

South Durham u3a

Registered Charity Number 1207225
Active in **Darlington, Cockerton and surrounding areas**
Wednesday 5th August 2026

BROTHER KHADIM FROM NEWCASTLE CENTRAL MOSQUE A Geordie convert speaks

NEWS FROM YOUR CHAIR

Welcome to our new members

Hazel Anderson
Melanie Burrows
Brenda Coatsworth
Carol Durkin

Welcome to our newest u3a members. My hope is that you will find interesting activities and events to attend which will reinforce your decision to join our vibrant community.

This weekend sees the penultimate event which we have prepared for you as part of our 25th Anniversary year. A picnic is being held in the grounds of Elm Ridge Methodist Church on Carmel Road South this coming Saturday, from 1 until 3.

As part of the event, we will be presenting and planting 3 silver birch trees to Elm Ridge, which we hope will grow for many years. A special plaque commemorating our gift to the Church will also be placed in front of the trees.

If you have already signed up for this event I look forward to welcoming, you and your teddy should you wish to bring one on Saturday. However, if you have not yet made up your mind there is still time. This is a **free** event and all you need to bring with you is a picnic. Chairs and tables will be provided. Drinks will be provided by our refreshment team. One thing I must remind people about is that there is no alcohol allowed on the church premises in line with their Methodist faith.

So, if you fancy a relaxing picnic this Saturday the 8th August, get in touch with Ann Robinson who is the organiser for this event.

Dot Hullah

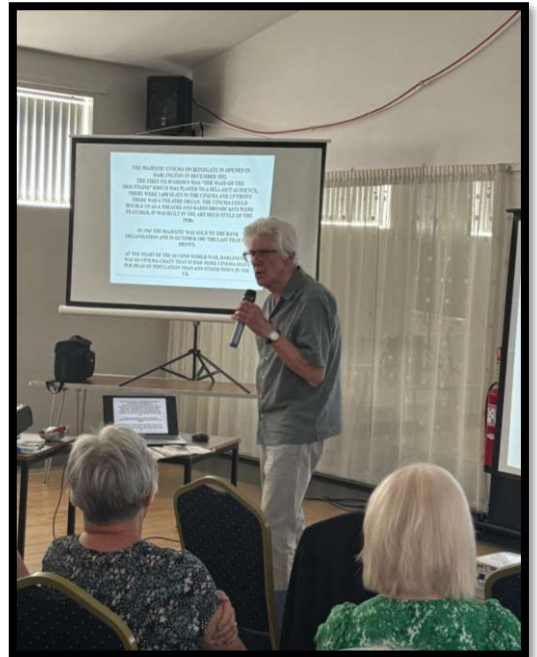
Chair

HISTORY OF CINEMA

Denis Fox

An enthusiast for his subject, Denis took us on a wild chase from the Lumiere Brothers of the 1890s onwards. He'd just about got into the 1970s when prompted by his wife, I had to stop him. On a second screen we also watched a short Chaplin film (I never realised this star was so good on roller skates). At one point we even donned 3D glasses. All these

awakened memories - of usherettes, ABC Minors, smoking (progressively banned from the 1970s). I suddenly remembered the small news cinemas in London's West End, handy in the 50s for avoiding the rain but also as I've since realised, useful for clandestine hookups. I don't know about you but I'm still going to the flicks. They're nice and cool these days, especially in the afternoon.



LINDA CHADD

Calling all our bakers.

As part of the final celebrations for our Silver Anniversary Year, we would like to hold a cake fest. It can be a cake or cupcakes that you have made. Bring your cakes to Bowen Road on the 13th of October where we will be able to sample your delights, as a fitting end to our year of silver anniversary celebrations.



In order for me to actually make the necessary arrangements, could you please let me know that you would be willing to submit a cake. Send your details to Dot Hullah so that I can arrange for enough display space to be available.



WHAT U3A MEANS TO ME....



