



Members Newsletter September 2021

A Message from the Chair

It gives me great pleasure to confirm that after such a long time, we are cautiously starting to return to how our meetings used to be pre-pandemic. Of course, some things will be a little different but we, the Committee and the Group Leaders will be doing what we can to create a safe environment when you come to St Michael's Parish Hall, whether for groups or for the monthly meeting and when you attend house meetings. I know that a good number of you are looking forward to meeting face to face again after so long.

It will be great to see as many of you as feel comfortable joining us at the monthly meeting on 16th September.

Kathy Platt

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Feedback & contributions are very welcome!

Please send any comments on this newsletter, suggestions for improvement and contributions for future editions to:

Newsletter.Alnwick.U3A@gmail.com

The next newsletter will be published on 25th October, and the contributions deadline is 22nd October.

ODD ONE OUT

	A	B	C	D
1	Rita Sullivan	Terry Duckworth	Phil Mitchell	Janice Battersby
2	Exeter	Southampton	Truro	Taunton
3	9	25	28	64
4	Bedlington	Cocker	Springer	Clumber
5	The Spy who Loved Me	Live and Let Die	On Her Majesty's Secret service	Moonraker
6	Brecon Beacons	Wye Valley	Peak District	Norfolk Broads
7	The Bronx	Harlem	Brooklyn	Staten Island
8	Anglia	Corsa	Cortina	Prefect
9	Venus	Saturn	Jupiter	Mars
10	Lincoln	Jackson	Galveston	Columbus
11	Red	Green	Blue	Yellow
12	Wimbledon	Middlesbrough	Coventry City	Bolton Wanderers
13	Biscuit	Bungalow	Shampoo	Caravan
14	Iodine	Iron	Lead	Magnesium
15	Johnson	Truman	Eisenhower	Roosevelt
16	Help	Let It Be	Revolver	Rubber Soul
17	Austria	Norway	Finland	Cyprus
18	Hebrews	Job	Exodus	Ezekiel
19	Malleus	Vomer	Incus	Stapes
20	All Saints	Peckham	Bank	Cockfosters
21	Danish Blue	Blue Stilton	Roquefort	Gorgonzola
22	Atlee	Lloyd-George	Ramsey Macdonald	Blair
23	India	Lima	Tango	Waltz
24	Apollo	Hades	Poseidon	Zeus
25	Centre Forward	Goal Attack	Goal Defence	Wing Attack
26	Trapezium	Rhombus	Rectangle	Pentagon
27	Basic	Barley	Fortran	Cobol
28	Bella	Dipsy	Fizz	Milo
29	Alastair Burnet	Sue Lawley	Sophie Raworth	Bill Turnbull
30	Caesar & Cleopatra	Loves Labour Lost	Romeo & Juliet	Titus Andronicus

Another reminder from the Membership Secretary – Alnwick u3a year 2021/22 started on 1st September, and you should all have now been contacted by Pat Ashton, our Membership Secretary, about payment of subscriptions. If you have not already paid, please do so. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for Committee to plan for our future.

September Photos

These photos were all taken at Northumberland Zoo, Felton, by John Fisher (not a u3a member) – used with the agreement of the Zoo



African Grey Parrot



Chameleon



Chinese Fire Lizard



Wallaby



Racoons



Snow Leopard

Tom's Tales

I've sure gotten old ! I have outlived my feet and teeth.I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind. can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded and subject to blackouts. I have bouts with dementia, have poor circulation, hardly feel my hands and feet any more. I can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But thank GOD, I still have my Driving Licence !

