



Members Newsletter September 2022

A Message from the Chair

After having enjoyed some fantastic summer weather, welcome back everyone to the new u3a year, with a special welcome to any new members who are joining us for the first time. All the group leaders are eager to start again, and we have some great speakers booked for the monthly meetings. As the AGM is just around the corner in October, I would just like to give a reminder to all readers of this Newsletter that, on the committee, there are still vacancies waiting to be filled for the coming year. So come on folks, your committee needs you!

Kathy Platt

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July Monthly Meeting – 21st July

Alex Lister, Northumberland Wildlife Trust - “Wilding Druridge”



Northumberland Wildlife Trust was established in 1971 to help conserve and protect the wildlife of Northumberland, Newcastle upon Tyne and North Tyneside in the UK. The Trust is a charity, and a member of The Wildlife Trusts partnership. Particular projects where the Trust has a special expertise include Red Squirrel conservation and peatland restoration.

The Trust has an active team engaged in education activities including projects based in North Northumberland, Blyth Valley district and Newcastle and North Tyneside.

They manage over 60 nature reserves and help to create wildlife-rich landscapes and seas by working in partnership with other organisations, landowners and communities.

Alex is the Druridge Bay Landscape Manager; he talked mainly about West Chevington and Stobswood. A £2 million donation from The Reece Foundation has enabled Northumberland Wildlife Trust to purchase a 327-hectare piece of land at Druridge Bay as part of its bigger plans for a wilder Northumberland.

The large site at West Chevington, near Druridge Bay, was acquired from regeneration specialist Harworth Group plc. It sits on top of a former opencast coalmine, like many of NWT's existing reserves in the area, and the Trust intends to use this project to showcase how nature can recover in this manufactured landscape.

The new land at West Chevington will provide opportunities to explore the rewilding concept further, and to work across a much larger scale. It will form the core of the most ambitious lowland wilding scheme in Northern England, and the first on a former open cast coal mine.

The West Chevington and Stobswood sites consist of a mosaic of woodland (approx. 108ha), grassland (approx. 110ha) and lower-quality arable land (approx. 109ha), with a system of ponds, ditches and streams.

July Monthly Meeting – contd



Left – *West Chevington;*
image by Duncan Hutt

Below – *West Chevington*
woodland drone photo;
image by Jason Friend



July Monthly Meeting – contd



Currently, the land at West Chevington is home to two arable farm businesses, as well as the North Steads Wind Farm. The land at Stobswood supports a beef and lamb farming business. As these are still active farms, the Trust is not encouraging access to the site.

The Trust's long-term vision for the site is to improve the whole area for wildlife and people, and will test a number of 'rewilding' methods with the aim of storing carbon, boosting biodiversity and connecting wildlife habitat on an unprecedented scale locally. They want to restore natural processes to reduce climate change impacts, and encourage people to become more engaged with their natural heritage and take action for nature.

The first priority is to familiarise themselves with the site, and carry out baseline ecological surveys, as well as working with their farming tenants to consider how their operations will contribute to the future of the project. The findings of the baseline surveys and outcomes discussions with tenants will inform the plans for the wilding areas. Finally, Alex showed us videos of rabbits, red squirrels and deer.

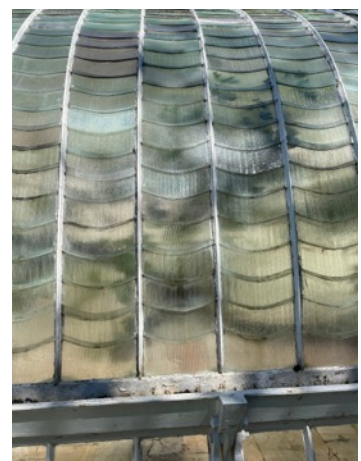
Alex's talk was very interesting and was warmly received.

**Visit to Felton Park - 11th August
Talk by Tim Maxwell about the Restoration of Felton
Park's Grade II listed Victorian Greenhouse**



A very enjoyable visit to the restored Victorian Greenhouse, hosted by Tim Maxwell of Felton Hall, on a sunny day.

Followed by a pleasant lunch at The Northumberland Arms, in West Thirston



Photos by Shelley Willis and Trevor Robinson

September Photos

This month's theme is *Insects*. All photos taken by Alan Sayers.



