The Committee has decided that Members who wish to make payment by cheque must cover the processing fee. This will mean that each future cheque payment to South Durham u3a must be increased by 60p. This will apply to all cheque payments, such as Membership Fees, Christmas Lunch, Social trips etc.

To avoid such charges, I would encourage all members to make future payments by BACS, ensuring your name is quoted in the payment reference field. The payment can be from your own account or that of a friend or family member. If you have any concerns setting up online banking or making such a payment please contact our Treasurer, Sue Clark, she will be very happy to provide you with assistance over the telephone or by visiting you.



Come join us for our second u3a
25th Anniversary Event a
Fish & Chips Lunch

On

Thursday 2nd July

At

Cockerton Club in Cockerton Village

All members welcome

Entertainment provided by

A Ukulele Band

Arrive for lunch from **12.15**

Ample parking space in club car park or
behind the shops opposite

Cost of **Cod & Chips** plus entertainment

£14.00

Please contact

Carol Boyd to put your name down for this
exciting event

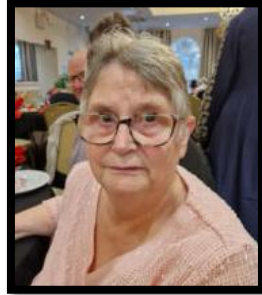
Dress Code

Keeping with our theme Seaside Vibes or
Silver would be appropriate

New Section for 2026 – Meet your Committee

Wellbeing Officer/Speaker Finder

Carol Boyd



I am a retired Teaching Assistant where I spent 40 lovely years working in the same school seeing 3 generations of families through their Early Years Education.

I joined South Durham u3a in 2013 to make new friends & give me different interests. Served on the committee from 2016 & was proud to become Chair in 2018 serving 4 years. Rejoining the Committee in 2024. I have organised outings since 2016 & became the Wellbeing Officer in 2025 in this way we can reach out and keep in touch with our members & give help in any way we can.

Co-opted Committee Member

Nick Alderson-Rice



I was pleased to be asked to be co-opted onto the South Darlington U3A committee at the first meeting this year 2026. I am Nick and I relocated from Kent to Darlington in April 2023 after my 30 years marriage ended. I must say the people in the north are very friendly and welcoming.

I started working back in 1979 in a high street bank in central London but after 13 years was made redundant. I then took the opportunity to study as a mature student at a university. I gained a BA(Hon) degree in Social Sciences.

After University I worked in a Local Authority and then moved to working for Kent Probation, within the criminal justice system. At 40 years of age I discovered I was Dyslexic. During my time in probation, I studied and obtained a Diploma in Probation Studies, and I became a qualified Probation Officer. All the Courts that I have worked in are now converted to public houses. In all my working life I have been an active trade unionist. Eventually after over 20 years in probation and after some ill health I retired early aged 58 but am still waiting to receive my OAP. I am keen on DIY and woodwork and am a member of a Men's Shed. I am a fan of public libraries and always have a library book on the go.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

COFFEE & CHAT



As Binns closed its doors early, we were left without a venue for our March meeting, so I spent a morning visiting potential venues in the town centre. I discussed the most suitable venues with the group members, and we decided on Saltfish Townhouse for our next get together.

We met on the last Wednesday of the month as usual, and most members managed to attend. We were well looked after, and everyone seemed to enjoy the coffee as well as the chat. As a result, we have arranged to meet at the same venue next month. If you would like to join us, please just come along between 10.30 and 12.30 on Wednesday 29th April.

Saltfish Townhouse is in Houndgate opposite the end of Bull Wynd, and I look forward to seeing everyone.

Pauline Noble

DOT'S JUNGAGLOW CRAFTS



This month we were tackling white metal jewellery. There were two different techniques to learn and my crafters excelled at both.



Our next crafting session is on the 28th May and will see my group tackling Mod Podge vases.

Dot Hullah

CREATIVE WRITING



Our group met this week to share our stories on the topic of "The Great Escape". We enjoyed stories inspired by the writings of Enid Blyton to the sobering tale of mental abuse. The variety was amazing – well done Ladies and Gentleman.

