

South Durham u3a

Registered Charity Number 1207225
Active in **Darlington, Cockerton and surrounding areas**
Friday 12th June 2026

“THE PEARL OF AFRICA” REVISITED Visions of Uganda from Sarah Cartwright

NEWS FROM YOUR CHAIR

Welcome to our new members

April Prince	Barry Cartman
Doreen Barrass	Joan Josey
Jenny Green	Carole Vayro
Jenny Newman	Susan Cairney

Firstly, let me welcome all our new members. I hope they will enjoy life in our vibrant u3a.

Secondly, I must apologise for the late publishing of this month's newsletter. I have been on holiday and was stranded in Greece when a mix up saw my plane take off without me. It has taken me two days to finally get flights etc home. I hope you are not disappointed in not receiving your newsletter last week. But here it is and is jammed packed with interesting items.

This month we are featuring not one but two of our upcoming Silver Anniversary events.

The first is the fish and chip lunch at Cockerton Club on the 2nd July, which a lot of you have already signed up for, but there is still time to bag a place if you fancy some award winning fish and chips and a ukulele band to entertain you contact details are in the flyer.

The third event is to be a Teddy Bears Picnic on the 8th August in Elm Ridge Church gardens, where we will be planting two beautiful Silver Birch trees on behalf of our u3a and having a super picnic. This is a **FREE** event for all members, but for health and safety reasons we still need to know how many of you would like to come along. You can book your place by contacting Ann Robinson to confirm your place.

As we move into Summer, I hope that the weather will be kind to us for our upcoming events. Should it be inclement on the 8th of August we have made alternative arrangements with Elm Ridge Church to use their large community hall.

Dot Hullah
Chair

LAST MONTH'S MEETING MEDICAL TRANSPLANTS



KIRSTY WALLACE ON THE FREEMAN TRANSPLANT SERVICE, MAY 12. This brilliant talk gave us all food for thought and was all the more brilliant for being delivered extempore straight after a night shift. Two things struck me. Firstly, what a complex example of human teamwork involving everyone from donors to surgeons, carers and pilots. Secondly, the importance of maintaining professional objectivity within the most emotive of life-or-death scenarios. Not so long ago I heard a Radio 4 item indicating a shortage of donors. Something for us all to ponder...

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
25th Anniversary

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

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

Let's celebrate our wonderful u3a community with our third event which is a relaxed picnic to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

You are invited to

South Durham u3a's
**25th Anniversary Teddy Bears Picnic and Tree
Planting Ceremony**

On

Saturday 8th August 2026 at 1pm to 3pm

in Elm Ridge Methodist Church Gardens

What to bring:

Your own picnic

Guests can bring their own chair/rug, if they wish

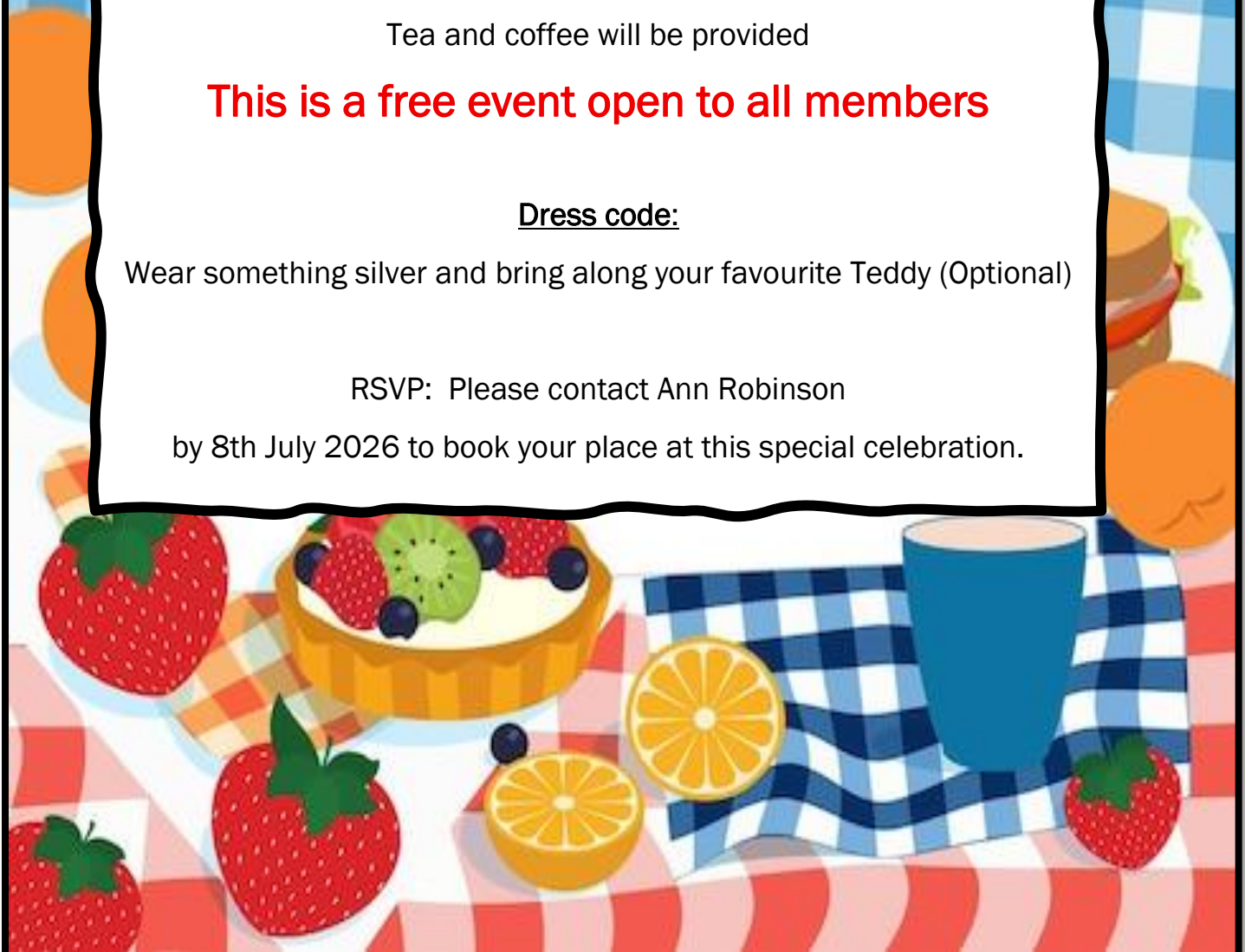
Tea and coffee will be provided

This is a free event open to all members

Dress code:

Wear something silver and bring along your favourite Teddy (Optional)

RSVP: Please contact Ann Robinson
by 8th July 2026 to book your place at this special celebration.



New Section for 2026 – Meet your Committee

Group Co-ordinator

Dave Cooke



I am Darlington born and bred and have always lived here. I attended the Queen Elizabeth I grammar school (just before the transition to sixth form college). At 16 I left and undertook a five year apprenticeship as a compositor (printer) at The Northern Echo. I worked through the transition from hot metal to computer technology and the demise of the trade union monopoly. In 2008 I was made redundant after 37 years. A keen footballer, I played for The Northern Echo team for 25 years. After redundancy I worked in warehousing for Capita for seven years, reducing to part time then taking early retirement to help with grandchildren, now numbering six. I have been married to Liz for 25 years. My hobbies are football, cricket, travel, history and family history. As group co-ordinator I am the person to contact with group related matters.

Co-opted Committee Member/Website Host

Tracey Jackson



Brought up in Northumberland, my family moved into the area where I met my husband. My mum still lives nearby. I started work at a number of solicitors and ended up in an IT role in Newcastle.

Final few years as a civil servant and on stopping work I decided to join the u3a and offered to run the website. I enjoy walking, travelling, yoga and reading.

Committee Member/Publicity

Mark Nordman



'I am a retired business banking manager and was based in Hexham Northumberland before leaving banking in 2017.

