



Prudhoe & District

**Notices and greetings,
Christmas 2023**



Website:
u3asites.org.uk/prudhoe

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Prudhoe and District u3a is registered charity no. 1179503

There's no
December
Monday
meeting, but I
hope you
enjoyed the
festive Coffee
morning and
the Christmas
lunch.



Season's
Greetings with
all good
wishes for the
New Year

This was
our
November
meeting,
**"Christmas
Songs and
Stories"**
with Geoff
Hughes.



The **January coffee morning** will be on the second Tuesday as usual, i.e. **January 9th**, in the Spetchells Centre. Book swap, IT help etc all available as usual.



Don't miss the **January Monday meeting** on 29th, when our member David Archer will speak on **Great Floods of Northumbria**. Remember when Ovingham Bridge had been closed for months for repairs, it reopened for just 3 days, and then the flood came?

Most **interest groups** will be back to normal in January, but if yours would meet very near the beginning of the month, you might want to check that first meeting date with your group's convenor. Here are a few recent group reports:



The Quiz Group gathered on Friday afternoon at the Manors. As usual we arrived in time to partake of coffee/tea and usually sandwiches. It has to be said one of our number this week had a large cream decorated chocolate cake! The last piece!! The quiz had USA as specialist subject. Lots to choose from there then and varied questions. The other questions are all general knowledge. We did have quite a bit of laughter as usual. Feel free to try us out in case it appeals to you too!

Janet Porter, Convenor

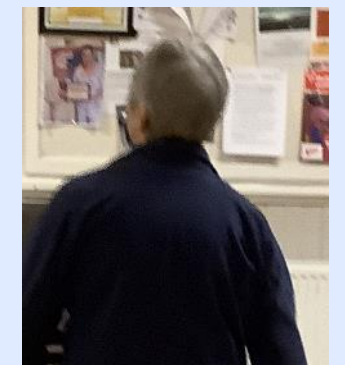
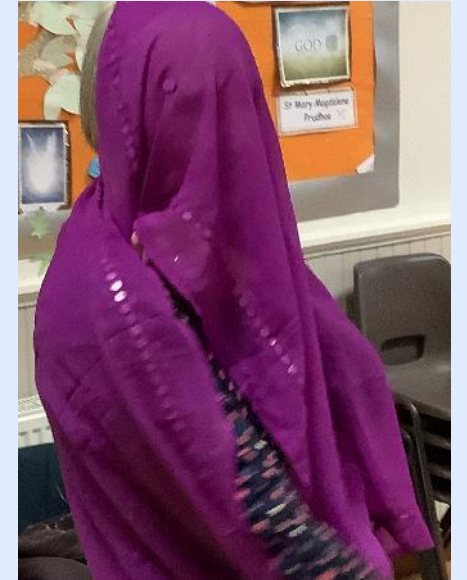
The u3a Poetry Group is full, with sadly no room for new members. I would, however, be very interested in supporting the starting up of another Poetry Group to anyone who is prepared to lead it.

We decide on a Theme for each meeting, e.g. Travel, Trees, Romance, Military, Favourites, War, Peace, Love, Families, Plants, Animals, Birds, Youth, Age, Health, Wealth, Funny, Seas, Mountains, etc, etc. Each member reads their 2 or 3 chosen poems and we discuss the subjects and the thoughts they provoke. Sometimes we choose a single Poet, or an epic poem that we can read together. It is a great way to evoke memories, appreciate beautiful language, open our minds to new and different poets, and enjoy good company.

Jean Thomas, Convenor



Dance as if no-one's watching not surprisingly doesn't go in for photos of its activities! But here's the whole group in action, plus a few portraits of some of the braver individuals...



The History group restarted around a year ago, and we have had a varied programme of presentations given by the members. It is so interesting hearing about subjects that you would not normally study, but which, once introduced by someone with a real interest, opens your mind to all the amazing happenings of the past.

Subjects have included: Changes in the 20th Century; History of Coronations in the UK; King Ludwig II of Bavaria; The Great Reform Act 1832; Roman Britain; The Great Plague; Historic Buildings in Newcastle; The Team Valley; Industries on the River Tyne; The History of The Grange (our host's home, the site of the medieval Chantry in Prudhoe); Slavery in the North East; The Reformation; John Wesley; A Potted History of Cyprus. And next year? The History of Cinema, The Cotton Industry, James (VI Scotland) I of England, Marie Antoinette, Wagon Train Pioneer Women...

The History group's festive meeting



The Walking group went for a short and very wet walk near Corbridge in December, then had a look around the impressive Christmas Tree Festival in the church before enjoying a Christmas lunch together at the Black Bull.





Naturewatch also went out for lunch together, after visiting Big Waters Nature Reserve near Dinnington.



Unfortunately, the area where we normally see lots of small birds was flooded and the feeders there were empty, but a variety of ducks, geese and gulls were seen on the lake.



Photos left, from top: Black-headed gulls in winter plumage (i.e. no black heads!), Goldeneye, pair of Shovellers.

Coming up: Another Regional Quiz

Wednesday 20th March 2024 2pm–5pm at Sunnyside social club, Sunnyside, NE16 5NA. Refreshments, Prizes, Laughter! Teams of 4, entrance £5 per team and please bring a cake! More information from Bob Pullen.



Booking is now open for accommodation in York at u3a Festival 24, July 18–20.

Book [here](#) or for more information or to receive updates, visit the relevant page of the national u3a [website](#).



Where did this year go? – and welcome to the next!