Friendship
Fun
Education
Outings
It makes you get up in the morning.
Anon

Combatting loneliness
Friendship
Education
Fun
Being part of a group
Love the outings
Anon

Meeting new people
Different activities
Education
Fun
Anon

U3a has introduced me to a Book Club, which I have always wanted to join. The books we read are diverse and I have been introduced to many authors I haven't read before. Our meetings are so interesting – it's lovely to hear other people's opinions and thoughts. I also love our monthly meetings with fascinating presentations, and the local History group is great.

Anon

Tell us what you think of your u3a More in next month's newsletter.

Send submissions to Dot Hullah

LATEST NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

COFFEE & CHAT



The group meets at Saltfish Townhouse in Houndgate on the last Wednesday of each month 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



Today my crafters were quilling. To say it was a challenge was a bit of an understatement. Quilling is not a quick craft and does take time once the process has been mastered.



Our next session is on Thursday the 27th August when we will be decorating wooden picture frames.

Dot Hullah

CREATIVE WRITING



This month my writers had the title of "Just a Minute" some chose to write poetry and others stories. Our next meeting is on the 5th August.

Dot Hullah

FRIDAY WALKING GROUP



17 th July Barnard Castle to Cotherstone village

Eight adventurous souls set off from Barnard Castle for an 8-mile circular walk along the River Tees and the surrounding countryside incorporating parts of the Teesdale Way.

This was my first time as a member of the Friday Walking Group having recently joined the U3A with my partner, Julie, and we were immediately made welcome by the rest of the group who promised us both a delightful walk and scones!

The route initially took us along the banks of the Tees and although the path was quite rocky in places, we had time to view the river in its full summer splendour.

We were then required by our group leader to brace ourselves for a steep incline from the riverside to the fields above. The Group met the challenge with flying colours. Care was also required as we safely crossed the active farmlands where we encountered livestock, including sheep, cows and bulls, before making our way down to the village. On arriving in Cotherstone we headed towards the Old Chapel café to be greeted by another traveller, joining our walk for the return leg home. The café is particularly worth a mention, a Methodist Chapel and now a thriving community hub, still retaining features of its past including an impressive church organ. No report, of course, is complete without a comment on the refreshments on offer and for those amongst the group who sampled the scones, the verdict was extremely positive and from a personal point of view the pineapple



upside-down cake was a triumph. Leaving Cotherstone and as the sun began to shine for the first time, we made

our return to Barnard Castle through forest and fields.

Points of interest along the way included:

1. The Cotherstone Quaker Meeting House built in the 18 th Century located a short distance from the village and still in use;
2. The surviving stonework of the old Tees Viaduct a once impressive Victorian structure built for the railway across the Tees;

Before making our final descent to the river, we were given some wonderful panoramic views of the local countryside and with the castle towering in view we had reached our destination. Finally crossing the Silver Bridge, we were treated to some interesting rock art informally displayed for those passing by. A lovely walk and I hope the first of many in the future for us. Special thanks to Alan for researching and leading the walk in such a capable and relaxed manner.

Stuart.

And many thanks to Stuart who volunteered (or was he cajoled?) to write a report after his very first walk with the group.

Next walk: Friday 21 st August.

Lynne and Jayne plan to lead us on an eight mile walk in Upper Teesdale, starting at Bowlees Visitor Centre. Their route will follow the Pennine Way from Low Force to High force on the south bank of the River Tees, then return along the Green Trod, an old drovers' route. 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. (Please note that we leave at our regular time and not earlier as previously planned.)

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

Monday 6 th July Wensley to Leyburn



Once all 13 walkers were at Wensley and had had a chance to look in the church we set off on a pleasantly cool walk. Mostly field paths with a very short stretch on the road. We encountered cows and calves and a couple of horses, but they all ignored us. The ground was dry and the vegetation waist high in places. The views across the valley were wonderful with Bolton Castle visible at one point. Our lunch was eaten in a sheltered spot just before we walked along a very windy Leyburn Shawl. Some of us enjoyed foraging wild raspberries as we walked back to Wensley. There we enjoyed refreshments at the pub before returning to Darlington. Thank you, Susan, for a very enjoyable walk.

Liz Kay



Intermediate Walk

13 members of the intermediate walking group took part in a circular walk starting at Staindrop on Monday 20th July. The weather was dry and sunny and the ground firm. 18 stiles** and 7 narrow gates presented some challenges but help from all members meant they were safely crossed.