Wendy and I moved to Hurworth three years ago to be nearer our daughter and her family. I joined the U3A in 2023 to meet new people and try new groups and have very recently joined the committee.

I have enjoyed walking for many years and am an active member of Darlington Ramblers and lead some of their walks. I also appear in the annual panto performed by WamDram (Worsall Amateur Dramatics) at the end of January. This year it is Sleeping Beauty with all proceeds going to a local charity.'

LATEST NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

COFFEE & CHAT



The group meets at Saltfish Townhouse in Houndgate on the last Wednesday of each month so our next meeting will be on 24th June and everyone is welcome.

Do come along between 10.30 and 12.30 for a chat and an excellent cup of coffee in pleasant surroundings.

I look forward to seeing everyone.

Pauline Noble

DOT'S JUNGAGLOW CRAFTS



This session my crafters were tackling Modge Podge Vases. It is a relatively simple craft using cut out shapes and motifs from serviettes, which they enjoyed a lot. Here are some of the finished vases.



Dot Hullah

CREATIVE WRITING



This month my writers were engaged in **MURDER AT THE u3a** haha.

We met on the 10th June to share our dastardly stories. I have to say no members were harmed during this session.

Dot Hullah

FRIDAY WALKING GROUP



15 th May. Nine walkers set out from Demense Mill car park at Wolsingham. It was a partly cloudy/partly sunny day with a cold northerly wind. Our path took us quickly out into the countryside which was particularly colourful with wildflowers and frothy white hawthorn in bloom.

A sharp climb up Baal Hill brought us into the open fields above Waskeley Beck giving views across the open moors surrounding us. After progressing through several fields, we came to one containing a herd of young cows. They were frisky and curious about us, following us to the other side of the field, but kept



their distance. The walk continued along the edge of a wood until we came to a very steep, paved descent down Backstone Bank to Tunstall Reservoir. This part of Wolsingham Park was owned by the Bishop of Durham from the 13 th century. Now it is owned by Durham Wildlife Trust.

After walking across the dam of the reservoir, our path turned southward. The wind was now at our backs, and we had a lovely view of all of Weardale laid out before us. As we made our way towards our next waypoint, we clearly heard a cuckoo singing away. At the ruin of an abandoned farmhouse, we climbed over at West Burton a high but sturdy wooden ladder stile. Afterwards we made a long steady descent back through fields to the car park and anticipated scones at a cafe in Wolsingham Market Place.

Jane Laninga

Thanks to Jane for leading and to the volunteer drivers.

Next walk: Friday 19 th June. Lynne plans to lead a six mile walk in Wensleydale starting in West Burton Village, visiting Cauldron Falls and Aysgarth. As usual we will meet in Linden Avenue (the end of the road close to Coniscliffe Road), for car sharing, ready to leave together at 9 30 a.m. Members should be confident they are fit to participate, wear suitable clothing and footwear. It is advisable to carry refreshments as well as drinking water. While we try to visit a tea shop, this cannot be guaranteed. Please make sure that you carry information to be used in an emergency and bring your ICE card with up-to-date details.

Judith

INTERMEDIATE WALKING GROUP



On Monday 18th May , 11 members set off from Bishop Auckland Market Place led by myself.

After a steep descent down Wear Chare towards the River Wear , we walked alongside the river bank for a short distance before heading up through a small wood. After walking through open fields we then reached Bell Burn Woods which fortunately still had some colour from several large patches of bluebells which were sadly coming towards the end of their display. Several different bird songs could also be heard and a couple had their bird song apps open on their phones. The group then climbed a few steps to reach the Auckland Way old railway line , a popular walking route. After about a mile ,

We then headed back towards Bishop down the side of the local golf club and then alongside the grounds of Auckland Castle when views of the walled garden could be seen.

Refreshments were then taken in The Town Hall Cafe but with disappointing news they had sold out of their very popular cheese and fruit scones, much to the dismay of the walk leader who had told the walkers how good they were. The weather was kind apart from a 10 minute shower along the railway line.



