



**Prudhoe & District**

**Notices, January 2024**

The Committee would like to wish all our members a very

Happy New Year

2024

The numbers 2024 are rendered in a stylized, space-themed font. The '2's are blue with pink and white crescent shapes. The '0' is a dark purple circle filled with white stars and a comet. The '4' is blue with a pink and white crescent shape and a small blue planet with a yellow ring. The background is dark blue with white stars, comets, and a pink planet at the bottom.



Website:  
[u3asites.org.uk/prudhoe](http://u3asites.org.uk/prudhoe)

Or scan the QR code  
below to be taken direct  
to our website.



Facebook: search  
'Prudhoe u3a'

Prudhoe and District u3a is registered charity no. 1179503

**Our central monthly meetings** will be as usual this year: a coffee morning with extras (IT advice, book swap, Scrabble, etc) upstairs in the Spetchells Centre from 10am on the second Tuesday of the month; and a talk with a speaker in the Parish Hall at 10am on the last Monday of each month (except August and December). As usual, you can access that meeting either in person by coming to the Parish Hall, or via Zoom. The Zoom link will be the same as usual if you have saved that, but also emailed to you a couple of days before the meeting. If you're coming in person, please arrive well before 10 o'clock to beat the refreshments queue!



Our next monthly meeting with a speaker will be at 10am on Monday 29th January, when our member **David Archer** will speak on **Great Floods of Northumbria.**

(The photo right shows Ovingham bridge shortly after it was hit by Storm Desmond in December 2015, just 2 days after reopening, following nearly 18 months' closure for repairs.)



Our Christmas festivities included a return visit from **Geoff Hughes**, who entertained us with stories and songs of Christmas, and a coffee morning with a Christmas tree and mince pies. We also enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the White



Swan, Ovingham, and some of our members went to Hexham for a wonderful "Choral Nativity" concert. A big "Thank you" to Denise, our Social Secretary, for organising these events!

**Social events:** Denise has organised a visit to The People's Theatre on **Friday 8th March** to see a performance of "Blue Stockings", the true story of how four girl students fought to change the future of women's education. Coach leaves the Parish Hall at 6pm. Cost approx. £24 depending



On numbers. £10 non- returnable deposit. Full payment by Monday, Feb 26th.

Also, from the Eco group: Are you puzzled about recycling – what can go in your bin, and what happens to it? Advance notice: we've arranged a trip to West Sleekburn recycling plant on the afternoon of Tuesday 25th June – details later!

**Social events, continued:** there are none planned for January or February because of the uncertain weather. If you can suggest outings you'd like in spring or summer, or want to recommend places you've enjoyed visiting, or if you've seen adverts for shows etc that others might enjoy, please talk to Denise. The photos here are from a variety of past outings – top right was in Breezy Knees garden, York.



Hexham  
Book  
Festival





**OPEN  
DAY**

**Save the date: Monday 11th March!**  
That's when we'll have our next Open Day, or rather, morning, from 10-12 in the Parish Hall. We hope every Group will produce a simple display with a couple of people manning it, to chat to visitors about what we do.

It's a great chance to introduce your friends to the u3a, as well as finding out more yourself. Please offer your help as specific requests are made in the next few weeks!



# Welcome



to all our new (or newish) members! (That might feel a bit odd if you joined a while ago, but the welcome is warm, all the same!) Do make yourself known when you come along to any of our meetings. Also, feel free to try any of our groups which might interest you, with no obligation whatsoever! We hope you have a great time in Prudhoe & District u3a – we're pretty sure you will!