Next topic should be fun as the homework title is "Murder at the u3a"

Dot Hullah

FRIDAY WALKING GROUP



Success at last! On our third attempt at a circular walk from Marske in Swaledale, we finally made it to the Tea Garden at Manor House Farm in the hamlet of Helwith—well known for its authentic, rustic charm and homemade scones. Our previous two visits rewarded us with a satisfying seven-mile walk, but unfortunately the Tea Garden was closed both times. This time, however, we were warmly welcomed by Jenny, our friendly host, and treated to delicious cheese and fruit scones served generously with jam and cream, alongside a bottomless pot of tea or coffee. The cosy atmosphere of this hidden gem—complete with a glowing chiminea, hens, goats, and vases



of wildflowers on each table—made the occasionally tricky path more than worthwhile. Rather than repeat a full account of the walk, here are some photos from the day to entice you!



Wendy Nordmann

Thank you to Wendy for leading and for working so hard to ensure scones would be available. I'm sure this walk will be known always as the Scone Walk. Thanks too to the drivers. The next walk will be on Friday 15th May. Jane plans to lead us in the area of Wolsingham.

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)
Could you also check and ensure that these ICE cards are up to date with all details.

Judith

INTERMEDIATE WALKING GROUP



20th April - The day started badly. The washing machine died. What can I say. The remedy? A walk with a group of like-minded people from Romalldkirk to Cotherstone and back. Worked for me. The washing machine can wait.

Arriving in Romalldkirk is akin to time travel. Nothing seems to have changed there in a hundred years. The stone houses still sit there, strong, sturdy, and impervious to the passage of time. Note the old car, driven on to a lawn many years ago, and now a garden feature. The church is a joy. If you have not seen it, do go.

Having admired the village green, we set off, under the watchful eyes of our leaders, and soon we were admiring the rolling fields, the cavorting lambs, the trees flaunting pink and white blossom, and the ever-present sound of rushing water. The hedgerows were awash with primroses, bluebells, Star of Bethlehem, and a new one on me, the few flowered leek. Look it up. It is a beauty. Surrounded by all this spring loveliness, we were too soon at the halfway point of Cotherstone, where we were welcomed by the volunteer staff, and invited to choose the scones/cakes of our choice. Sadly, the coffee machine had died the death, like my washing machine, so it was tea all round. The return to Romalldkirk was by

the old railway track, so that meant easy and pleasant walking, enabling the free flow of conversation amongst the group, always interesting and educational.

It did not rain. It was pleasantly warmish; we had a really good time. Nothing more to say but thanks to the leaders and drivers. Well done them

Alex Bailey

The next walk is on Monday 18th May. It will be around the Bishop Auckland area and will be led by Chris. The walk is about 4.5 miles with easy low level field paths, woodland tracks and old railway tracks. There are a few steps to climb and a couple of stiles. It goes through Bell Burn woods which may be muddy. There is the option of visiting Binchester Fort, but this will make the route longer.

The following walk will be on 1st June. It will be a Durham coastal path. 4+ miles. If you wish for further details, please contact Liz

Both walks will meet at Cockerton car park for a prompt start at 10am. You may wish to bring a packed lunch, drink and fruit.

If you have any queries, please contact Chris

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

21st April 2026

David Butler provided us with a detailed look at the Census of 1851 and what it revealed about the 'guests of Queen Victoria' at that time, dwelling in **Durham Gaol**.



The prison, which still exists today, had been designed by Ignatius Bonomi and comprised the Court, home for Governor & family, alongside a women's wing, men's wing and



debtors' prison. Not everyone there was a criminal as it provided accommodation for remand prisoners who were awaiting trial, whether in the Petty Session, Quarter Session or Assizes. 226 inmates were listed in the prison for the Census, but details could only be found for 166 of these. 15 of them were on remand, the others were debtors (largely older men, over 30 years of age with their own shop/business) or criminals – largely male, 19-23 years old, guilty of stealing, serving a 2-4 month sentence and the majority came from Sunderland!!

Those serving a sentence with 'hard labour' could find themselves 'picking oakum' – the laborious process of teasing apart the fibers of old ropes, primarily for use in shipbuilding. Alternatively they could be forced to walk on a treadmill for hours at a time as a punishment.

This was a fascinating insight into 19th century crime and its associated language – indictments, felony, larceny, counterfeiting, embezzlement, transportation and crimes committed 'feloniously' or 'with force and arms'.