Chris Hazlett

.The next walk on Monday 15th is led by Wendy.

It is a circular walk from Reeth circa 5 miles. Walking by the River Swale and crossing the bridge by Low Lane, and back on the other side of the river. There are a few tree roots to be aware of and a small beck to be crossed on approx 4 stepping stones. The Bikers cafe at Grinton is well worthy of a visit after our walk.

The following walk on 6th July is from Wensley to Leyburn. Approximately 5.5 miles and mainly field and woodland paths. There are numerous stiles and may be cows in a field. It may also be muddy along the woodland paths with tree roots.

For both walks please meet at Cockerton car park for a prompt start at 10am. Bring a packed lunch 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).

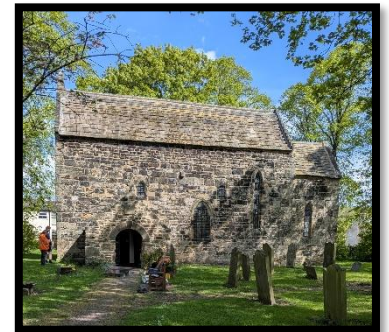
Could you please check and ensure that these ICE cards are up to date with all details.

Susan

Liz

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

ESCOMB SAXON CHURCH, FRIDAY MAY 8 Ironically, it was economic vagary which saved this grade 1 listed gem from demolition or drastic Victorian alteration. Dating from the 7th century and incorporating material from nearby Binchester Roman fort, by the mid-19th century the church was too small, so another was built but demolished in 1971 as the village population had shrunk! Many of the clues to the building's history are to be found on its outside so this was where we started our



tour with the knowledgeable Glynn Wales, retired headmaster and historian. This was just as well, as by the time we were inside an absolute downpour (with hail) had begun. If you've still not been, a visit to this spiritual place is well worth it. It's accessible 24 hours a day (instructions are at the churchyard entrance).



LINDA CHADD

THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF LADYBIRD BOOKS By Kevin Beckett, Local History, Tuesday May 19 A nostalgic session from someone inspired by last year's exhibition at Ushaw College. In Listen with Mother mode, Kevin began by reading us a whole book, "Shopping with Mother", while showing us the pictures. How things have changed... Some key facts: the 2/6d price lasted 30 years; a whole book could be made from one page sheet of 40x30 inches; the Key Words reading scheme still exists (under different management); and some grownup institutions like Thames Valley Police used them for training. After the talk I discovered that one of our members Lesley Brown had worked on the very Loughborough industrial estate where these books were printed.

June 16	Chris Lloyd	Of Fish & Actors – History of Darlington Hippodrome
July 21	Margaret Hedley	Women of the Durham Coalfield in the 19th Century - Hannah's Story

August 18	Dr John Ridley	Fountains Abbey: Making Sense of the Ruins
Sept 15	Judith Phillips	Josephine Bowes: collecting for the museum – Bargains & Beauty
Oct 20	David Elliott	Richmond - A thousand years of history in ten buildings
Nov 17	Penny Moon	'Mary Ward, Pilgrim and Educator'. An historical tale with a family history link, from one of our members.
Dec 15	Richard Annis	What lies beneath the site of an Amazon warehouse?

NEW MEMBERS (and not so new members) COFFEE MORNING



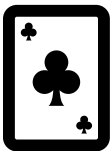
This will take place the fourth Tuesday of each month- in William Stead Wetherspoons Crown Street 10.30- 12.00.

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



Constable Burton Tulip Festival - On the May Day Bank Holiday, a group of us travelled to Constable Burton Hall near Leyburn to visit their Tulip Festival. We all had a lovely time wandering through the formal and woodland gardens, admiring the beautiful tulips. With over



6,000 tulips on display, the setting was both stunning and peaceful. Lawn marquees hosted a spectacular display of cut blooms and experts were on hand to offer advice and answer questions. We came away inspired with some great ideas for planning our gardens next spring!



