

# How to Use Your Bishop Auckland & District u3a website



**Pam Taylor**  
**January 2022**

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# Introduction

## What is a Website?

In simple terms you can think of a website like a book. A book has a front cover, chapter headings, and pages of information. Below is the Welcome page for our u3a website. Across the top there are 9 yellow buttons with blue writing inside them and these are the chapter headings. By clicking onto any of these buttons you will find more pages of information. Please don't try to read this tiny writing below. You will be able to read the content more easily on the real webpage later. The pictures are only to make you familiar with the layouts.

Home Welcome **Groups** Calendar Members page Events Odds & Ends Contact u3a Links

## Bishop Auckland & District

### Welcome

Founded in 1982, u3a is a UK-wide collection of locally-run interest groups that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun. There are also many international groups. People enjoy exploring new ideas, skills, and activities together. There are over 1000 u3as in the UK with over 430,000 members and membership is open to everyone who is no longer in full-time work. The annual fee is £20 p.a. or less with a reduction at the moment due to Covid restrictions. You can be a member of more than one u3a. u3a gives retired people a unique opportunity to do something different and offers people like us the chance to make new friends, develop new skills, learn new experiences and really get out and enjoy our retirement. Bishop Auckland & District u3a is part of the Northumberland Region u3a, which is part of the National organisation. Links to the National and Regional websites can be found on the u3a Links page.

Bishop Auckland and the surrounding area is steeped in history. Since 1183 Auckland Castle has been the country home of the Prince Bishops of Durham and is now owned by art collector and philanthropist, Jonathan Ruffer. Originally from the northeast he has returned with a vision for the area. One of his projects is The Auckland Project that includes the renovation of Auckland Castle along with the deer park and walled garden plus a Mining Art Gallery, a Spanish Art Gallery, and the Auckland Tower Visitor Centre as well as the archaeological excavation of Binchester Roman Fort. More information can be found by clicking [here](#). Another project is the creation of an historical theme park called Kynren with a spectacular evening show at its heart providing an epic history of England. Kynren is modelled on Puy du Fou in the Vendée region of France which has developed over 40 years and is now the 2nd largest tourist attraction in France, bringing huge economic benefits to the region. [Click here for a link to Kynren](#). Kynren is already in the top 5 new attractions in the UK and gets 5\* ratings on Trip Advisor. Between them these projects provide tourists with activities to fill their time day and night and already there are travel companies with northeast tourist itineraries that have Kynren as the core event. In the future the knock-on benefits for sectors such as hospitality look very promising. Bishop Auckland is also known as the Gateway to the Dales. The area offers some spectacular scenery as well as a wide variety of activities and excursions.

Bishop Auckland & District u3a (formerly WearTees u3a) was established in 2000 and has grown rapidly to a current membership of approximately 260. We have a Monthly Meeting that is held at Bishop Auckland Town Hall with a guest speaker. As of Tuesday, 17th August meetings have resumed at Bishop Auckland Town Hall with appropriate Covid-protection in place. This meeting is a chance for all of our members to come together and enjoy the talk as well as getting up to date with group plans and catching up with friends new and old. Please click on the Monthly Meeting for more details and/or the 2021 Speaker Programme to see what talks are planned.

We have a good selection of groups in our u3a and several have continued to operate during Covid restrictions via Zoom. Most are now resuming activities in the coming weeks. As a member of Bishop Auckland & District u3a you can join as many or as few groups as you want to depending upon

### Links

- 2021 Speaker Programme
- 2022 Speaker Programme
- Join us
- Monthly Meeting
- Policies and Procedures
- Winter 2019 Magazine

Click on a picture below to see it full-size



Durham Countryside



West Auckland - Home of the 1st World Cup

I have just clicked on the Groups button and you can see below that I am being shown more information about groups in general. The columns at the bottom list all of the active groups on our Bishop Auckland & District u3a site alphabetically and by clicking on any group name you will be taken to the page for that group. Think of that like a bookmark. You can make your way around the website simply by clicking items on a page or clicking a top button to go to a different chapter.

Once you learn how to use one website then you'll find it easy to use a different one. The data might be laid out a little differently but the concept of chapters, pages, and bookmarks is the same.

Home Welcome **Groups** Calendar Members page Events Odds & Ends Contact u3a Links

## Bishop Auckland & District

### Groups

As of September 2021 the majority of groups have resumed face-to-face meetings. Those that are still inactive can be identified by the \* after the group name.

Our Groups are run for the members by the members and are all usually active with a good membership in almost all cases. You need to be a member of Bishop Auckland & District u3a in order to join any of these study and interest groups. Some Groups may need to restrict membership due, for example, to location and/or premises. If you plan to join our u3a you will be made very welcome but please check if you are intending to join for a specific activity that the Group can accommodate additional members.

We have a variety of groups running that reflect the interests of the current members. New groups are added on a regular basis. Perhaps you have expertise or an interest in Egyptian culture, Quilting, Parakiting, French cookery, Golf, or something else that is not currently covered. If you would like to run such a group then please contact the Groups Coordinator on the Contacts page who will help you to investigate feasibility and give you advice on how to get started. It's your u3a and you can influence what we do.