Wednesday 22nd April

On a lovely sunny afternoon 21 of us gathered at **Tees Cottage Pumping Station** for a guided tour. We were taken around the site by George and John, very experienced volunteers who have a wealth of knowledge about the Victorian beam engine, the gas and electric engines.

My preference would be the 1904 Beam Engine which is a scheduled monument as well as a work of art – shining brass pipes, pumps, and an enormous Beam which is 30 feet long and weighs 25 tons. George's enthusiasm was apparent in the loving way he described and explained the history, how the machine worked and where all the pipes went! The boilers in the adjacent building are similarly impressive structures, produced in Darlington in 1902 by Teasdale up on Neasham Road. But obtaining coal for them is nowadays difficult and very expensive.



The Gas engine was working steadily producing a rhythmic selection of noises from all the moving components as it pumped water into one of the large filter ponds. From there the water would have once been pumped up to reservoir at Bushel Hill to then feed the town. Water was also transferred to



Harrogate Hill, before the site was finally closed in 1980 and placed in the care of the Preservation Trust.

Also on the site is a Blacksmith's shop where you can treat yourself to a day's experience of working in a traditional smithy. We were all given a ticket to a future open day when we can see the Beam engine fully working, which is certainly something not to be missed.

Next month's Local History on Tuesday 19th May at Willow Road Community Centre – doors open @ 1.15pm, talk begins @ 1.45pm. £2 including refreshments. Everybody is welcome to listen to **'The Impact & Significance of Ladybird Books'** – sure to be very nostalgic.

May 19	Kevin Beckett	The Impact & Significance of Ladybird Books
June 16	Chris Lloyd	Of Fish & Actors – History of Darlington Hippodrome

NEW MEMBERS (and not so new members) COFFEE MORNING



This will take place the fourth Tuesday of each month- in William Stead Wetherspoons Crown Street 10.30- 12.00.

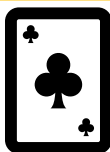
Enter by the main door on Crown Street, turn right up two steps to the raised area, where you will find our reserved tables.

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)

CANASTA GROUP



Our Canasta Group is starting up again after the Winter rest. We meet every other Thursday in The Travellers Rest in Cockerton. We are looking for new members to join our group. Please contact Sylvia Elliot if you are interested.

Joan Sadler

GARDENING GROUP



At our April meeting, we were fortunate to host Kelvin Vincent, Secretary of the Darlington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society. Kelvin shared some useful tips and stories about growing and displaying dahlias along with a wealth of other valuable ideas on plant cultivation and gardening. He shared some beautiful photos of his show flowers and entertained us with stories from his past, including his many years as a policeman in Darlington, followed by his various roles at the Education Village. He took us through the journey of his garden, starting with a new plot in the early 1990s, showing how it gradually transformed into the stunning garden it is today—so beautiful that many people drive by just to admire it. Kelvin also brought along some lovely plants for us to purchase, and many of us left with boxes of new greenery, ready to plant in our gardens.

Last month, we also enjoyed some lovely trips out.

Harrogate Spring Flower Show – In April, a few of us headed out to the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. From vibrant show gardens to eye-catching floral displays, the show was packed with ideas for the season ahead. There was a strong focus on wellbeing and outdoor living, with plenty of spaces designed to inspire calm and creativity. Alongside the show gardens, visitors could enjoy expert talks, live demos, and plenty of plant shopping. With so many plants and garden goodies on offer, we were spoilt for choice



Dishforth Nursery Gardens

Several group members enjoyed a lovely day out at Dishforth Nursery Gardens. The owner and his partner gave us a guided tour, and demonstrated how everything works, before showing us how to make hanging baskets. Everyone went home with a beautiful basket they had created. Throughout the



day, we were also treated to a variety of delicious refreshments. In May we will visit the Constable Burton Tulip Festival and one of the Gardening group members will host two open garden sessions at her home. Members will also take part in a guided tree trail around South Park.

Ann Robinso

FRENCH CONVERSATION



Our French group are a fabulous team and we all really enjoy chatting and learning together! We have covered a real range of topics from politics to poetry, walking to wild-life, geography to general knowledge quizzes! This term we have started by reading about and discussing the tradition of Epiphany and next session will be sharing some recipes! Please contact if you are reasonably fluent in French and want to not forget 😊!