From Tom Burroughs

Spotlight on an Interest Group – Short Walking

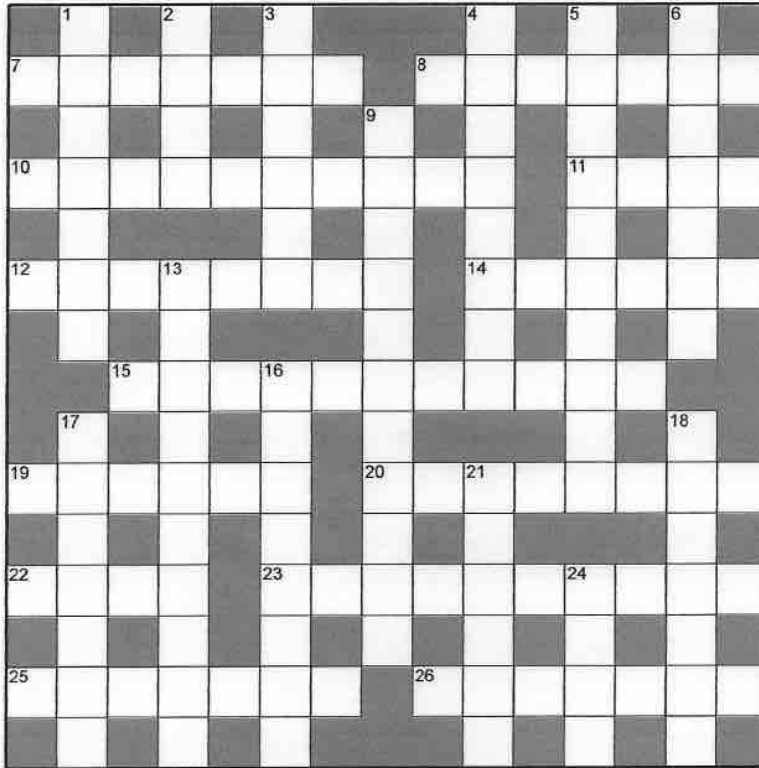
We are a group who love to be out and about in the Northumberland countryside. I lead the walks together with Sheila Abercrombie. The walks are up to 5 miles in length, sometimes with hilly bits and mostly with a cafe at the end. Last month we were in Harbottle, climbed up to the Drake Stone then visited the ruined castle. The views were wonderful, the heather beautiful and the bilberries plump and delicious.

The Drake Stone is supposedly the largest boulder in Northumberland. It is 30ft high and weighs more than 2,000 tons. It is reputed to possess magical healing powers with the ability to cure sick children who climb over it. William Tomlinson, in his "Comprehensive Guide to Northumberland" (1888) certainly believed that: 'Harbottle is an exceptionally healthy place and mortality among children is almost unknown' The stone has been polished and scratched by movements of the ice sheet during the last glaciation. Well worth a visit!

Judy Williams, Group Leader



Crossword



ACROSS

- 7 Takes aggressive action against what sounds like a tariff (7)
 8 Public transport you can book (7)
 10 Insect named after a senior officer in the Russian Navy (3,7)
 11 Throw a line to those on stage (4)
 12 American musical (8)
 14 Finish in an attempt to look chic (6)
 15 King-size bedlinen advertised in the papers (11)
 19 Cope with the guy for a period (6)
 20 True account of the vicar's assistant (8)
 22 Drinks at a jumble sale (4)
 23 They are designed to take locomotives for a spin (10)
 25 Branch of gardening that's a skill (7)
 26 Sounds like a girl's coin collection (7)

DOWN

- 1 Hairbands (7)
 2 A container returned to the prince (4)
 3 Body language of a girl with body odour (6)
 4 If that's what you want, then get the frying pan and let's get cracking (8)
 5 It's aimed at the heart of Hampshire (10)
 6 Tedious shake-up means you need to be in the fresh air (7)
 9 Wide steps to be taken on route to this Kentish town (11)
 13 Navigational skill of man in the Hindenburg (10)
 16 An opening for the paparazzi (8)
 17 He often appears at Wimbledon but never gets a game (7)
 18 Took charge of a cattle drive (7)
 21 Sailing boat owned by someone in the rag trade (6)
 24 A safe place to slope off to (4)

Odds and Ends

How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?