You can explore each of our current groups in more detail by clicking on one of the names below and from that page you can also send a message to the Group Leader should you wish to comment or have a question. For reasons of privacy only first names are shown on this public website. Convener names and other contact details can be supplied to members of that group. At the top of each group page you will find where and when group activities take place.

You'll find a summary timetable below but more detailed information can be seen on the calendar page that also has links to googlemaps when appropriate.

There may be additional information for Groups on our Administrative site, a location map for instance and details can be accessed by [clicking on this link](#)

### Group List

Group Name	Meeting Time	Frequency
Art & Architecture	Announced at the meeting	bridge
Current Affairs	Monday p.m. 4th Monday of the mon	French
Garden Visits	2022 Plan on the group page	Genealogy
IT Training	Various - see group page	Italian
Local History	Friday a.m. 2nd Friday	Poetry
Reading	Monday a.m. 2nd Monday	Science, engineering & technol
Spanish	Monday a.m. 1st & 3rd Mondays	String Band
Strollers	Thursday a.m. Announced at the meeting	Sunday Lunch Group
Ten Pin Bowling	Wednesday a.m. 1st Wednesday of the month	Theatre Visits
Walking (4-6 miles)	Tuesday a.m. Monthly - see walk schedule	Walking (6-8 miles)
Walking Cricket	Wednesday a.m. Weekly	Wildlife and Environment

### Timetable Summary

Day	Morning	Afternoon
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### Links

- Deposit Form
- Expenses Claim Form
- Group Leaders' Handbook
- Incident Report Form

## Why Use a Website?

Almost everywhere you look these days you'll see a www address or hear someone suggesting you go to [www.websitename.com](http://www.websitename.com). There are some very good reasons for this with benefits to both you and the organisation that owns the website. Using a website is faster and cheaper for you because you can get information straight away, check that a shop has an item in stock before you go there, order online for store collection or home delivery, and more. For the organisation they can get information to you very quickly and also almost free. For some it is also a way to sell their product ... and make it easy for you to buy it. Trading online has kept some businesses going during Covid lockdown and has also kept many people safe as they have had less exposure to strangers. Websites are free to use and can make your life easier. Websites have different purposes: -

- Websites such as u3a simply provide you with information and enable you to contact people at the touch of a button.
- Some websites provide you with information but also enable you to save time and effort by automating some tasks. Your GP practice probably has a website that lists the names of all staff and their job roles so you know who does what. Most likely you can look at a summary of your medical records or vaccination status as well as ordering a repeat prescription to be delivered to the pharmacy of your choice though your surgery needs to provide you with a logon name and a password so you can do this. Doing something like ordering a repeat prescription online is quick and easy for you.
- Supermarket and other retail websites are primarily a way for the companies to sell their products. For you it's a very quick and secure way to do your shopping and have it delivered to your door. The supermarket computers can remember what you have bought in the past and then present you with a list of those items to make it easy for you to reorder them next time. There is no need to go out in the cold weather or to carry heavy items from the shop. If you do want to buy something and go to the shop to collect it yourself then you can check stock levels before going there to save a wasted journey.

Let's suppose that a u3a group that you are a member of has some new information to pass on to you. Here are some options as to how this could be done and the pros and cons of each.

1. The leader could create a letter or another type of document then print it and put it in an envelope addressed to you then send it in the post to you. This is a long and expensive process for u3a and a lengthy wait for you if you need that information.
2. The information could be on a slide at the Monthly Meeting but you'll have to wait until the meeting to see it which could be a few weeks. If you don't go to the meeting then you can read the slides that are sent to everyone via email immediately after the meeting. You probably won't see the group leader until the following Monthly Meeting if you want to discuss the information. This method of communication is free but can be slow.
3. The information can be created and sent to you by email or as an email attachment. This method of communication is also free. A good point is that you can reply directly so communication is fast.
4. The information can be placed on the group page on the website either on the main page or in a document link. This is also free and you know where it is to be able to find it and refer to it again. You can easily contact the group leader by clicking the blue bird on the group page that enables you to send an instant message.

Methods 3-4 are free and the fastest. Method 2 is free but can be slow whereas method one can be a little faster than 2 but expensive. The preference is methods 3 and 4. Another reason, at the moment, why 3 and 4 are better is that they are untouched by human hand and are therefore Covid free.

## [Our u3a Website](#)

Some of you might have noticed that our website has had a bit of a facelift over the last year and that it includes a lot more information than it used to. The website is for you to keep you up-to-date about the groups you belong to and so you can see what other groups are doing but it is also our 'shop window' for new and prospective members of our u3a. u3a websites around the country are public so can be seen by anyone who can access the Internet. Prospective members can therefore look at all of the websites for all u3a groups in their geographical area to see what each u3a does and how interesting each sounds to help them to decide which one to join.

