

GUISBOROUGH U3A NEWSHEET No. 17 – SEPTEMBER 2023

Next monthly meeting 2pm, 4 October 2023, at the Parish Hall, Bow Street.
Doors open 1.30pm. Meeting begins at 2pm.

Chair's Introduction

Meteorological summer may be officially over but, as seems typical this year, the weather gods are ignoring this and we look to be having a fine September (at least many of us are saying). A reminder that we've been able to declare September as a free month, so there's an opportunity to dip toes into an activity you might have considered trying at no cost.

We are delighted to see quite a few new members joining us over the past couple of months. If that includes you, you are most welcome. Our membership however is still well down on our pre-covid numbers. We will be holding a U3A information event on Tuesday, 19th September, between 10-12 in Sunnyfield House. It's an opportunity for curious members of the public to find out what we offer, for new members to find out more and existing members to explore different activities. The more members we have, the easier it is to hold down our subs and have more free months.

At the monthly meeting we were able to thank Carol Williams for her support over the last 5 years as our Website Manager. Particularly over the past year the work required to rebuild our website when the plug was pulled on our central U3A server without notice was a task and a half. Thanks again Carol. Ray Godfrey is our new Website Manager and he'll be managing the national upgrade of 'u3asites' when the software testing has been completed.

For a wider range of interests, U3A supports learning via "Interest Groups on-line". I must admit I was not familiar with this but the range of topics available is impressive including mainstream topics such as languages, history, science and current affairs to more niche topics such as British Cemeteries and Nordic Noir. Fee to join is £12 a year but they are holding free taster sessions during 2-6 October. For more info here's a link (<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/igo-online-fair>)

We have also taken out group membership of the Holiday Fellowship. This allows members taking part in any HF holidays organised as part of a U3A group activity to avoid the £30 fee charged to non-HF members. It is particularly applicable to our walking groups but there are opportunities to take part in special interest breaks as well. (Please see the link at the end).

Some of you may be aware of the Repair Cafe which runs monthly in Stokesley using the library as a base. In our "throw-away society" they aim to help with simple repairs to give life to items we might throw away. Examples include sharpening of tools, electrical repairs and clothing repairs. A Guisborough Eco group has been formed to help provide information on how we can do our bit to help improve our environment. They want to start a Repair Cafe in Guisborough and the first event will be in the Methodist Church on Saturday 30th September. This event will concentrate on providing free clothing repairs. The organisers want to expand the range of offerings and are interested to hear from anyone willing to offer their expertise for this. Contact is Jemma Joy (Jem-joy@hotmail.com)

Dave, Chair.

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Membership Renewal

The annual cross check of Membership/Activity group will be undertaken during September. Please would **Group Coordinators** provide a list of current group members to John Wardill, the Membership Secretary.

Please would **all Members** ensure that they have a current YELLOW 2023 membership card.

Pauline, Groups Coordinator/John, Membership Secretary.

What's on?

13 September. Saltburn u3a Local History Group, 10am, Saltburn Methodist Church upstairs hall. £2. Steve Frost is returning to tell us "Tails of the Rails". No need to book, please just come along and enjoy the talk.

19 September. u3a Day Open Morning, 10am-12 noon, Sunnyfield House ground floor. This annual event is aimed at recruiting more members, raising the profile of Guisborough u3a, showing what our groups do, how good we are, the talent among our members, getting together and enjoying ourselves.

The Committee has listened and learnt from our first u3a Day last year and more space has been booked this year. The thing I brought away last year was that it was fun, very enjoyable to be together and interesting to meet members and other Group Coordinators I didn't know.

Before covid we had 599 members and have successfully rebuilt membership to 398 from the very low number of 238 in March 2022, after covid. This was a national trend for virtually all organisations. Sadly, some of our groups weren't able to keep going due to lack of members or lack of volunteers to lead them. It would be good to get them, and other groups, up and running again – so please bring your friends and neighbours along if you can. Light refreshments will be available. Hope to see you there, **Pam.**

4 October. Monthly Meeting at the Parish Hall in Bow Street, 2pm. Doors open at 1.30pm.

EXCURSIONS:

Thursday 21st September. Teesside Princess. A 2 hour morning cruise aboard The Teesside Princess sailing up to Yarm and then returning to disembark at Preston Park where you can rediscover your land legs, get some lunch, visit the museum, visit the Victorian Street & gardens or just wander in the park. Coach travel from Guisborough to embarkation in Stockton and pick up from Preston Park. Cost £25.00. NB Departs Fountain Street car park at 9.15 and thereafter St Paulinus, The Avenue. Enquiries to Pauline.

Monday 16th October. Thorp Perrow Arboretum. Thorp Perrow is the home of one of the UK's finest collections of trees, including five National Plant Collections and a leading centre for raptor conservation. The visit will include a curator led talk. Full details are available under the "Events" tab on the GU3A website. Cost £26.00. Fully booked but a waiting list is in operation. Queries to Pauline, as above.

Wednesday 8 November. "Beyond the Barricade" at Billingham Forum. This is an evening performance of the UK's longest running musical theatre concert tour. It features past principle performers from Les Miserables and delivers over two hours of the best of Broadway and The West End. Cost £37.00. Coach will depart Fountain Street car park at 6pm and thereafter St Paulinus, The Avenue. For queries please contact Pauline. Booking continues at the next Monthly meeting, on 4 October.