The walk also passed a sign saying that trespassers would be shot and any survivors finished off, as well as clear sign of a bull in one field. The group were reassured that the sign was a joke and the bull was in the adjacent field by the leader. The walk started with a short walk down to a shady path alongside a beck, many stiles somewhat wobbly were crossed, then a fairly steep ascent to the Raby Castle boundary wall where a lunch stop was taken. The group crossed back to Staindrop and then moved on by car to Sam Turners Cafe in Piercebridge to complete an enjoyable day.

John

** To anyone interested in coming on the walks. Not all walks have this number of stiles. This is a record!!!

The walk on 17th August is from Middleton St George to Middleton One Row. Approximately 5.5 miles. There are 2 inclines. One with steps. 1 descent, stiles, some awkward. Also cracks in some field paths due to lack of rain.

The following walk on 7th September is from Bishop Middleham to Hardwick Park. Approximately 5.5 miles. If it's rained it may be boggy in parts. There are some inclines and one has several wooden steps, cows and stiles.

For both walks we meet in Cockerton car park for a prompt start at 10am. You may wish to bring a packed lunch and drinks.

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) Please check and ensure that the ICE cards are up to date with all details.

To ensure that we do not get mud/dirt on the driver's mats, could all walkers have a change of footwear or alternatively a plastic bag/newspaper.

Women of the Durham Coalfield: Hannah's Story (1820-1901)



This old photo depicts Hannah, the great-great grandmother of this month's speaker Margaret Hedley who has spent many years researching her family history and bringing alive the stories of East Durham coal miners and their families.

Hannah was typical of many women of her generation (born 1820) she was illiterate and there was no documented evidence of her life apart from birth, marriage and death entries. She was the daughter of a miner, worked as a dressmaker (which set her slightly above her less skilled female peers), had an illegitimate child, later married and had more children, several of whom died young from phthisis (consumption). The family were to move from Sherburn Hill, to Shadforth when her husband left to try his luck in Australia, returning several years later to go back down the pit before dying at the age of 64. Hannah lived until the age of 81, remarrying, separating, raising grandchildren and moving house, this time to Ludworth. She came over as a strong-minded woman (perhaps typical of the time) coping with whatever life threw at her and making the best of herself.

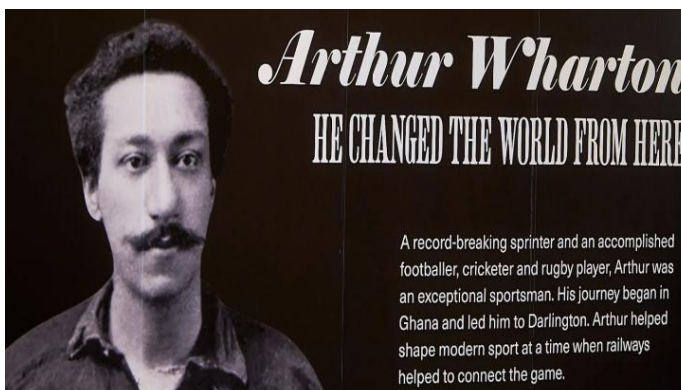
REMEMBER – AUGUST'S LOCAL HISTORY MEETING IS ON **25th August** – a week later than usual.

Dr John Ridley will be here to talk about the history of Fountains Abbey

"Making Sense of the Ruins"

Ruth Beckett

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?



If you're looking for something to do, especially if you have family or friends to entertain this summer can we recommend this exhibition at Hopetown? It has kept Jackie & Pete Roberts' grandchildren occupied all afternoon and they want to return tomorrow. And entrance is free!

Shaun Campbell entertained us at Bowen Road a year or so ago, with his story about Arthur Wharton which some of you may remember. The exhibition is on until the end of August.

NEW MEMBERS (and not so new members) COFFEE MORNING



William Steads – 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.