The website is updated every month around the time of the Monthly Meetings at the Town Hall but there are updates throughout the month as well. Group Leaders and/or Committee members send me new information to add to the calendar or another page during the month. Some Group Leaders maintain their own group page but I am responsible for the other pages.

Our u3a website currently has 9 buttons along the top which is like 9 chapters. In the following pages I'll describe each button/chapter so you know where to find information. There are pictures of the pages but when put into a document such as this they are too small to read easily. Use the pictures to get a feel for what the pages look like and then use the real website pages to see them properly.

There are photographs on many pages that have been submitted by our members and these add some colour to the pages. If you have any photographs that you think would brighten up any particular page then please send them to me. Please note that these should be original, not copyright, and should only show the faces of real people if they have agreed to be in the photo.

If you have any comments about our site or any suggestions as to how we can make it better then please do contact me and tell me. You can do this by clicking the blue bird on the 'Living with Technology' group page.

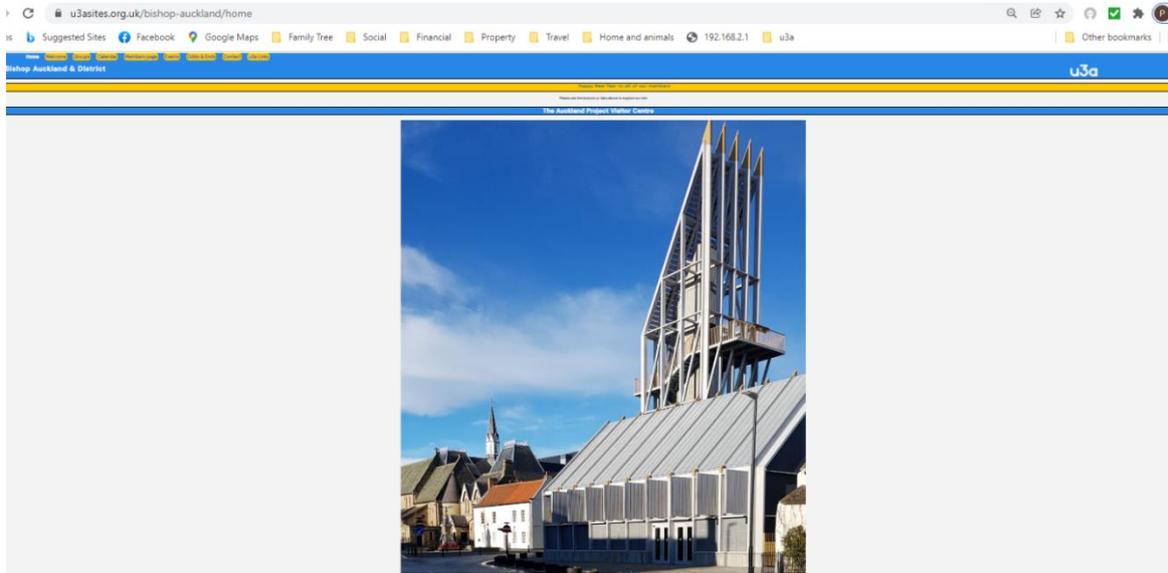
Please note that web pages often display differently according to the device they are being viewed on and the software that is used on that device. It also depends on how someone is holding the viewing device. If in portrait mode (longer top to bottom) then items such as links often appear below the main text whereas in landscape mode (wider side-to-side) The links appear to the right of the main text. All of the page data is there but might show in a different place. There is an example of this in the appendix.

Let's get started and explore your website. Click on the link below to be taken to our u3a website home page. Use your 'back' button to return to where you were or use one of the site buttons as described in the following pages.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/bishop-auckland/home>

## Home Page

The button top left is called the Home page and you can think of this as the front cover of our book. The cover represents something meaningful to our town and is currently a photograph of The Auckland Project Visitor Centre. At various times of the year you might see a scrolling seasonal greeting in the yellow bar.



## Welcome

Our Welcome page describes the concept of u3a in general, some information about our town and the local area, and then a short description about our u3a and our activities. On the page are some photographs of our local area. If you click on any photograph it will enlarge for you on your screen and you will also find 'Next' and 'Previous' buttons on each photograph so that you can view enlarged copies of all of the photographs on that page. Click on 'Welcome' to get back to the main Welcome page.

[Home](#) [Welcome](#) [Groups](#) [Calendar](#) [Members page](#) [Events](#) [Odds & Ends](#) [Contact](#) [u3a Links](#)

### Bishop Auckland & District

# u3a

#### Welcome

Founded in 1982, u3a is a UK-wide collection of locally-run interest groups that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun. There are also many international groups. People enjoy exploring new ideas, skills, and activities together. There are over 1,000 u3as in the UK with over 430,000 members and membership is open to everyone who is no longer in full-time work. The annual fee is £20 p.a. or less with a reduction at the moment due to Covid restrictions. You can be a member of more than one u3a. u3a gives retired people a unique opportunity to do something different and offers people like us the chance to make new friends, develop new skills, learn new experiences and really get out and enjoy our retirement. Bishop Auckland & District u3a is part of the Northumberland Region u3a, which is part of the National organisation. Links to the National and Regional websites can be found on the u3a Links page.