Celia Howarth

DIY GROUP



Following our previous meeting when we discussed wiring in our homes one of our members raised an issue concerning the wiring in her kitchen. She subsequently called out an electrician who carried out some remedial work to rectify a safety issue. It just goes to show that some knowledge really does help.

A mock-up of different fixings for use with plasterboard, bricks etc. was circulated to provide members with an insight into what is available and how best to use them.

Basic electrics were also covered and the benefits of having an RCCB built into a consumer unit. Different size fuses were also discussed and how anything to do with heat requires a 13 amp fuse.

Different woods were discussed and their individual benefits and uses.

Time was spent explaining how wooden furniture should be treated prior to coating it with some means of protection.

Lights were also covered including the type of bulbs available and the different fittings. We all now know that Kelvins and Lumens are important when selecting bulbs not to mention the angle of light dispersement when using spotlights.

I cannot imagine what we will be covering at our next meeting which will be held on 20 th May 2026 anyone's level of DIY knowledge we have all learnt many things.

Anyone interested in joining our friendly group please email Sue Clark to join our group and to request anything you would like covering at our meetings.

Sue Clarke

PLAY READING



The March meeting completed our reading of William Douglas Home's 'After the Ball is Over'. Not a murder this time but two accidental deaths at the Hunt Ball; over exuberance, passion and drink carrying the couple from the gallery to the floor of the Ball. The parliamentary vote on banning fox hunting had had a strong effect on the hunt members, and also on their opposers in the Anti-hunting League who were present.

The Duke, Master of the Hunt, having just lost his wife in the accident, is determined to go ahead with the planned hunt even though it is now illegal and he knows he will face imprisonment. His strong friendship with the Chief Constable does not influence him to change his mind.

Intricacies of much earlier relationships lead surprisingly to planning a wedding between the newly widowed couple before he, the Duke, is sent off to jail. The Butler, as ever, seems to control everything!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th May at Kay's.

Muriel Jones

READING GROUP 2



We met today at Kate's house to discuss our chosen book "Frankie and Stankie" by Barbara Trapido. This is a semi-autobiographical story describing the development of Apartheid through the eyes of two sisters growing up in South Africa at the time. The historical detail is well described. The book received mixed reviews, being richly descriptive, but the introduction of lots of characters made it difficult and confusing to follow at times.

Our next chosen book is "Murder at Culls nest", by Jess Kidd and we will be meeting on 08/05/26 to discuss.

Pat Robson

BRING YOUR OWN CRAFT & NATTER



myself

Six crafters met up at Newcastle Building Society on a bright sunny morning and enjoyed a relaxing morning of knitting and crochet along with cups of tea and coffee. Topics of conversation included King Charles visit to America, and recent visits to Richmond, a Garden Centre and the wonderful Darlington Operatic production of Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat. We have room for more members so please bring your current craft along to our next meeting on Wednesday May 27 the from 9.30 to 11.30 or contact

Contact *Christine Walker*

READING GROUP 1



Our choice for the April meeting was "The Farmer's Wife" by Helen Rebanks. Helen is the wife of James Rebanks, Cumbrian hill farmer and environmental campaigner who is also a well-known writer.

Helen describes her early life as a farmer's daughter and, despite her efforts to succeed in various entrepreneurial businesses, she settles down with James on his farm and becomes a full-time mother of four.

The book is a personal memoir with the addition of recipes, some of which have been tried by group members. The quality of her writing compares unfavourably with that of James - we have previously discussed his book "A Shepherd's Life" - and the narrative jumps about in time and subject. However, as a window into her life it makes interesting reading. She describes the pressures of managing children, dealing with extreme weather, financial insecurity and loneliness, all of which she mostly takes in her stride. We discussed issues raised in the book, the conflict between the stay-at-home mother and those who seek a career outside the home. I think Helen is a talented and resourceful woman who, despite her successes, feels herself undervalued as such because she has anchored herself in the home. I hope she will continue with her writing career and seek other opportunities.

Many thanks to Lorna for hosting the meeting and providing the refreshments. Our next meeting on May 13th will be hosted by Toni, and we will be discussing "The Year of Wonders" by Geraldine Brook.