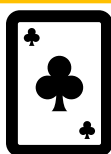
Our aim is to allow new members to get to know each other in a less busy setting than the monthly Bowen Road meetings. There will be committee members present should you have any questions to ask. We hope that this will help you make new friends and meet with our recently joined members in a relaxed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

13 came along to our July Coffee Morning, lots of interesting chat and a warm welcome to the new members who came along for the first time.



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. We meet every other Tuesday in the Travellers Rest in Cockerton.

Joan Sadler

GARDENING GROUP



Thornton Hall Gardens

A small group of members enjoyed a visit to Thornton Hall Gardens on a warm summer's day, where we were treated to a spectacular display of colour and beauty. The gardens looked absolutely stunning, with sweeping borders filled with an abundance of summer



flowers. Delphiniums, lilies, foxgloves, alstroemeria, cosmos, lupins and roses were just some of the many plants creating a vibrant patchwork of colour throughout the grounds.

Every turn revealed another beautiful planting scheme, making it a pleasure to wander around and admire the displays. The open day was well organised, with plenty of seating thoughtfully placed around the gardens, allowing visitors to stop, relax and take in the surroundings. The combination of magnificent floral displays, attractive sculptures and a wonderfully calm atmosphere made for an enjoyable day.



Hummersknott Allotments Open Day

A few of our members were spotted at Hummersknott Allotments on their open day enjoying the chance to explore the many plots. The allotments were overflowing with healthy vegetables, vibrant flowers, and an amazing variety of plants. It was clear how much time and hard work each gardener had invested in their plot. It was a real pleasure to wander around, and chat with the friendly gardeners about allotment gardening and gather inspiration for our own gardens!

Ann Robinson

FRENCH CONVERSATION

What an enjoyable time we've had in French sessions these last few months! We've learnt and discussed about: French exhibits in the Bowes museum; a working trip to Algeria; a dabble into French politics; French heritage and famous sites; gastronomy; and so much more, including games of Scrabble in French and other things that have made us all laugh! We're not perfect in our French but we're all eager to learn and have good chats! Our sessions for the Autumn are on Mondays from 11.15-12.15 in the Newcastle BS.

14 September

28 September

19 October

26 October

9 November

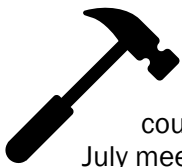
30 November

14 December

Please contact me for further information.

Celia Howarth

DIY GROUP



During our previous meeting, one of our lady members, enquired about the method to instal a clothes post in her garden. Following instructions provided by Peter she ordered one and plucked up the courage to successfully instal it. Well done Julie.

July meeting was held at our new venue: the workshop in the Well Methodist Church.

The Well is a charitable organisation and Keith, who manages the workshop, kindly showed us around the building and detailed the amazing activities that go on there. Keith went on to demonstrate the good range of machinery in the workshop.

Although this appeared quite scary to some of our group we do have members who are experienced in using such power tools and will support the lesser confident members. For those who prefer not to use power tools there are a selection of hand tools which can be used. We went on to discuss the projects each member intends to tackle over the forthcoming sessions. Following the meeting several members stayed on to enjoy a bowl of delicious homemade soup made from the produce of the Well's garden followed by school cake and custard. We will start working on our projects at our next meeting which will be held on 19 th August 2026



Anyone interested in joining our friendly group please contact Sue Clark

Sue Clark

PLAY READING



'Lend me a Tenor' must have been a hilarious play to see at the theatre. The scene is set in a hotel suite with plenty of doors behind which the cast can disappear/hide, popping out at the most appropriate or in appropriate time. We read Act 2 on this occasion, where the 'dead' tenor had come back to life but his place in the opera had been taken by a would-be tenor, dressed and made up identically. So, we now have two Pagliacci's, one singing his heart out on stage and the real tenor trying to get into the theatre unsuccessfully. An enjoyable read!

This was the last of the plays borrowed from Gainford so we will return them and hope there are enough different copies to borrow for the Autumn.

We shall not be meeting in August but will return on Tuesday 15th September at 2 pm at Kay's. Thank you to Liz for offering hospitality at her house the last two meetings.

Muriel Jones

READING GROUP 2



Our choice for July was "All the light we cannot see" by Anthony Doerr. This is a novel set during World War 2 about a blind girl who moves with her father from Paris to St Malo where her path eventually crosses that of a German young man skilled in radio signalling. As ever our views were mixed though for some of us considered it to be one of the best books that we have read.