Bishop Auckland and the surrounding area is steeped in history. Since 1183 Auckland Castle has been the country home of the Prince Bishops of Durham and is now owned by art collector and philanthropist, Jonathan Ruffer. Originally from the northeast he has returned with a vision for the area. One of his projects is The Auckland Project that includes the renovation of Auckland Castle along with the deer park and walled garden plus a Mining Art Gallery, a Spanish Art Gallery, and the Auckland Tower Visitor Centre as well as the archaeological excavation of Binchester Roman Fort. More information can be [found by clicking here](#). Another project is the creation of an historical theme park called Kynren with a spectacular evening show at its heart providing an epic history of England. Kynren is modelled on Puy du Fou in the Vendée region of France which has developed over 40 years and is now the 2nd largest tourist attraction in France, bringing huge economic benefits to the region. [Click here for a link to Kynren](#). Kynren is already in the top 5 new attractions in the UK and gets 5\* ratings on Trip Advisor. Between them these projects provide tourists with activities to fill their time day and night and already there are travel companies with northeast tourist itineraries that have Kynren as the core event. In the future the knock-on benefits for sectors such as hospitality look very promising. Bishop Auckland is also known as the Gateway to the Dales. The area offers some spectacular scenery as well as a wide variety of activities and excursions.

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#### Links

- o 2021 Speaker Programme
- o 2022 Speaker Programme
- o Join us
- o Monthly Meeting
- o Policies and Procedures
- o Winter 2019 Magazine

*Click on a picture below to see it full-size*



Durham Countryside



West Auckland - Home of the 1st World Cup



There are currently 6 links on this page as seen top right on the graphic above although they are sometimes found below the main text as discussed earlier. A page link is something you can click that will take you to another page within the main page or chapter. A link like this is also called a hyperlink. These links are as follows: -

- 2021 Speaker Programme is a list of speakers and talk titles from last year. They are obviously historic but the link to the information remains on this page so that new and prospective members can take a look to get a feel for the sort of things we have done previously.
- 2022 Speaker Programme is the list of speakers and the titles of their talks for this current year.
- Join Us is a link for prospective members and this outlines the process to join our u3a and the cost of the annual subscription. It also describes what that subscription is used for.
- Monthly Meeting link describes our newly refurbished Town Hall and tells readers a little about the building. Our meeting times are shown along with an outline of the usual meeting format. This page tells you about bringing visitors to the meeting. Logistics such as nearby parking are covered. There is a section specifically for prospective members so that they know what to expect when they attend a meeting. They are directed to make themselves known to our Meet & Greet team to be shown around and to have any questions answered.
- Policies and Procedures is a page that provides a further 10 links that cover Accessibility, Data Protection, Equal Opportunities, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, Financial, Grievance, Member's Code of Conduct, Member's Carer's and Companions, Our Constitution, and Safeguarding.
- Magazine is the final link from the Welcome page and this is a copy of a fairly recent Link magazine for prospective members to take a look at to get a better idea about what our groups do. Note that as we value the privacy of our members some information has been redacted.

To navigate between areas you can use your 'back' button to return to the previous page or click on the Welcome button again to return to the main Welcome page.

## Groups

The next top button is our Groups page and this is the page that you will probably use a lot. The top part of the page describes the concept of groups and states that a person needs to be a member of our u3a before they can take part in any group activity. This section guides the reader to the links to the group pages listed below and advises how to contact each group leader if more information is required.

Below is an image of our Groups page.

**Home** **Welcome** **Groups** **Calendar** **Members page** **Events** **Odds & Ends** **Contact** **u3a Links**

**Bishop Auckland & District** **u3a**

**Groups**

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You can explore each of our current groups in more detail by clicking on one of the names below and from that page you can also send a message to the Group Leader should you wish to comment or have a question. For reasons of privacy only first names are shown on this public website. Convenor names and other contact details can be supplied to members of that group. At the top of each group page you will find where and when group activities take place.

You'll find a summary timetable below but more detailed information can be seen on the calendar page that also has links to googlemaps when appropriate.

There may be additional information for Groups on our Administrative site, a location map for instance and details can be accessed by [clicking on this link](#)

**Links**

- Deposit Form
- Expenses Claim Form
- Group Leaders' Handbook
- Incident Report Form

Group List			
Art & Architecture	Announced at the meeting	Bridge	Friday a.m. Every Friday but not currently
Current Affairs	Monday p.m. 4th Monday of the mon	French	Monday a.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays
Garden Visits	2022 Plan on the group page	Genealogy	Hibernating until Spring
Italian	Monday Every 2nd Monday	Living with Technology	Various - see group page
Local History	Friday a.m. 2nd Friday	Poetry	Wednesday a.m. 3rd Wednesday of the month
Reading	Monday a.m. 2nd Monday	Science, engineering & technol	2022 plan on the group page
Spanish	Monday a.m. 1st & 3rd Mondays	String Band	Wednesday a.m. 2nd & 4th Wednesday
Strollers	Thursday a.m. Announced at the meeting	Sunday Lunch Group	Sunday p.m. 3rd Sunday of the month
Ten Pin Bowling	Wednesday a.m. 1st Wednesday of the month	Theatre Visits	Announced at the meeting
Walking (4-6 miles)	Tuesday a.m. Monthly - see walk schedule	Walking (6-8 miles)	Tuesday a.m. Monthly - see walk schedule
Walking Cricket	Wednesday a.m. Weekly	Wildlife and Environment	Announced at the meeting

Click on any Group name in the lower section to be taken to that group page. The list is alphabetical. The following shows you a few examples of group pages and tells you what sort of information you can find there..