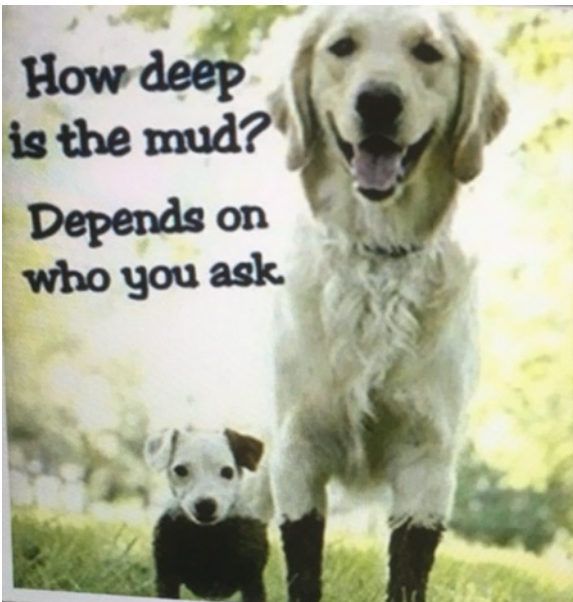
Ten-ticles

A pessimist looks into a tunnel and sees just darkness

An optimist looks into a tunnel and sees light at the end of it

A realist looks into a tunnel and sees a train approaching

The train driver sees three idiots standing on the tracks



THE WALKERGATE MYSTERY

On one of our walks around Alnwick we noticed some activity in the area between the back of St Michaels's Churchyard and Walkergate.

The area was being surveyed by an archaeologist from Durham University, a commercial dig prior to a new access road being laid to accommodate the new hotel at the corner of Bailiffgate.

We were interested in a small building that was unearthed by the dig and have tried to find out what the building was used for.



This ordnance survey map of 1861 shows a Malthouse on the site, but it is not clear which building it pertains to.



The 1774 Wilkins map (shown below) gives a clearer idea of where our unearthed building is but unfortunately not what the building is.



My best guess is that it may have been a part of the Malthouse but as to which part is anyone's guess. It will, however, appear on the new Historic Town Map of Alnwick as an industrial building.

WALKERGATE MYSTERY (contd)

Given the scale and nature of the development for the new hotel it can be assumed that any archaeological remains will be totally destroyed.

Bailiffgate was traditionally the home to Estate employees, the old Duchess School building was once the home of the Duke's Agent with the Librarian to the castle living in the house next door.

The picture opposite is an artist's impression of what the new hotel will look like from the Peth.



Sometime in the future the Duke's archivist may be able to enlighten us as to the findings of the dig and what the buildings were used for.

Maureen Sayers

Words women use (NOT written by a man!)

Note: only men should read on - to warn them about arguments they can avoid.

- 1. Fine:** *This is the word women use to end an argument when they are right and you need to be quiet because your facts may be **right**, but you are still **wrong**.*
- 2. Five Minutes:** *If she's getting dressed, this means half an hour. Five minutes is **only** five minutes if you have just been given five more minutes to watch the match.*
- 3. Nothing:** *This is the calm before the storm. 'Nothing' means **something**, and you should be on your toes. Arguments that begin with 'nothing', usually end in 'fine'.*
- 4. Go Ahead:** *This is a dare, not **permission**. Don't Do It!*
- 5. That's Okay:** *This is one of the most dangerous statements a woman can make to a man. 'That's okay' means she wants to think long and hard before deciding how and when you will pay for your mistake!*
- 6. Whatever:** *This is a woman's way of saying 'go to hell'!*
- 7. Don't worry about it, I've done it:** *Another dangerous statement meaning this is something a woman has asked a man to do several times but is now doing herself. This will later result in a man asking, 'what's wrong?' (For the woman's response refer to 3).*

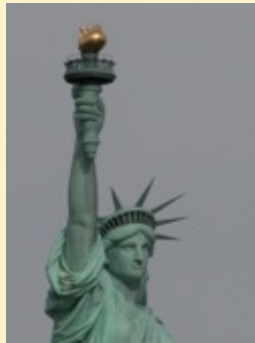
September Monthly Meeting

At our next monthly meeting, on Thursday 16th September, in St Michael's Hall, Trevor Robinson will give a talk entitled *My Love Affair with North America*. He has said that while this will include photographs taken on holiday, the purpose will be to give a flavour of many different aspects of life, architecture, wildlife and landscapes in the USA and Canada, rather than bore everyone with interminable family portraits! Although he does not rule out the occasional relative – such as his grandson at Kennedy Space Centre.