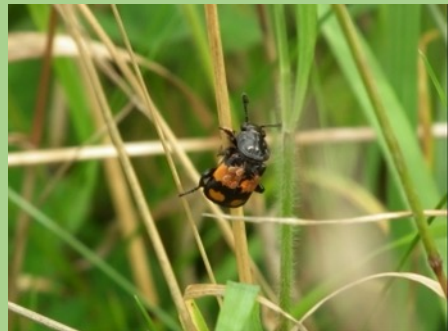
Swallow Tail – Haute Barr Castle,
France



Hummingbird Hawkmoth,
Alsace, France



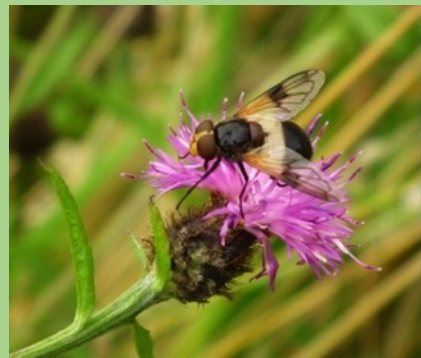
Common Hawker,
Branton Ponds



Sexton Beetle, Branton Ponds



Caterpillar, possibly Drinker
Moth, Druridge Ponds



Pellucid Fly, Branton Ponds

Science Group Outing – 26th August – Northumberland Spirit Co.



After the success of the Science Group trip to Kielder Observatory in March, we thought we should plan another outing over the summer. Someone suggested a trip to a gin distillery. This at first seemed a strange idea, but then the obvious things started to become clear. After all, the distillation of spirits is a scientific chemical process. The addition of botanics is a scientific activity. And observing the biological impact of drinking alcohol is interesting. Fortunately, though, none of us drank to excess. Just as well, as some of us were driving!

Future Monthly Meetings in 2022

15th Sept – Prof. Brian Ward - “The North-East’s connection to Abolitionism and the American Civil War”

20th Oct - Tom Cadwallender, Regional Representative of the BTO - “The Effects of Climate Change on Winter Birds” - Following the AGM

17th Nov - Mark Hatton - “The Artwork and Symbolism of Gravestones”

15th Dec - Jessica Turner - “The Life and Times of St Cuthbert” Plus Xmas get-together

Warning!!!

If your eyes hurt after you drink coffee, you’ve forgotten to take the spoon out of the cup!

Tom’s Tales

An expectant father rings the hospital to see how his wife is getting on. By mistake he's connected to Lords cricket ground.

"How's it going? he asks.

"Fine" comes the answer. "We've got three out and hope to have the rest out by lunch. The last one was a duck”

Tom Burroughs

Literary Duos in Fiction

1 _or_/_oo_e and _o_n/_i_d

2 _l__a_e__/_e__e_ and __/_a__y

3 _r___e_/_n__ and __r/_r__

4 _t__ll_ and _e_d__o__

5 _a_/_ts_y and _a_s_/_u_h_na_

6 ___e /___e and _d___d /__ch____r

7 ___t_c_i__ and __t__er__e/_a_ns__w

8 _ad_/_a__e__e_ and _l__er/___ll__s

9 _ec__/_h__p and _a_do_/_r_w_e_

10 ___e/_l_i_t and _a__a_n/_n__o_t_

11 _c___e__ / ___r_ and __e__ /__t_e_

12 __n_/_r__i__ and __u__/_ro_s__

Miscellaneous

Contacts

We no longer publish group leader or committee member contact details, for Data Protection reasons. However, we do have some generic email addresses:

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chair.u3a.alnwick@gmail.com

membership.alnwick.u3a@gmail.com

group.alnwick.u3a@gmail.com

secretary.alnwick.u3a@gmail.com

newsletter.alnwick.u3a@gmail.com

Tai Chi Group update

Unfortunately, the Group has had to fall into abeyance, as the teacher is now unable to take part.

Seeking New Committee Members

We will need to refresh our Committee membership at the AGM in October. Please take a moment to consider whether you could put your name forward.