### Group Summary

At the top of every group page you will find the same style of group summary. It tells you the name of the group, the first name of the group leader, plus when and where the group meets. You are directed to click on the blue bird to make contact with the group leader. On the Ten Pin Bowling page below you can see the blue bird top right but, as previously discussed, on some devices this could be below the main text. Wherever it is, if you click on the bird you will get a simple form to fill in with your details and your message then all you have to do is to click 'send' and your message will reach the group leader's computing device in a few seconds. That doesn't mean you will get a reply in 2 or 3 seconds as the leader might not be at his/her computing device at the time but you will get a reply in due course.

**Ten Pin Bowling**

CONTACT: Chris

Email: [Click on the bird](#)

WHERE: Planet Leisure, 7-8 Maple Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6BF, UK

WHEN: 1st Wednesday of the month 10 for 10.30 am but occasionally 2nd Wednesday as announced at the monthly meeting

Bowling, companionship, laughter, and competition but no-one takes the game too seriously. Unlike some activities a high level of physical fitness is not required and those of us with issues such as arthritic hands, knees, etc. find our own way to get the ball down the lane to the pins. It's good fun. Don't worry about not knowing how to play as the others in your group will help you. You don't even have to keep score as these days that is done

[Click to send a message!](#)

[Click on a picture below to see it full-size](#)

## Ten Pin Bowling

Below the group summary you will find information about the group. For groups such as Ten Pin Bowling where the activity is pretty much the same every month the main text doesn't change a lot but it's worth coming back to check regularly if you are a member of this group as this is where annual subs cost and payment dates will appear and also things such as the Christmas lunch date and place.

Sometimes there are some photos on the page to show others what the activity consists of. Sometimes the photos show previous events and sometimes they are simply representative of the group activities and there to add some colour to the page.

[Home](#) [Welcome](#) [Groups](#) [Calendar](#) [Members page](#) [Events](#) [Odds & Ends](#) [Contact](#) [u3a Links](#)

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CONTACT: Chris

Email: [Click on the bird](#)

WHERE: Planet Leisure, 7-8 Maple Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6BF, UK

WHEN: 1st Wednesday of the month 10 for 10.30 am but occasionally 2nd Wednesday as announced at the monthly meeting

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Bowling, companionship, laughter, and competition but no-one takes the game too seriously. Unlike some activities a high level of physical fitness is not required and those of us with issues such as arthritic hands, knees, etc. find our own way to get the ball down the lane to the pins. It's good fun. Don't worry about not knowing how to play as the others in your group will help you. You don't even have to keep score as these days that is done electronically. We have 2 games every month followed by a hot or cold drink of choice and some social time. This is a lovely social group with a bit of light exercise thrown in.

The schedule is first Wednesday of the month but sometimes moves to the second Wednesday. It depends how the dates fall but January and September often slip a week to avoid the busy school holiday times. Dates are confirmed at the monthly meeting but Sheila usually messages group members as well. We meet any time after 10 am ready for a 10.30 start and use the time to chat, pay, and get shoes changed before the bowling. Afterwards we move to the café area for a drink and members generally leave around 12.30 pm. It's such good value for £5.95. If you would like to give this a try then please come along one month and see if you enjoy it.

If that's not enough to tempt you then this group also has a Christmas pub lunch after the December bowling!

Note that this group asks members to contribute an annual subscription to cover things such as lane hire deposits and incidental expenditure during the year.

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**More Group Pages**

<a href="#">Art &amp; Architecture</a>	<a href="#">Bridge</a>	<a href="#">Current Affairs</a>	<a href="#">French</a>
<a href="#">Garden Visits</a>	<a href="#">Genealogy</a>	<a href="#">Italian</a>	<a href="#">Living with Technology</a>
<a href="#">Local History</a>	<a href="#">Poetry</a>	<a href="#">Reading</a>	<a href="#">Science, Engineering &amp; Technol</a>

If you have finished with groups then simply click on one of the top headings to go somewhere else but if you want to go to another group all you have to do is click on the alphabetical group name further down the page.

## French

French is another group where the content doesn't change much as the events and activities are constant. This also applies to Italian and Spanish as well as Current Affairs, Poetry, String Band, and Walking Cricket.

