

Cestria u3a at Chester- le-Street

Website – www.u3asites.org.uk/cestria

March 2023 Newsletter

Monthly Meetings

**1st Wednesday of
month Cornerstones
Methodist Chapel
9.30- 10.00 Pre
Meeting Coffee &
Chat....10.00-Noon
Main Meeting.**

Speakers

**1st March.....
Organising trips to
Christmas Markets for
Charity.....
Sylvia Stoneham**

**5th April.....
Daft as a Brush.....
Ray Bowman &
Margaret Aitman**

**3rd May.....
‘Nowt as Queer as
Folk’.....
Margaret Robertson**

**7th June
Water Aid.....
Nadia Nicolas**

Chairman’s Corner

Our History Wardrobe event is due to take place on the 14th March and attendance numbers are up to our limit of 100. It our first major event since 2020 and represents another stage in our getting back to normality.

In early planning is a coffee morning which will be a general get together and chat in Cornerstones. There will be more about this after the History Wardrobe has taken place.

The u3as of Washington, Washington Village, Wessington, Houghton le Spring and ourselves formed a network in 2016. The chairs of these u3as recently got together and looked at how to bring this back into being, post Covid. The network agreement allows any members of the 5 u3as to attend an interest group at any of the u3as subject to spaces being available and also the payment of any applicable group fee. The advantage is that you do not have to become a member of the u3a you are attending. So, if a particular interest group meets elsewhere that does not meet in our own u3a, you can attend it. Group Leaders have the final say in accepting members from other u3as.

Cestria’s membership numbers are down by about 40% compared to our pre-covid figures of 300 (with a waiting list). I would ask you to please invite your friends to join us as a strong membership makes a strong and vibrant u3a.

As you will know by now, after 5 years as your chair I will be standing down on 6th February2024. I have thoroughly enjoyed this role but it will be time for me to step down in a little under a year. The role is interesting and is important in making sure that your u3a can continue to thrive. If you are interested in seeing what is involved please let me know. A Role Description is available from the Third Age Trust website or from myself.

.....**Robert Berry**

From the Editor....



This is the first chance I've had to say Happy New Year to everyone, which is strange as Spring is just around the corner.....and I for one was sooo... excited when I saw the first Catkins.

There has been a couple of blips in the Logan household recently, but nothing that a nice walk in the sunshine won't put right.

I thought you might like an update on the camouflage nets for Ukraine. The production line is still going strong – but the venue has been changed to the Polish Centre, Maple Terrace , Newcastle. The team work all day on Sundays and the number of volunteers is growing all the time. I've added a picture of the children, who come along with their mums, proudly holding up a finished net.



They would all love to go home to 'daddy'

.....Christine Logan

Meet the Committee.....



I am Margaret Bozic and have been a member of Cestria u3a since 2014 when we used to meet in the Red Lion. I was drawn into the group a few months before that when a friend suggested I join her for the Friday walks which were then led and managed by Geoff Taylor. So I joined Cestria u3a rather than one in Washington where I live, and I was made so very welcome.

In 2019 I joined the Committee and am still on it. I now arrange outdoor walks and talks in the Spring to Autumn season. And I am part of the History Group.

I know Chester le Street well from when I worked in Durham Valuation Office and the District was my "patch" from 1986 until 1992. I valued all kinds of things, from the rent for the whippet track up at Edmondsley, Right to Buy house valuations, industrial rents for units owned by the Council, and the purchase of land on which the St Cuthbert's Walk is now built. And I dealt with the rating cases there. I went to Tribunal and informed them that "Chester-le-Street is a thriving town". The Clerk mistakenly wrote that down as a "thieving town". It took a few phone calls to prevent that term going onto the internet.

But I retired as a Chartered Surveyor in 2010 (weren't we lucky to receive our state pensions and bus passes at the age of 60?). Since then I have done lots of things. Sung with a Silver Choir in Gateshead, until someone turned round and told me I was out of tune. Made water filters for the Third World at a freezing cold factory in Washington (I left because I wasn't much good and now send the proceeds of my talks to that charity). Devised long guided walks for the Archaeology Group in Newcastle, until they complained about my friend's dog. Devised shorter walks around towns and villages in the area, the last one being Sedgefield.