It is a very interesting role and you would be helping our u3a to continue to operate for the benefit of our membership. Why not have a chat with one of the current Committee members? If you don't already know, you can find out who we are at page 9 of the Welcome Pack :

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/a/alnwick/docs/welcome-packamended31-08-2022.pdf>

You can also find a lot of information about being a Committee member on the national u3a website at:

<https://sources.u3a.org.uk/2021/11/02/bigger-and-better-u3a-committees>

The future of Alnwick u3a is dependant on members coming forward to help in a variety of ways, whether that be helping in the hall at the monthly meetings or sending articles to the newsletter, for example.

Every contribution no matter how small helps to make Alnwick u3a a more vibrant group.



On this day – 6th September 1837

The foundation stone of Grey's Column in Grey Street, Newcastle was laid by the architects Messrs. John and Benjamin Green. A hermetically sealed glass bottle containing a drawing of the building, surmounted with a statue of the Earl Grey, a list of subscribers to the column, a collection of silver and copper coins of the Brunswick dynasty (reigns of King George 1 to Queen Victoria 1714- 1901), with several local medals and tradesmen's tokens contributed by Mr. John Fenwick, and a parchment scroll, was deposited in a chamber cut in the stone, and encased in plaster of Paris.

The scroll contained the following:

"THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THIS COLUMN, ERECTED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE TRANSCENDENT SERVICES RENDERED TO HIS COUNTRY, BY THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES EARL GREY, VISCOUNT HOWICK, KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER, AND BARONET, Was laid on the Sixth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty- seven, BY JOHN GREEN AND BENJAMIN GREEN, ESQRS., ARCHITECTS.

BUILDING COMMITTEE:

The Rev. John Saville Ogle of Kirkley, in the County of Northumberland, Clerk, A. M., Prebendary of Durham ; Edward Swinburne, of Capheaton, Esq. ; Thomas Emerson Headlara, of Newcastle- upon-Tyne, Esq., M. D. ; John Grey, of Dilston, Esq. ; Thomas Richard Batson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Esq., and Alderman ; Armorer Donkin, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Esq., and Alderman ; Ralph Park Philipson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Esq., and Town Councillor; John Fenwick, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Esq. ; James Hodgson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Esq., and Alderman ; Emerson Chamley, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Esq., and Town Councillor."

Rumour has it that the bottle was found during excavations in 1970 but it is only rumour!!!

Anne McMillan
History Group Leader

Odds and Ends

Yesterday I saw a book that said, "How to solve 50% of your problems." So I bought two. I know my maths.

If you boil a funny bone, it becomes a laughing stock....that's humerus

A friend suggested horse manure on my strawberries. I'm not doing that again. I'm going back to whipped cream.

There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator. Only a fraction of people will find this funny.

I hate it when people try to act all intelligent and talk about Mozart when they have never even seen one of his paintings.

I stopped by a seaside shack that had a sign saying lobster tails for £2. That's cheap, I thought, so I paid my £2, and the guy running the shack said, once upon a time there was this lobster....

The other day, at a charity shop, I bought an old record album called "Sounds Wasps Make". When I got it home and played it, I said to myself "This doesn't anything like wasp sounds". Then I realised, I was playing the Bee side.

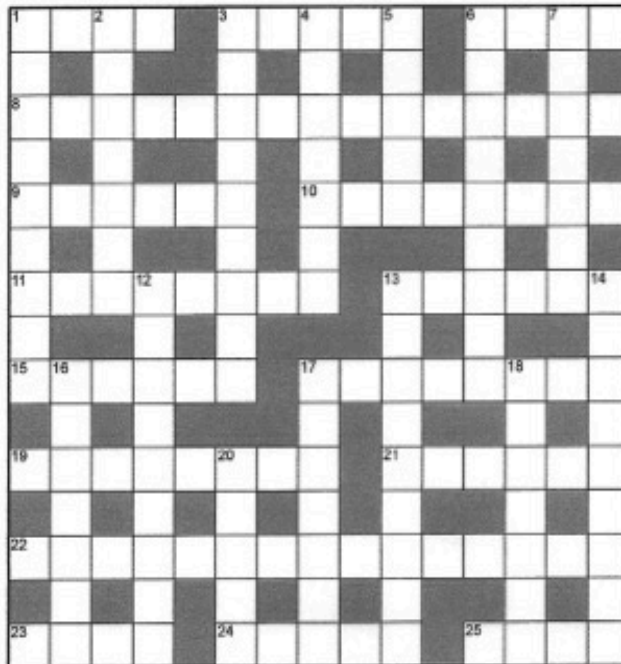
I bought a little bag of air today. The company that made it was kind enough to put some potato crisps in it as well.

Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.

Little known fact – Captain Hook bought his hook from a second hand store.

Crossword

(courtesy of Maureen and Alan Sayers)



ACROSS

- 1 Wild west dish (4)
- 3 Trainee acted oddly (5)
- 6 It sounds like its a full agreement (4)
- 8 Establishing relationships between banks (8,7)
- 9 Loose ladies strangely regarded as absolute perfections (6)
- 10 Name torn off this decoration because it's no real use to anyone (8)
- 11 Thrashed someone until they were hot and sweaty (8)
- 13 Moving parts of a helicopter (6)
- 15 A small, physically weak crustacean (6)
- 17 You know where you can stick your deodorant! (8)
- 19 Lose one's footing while wearing shoes. That's careless! (8)
- 21 Remember to give the caller a shake up (6)
- 22 A choice that's not negotiable (4,2,2,5,2)
- 23 It's a sad choice of colour (4)
- 24 Crazy people wear these (5)
- 25 If you can bear it, it'll make you smile (4)

DOWN

- 1 Seen in many a foreign film (9)
- 2 It was clear that I'd entered the contest (7)
- 3 Penguin that has no problem keeping its hat on (9)
- 4 Plants found in Newfoundland Forest? (7)
- 5 I in turn end up in this major European city (5)
- 6 It recorded the distance it took the apostle to circumnavigate a cupola (9)
- 7 One in charge of the Hoover (7)
- 12 Cockney syrup (9)
- 13 This horse may cross the line first but it will never be the winner (9)
- 14 It's an easy weight for a fool to handle (9)
- 16 It does what it says on the bag (7)
- 17 Take the subway (7)
- 18 A mature sort of non-specialist (7)
- 20 Establishment found in the phonetic alphabet! (5)

Membership Renewals

Enrolment for 2022/23 started on 1st September. A downloadable membership form has been placed on the website:-

<https://u3asites.org.uk/alnwick/page/96477>

No Longer With Us

Sadly, u3a member Kevin Scott has passed away.

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 7th November and the contributions deadline is 4th September.

Literary Duos – Answers

1	Lorna Doone and John Ridd	Lorna Doone – R D Blackmore
2	Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy	Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen
3	Bridget Jones and Mark Darcy	Bridget Jones's Diary – Helen Fielding
4	Othello and Desdemona	Othello – Shakespeare
5	Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan	The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald
6	Jane Eyre and Edward Rochester	Jane Eyre – Charlotte Brontë
7	Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw	Wuthering Heights – Emily Brontë
8	Lady Chatterley and Oliver Mellors	Lady Chatterley's Lover- DH Lawrence
9	Becky Sharp and Rawdon Crawley	Vanity Fair – Wm Makepeace Thackeray
10	Anne Elliot and Captain Wentworth	Persuasion – Jane Austen
11	Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler	Gone with the Wind – Margaret Mitchell
12	Anna Karenina and Count Vronsky	Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy

Crossword Answers

ACROSS - 1 Stew. 3 Cadet. 6 Pact. 8 Building Bridges. 9 Ideals. 10 Ornament. 11 Lathered. 13 Rotors. 15 Shrimp. 17 Underarm. 19 Slipshod. 21 Recall. 22 Take It Or Leave It. 23 Blue. 24 Loons. 25 Grin.

DOWN - 1 Subtitles. 2 Evident. 3 Chinstrap. 4 Dogwood. 5 Turin. 6 Pedometer. 7 Cleaner. 12 Hairpiece. 13 Riderless. 14 Simpleton. 16 Holdall. 17 Undergo. 18 Amateur. 20 Hotel.

End Piece

*Silence,
Clouds hover
In the pond fish swim
Water lilies meditate.
Daylight is fading
Quietly
Night comes.*

Mary Atkinson