[Home](#) [Welcome](#) [Groups](#) [Calendar](#) [Members page](#) [Events](#) [Odds & Ends](#) [Contact](#) [u3a Links](#)

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**Bishop Auckland & District**

**u3a**

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**French**

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CONTACT: Kate

Email: [Click on the bird](#)

WHERE: Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, 21 Cockton Hill Rd, Bishop Auckland DL14 6EN

WHEN: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 10 for 10.30 am

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Starting Monday, 13th September this new group will meet at the Methodist Church Hall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The session charge will be advised during October.

The session includes some conversational French, some grammar, and some French culture. It starts at 10.30 and finishes around 11.30.

New members are very welcome. Please click on the link to contact Kate to be added to the group member list.

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**More Group Pages**

<a href="#">Art &amp; Architecture</a>	<a href="#">Bridge</a>	<a href="#">Current Affairs</a>	<a href="#">French</a>
<a href="#">Garden Visits</a>	<a href="#">Genealogy</a>	<a href="#">Italian</a>	<a href="#">Living with Technology</a>
<a href="#">Local History</a>	<a href="#">Poetry</a>	<a href="#">Reading</a>	<a href="#">Science, Engineering &amp; Technol</a>
<a href="#">Spanish</a>	<a href="#">String Band</a>	<a href="#">Strollers</a>	<a href="#">Sunday Lunch Group</a>
<a href="#">Ten Pin Bowling</a>	<a href="#">Theatre Visits</a>	<a href="#">Walking (4-6 miles)</a>	<a href="#">Walking (6 - 8 miles)</a>
<a href="#">Walkers Cricket</a>	<a href="#">Wildlife and Environment</a>		

Click to send a message!

Click on a picture below to see it full-size



[Pictures of France](#)

## Science, Engineering, and Technology

Let's suppose you want information about the Science, Engineering, and Technology group. Just click on the group name on the list in the Groups page and, as before, you will see a group summary followed by group information as you can see below.

Home Welcome Groups Calendar Members page Events Odds & Ends Contact u3a Links

### Bishop Auckland & District

u3a

#### Science, Engineering & Technol

CONTACT: John

Email: [Click on the bird](#)

WHERE: Various venues

WHEN: Announced at the monthly meeting. This group also has a table at the monthly meeting.

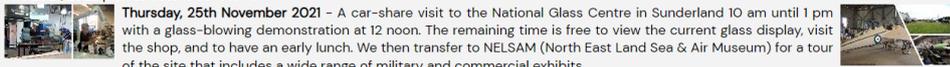
This popular group started up mid-2018 and had been running for around 18 months before Covid-19 intervened. It has now started up again and a programme is coming together for 2021/2022 with 6 events confirmed and more to follow.

The full title of the group is "Science, Engineering and Technology". The group visits industrial facilities of interest and is open to any ideas for talks or educational opportunities within this broad remit. The group leader(s) will coordinate the timetable with members responsible for arranging the visits. Usually members car share to get to and from the venue with costs being appropriately shared but some trips via coach are also planned for 2022. Sometimes there are 2 shorter events in one day with refreshments at a suitable time. In this case members choose what they want to eat and drink and pay for themselves.

Places we have been to date include Elddis Caravans and Motorhomes, EBAC, Durham Miners Hall, Northumbrian Water, Nissan, NELSAM, Bowes Railway Museum, Path Head Water Mill, York Railway Museum, Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station, and more.

The 2021/2022 plan to date is as follows: -

**Thursday, 25th November 2021** - A car-share visit to the National Glass Centre in Sunderland 10 am until 1 pm with a glass-blowing demonstration at 12 noon. The remaining time is free to view the current glass display, visit the shop, and to have an early lunch. We then transfer to NELSAM (North East Land Sea & Air Museum) for a tour of the site that includes a wide range of military and commercial exhibits.



**Thursday, 3rd March 2022** - Discovery Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
A visit to discover the fascinating Engineering and Technology developed within the region such as the first windscreen wipers, matches, electric lights, steam turbines and steam powered ships.



Click to send a message!

Click on a picture below to see it full-size

National Railway

National Railway Museum York

Path Head Water Mill

Durham Miners Hall

As with all groups you have the blue bird in order to contact the group leader. Below the summary is a description of the group. This group visits places of Scientific, Engineering, or Technological interest as well as holding some talks with a speaker. The photos on the page show some places that the group has been to in the past. Scroll down the page and you will find dates and venues for events planned for the current year. This includes a description of the venue and highlights of the day. There are also weblinks that, when you click on them, will take you to the websites of those venues so you can take a look for yourself to help you to decide whether or not you want to go on one of the trips.

### Other groups

Some groups have links off the main page description to give you more information. This includes study group information for Art & Architecture, venue descriptions with costs and booking procedures for Garden Visits, videos and tutorials about technology on the Living with Technology page, the speaker and event schedule for Local History, the reading programme for the Reading group, show titles with dates and costs for the Theatre Visits group, study visit information for the Wildlife & Environment group ... and more.