Next meetings

14th August. "A list of suspicious things" by Jennie Godfrey.

11 th September. "What can we know?" by Ian McEwan

Judith Bryant

BRING YOUR OWN CRAFT & NATTER

Craft & Chat Wed. July 29th 9.30 - 11.30 Due to child-minding duties and holidays, only four crafters met up and enjoyed a pleasant morning of knitting, crocheting and a weaving project along with companionable conversation. Jessica from Newcastle Building Society will join us at 10.30 during our August 26th meeting for a short talk about the financial services available.

Christine Walker

READING GROUP 1



At our July meeting we discussed The Snow Geese by William Fiennes. This book was inspired by Paul Gallico's Snow Goose, read whilst the author was enduring a long convalescence.

On recovery he plotted the migration route of literally thousands of snow geese from their wintering grounds near the Gulf of Mexico to their summer breeding areas around Hudson's Bay. After flying to the USA the journey took him about three months. He stayed with contacts and friendly people who invited him into their homes. These homes and their occupants were vividly described, and so was his journey north by various means, including 48 hours on a train, and almost as many on Greyhound buses.

The very varied scenery through many States was so well described that we could all picture it.

The author seemed to attract people to him, some who shared his interest in the geese and others who revelled in shooting the geese for profit!

Our next meeting is our summer lunch.

Toni Carr

LUNCHEON GROUP



For July's get-together 22 members returned to an old favourite - Tre Amici in Darlington. Staff treat us very well, dealing with any issues quickly & professionally. The food is consistently good, and the payment procedure is straightforward & that is why it is a regular choice.

LUNCH GROUP FRIDAY AUGUST 28th 1pm at The BAY HORSE, MIDDRIDGE, DL5 7JD.

I will take names in the annexe at the main meeting, but we don't need to order meals in advance - we make our choices on the day.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE PROBABLE VENUE FOR THE SEPTEMBER LUNCH GROUP MEETING.

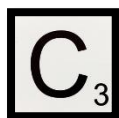
Following up a recommendation from our Treasurer, Sue Clark, I called at Yarm Rd Fisheries to discuss the possibility of a Lunch Group get-together in their restaurant. Obviously, I tried the food on offer,

ordering a "Senior Special" for £13.95. This consisted of a smaller portion of Cod & Chips plus a choice of either Mushy Peas, Baked Beans, Curry Sauce or Gravy along with a Pot of tea & Bread & Butter. I was very impressed with the quality of food & service. I will bring the restaurant menu to the main meeting as there are other non-fish options available. They are happy to host us & I think it will be a change. We would not have to pay a deposit & we can order when we arrive.

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



Held on 2nd and 4th Mondays at The Travellers Rest in Cockerton. All abilities are welcome. We are currently almost full, but if enough people are interested a second group could be formed.

Brenda Ellidge

ITALIAN CONVERSATION

We have 16-17 in the group and find learning Italian fun, rewarding and interesting - though sometimes quite challenging! Over recent sessions we have learnt how to: describe clothes; talk about aches and pains; describe our daily routines; book a room at a hotel. We can have short conversations in Italian - and usually have lots of giggles!

Our sessions in the Autumn are in the Newcastle BS on Mondays from 10am to 11am on these dates:

14.09.26 - 28.09.26

19.10.26 - 26.10.26

9.11.26 - 30.11.26

14.12.26

The group is now better for Intermediate rather than Beginner learners of the language.