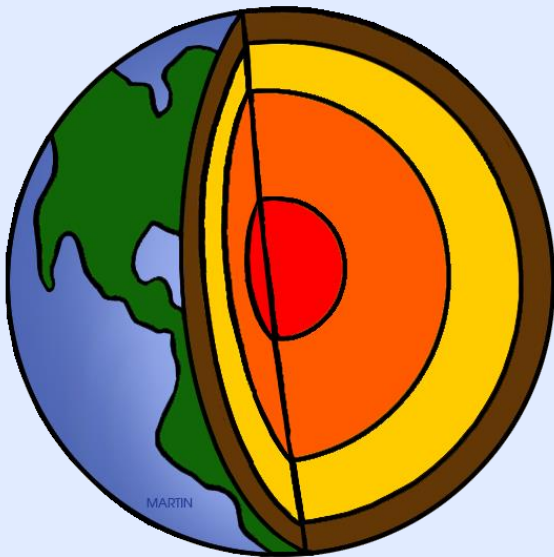
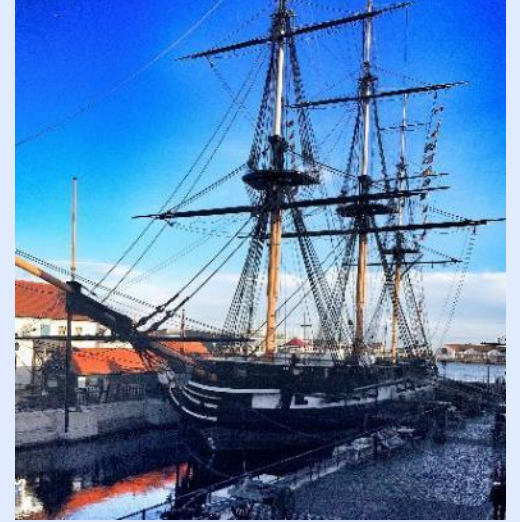
## RIP Rosemary Cook

Rosemary was a long-standing, enthusiastic and very lively member of our u3a, and those of us who knew her were very sad to hear of her sudden passing last month. This typical photo shows her out with Naturewatch in Whittle Dene in spring 2021, checking whether the violets were scented! We send our deepest sympathy to all her family and friends, and especially to her partner Tony.



## Some Regional u3a events and groups:

It's not too late to book for the Northumbria Regional u3a trip to the Royal Navy Museum, Hartlepool, on Friday 15th March 2024. Contact Pat Marcus: [patricia.a.marcus@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.a.marcus@gmail.com).



**Northumbria Region u3a and Borders Geology Network** Open to all u3a members; talks and discussions on Zoom starting on Tuesday 16th January, 10.30 – 12.00. Contact: Elizabeth Devon [elizabeth@earthlearningidea.com](mailto:elizabeth@earthlearningidea.com)

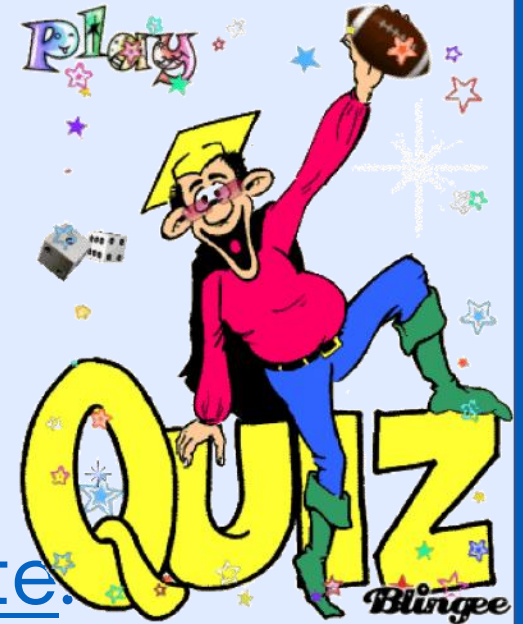
**Regional Birding Group:** This has been in abeyance while the leader was ill, but he now wants to re-start it, and is hoping for outings twice a month, actual dates depending on the weather, to be confirmed a couple of days beforehand. To join the group or for more information, contact Vic Codling at [viccodling@me.com](mailto:viccodling@me.com).



**There are other Northumbria Regional groups** – details on their [website](#) – including IT, 'Creative Words', and Real Ale Appreciation. On the same page is information about groups of Newcastle u3a that are open to any u3a member from the region. Prudhoe u3a members can also join any Tynedale u3a groups – details [here](#).



**Another Regional Quiz:** Sunnyside Social Club,  
Sunnyside, NE16 5NA, Wednesday 20th March  
2024 2pm–5pm. Teams of 4; Refreshments,  
Prizes, Laughter; Please bring a cake!  
Entrance Fee: £5 per team. Further information  
from Bob Pullen, or the Northumbria u3a website.