Groups such as Bridge, Genealogy, and the Sunday Lunch group have additional information embedded in the group description section with dates and venue where applicable. Let's not forget our 3 Walking groups; Strollers, 4-6 miles, and 6-8 miles. They have information embedded in the group descriptions but also links to walking information.

I suggest that you spend a little time taking a look at the groups that we have in our Bishop Auckland & District u3a. You might be surprised at the diversity of activities. To move around you can click on group names at the bottom of the Groups page and when in one group simply click on another group further down the page to go to that one. At any time you can click on one of the bigger yellow and blue buttons at the top of the page to take you back to the main pages. You can also use your back button to get back to previous pages.

## Calendar

The calendar was introduced about a year ago to give you a quick view of what is happening on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. At the top of the page is a description of the calendar. Far right at the top of the calendar itself you will see 'Week, Month, Agenda'. By default you will see a month at a time but if you want to see only one week then click on Week and the view will change to weekly. If you want to see only a day then click Agenda. The calendar opens at current month but if you want to see a different month then top left next to the date are left and right arrows to take you back and forth from month to month.

Please click on the event that interests you to get a pop-up summary then use the link to the group page in the event description to get more details if you need them. If you want to look at a week at a time or have the agenda view then just click on the appropriate tab top right and the display will change for you.

The majority of groups are now active post-Covid. Groups marked \* are inactive.

NOTE: If you use an Apple device there is an issue with time displays. During GMT (winter) the session times show correctly but looking ahead to April through October they are one hour out. Come BST (summer) after the clocks go forward the session times show correctly during this time but November through March they are one hour out and remain one hour out until the clocks go back again at the end of October. This is a known google/Apple issue but there is not yet a fix.

Today: January 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1 Jan	2
3	9:45am Walking (6-8 miles)*	10am 10-Pin Bowling	6	9:45am Bridge	7	8
10	10am *Committee Meeting*	10am String Band	13	9:45am Bridge 10:15am Local History	14	11:30am Sunday Lunch Group
17	10am Monthly Meeting 6pm Theatre Visits	10:30am Windows & Android IT Trail 11am Poetry	19	22	23	24
24	10:15am Walking (4-6 miles)	10am String Band 10:30am Windows & Android IT Trail	26	29	30	31
31	9:45am Walking (6-8 miles)*	10am 10-Pin Bowling 10:30am Windows & Android IT Trail	10:15a	5	6	7

Events shown in time zone: United Kingdom Time

It is useful to have an overview of a month but if you want more information about any particular item then just click on it and you will get a little pop-up that gives you a summary as you can see for the Local History event above. You can click on the link to the group page to be taken directly there so as to be able to get more information. Clicking on the 'x' at the top right of the pop up box makes it go away.

## Members page

The 'Members Page' is as before and is where you can access or update your membership details but also get access to historic slides and magazines as well as Committee Meeting minutes. The latter items are for members only and they are password protected. When you click on an item you are prompted to put your password in to open the document. When you joined u3a you were given a list of these passwords. If you have lost your password then you need to request a reminder.

## Events

The next page is 'Events' and this is also a fairly new page. This is where you need to go to view hot off the press information. When new events are confirmed by group leaders they show here. The text at the top describes the events and a summary of diary dates shows below. These diary dates disappear the day after the event but remain on the main calendar for reference.

Home Welcome Groups Calendar Members page Events Odds & Ends Contact u3a Links

### Bishop Auckland & District

#### Events

Many of our events are group based and follow a regular pattern of meetings or activities including Bridge, Current Affairs, French, Italian, Reading, Spanish, String Band, 10-pin Bowling, and Walking Cricket (summer only). You will find more details about each of these on the respective group page and also on the calendar. This page provides new or additional information about planned events or information about irregular events so please check back often to see what is new.

We have now had several monthly meetings in the Town Hall so we are getting back to some semblance of normality. Please view details of the monthly meetings and the 2022 Speaker programme from the Welcome page. We shall have our AGM as usual in October before the monthly meeting. A number of committee members will be standing down and nominations for new committee members will be requested so please start giving some thought to this. Further away is the December Monthly Meeting which is always held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month rather than the 3rd Tuesday. This is because we usually have our group Christmas Party on that day. It is too early to know what will be happening in December but announcements will be made on this page as more information becomes available.

**UPCOMING NEW EVENTS** - SEE ALSO THE SUMMARY CHART BELOW/DETAILS ALSO ON THE MAIN CALENDAR

**\*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\*** The Bridge Club has been cancelled until further notice.

The Theatre Group is back with several performances already outlooked for 2022. Please see the group page for more information.

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*** The Local History group have talks planned for the first part of 2022.

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*** The Garden Visits group have 8 visits planned for 2022.

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*** The Science Engineering Technology group have events planned for 2022 including a joint residential trip with the Art & Architecture group.

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*** Wildlife & Environment - Thursday, 3rd March there will be a talk on Seascapes. Escomb Village Hall 10.00 for 10.30 start.

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*** 20th February 2022 The Sunday Lunch Group will be at The Bay Horse, 42 South Side, Middridge, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7JD. The last date to book a place for this lunch is Friday, 11th February.