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

Our friendly Bridge Group meets in The Travellers Rest in Cockerton at 1.30 on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. We are a noncompetitive and supportive group. If you would like to improve your play by joining our group, please contact Kay Walker or Jackie Roberts

Messing about on the river



All Aboard! An afternoon on the Teesside Princess. Leaving her mooring at the Riverside Stockton, the Teesside Princess carried us gracefully along the calm water of the Tees. Gliding past the newly developed Waterside in Stockton with its' tiered seating inscribed with verse, playpark and sculpture, it was a pleasing way to start our journey. The banks of the Tees were lush and green, dotted with fisherman- and some very fine houses! The Princess

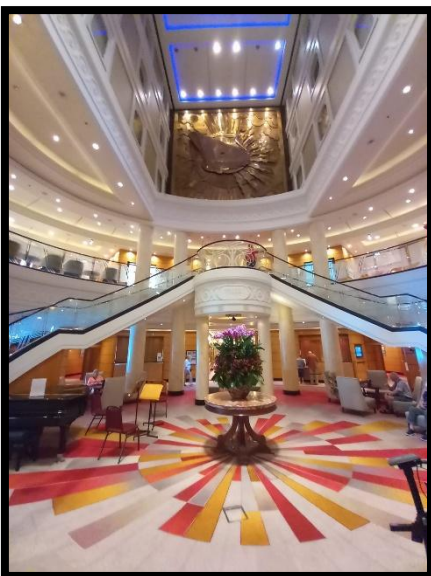


meandered through the winding eleven-mile stretch of water giving us time to enjoy the wildlife, fish jumping, dragonflies hunting and butterflies fluttering by, not to mention stately swans shepherding their cygnets. All this happening as members tucked into an excellent afternoon tea, served at tables with crisp tablecloths and linen napkins by smiling staff. Plenty of chatter and laughter filled the deck. Chris our compere, described the many bridges from medieval to millennial and the fact of the day, the Port of Stockton was originally the Port of Darlington. Three hours later, (where did the time go?) we sailed towards the Tees Barrage and the Teesside Princess moored up. A very happy crowd of u3a members disembarked. A lovely way to spend the afternoon. A big thanks Carol for another great trip.

Michelle Herdman

Messing about on a bigger boat.....

REFLECTIONS ON A HAMBURG MINICRUISE ABOARD THE QUEEN MARY 2



This was purely for research purposes you understand, to compare P&O with Cunard. But would my Bon Marche sale tops be up to par on the posher line? I needn't have worried, there were all sorts on the Queen including an assortment of dogs their owners couldn't do without, confined to spacious kennels on the top deck.

Gazing at Southampton Water from my hotel room brought to mind an uncomfortable night there with an embarrassed skipper in the 1970s. We were stuck askew on a mudbank in a 32-footer, but the tide floated us off in the morning. Could have married the guy but it'd never have worked, what with the mudbank 'n all...

Before boarding I'd had a delightful day with an old friend from Brunei days. We laughed, reminisced and explored the mediaeval bits of Southampton that survived World War 2. Don't miss the Dancing Man brewery, housed in a 14th century wool house. But now I had to suss out the ship in under 5 days...





Self-consciously Art Deco, the world's only liner is redolent of another age. My loo even had a little cigarette shelf for a drag in situ, only I couldn't of course because of fire regs. Smokers were now confined to Churchill's cigar lounge on Deck 9.

At dinner on the "odds and sods" table in the Britannia dining-room, a dapper little shoe buyer from Baden-Baden gallantly offered me help with the wine list. Not at these prices thought I, the cheapest will do... Also on our table, a bejewelled grande dame from the US had been on board for 180 days and just kept going. Her son had paid for the trip. I suppose he wanted her out of the way...

A former Hanseatic city, Hamburg impresses with 81 museums, more canals than Venice and Amsterdam together and a ginormous town hall finished in 1897 to cock a snook at the aged Otto von Bismarck, who had dragged the reluctant city into a unified Germany in 1871. Undoubtedly the best thing for me about this trip was the first-rate music - lots of it and the whole gamut of genres. The last thing I saw

before disembarking was the piano tuner in the Grand Lobby, on board before the voyage across to New York...

I'd tacked on an extra day after the cruise for a trip to Salisbury with its mediaeval layout and sublime cathedral, built in 38 years and therefore pure early English Gothic. Top tip: have a drink in the Haunch of Venison pub in Minster Street, 700 years old. It's so tiny you'll feel oversized, and there's a macabre display upstairs with a story to match...

LINDA CHADD

OPPORTUNITYS FROM REGIONAL



A Festival of Fun, Music and Learning.