Here are a few photos as a taster.



Afghanistan War Memorial,
Santa Barbara



Statue of Liberty,
New York



Dean Martin's memorial
at Westwood Memorial
Park, Los Angeles

If you intend to come along, Pat Ashton has asked that you confirm to her that you will be attending, if you haven't already done so, as we need to keep track of numbers. You can email her at membership.alnwick.u3a@gmail.com

Until you hear anything different, we will not be using the kitchen facilities at St. Michael's, so if you want to have a drink, please bring your own.

A Reminder

Next year marks National u3a's 40th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the Trust is launching an Anniversary Quilt competition on the theme of positive ageing. Members are asked to submit a square and judges will select 40 that they feel best represent the movement's message on positive ageing through its strapline 'learn, laugh, live'. "We see the finished quilt as a moment in history for future generations of u3as" says coordinator Michaela Moody. Any member or group can enter. The deadline is 15 November 2021, and the winners will be published in the February 2022 edition of TAM. For more details, go to the u3a 40th Anniversary tab in the Events section at u3a.org.uk

Hobbies and Interests

This is a regular item for the Newsletter, where u3a members can tell us all about their hobbies and interests. If anyone would like to write something for a future Newsletter, please do contact us at Newsletter.Alnwick.U3A@gmail.com.



Imagine a pastime which can be enjoyed by the whole family that combines technology with outdoor adventure. Geocaching gets you out into the fresh air and walking either a long or a little way. It also introduces you to unusual/interesting/beautiful locations. Even your Grandchildren will ask to go out for a walk as they will soon get hooked.

Geocaching is a worldwide outdoor treasure hunting game. There are over 3 million geocaches hidden worldwide and over 5 million people who play the game.

Geocaches are hidden by fellow Geocachers who will go to a location which usually has some special interest or beauty. At the location, they will hide a small waterproof container containing a few varied bits and pieces (usually of little value), a logbook and a pen or pencil. Using their smartphone or GPS receiver, the Geocacher records the coordinates of their Geocache and returns home to log its existence on a website.

Another Geocacher will see the Geocache listing online or within a Geocaching app and go in search of it. When they find it, they can take something from the Geocache and leave something in return, sign the logbook and leave the geocache hidden as they found it.

The seeker should log online that they have found the Geocache and pass any comments they wish - this can be done using an app whilst out in the field, or on the website once at home. These logs are important to the Geocache hider; it is part of their 'reward' for hiding the Geocache, so some detail should be included.

It is not enough to say that you can see the Geocache to log as a find, the log book has to be signed. Don't forget to take a pen or pencil just in case the one inside is missing.

You will need a smart phone or a GPS receiver to navigate to Geocaches. Both of these devices 'listen' to signals broadcast from satellites orbiting the Earth. From those signals your phone or GPSr is able to calculate its location on the planet to typically within about 5 metres. Once a smartphone or GPSr knows where it is, and where you want to go, it can point you to your destination. There are numerous Geocaching Apps available for most smartphones.

There are attributes on the Geocache's homepage which tell you of parking waypoints, if the Geocache is recommended for kids, or if there is a hike involved etc. On the website the Geocaches will either be graded by degree of size or by terrain. You can choose which ones to find. Grade 1 terrain, for example, could be found by someone in a wheel chair whereas Grade 5 may need you to do some climbing, swimming or even climb a tree. Some Geocaches are the size of a Smartie, some in large ammo cans and some could even be in disguise.



We finally found this Ammo can Cache at the bottom of the lake.

As a family, on my own or with friends, I have been Geocaching for about 10 years. I have found nearly 2,000 'Caches' in 7 different countries. My greatest achievement is finding the oldest cache on mainland Europe; there are a lot of small games within the game if you want to play for statistics etc.