Thursday 7th December. Harrogate and Harlow Carr Glow Walk. An opportunity to enjoy some time in Harrogate before our coach picks us up and takes us to Harlow Carr, where we will experience the "Glow Walk" - a walk through the RHS gardens lit for Christmas. Cost £31.00 (£25.00 for RHS members - membership number will be required at time of booking please). The coach will depart Fountain Street car park at 12.30 and thereafter St Paulinus The Avenue. The coach will drop us off in Harrogate where you will be free to get some lunch, shop or simply look around the town. The coach will pick up again at 4.15pm and take us to Harlow Carr. Departure from Harlow Carr will be approximately 6pm. Booking commences at the October meeting. For queries please contact Pauline.

Excursion booking: 1.30-2.00pm at Monthly Meetings.

Because our excursions have become so popular and there's always a long queue, it would be very helpful to the Excursions Team if you could:

Write your cheque in advance, payable to Guisborough u3a: *The costs are given above.*

On the reverse of your cheque please write your:


U3a membership number. Telephone number. Preferred pick up point - Fountain St. or St Paulinus.

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Claire Bognar, the Redcar & Cleveland Community Development Officer – Belmont, Guisborough, Hutton & Lockwood. Public Health South Tees will be speaking about her role and the Neighbourhood Action Partnership. **Pam.**



Still got some basic skills but a bit “rusty”?



We  are a **GU3A group**. Take a look at the website for more information

We get together in Sunnyfield House on Westgate every other Wednesday afternoon.

If

and

For more information ring John

Further details will be posted on the Friends notice board closer to the time.

Our upcoming talks will be on Friday **September 29th**, when Stephen Bowser and his canine companion will come to tell us about the work of The Guide Dogs for The Blind Association.

Talks take place between 2 and 3pm, and the £3.00 entry fee includes refreshments.

We are happy to say that our **Jigsaw Library** has about 40 excellent new puzzles, giving us a total of about 300. So, if you are a jigsaw puzzler, do pop in to see what we have available to borrow.

You can ...

- Use the computers – for free
- Do some family history research using the library edition of Ancestry– for free
- Search Which Magazine – for free
- Access the library Wi-Fi on your own devices– for free
- Renew your bus pass – remember to bring proof of address
- Send off your Blue Badge application – remember to bring your ID documents
- Enjoy a hot drink while you sit, relax and browse – for free
- Buy a parking disc for 50p
- Join the Knit and Natter group

A date for your diary, we're having a **quiz** on Friday **December 8th**. More information in our next newsletter.

The **Friends notice board** on the left as you go into the library will have details of what's coming up, so remember to check when you next visit.

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App scam 4.8.23 Neighbourhood Alert, Action Fraud

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgzGtwWCCjrnwBRDxLfOvthzwwNWT>

Neighbourhood Alert Newsletter 7.8.23

https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2023-08/Our%20News%20-%20August%202023%20FINAL_2.pdf

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**Woodland Trust. Living legends need your support**

We'd like to say a big thank you to those of you (more than 52,000!) who have signed our petition calling for living legends - our oldest, most important trees - to be given the legal protection they deserve.

If you haven't, [please spare two minutes to sign our online petition demanding special protection.](#)

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## **Northumbria u3a Region Creative Writers** **Creative Writing Workshop, for all abilities.**

**Open to all u3a members.**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

**Brunswick Methodist Church Hall, Brunswick Place  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7BJ**

**10am -3.30pm**



**Val Scully, North East Author will talk about how she first started writing, her involvement with the National Trust, Gibside and the Land of Oak and Iron.**



**Workshops will include exercises in prose and poetry.**

**Creative Writing creates a sense of wellbeing.**

**If you've never put pen to paper, here's your chance.**

**For further information and/or to reserve a place  
contact Cecilia Coulson email: [cecu3a@gmail.com](mailto:cecu3a@gmail.com)  
phone: 07881768301**

**Closing date to reserve a place 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

**(Cost: hoping to be free, but could be a small charge)**

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**National u3a Newsletter** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news> There's a glitch on the Newsletter link, but you can access it from here. Ed.

**National u3a online Learning and Talks** - fascinating and interesting online events. Learn and explore the world from home: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

## u3a Festival 24

The first ever national u3a Festival is taking place **17-19 July 2024** at the University of York. It's an opportunity to bring members together to celebrate the joy of u3a membership.

Find out more about the festival on [the u3a website](https://www.u3a.org.uk) and if you have any questions or would like to register your interest, please email [festival@u3a.org.uk](mailto:festival@u3a.org.uk). Please share this with your members who may be interested and want to take part.



### [Walking & Special Interest Holidays - HF Holidays](#)

You will probably have to click on Special Interest then on View all special interest Holidays.

### [End of 2 hour free parking in Redcar & Cleveland Council car parks in Guisborough.](#)

You may have seen the "notices" in car parks where we've been enjoying 2 hours free parking, about the end of this benefit. Please don't get caught out and check the white noticeboards in the car parks, as this could be discontinued without further notice. Being optimistic, with luck, we'll have free Christmas Parking in November and December. This is usually notified by yellow stickers on the payment machines. Ed.

**Our first advert!** Diana has a small(ish) greenhouse paraffin heater, which hasn't been used, and she's looking for a new home for it.

**Deadline for the next Newsheet is 29/10/23. Please contact Pam:**