The Art & Architecture group plan a Study Visit to Bath Sunday 24th April to Wednesday 27th April 2022. More details on the group page.

[Display events by category](#)

#### Dates for your Diary

February 2022				
Thu	Feb	3rd	Art & Architecture	A talk by John Findlay entitled 'Painting Squints and Squinting Painters'
Fri	Feb	11th	Local History	Tim Brown: "From Bishop to Baltimore via Brooklyn"
Tue	Feb	15th	Meeting	Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team' by Steve Owers
Sun	Feb	20th	Sunday Lunch Group	The Bay Horse, 42 South Side, Middridge, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7JD at 12 for 12.30. Last date to book a place Friday, 11th February.
March 2022				
Thu	Mar	3rd	Science, Engineering & Technol	Discovery Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Thu	Mar	3rd	Wildlife and Environment	Wildlife Group talk on Seascapes. Escomb Village Hall 10.00 for 10.30 start.

The calendar shows every event for every group. Events doesn't show the routine classes or dates. It only shows the event when it is a one-off. This includes the Monthly Meeting with speaker information because each speaker is different, the walks as each destination is different, Garden Visits and Science, Engineering, & Technology days out as each are different, Art & Architecture and Wildlife & Environment residential study trips, Local History talks, Theatre trips and so on.

## Odds & Ends

I added the 'Odds & Ends' page to cover things that didn't fit elsewhere such as how to get on a Zoom call although technology items such as this will appear of the Living with Technology group page from now onwards. This is your u3a so please input. What sort of information would you like to see on this page? Would you like to know about a local exhibition or the opening date of the new Tapas Bar for instance?

## Contacts

The Contacts page lists your committee members and enables you to contact any one of them directly from the website. Just choose the committee member you want to message and fill in the form with your details and message then click 'Send Message'. The message will reach that person's computing device within seconds and he/she will see it next time they check their email.

## u3a Links

Finally there is a page called 'u3a Links' and from here you can click to be taken directly to Regional or National u3a pages.

If you have not yet used the website for yourself then please have a go. Just click on the link below to be taken to our u3a website home page. Use your 'back' button to return to where you were or use one of the site buttons as described above.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/bishop-auckland/home>

## Appendix

### Tablet and Smartphone screens

Below are 2 views of the same page on an Apple device. The difference is that the top screen is viewed in portrait mode (longer top to bottom) and the next screen is viewed in landscape mode (longer side-to-side). Notice how the content moves between views. In portrait mode the links are below the main text and in Landscape mode the links are off to the right of the main text. The difference in views is the same for any hand-held device.

#### Portrait mode: -

<b>Strollers</b> Thursday a.m. Announced at the meeting	<b>Sunday Lunch Group</b> Sunday p.m. 3rd Sunday of the month
<b>Ten Pin Bowling</b> Wednesday a.m. 1st Wednesday of the month	<b>Theatre Visits</b> Announced at the meeting
<b>Walking (4-6 miles)</b> Tuesday a.m. Monthly - see walk schedule	<b>Walking (6-8 miles)</b> Tuesday a.m. Monthly - see walk schedule
<b>Walking Cricket</b> Wednesday a.m. Weekly	<b>Wildlife and Environment</b> Announced at the meeting

Timetable Summary		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	French Reading Spanish	Current Affairs
Tuesday	Walking (4-6 miles) Walking (6-8 miles)	
Wednesday	Poetry String Band Ten Pin Bowling Walking Cricket	
Thursday	Strollers	
Friday	Bridge Local History	
Sunday		Sunday Lunch Group

Links
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Deposit Form</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">Expenses Claim Form</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">Group Leaders' Handbook</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">Incident Report Form</a></li> </ul>

Page text last edited: 15/01/2022

Landscape mode: -

This is the same page but the device is being held at right angles to the previous page. Note the difference regarding the positioning of the page links. This perfectly normal.

Groups	Links
<p>Our Groups are run for the members by the members and are all usually active with a good membership in almost all cases. You need to be a member of Bishop Auckland &amp; District u3a in order to join any of these study and interest groups. Some Groups may need to restrict membership due, for example, to location and/or premises. If you plan to join our u3a you will be made very welcome but please check if you are intending to join for a specific activity that the Group can accommodate additional members.</p> <p>We have a variety of groups running that reflect the interests of the current members. New groups are added on a regular basis. Perhaps you have expertise or an interest in Egyptian culture, Quilting, Parakiting, French cookery, Golf, or something else that is not currently covered. If you would like to run such a group then please contact the Groups Coordinator on the Contacts page who will help you to investigate feasibility and give you advice on how to get started. It's your u3a and you can influence what we do.</p> <p>You can explore each of our current groups in more detail by clicking on one of the names below and from that page you can also send a message to the Group Leader</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <a href="#">Deposit Form</a></li><li>◦ <a href="#">Expenses Claim Form</a></li><li>◦ <a href="#">Group Leaders' Handbook</a></li><li>◦ <a href="#">Incident Report Form</a></li></ul>