The Festival of Fun, Music and Learning held on May 12th 2026 at Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens, DH7 7DW was such a resounding success that The Regional u3a Events Team and Committee have decided to organise a similar day in 2027.

This special day at Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens, DH7 7DW is on Wednesday 19th May 2027.

To enable this day to be a success we rely on members to contribute to the day. We had a great response from members for 2026, but we would like others to put their names forward.

Can any member, or a group of members, offer to present a workshop or an activity for everyone to enjoy? Is your expertise in eg history, geography, crafts, such as card making, genealogy, photography, calligraphy, playing an instrument, singing in a choir etc. Could you lead a walk from Ushaw Historic House? Could you give a taster session about carpet bowls, any genre of dancing, ceramics and so the list goes on.

The staff of the historic house will also be able to offer tours of the house giving an insight into its history.

Please contact Cecilia Coulson

JUST A MINUTE

Just a Minute

How easy those three little words trip off the tongue.
But it is never just a minute really is it.
Just a minuet could be 5 or 10 minutes long,
Depending on where you are in your favourite game
Or how many pages left to read to finish
the chapter of your favourite book.
Just a minute could be the excuse you give to your
mum when you are not ready for school
Just a minute is no time at all, 60 little seconds
But that minute
Could be the difference between
Missing your train
Or an important appointment
Missing your child's first step
Or your loved one's last breath
Just a minute is different for everyone
To a child it is forever
To a teenager it is however long it takes
To the older ones amongst us
It's a minute we can't waste
For me the title just a minute
Was an eternity
Of failed attempts to write
The feeling that I would have to admit defeat
But it has taken **YOU** just a minute
To read my piece today



Dot Hullah



The Golfer

The man was a golfer who wasn't too bad
But he never achieved a hole-in-one.
He tried and tried with no success
Until at last all hope was gone.

He knew he was good 'cos he practised a lot
But his final goal was not to be.
Each time on the green his fingers he'd
cross
And offer up a heavenly plea.

But then one day at the end of his game
He took off his golf shoes whereupon
He realised that he'd finally found fame –
When he looked at his socks there was a
hole in one!

Kate Brown

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

Harrison and Harrison Church Organ Repair & Restoration

Meadowfield Industrial Estate

Brandon

Durham

DL7 8RF.

This is a car share trip.

Thursday August 20th @ 10am an hour's tour.

This is a free tour they ask for a donation for their chosen charity of the year.

Closing date Saturday 8th August.

I am hoping to arrange a visit to the **Amazon Distribution Warehouse** at Gateshead for later in the year.

Once that visit has taken place it will be my last.

As announced earlier I am relinquishing the role of Trip & Visit organiser.

For future outings in 2027 we need a member to step into the role.

I have a file of places to visit, also coach companies for costings, would be willing to give assistance in any way I can.

Many thanks for those who have supported in everything I have organised

Carol Boyd

Opportunities for Members

DURHAM Big Band Alumni and friends

SATURDAY 22 August 2026

Darlington Market Square

Durham Alumni Big Band is an active, award-winning musical ensemble made up of former musicians from Durham University and the Durham Music Services founded in 2007. This 17 piece group performs at festivals and Northeast Jazz venues playing classic swing and contemporary arrangements - Durham Big Band and Jazz.

- Alumni All Stars 1pm - 1.45 pm
- Durham Big Band 2pm – 2.45pm
- Durham Big Band 3.15pm – 4pm
- Swing Manouche 4.15pm – 5pm

This free event promises a lively and enjoyable afternoon of music for all.

Monthly Speakers

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 – Jackie Roberts/Kay Walker	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 untill 11.30 – last Wednesday of the month
DIY Club		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

Useful email addresses if you need to contact us

NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	REASONS
Dot Hullah		Anything to do with the running of our u3a or advise and help in general.
Dot Hullah		Anything you wish to contribute to the monthly newsletter
Penny Moon		Administration queries
Sue Clark		Any financial queries
Ann Robinson		Anything to do with Membership including yearly fees
Jenny Hurt		Any queries with regards to social events
Dave Cooke		Any queries to do with our groups, including new groups and availability of groups