

# DUNSTON AND DISTRICT USA

## Newsletter – March 2020

### **From the Editor:**

The title of Pedagogues, Perps, Prostitutes and Piles, ensured that we were all intrigued at the beginning of last month's talk delivered by Linda King.

Pedagogue was explained by splitting the word into its two sections – Peda, meaning Boy and Gogue meaning Guide (in their original Greek), hence teacher. Notice, no girls were deemed important enough to be educated. Linda outlined some of the appalling treatment of Victorian schoolchildren by their teachers, mainly involving caning by a variety of objects and in places where the effect could not be seen and for the slimmest of reasons.

'Perps' dealt with some of the well-known miscreants of the time, including George Fazzi, who travelled the country carrying a coffin (somewhere to lay his head, should he not find lodging) and the Phantom Pease Pudding Pelter who, when taken to court, was told to put 5s in the poor box and not do it again.

We saw some harrowing photos of Victorian prostitutes and their scantily dressed and starving children. Prostitutes were described as 'any woman who has mislaid her virginity'. These women really were at the bottom of the heap of humanity but if mothers couldn't provide for their children, they were put in prison and the children taken to the work house.

'Piles' led to a section on advertising, including the very painful-looking Rectorotor - enough said!

Today we welcome Karen Maclennan from St. Oswald's hospice.

Margaret Bauer

### **A message from the Chairman:**

As this is our last meeting before the AGM it's time to ask for nominations to serve on the Committee for the coming year. We meet about six times a year so we can make sure we are running smoothly and providing the activities that the members want. Not too onerous.

The nomination form will be available at the checking in table and it would be really great to see some new names on it - please.

Graham Setterfield  
Chairman

### **Your current committee and group contacts:**

#### **1. Chair:**

Graham Setterfield

#### **2. Vice-Chair and Outings Co-ordinator:**

Teresa Fawcett :

#### **3. Treasurer:**

Martin Bauer

#### **4. Secretary and Membership :**

Margaret Williamson

#### **5. Committee member and Quiz Group Convener:**

Kevin Campbell:

#### **6. Committee Member and Play Reading Group Convener:**

Margaret Bauer

#### **7. Committee Member:**

Joan Mowatt:

#### **8. Committee Member and Cook and Share Group Convener:**

Susan Soulsby:

#### **9. Committee Member and Amblers Group Convener:**

Geoff Marshall:

#### **11. Craft & Hogarth Groups Convener:**

Lesley Collins

#### **12. Walking Group Convener:**

Nigel Collins:

#### **13. Meet and Eat Group Convener:**

Gill Campbell

## Play Reading

At February's meeting the group finished the play 'Death and all that Jazz', a psychological thriller, which surprised us all when the schoolboy of the family turned out to have butchered the cat, attempted to murder his father and (literally) scared his granny to death.

Stan, the teddy boy turned out not to be a thug but just a frightened teenager, who needed the support of the girl he loved.

Meanwhile, the trains steamed through the station killing no-one and the dinner burnt in the oven.

All in a day's work for Ma and George, the rookie policeman.

Why not come and join us next month and find out if you enjoy an hour's dip into an alternate life. Everyone welcome!

Margaret Bauer

## Ambling Group

The amble started as it meant to continue: rather a dank day with a chilly breeze that seemed to follow the largest group ever (nine people!) around every turn of the route.

Starting at Grey's Monument, a few familiar places formed the background to the discoveries, as well as some little known or forgotten facts about local history. The progressive (?) outlook of the 1960's that led to the demolishing of Cook's Corner and other iconic buildings in Newcastle. How did Twinings Tea start

up? Where was the first escalator in Newcastle? Who was Newcastle's "Dick Wittington"? Did Callers survive the fire? What is Carrick's Café on Northumberland Road known by now? Passing by the modernistic Civic Centre opened as long ago as 1968 by King Olav V, the group passed by the statue of Lord Armstrong, an older Tyneside figure. The group travelled up Claremont Road and along Queen Victoria Road between the mix of old, new and ever expanding edifices of the University of Newcastle and the Royal Victoria Infirmary. Walking a short distance up Richardson Road, the group entered Leazes Park to the surprising revelation that although the indigenous population among us knew of its existence, none had actually visited the park or was aware of its actual location. The park, opened in 1875 during the great Victorian period of park building, is a refuge of peace and quiet close to the city centre.



Just outside the park is the grade 1 listed Leazes Terrace designed by Richard Grainger: If anyone lives there it must be exceptionally noisy and busy on match days at St James' Park! The route then followed down Leazes Lane and back to the start point at Grey's Monument. After a short period of discussion, it was off to George's for a fishy lunch. Then the sun came out!