Toni

LUNCHEON GROUP



April's get-together was at the Blackwell grange Hotel when 17 members attended & I have received a lot of positive feedback. The staff were helpful & attentive & the food was well cooked. The coffees came in double quick time compared to our last visit when we eventually cancelled them as we had waited so long!! No doubt we will return.

Our next get-together will be on **FRIDAY 29th May** at 1pm at the Bay Horse, South Side, Middridge - between Shildon & Aycliffe. - postcode DL5 7JD.

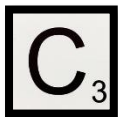
I won't be at the main meeting on 12th May so Carol Boyd has kindly offered to take the names of members who wish to attend. The Bay Horse **DOES NOT** require our menu choices in advance, we choose on the day.

If you don't attend the main meeting, but you wish to come along to the meal you can text me. I will inform the Bay Horse of numbers attending a week before we go

Stella Barnes

An important reminder. If you sign up to come to the Luncheon Club and then find you can no longer attend, please let me know in advance so appropriate cancellations can be made.

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 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month in The Travellers Rest, in Cockerton - Interested? Contact Brenda Ellidge

ITALIAN CONVERSATION

Ciao tutti! Our Italian group continues to meet and have great fun while steadily improving our knowledge and grasp of the Italian language. While many are now becoming Improvers, there is always space for beginners, and we constantly look back at what we have previously covered. This term we are looking at describing and buying clothes and will do short dialogues saying what we want in different shops. Please contact me if you fancy giving it a try!

Celia Howarth



Holiday 2026

I thought I'd take my holiday
For three weeks on the moon ...
But I saw the dark side on TV
And it filled me full of gloom.

So how about Antarctica
For two weeks, that'd be nice ...
But then my toes would drop off
'Cos it's all covered in ice.

Perhaps I could do one week
On holiday in Ukraine ...
But then a drone would hit me
And I'd never be seen again.

So now i have decided that
The best idea by far
Is 1 afternoon paddling in the sea
In sunny old Redcar!

Kate Brown



May Fest

Oh, let us go a-Maying
To celebrate the earth's full bloom
Be joyful, sing, lead a merry dance
To the burgeon fields and woods lets prance
Bring branches back for garlanding
Homes and paths to burnish spring.

What's this? We're not allowed you say
The conservationists hold sway.
There is no more picking swathes of May

Oh, lets us go a-Maying
To celebrate the summer's dawn
We'll wash our face in morning dew
Become more beautiful as each new
Day spreads sunlight on the lawn

What's this? We'd better not say
Insecticides being spread all day
To kill the bugs that spawn in May.

Do let us go A-Maying
To celebrate our female graces
We'll bind fresh blossoms
In our hair to frame our glowing faces.

What's this? No picking flowers you say
Species are growing less each day
We'll blight the darling buds of May.

Let's erect a towering maypole
Upon the village green
Where girls in white
Weave ribbons bright
And dream of lovers keen.

What's this? A phallic symbol nay
Only a festive start to May
And Morris dancers nimble!

Margaret Rule

FAMILY HISTORY

Please note that family History Group will be suspended over the Summer. The Group will restart in October. Members, please keep an eye out for re-opening details.

Jane Laninga

BRIDGE CLUB

Starting up again after their summer break is the Bridge Club. They meet in the Travellers Rest in Cockerton at 1.30 on the 1st Monday of the month.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

Goldsborough is a privately owned grand Jacobean house (with estate village) this side of Harrogate. It's now a 5-star hotel but was once home to Princess Mary, later Countess of Harewood. They offer a historical tour of the hall and its Gertrude Jekyll-style garden from 11am, followed by tea/coffee and scones. Free garden booklets will be available. The associated church should be open to visit too. There will be time in the afternoon to visit either Harrogate or Ripon, my preferred option. The route is straightforward if you don't mind the A1.

This will be a self-drive visit, so we need 3-4 passengers per driver depending on car size. If you aren't in a readymade group, I'm pretty sure we can sort you out. The price is £24.50 pp, payable to me by cheque or cash. If you belong to the Historic Houses Association the cost is £19.50 but I need your membership number in advance.

I shall be on duty to collect payment (the right money please) and contact details at the next 3 monthly meetings. If you are unable to make these, to make other arrangements. The visit needs a minimum of 10 to run and maximum group size is 25. Please ask if you have any questions.