I sit on Committees. I was a Trustee of Sherburn Hospital until they realised I had been on for 21 years and the length of service was only supposed to be 9 years. I have just been reappointed to the Tyne and Wear Buildings Preservation Trust even though it will be my tenth year. Apparently I now hold the "corporate memory". I was on the Board of the Lit and Phil in Newcastle for 6 years and am now Volunteers Coordinator there.

And of course I do talks. I think I could do a talk on the different u3as in the area. The small ones (Dunston), the big ones (Hartlepool), the well organised ones and those that are not. I am particularly fond of talking to the Probus Clubs; they are such friendly and helpful gentlemen.

Did I say I was my Church Treasurer for six years? There is no such thing as an Ex Treasurer. I am now Assistant Treasurer. And I organise walks and talks and weekends away.

But all I really want to do is my jigsaw.....

Christmas Lunch – Three Horseshoes, Leamside.....



I found my way to the Three Horseshoes at Leamside on Friday 16th December 2022 to attend the u3a Christmas lunch.

My first impression when I entered the pub was of the warmth from a lovely fire and also the warmth of the waitress who immediately asked which party Sheila and I were with and suggested we order our drinks and she would meantime take us straight to our table and would then return with our drinks.

The table was nicely decorated and we were greeted by u3a members who had arrived before us. Their greeting was friendly as was my first greeting when in the summer I visited the u3a to enquire about joining

and am so glad I did.

The meal was served efficiently by pleasant staff with the Manager taking an active part to ensure everything was running smoothly.

Anne Lanigan had organised the lunch in her usual efficient manner. My meal was delicious and I gained the same impression from surrounding u3a members who certainly seemed to be enjoying their meals. The costs were not prohibitive ie £16.95 for two courses and £23.95 for three courses.

One very small niggle would be that we were quite squashed in the corner where we were sitting at the back. I suspect we had one more person in the row than on the opposite side but we sorted it by moving some tea plates, cutlery and glasses out of the way.

It was a friendly and relaxing lunch with lots of chatter and laughter. When lunch was finished some members went to sit at the other end of the table enabling other members to join us where we were sitting and therefore introductions and friendly chat was continued.

A very pleasant afternoon all round.

Jackie Proud.

Jackie.... thank you for the above article. Whilst working on this article for the newsletter, some interesting information popped up. The Three Horseshoes has been on Pit House Lane for over one hundred years. In times gone by it served a thriving mining community. Over lockdown the land lord invested over £200,000, to make the already award winning business even better. A SUPER VENUE FOR FUTURE OUTINGS!

Cestria u3a – Accounts Summary 2022

As Treasurer, for all members unable to attend the AGM on 1st February 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to summarise my presentation at the meeting.

Cestria u3a had a bank balance of £4,541 at 31st December 2022, the balance at 1st January 2022 was £4,106, therefore the bank balance had increased by £435 during the year or to put it another way, the u3a had a surplus of £435 during 2022.

During 2023 we have a budget which expects the bank balance to reduce by £350, or to put it another way, the u3a is expected to have a deficit of £350, when the bank balance reduces from £4,541 at 31st December 2022 to £4,201 at 31st December 2023.

Cestria u3a - Actual Spending 2022 and Budgeted Spending for 2023

	Actual Spending 2022	Budgeted Spending 2023
	£	£
Subscriptions	3,236	2,696
Deposit interest	6	30
Sale of books	66	58
Monthly meetings	(341)	(623)
u3a National and regional expenses	(1,722)	(1,605)
Groups	(202)	(330)
Cestria u3a running expenses	(608)	(566)
Surplus/(Deficit)	435	(340)

.....Tony Morrell

Cestria u3a

Photography Group – 2023

Date	Activity	Comment/Travel
16 th February	Deepdale Aquaduct	
16 th March	Backhouse Park, S'land	
20 th April	Arbeia Roman Fort	
18 th May	Tynemouth Priory & Castle	EH members: Free Adult concession £6.30
1 5 th June	Finchale Abbey	Bring Picnic
20 th July	Raby Castle	Castle & Deer Park entry: EH members free, Concessions £12
17 th August	Seaton Sluice & St. Mary's Lighthouse	
21 st September	Wharnley Burn Waterfall or Allenbanks	
19 th October	Thorpe Perrow	Concession entry £12.05
16 th November	Crook Hall or Saltwell Park	Crook Hall entry free for NT members or £8 Saltwell Park Free
21 st December	Durham at night + Xmas meal at The Back Room	

Photography Group.....



The photography group had a great first outing of the year at Saltwell Park.

The group numbers