The Oldest Cache on mainland Europe (Belgium). Note the coordinates. This screenshot of my smartphone was taken in 2013 when I logged my find. It's my greatest find.

I have also hidden some in Alnwick, Hipsburn and Alnmouth and it's great when people write in the log about their journey to finding them.

One of the fun parts is trying not to be spotted while looking for the 'Cache'. If you are approached then it is best to tell the truth and maybe make a recruit, or like my Grandson said, 'we're looking for snakes and bugs'. The muggles soon make a quick retreat.

Believe it or not, my Labradoodle, who is 8, is called Cache. I wonder why?

Log in to www.geocaching.com and search for geocaches in your local area, you will be surprised how close your nearest one will be. There are many in and around Alnwick and I'd be happy to help you get started.

Anne McMillan

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1	Rita Sullivan	Terry Duckworth	Phil Mitchell	Janice Battersby
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8	Anglia	Corsa	Cortina	Prefect
9	Venus	Saturn	Jupiter	Mars
10	Lincoln	Jackson	Galveston	Columbus
11	Red	Green	Blue	Yellow
12	Wimbledon	Middlesbrough	Coventry City	Bolton Wanderers
13	Biscuit	Bungalow	Shampoo	Caravan
14	Iodine	Iron	Lead	Magnesium
15	Johnson	Truman	Eisenhower	Roosevelt
16	Help	Let It Be	Revolver	Rubber Soul
17	Austria	Norway	Finland	Cyprus
18	Hebrews	Job	Exodus	Ezekiel
19	Malleus	Vomer	Incus	Stapes
20	All Saints	Peckham	Bank	Cockfosters
21	Danish Blue	Blue Stilton	Roquefort	Gorgonzola
22	Atlee	Lloyd-George	Ramsey Macdonald	Blair
23	India	Lima	Tango	Waltz
24	Apollo	Hades	Poseidon	Zeus
25	Centre Forward	Goal Attack	Goal Defence	Wing Attack
26	Trapezium	Rhombus	Rectangle	Pentagon
27	Basic	Barley	Fortran	Cobol

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EXPLANATIONS

ODD ONE OUT – NARRATIVE

1. Characters from Coronation Street except C (Eastenders)	16.1960's Beatles Albums – B -1970
2. County Towns except B	17.Countries in the Euro Zone#
3. Square numbers	18.Books of the Old Testament
4. Spaniels	19.Bones of the ear – B – In the Nose
5. Roger Moore as James Bond – C(George Lazenby)	20.London Tube Stations
6. National Parks	21.Cheeses from Cows Milk – C – Sheep
7. Boroughs of New York City	22.Labour Prime Ministers B – Liberal
8. Ford Cars – B – Vauxhall	23. International Call Signs. W is WHISKEY
9. Planets with moons	24.Greek Gods – A ROMAN
10.US state capitals	25.Netball positions
11.Prime colours	26.4 Sided polygons – D has 5
12.Teams who have won the FA cup	27.Computer programming languages
13.Words that come from India – A –French	28.Characters from The Tweenies – B – Teletubbies
14.Metallic Elements	29.BBC newsreaders – A – ITN
15.Democratic US presidents – C – Republican	30.Shakespeare plays – A – written by George Bernard Shaw

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS - 7 Attacks. 8 Omnibus. 10 Red Admiral. 11 Cast. 12 Oklahoma. 14 Trendy. 15 Broadsheets. 19 Manage. 20 Accurate. 22 Ales. 23 Turntables. 25 Topiary. 26 Pennies.

DOWN - 1 Streaks. 2 Raja. 3 Akimbo. 4 Omelette. 5 Winchester. 6 Outside. 9 Broadstairs. 13 Airmanship. 16 Aperture. 17 Ballboy. 18 Steered. 21 Cutter. 24 Bank.

End piece

Tanka

*Summer shows its wares,
Poppies spill over meadows
setting earth aflame.
Observing short lived beauty,
wheat fields await the harvest.*

Mary Atkinson