Ruth Beckett's open garden – In May, Ruth and Kevin Beckett kindly hosted two very successful open garden events at their home. Their garden was such a treat to wander through, *with a mixture of many beautiful plants, palms, vines and fruit trees (from which, Kevin told us he makes apple juice).* There was a small pond that made the whole place feel calm, and with all the flowers in bloom, it was lovely. Thanks to the generosity of our members, over £30 was raised, and Ruth has kindly said she will donate it to the Great North Air Ambulance. Many thanks to Ruth and Kevin for their warm hospitality.


South Park tree trail - Members of the group spent a lovely afternoon in South Park on a tree trail with our guide Fal Sarker from Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club. As we followed Fal's trail we learnt how to identify the many notable trees by external morphology. Fal gave a very comprehensive and interesting talk about their history, physical structure and shape and showed us examples of leaves, stems and cones from various trees. We learnt how to identify different species of tree and to understand how they develop, function, and evolve. Who would have known so many of South Park trees started out in different countries around the world and some had been planted over 150 years ago and are still going strong!



Trips and events in June – Another Gardening Group member will host an open garden. We will also take a trip to Breezy Knees near York. In addition, there will be an opportunity to visit a couple of local village open gardens in North Cowton and Staindrop.

Ann Robinson

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



Once again, we were provided with a number of tips and suggestions on how to manage jobs in our homes whether it be hanging mirrors or wiring a light fitting, what to look for when purchasing a cordless drill to how to detect whether there is power at a socket. Anyone interested in joining our friendly group please email Sue Clark

A member of our group has volunteered to compile a list of recommended tradespeople for use by South Durham u3a members. The list will cover any jobs from decorating to gardening, computing, car repairs, dressmaking, watch repairs, plumbing, electrical work, hairdressing – the list is endless. Sharing details of your recommended tradespeople will benefit members as they will feel confident in contacting the tradesperson. The referral will also act as a thank you to the tradesperson by supporting their business.

If you or a member of your family or friends have used a sole trader or business in the past and been pleased with their work just email their name and contact details to Vivien Clear on:

Sue Clark

PLAY READING



We started on Ken Ludwig's play 'Lend me a Tenor', but with a slightly smaller group we found ourselves doubling up on parts and occasionally talking to ourselves. Set in a hotel suite with an excitable Italian tenor and his wife, a theatre manager and various other theatrical types, we were kept amused by the business that went on in and out of cupboards, the bathroom, the bedroom and the room where they were meeting. We could imagine it would have been hilarious on stage. Act 2 to be continued in June.

This is our last play from the group borrowed from Gainford Players. We've borrowed nearly all of their library of plays so it may be a case of repeating titles. The next meeting is on Tuesday 16th June at 2pm at Liz's.

Muriel Jones

READING GROUP 2



Our May choice was 'Murder at the Gulls Nest' by Jess Kidd. It is a novel telling the story of Nora, a nun, who left her convent and set out to find out why her friend, also previously a nun, had stopped writing to her suddenly. Nora followed her to the last known address, the Gulls Nest boarding house, even occupying the same room. When several fellow guests died in suspicious circumstances Nora became an amateur detective "assisting" the local police, often to their irritation. Each of finished the book, something of a record, and views ranged from implausible, irritating, to an enjoyable light read. No-one felt in a hurry to read more books by this author though we could envisage a successful television series being produced around Nora, the ex-nun detective.

Next meetings

12th June. "The Names" by Florence Knapp

10th July "All the light we cannot see" by Anthony Doerr.

Judith

BRING YOUR OWN CRAFT & NATTER

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



Contact *Christine Walker*

READING GROUP 1



“Year of Wonders,” by Geraldine Brooks, is a novel set during the outbreak of the bubonic plague which broke out in England in 1665.

This work was named the 100th most banned book from 2010 to 2019 by the American Library Association. The book explores how a village community in 1665 responded to the challenge of the plague arriving in their midst. This book was banned for scenes involving witchcraft, madness, repressed sexuality and anti-religious sentiment among other transgressions for which we could find no evidence in the text.