**Northumbria Region u3a celebration of Music:** Sunnyside  
Club, Sunnyside Rd NE16 5NA, Thursday June 6th, 3–9pm.  
Calling all musicians, singers, individuals, duos, bands etc.  
from around the Region. Would you like to  
entertain your fellow u3a members? Details  
from Bob Pullen, as above.



## Group reports and photos from Prudhoe u3a:



Some of the **Strollers** earned their Christmas lunch by walking to the Ship in Wylam via the Country Park, even climbing the Hagg Bank steps on the way!

Then in January they enjoyed a circular walk from Wylam via Close House, in brilliant sunshine.



## Group reports and photos:

*Naturewatch* visited Shibdon Pond (left), Thornley Woods (grey squirrel) and Far Pastures. No rarities spotted, but a very enjoyable start to the new year.



# Eco Group: a poem

## Preoccupation

The sea is blue, the earth is green  
The air above is all unseen  
Our leaders down below remain  
Gripped by the urgent yet mundane  
Preoccupied by growth and gain.

The sea is black, the earth is white,  
The iceberg's shadow out of sight  
Our ship's unsinkable you know,  
– Makes all competitors look slow  
Full steam ahead – no stopping now!

The earth is grey, the sky is black  
The water's coming in the back  
The surging river's boiling brown  
And drowning folks in every town  
Who built our houses so low down?

The earth is black, the air is red,  
The flames are leaping overhead  
Should I desert my home and flee  
or wait...

...and pray the inferno passes me...

Too late, too late?

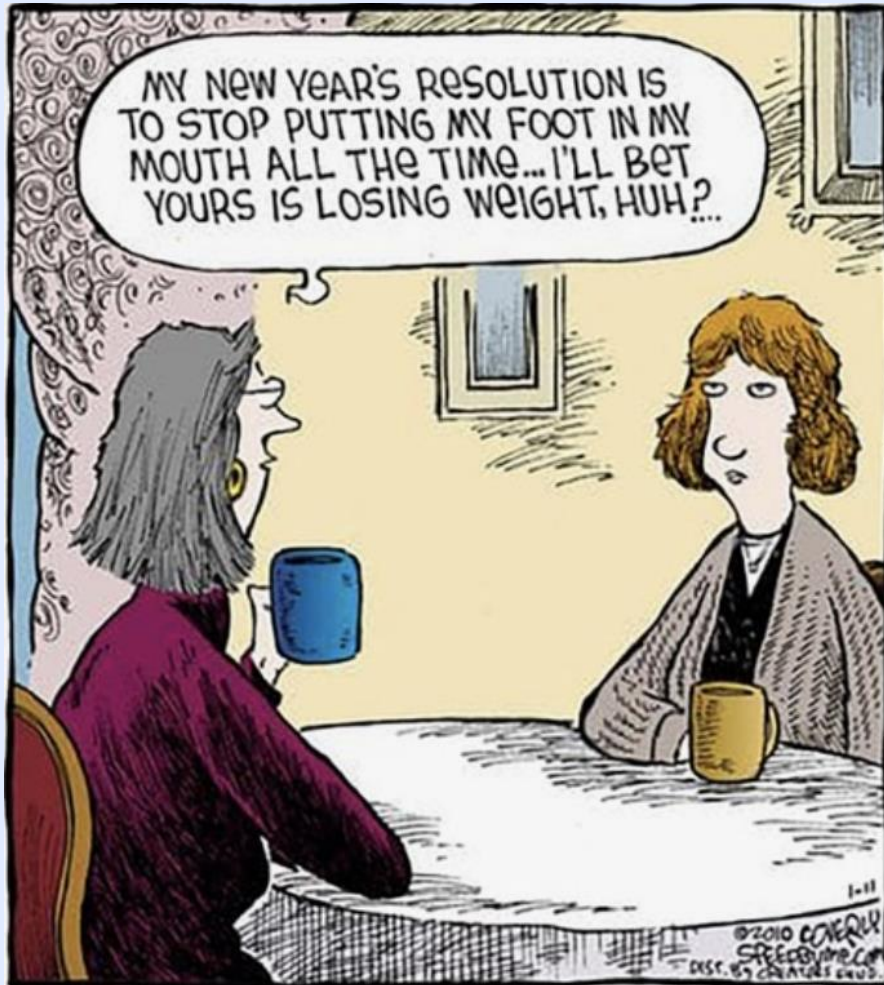
*Responses to this, in poetry or prose,  
would be welcome! Please send them  
to the Notices email address.*