LINDA CHADD

PROGRAMME OF UPCOMING VISITS/OUTINGS FOR MEMBERS

The time has come for me to step back from organising trips & visits. I have done it from 2014 and thoroughly enjoyed it, so hopefully there will be someone who will come forward to take over. I will always be available to offer assistance. Thank you for your support.

Friday May 22nd Glasshouse Gateshead was the Sage. 10am guided tour. 1hr/1& half hr. Making own travel arrangements. Cost £15 – Details below.

Friday May 22nd a guided tour of The Glasshouse (Sage) Gateshead starting at 10am.

This visit is making your own travel arrangements or car share.

Costing £15 per member tour last 60 to 90 mins.

Free parking in their car park.

It is an accessible venue for wheelchair users & the older generation. (Their words not mine)

Lifts available for use.

Same day in Afternoon Trinity House Maritime Museum Newcastle.

This tour will commence at 2pm.

Unfortunately, this is an old building has very steep steps for entry and uneven floors inside. No lift available.

Tour is 90mins the cost is £8 per member.

They can offer tea, coffee and biscuit for £3 per head

So, you can do both visits or chose Glasshouse on its own Or Maritime Museum on its own.

Choice is completely yours.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Carol Boyd

Friday May 22nd Trinity House home of Maritime education, artifacts, etc. Group tour 2pm between 1hr to 1& three-quarters hrs. Cost £8. Plus, tea coffee for £3 person. Unfortunately, very steep steps to entrance & steps inside.

Thursday June 11th Guided tour Sion Hall then Tennant's Auction House for Lunch, Guided tour & coffee & scone before departing. Awaiting final details.

Wednesday July 15th Teesside Princess Afternoon tea £24-95.

Sail from Stockton Quayside Boarding from 1-30 to sail at 2pm returning at 5-30 pm.

Thursday August 20th Harrison & Harrison organ repairs 10 am Meadowfield Industrial Estate. Car Share. Tour 1 HR to 1-30mins. A donation at the end goes to their chosen charity .

October Amazon Gateshead waiting confirmation.

November Lee's Coaches are going to Hardwood House at Christmas. Not Castle Howard. Details later.

Carol Boyd



Exciting Role Opportunity

Could you be the person we are looking for? Do you like going on trips? Are you good at organising? Then maybe this is a role that you might like to try.

Visits and Outings Organiser

No need to be a committee member just someone who can offer a variety of trips and outings for your fellow members. Support will always be available from our outgoing trip organiser Carol Boyd.

Please get in touch with your Chair Dot Hullah if you are interested

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

A Northumbria Region u3a Golf Event

is to be held at this golf club for both ladies and men on Friday 10th July 2026.

On offer would be either:



a) a round of golf over 18 holes with buffet - cost £40. Tee off arranged 12 noon – 2 pm

b) a taster session on the 28 bay driving range with buffet – cost £24. Any time.

c) a bit of fun on the 18 hole mini (crazy) golf course with buffet - cost £20. Anytime

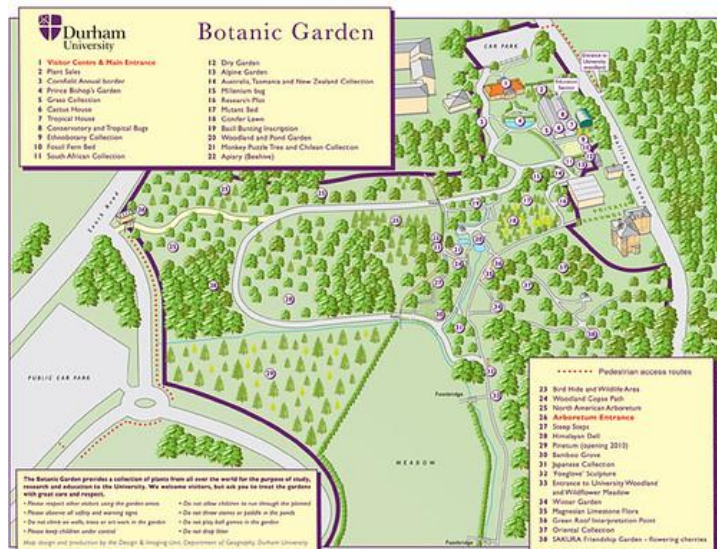
Equipment and balls are supplied for crazy golf. Members would have to bring equipment for the golf course and driving range. Buggy hire (limited) would also be available. The buffet is available from 6.30 pm Please contact Mike Wallace:

for any further information and/or if you are interested in this u3a Golf Event and following your commitment a registration form will be sent to you.