Well yes, it does have a lot of the above and is not for the squeamish, but these allegations do the novel an injustice, for it has so much to commend it.

The story centres around Anna Frith, an uneducated servant and young widow navigating the trauma of the plague, brought by a tailor from London. As he succumbs to the disease, he exhorts her to burn everything but of course the locals won't let her and the contagion spreads rapidly, carrying off Anna's two small boys.

The Rector Michael Monpellion convinces the villagers to quarantine, a decision which results in a terrible ordeal for all and a huge challenge for Anna, who, in the course of the story, develops strength and independence.

This book is so much more than a catalogue of grotesque events. It is well written by a talented author and is relevant to our own recent history when many of us were challenged by the similar ordeals and experiences.

Our next meeting on 10th June will be hosted by Gillian, and we will be discussing “The Plot Against America” by Philip Roth.

LUNCHEON GROUP



Another very successful Lunch this month at The Bay Horse in Middridge.

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

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.

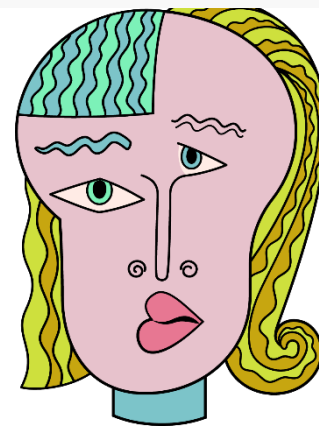
The Best Reason for Joining an Art Group

She joined an art club group
 But she wasn't very good.
 Her slowly worked 'Study in Beige'
 Looked like a pile of mud.
 The ducks she painted in the sky
 Looked more like aeroplanes
 And her portrayal of the North Sea
 Was mistaken for petrol stains.

Her art teacher rung her hands
 "You're not doing awfully well.
 You haven't painted anything
 That's good enough to sell."

"But I don't want to be a Picasso
 Or even a Van Gogh
 Or a Michaelangelo or Lowry,"
 She said with a little cough.
 "I know that I'm not awfully good
 But I don't care 'bout that ...
 I only come here for the cake,
 The coffee and the chat!"

Kate Brown



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

MIDSUMMER (ish) JAUNT TO GOLDSBOROUGH HALL, MONDAY JUNE 29

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

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 at 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

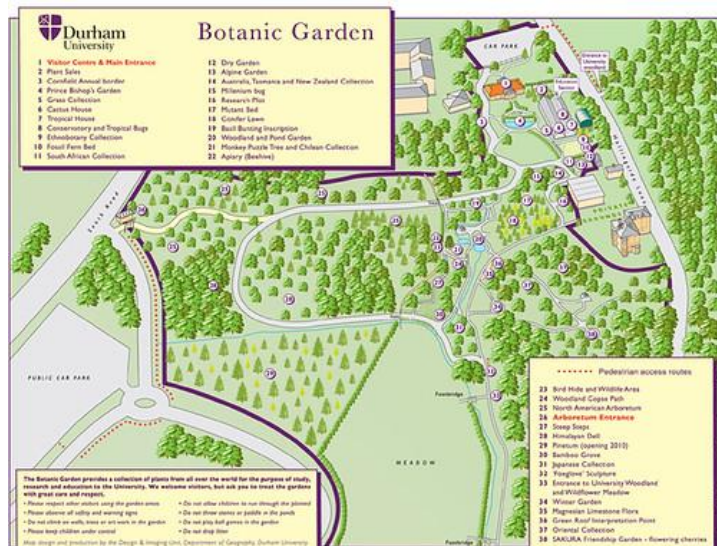
Equipment and balls are supplied for crazy golf. Members would have to bring equipment for the golf course and driving range. Buggy hire (limited) would also be available. The buffet is available from 6.30 pm Please contact Mike Wallace:

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

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 Susan –	Cockerton car park	10am on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month

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