# Digital Photography

*With due ceremony, Duck was handed on to his new custodian; after a year helping Les, he'll be moving in with John for 2024, and no doubt starring in many more silly photos in the coming year.*



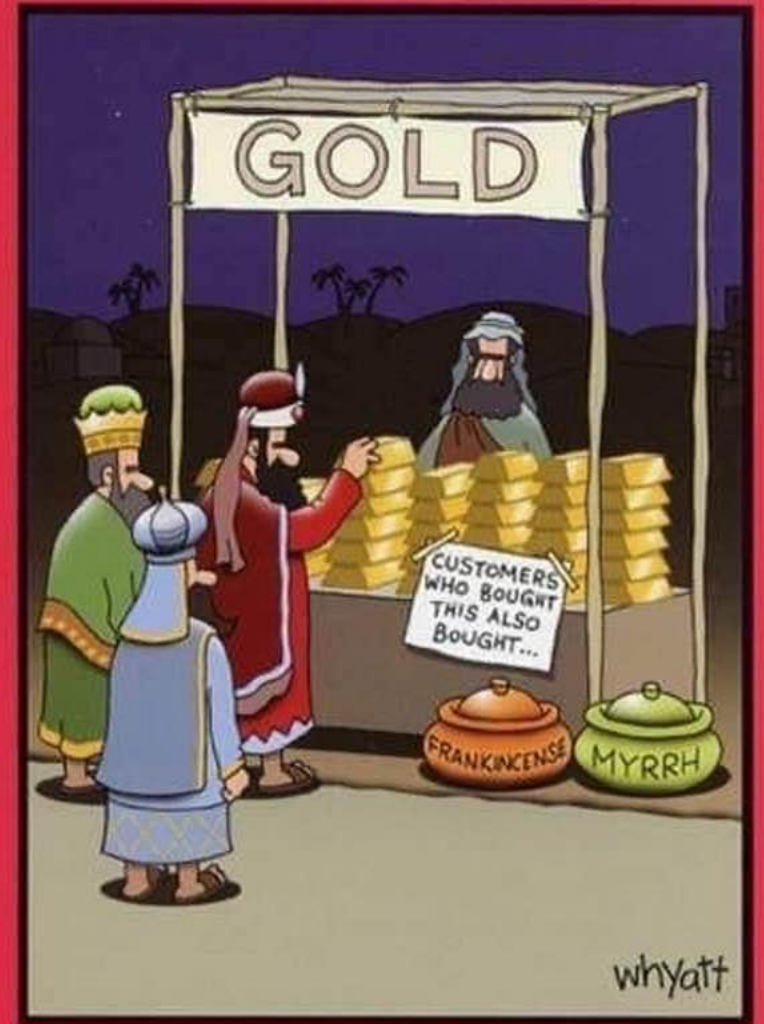
# Jokes page!



## My Year in Diets

Veganuary  
Fibrebruary  
Starch  
Cakepril  
MaycaroniCheese  
June&tonic  
Julicecream  
Augustickytoffeepudding  
Septembeer  
Octoblerone  
Doughvember  
Decemburger

*Brian Bilston*



## Your committee:

Felicity Pullen (Chair, website)

Janice Scott (Secretary)

Pat Taylor (Treasurer)

Kathy Clegg (Vice chair, notices)

Jean Thomas (Groups Coordinator)


Janet Porter (Membership secretary and database)

Les Mitchell (technology)

Denise Durham (co-opted, Social and Programme Secretary)

Julie Beck (co-opted member)

Our Honorary President is **Pat Gornall** (not a committee member)



Please pass on your  
thoughts, suggestions  
or offers of help to  
any committee  
member – thank you!