VISIT TO BOTANIC GARDENS - DURHAM

Visit to Durham Botanic Garden with guided tour - Monday June 22nd 2026 Meet Kathy Clegg at the Main Entrance to the Gardens any time from 10.30 – 11.15 am to be checked in, after which you are

free to go into the gardens and visit the cafe if you wish. The tour starts at 11.30; the exact time and place to assemble for the tour will be notified later. The tour is guided by someone from the gardens and takes about an hour, after which your ticket allows you to remain in the gardens as long as you wish until they close at 4.30pm. Website: Botanic Garden - Durham University Entrances to the Garden (see map LEFT, but there are better ones when we're there!):



1. From the Howlands 'park and ride' (best for most people), where there is ample parking, but it's free only in the area marked 'Howlands Farm'. Enter at the kiosk, take the path to the Main Entrance.

2. There is also a smaller free car park close to the Main Entrance which is accessed along the narrow Hollingside Lane which turns off South Road (off the top of the map below), then passes through the grounds of Grey College. A car parking space here can be reserved in advance. No dogs allowed except assistance dogs.

The tour will be tailored to the needs of the group, and they know that we are an older people's organisation, but the site is sloping and may be challenging in parts for anyone with mobility issues. Full details at [Botanic-Garden-Accessibility-Statement.pdf](#), including a phone number for specific questions. (Or if you tell Kathy about any mobility issues I will check whether you will be able to take part in the tour.) (Further info to follow with the exact tour arrangements) Book through Kathy Clegg, Max. 25 attendees (with waiting list if necessary). Cost £6.65 per person; payment information will be sent with an acknowledgement of your booking

Monthly Meeting Speakers - 2026

May 12	MEDICAL TRANSPLANTS Kirstie Wallace from Newcastle's Freeman Hospital
June 9	"THE PEARL OF AFRICA" REVISITED Visions of Uganda from Sarah Cartwright
July 14	A HISTORY OF CINEMA, DENIS FOX
Aug 11	BROTHER KHADIM FROM NEWCASTLE CENTRAL MOSQUE A Geordie convert speaks
Sept 8	LOOKING AND SEEING Dave Phillips on aspects of art
Oct 13	GARY BANKHEAD ON HIS TIME AS A FIREMAN
Nov 10	SADDAM HUSSEIN, MY PART IN HIS DOWNFALL By our very own John Sloss
Dec 8	tba, hopefully musical

Groups on Offer

Bridge – David Dixon	Travellers Rest - Cockerton	1.30 -4pm every other Tuesday
Current Affairs – Gill Turnbull	Members' homes	10am-12 noon on the 3rd Monday of the month
Coffee & Chat - Pauline Noble	Salt Fish Town House	10.30-12.30am last Wednesday of each month
Creative Writing – Dot Hullah	Leader's home	10-12am first Wednesday of each month
Canasta	Travellers Rest - Cockerton	Every other Thursday
Own Craft and Chat	Newcastle building Society Community Room	9.30 until 11.30 – last Wednesday of the month
DIY Club	Newcastle Building Society Community Room	Variable check with leader
Family History – Jane Laninga	Crown Street Library	2-4 2 nd Friday of the month
French, Advanced Celia Howarth	Above Newcastle Building Society, Market Place	11.15 - Fortnightly
Friday Walking Judith Bryant	Park cars in Linden Ave (nearest Coniscliffe Rd end)	9.30am on the 3rd Friday of each month
Gardening Group Ann Robinson	Harroway Room – Elm Ridge Methodist Church	October to April 3 rd Thursday of the month – 10 - 12
Intermediate Walking	Cockerton car park	10am on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month

Susan –		
Italian for beginners Celia Howarth	Above Newcastle Building Society	10 until 11 - Fortnightly
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 Jenny Hurt	William Stead Weatherspoons	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 Brenda Ellidge	Travellers Rest Cockerton	2pm on 2nd & 4th Monday of each month