Geoff Marshall

## Cook and Share

As our main monthly meeting was held on the second Wednesday in January, our first 'Cook and Share' of 2020 was in February. Bread has been a popular topic every year and this month we tackled savoury focaccia and bacon and herb 'tear and share' pinwheels. Toppings and flavourings were carefully prepared and our items rose very satisfactorily. We left Dunston Hill with a very appetising aroma floating round the kitchen and corridor!

In March we will be producing a Jalousie – 'a blind or shutter made of a row of angled slats'. This is a puff pastry dish and can be sweet or savoury!



Susan Soulsby

## Art & Craft Group

During March's meeting we will be finishing our watercolour painting, which we started in January under the expert instruction of Nigel Collins. If you took your painting home, please don't forget to bring it. Apart from that, there is no need to bring anything; it will all be provided.

Lesley Collins.

## Quiz Group

There was a very good turnout of quizzers for our February quiz group including a new member. Whilst the Valentine roses did not make an appearance this year a substitute in the form of lovehearts confectionary could be found on each table. Questions on the theme of Valentine's Day were part of the quiz with a close finish between the winners and runners up.

Our next quiz will be at 2pm on Monday 10th March at the Methodist Meeting Room on Ravensworth Road, Dunston and questions may include facts about March and Springtime.

Kevin Campbell  
Quiz Convener

## Walking Group

The walk in March is the lower Ouseburn. Map is attached. We will start from the Baltic at 11am sharp.

We have done this walk a couple of times but according to my records the last time was Oct 2018.

It is about 5 miles on mostly good paths with a few steps and one short uphill as far as I can remember.

Fingers crossed for the weather.

Nigel Collins

### Knit and Natter

For the next two months we will be knitting bottle tops for Innocent bottles. This is to raise money and awareness of Age UK. There will be patterns available at the next general meeting. Our focus in the next few months will be providing warm clothes for all ages, donated to Changing Lives.

## February's walk

Our February walk commenced in the Market Square in Durham City on a cold but dry Monday morning for which we were pleased, as the prior weekend had been very wet. We were entirely ignored by the Army Recruit stand despite showing some interest in the weaponry and made our way across the pedestrianised Elvet Bridge. To avoid the traffic we followed the edge of the River Wear behind the old County Hotel making use of the firm surface of the footpath. The sun shone and the built up area rapidly vanished to be replaced by open scenery before us. To the north lay St Hild's and St Bede's College built on the crest of the steep escarpment and to the south the extensive well-maintained pitches of Durham City Cricket Club.

Following the route of the meandering Wear we reached the spreading extent of Durham University Sports Club before returning towards the City Centre. Keeping to secluded footpaths we again descended to the edge of the Wear where the Cathedral overlooked us.

This newsletter is also available on our website: [www.u3asites.org.uk/dunston](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/dunston)

Crossing Prebends Bridge that was built as a private road by the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral and is Grade 1 listed, our route returned us the Market Square. Being half-term we avoided the city centre coffee shops and revisited the café at Pity Me Garden Centre to conclude an enjoyable outing.

Alan Soulsby

## Hogarth Group

At our February meeting, eleven of us spent an enjoyable evening at the Highwayman. Our next meeting will be at the Ravensworth, Lamesley. If anyone needs a lift, please contact Lesley Collins on 07974969188.

## Meet and Eat

The Highwayman was also the meeting place for this group. There was a slightly smaller group than usual though we had the addition of our newest member, who manfully ate his way through the huge sizzler breakfast. This has become something of an initiation task, never been known to be repeated.

We shall be there again this month. All are welcome to join us.  
Gill Campbell

## February Calendar

Wednesday 4th	<b>General Meeting</b> – 2.00p.m. Dunston Hill Methodist Church Hall
Friday 6th	<b>Ablers Group</b> – 11.00a.m. Durham market place.
Monday 9th	<b>Quiz Group</b> – 2.00p.m. Ravensworth Rd. Methodist Church.
Tuesday 10th	<b>Meet &amp; Eat</b> – 11.00a.m. The Highwayman, Whickham Highway.
Wednesday 11th	<b>Cook &amp; Share</b> – 11.00a.m. Dunston Hill Methodist Church kitchen.
Thursday 12th	<b>Knit &amp; Natter</b> – 10.00a.m. Whickham Hermitage Garden Café.
Monday 16th	<b>Walking Group</b> – 11.00a.m.
Tuesday 17th	<b>Craft Group</b> – 2.00p.m. Ravensworth Rd. Methodist Church.
Wednesday 18th	<b>Committee Meeting</b> – 11.00a.m. Dunston Fire Station.
Monday 23rd	<b>Hogarth Group</b> – 6.30p.m. The Highwayman, Whickham Highway
Thursday 26th	<b>Play Reading</b> – 11.00a.m. Ravensworth Road Methodist Church.

Every Wednesday at 2.00p.m. **Dancersize** – Whickham Community Centre.  
Every Tuesday at 1.00p.m. **Pilates** in Whickham Community Centre.  
Everyone welcome. No need to book.