



Prudhoe & District

Notices, February 2024



Website:
u3asites.org.uk/prudhoe

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'Prudhoe u3a'

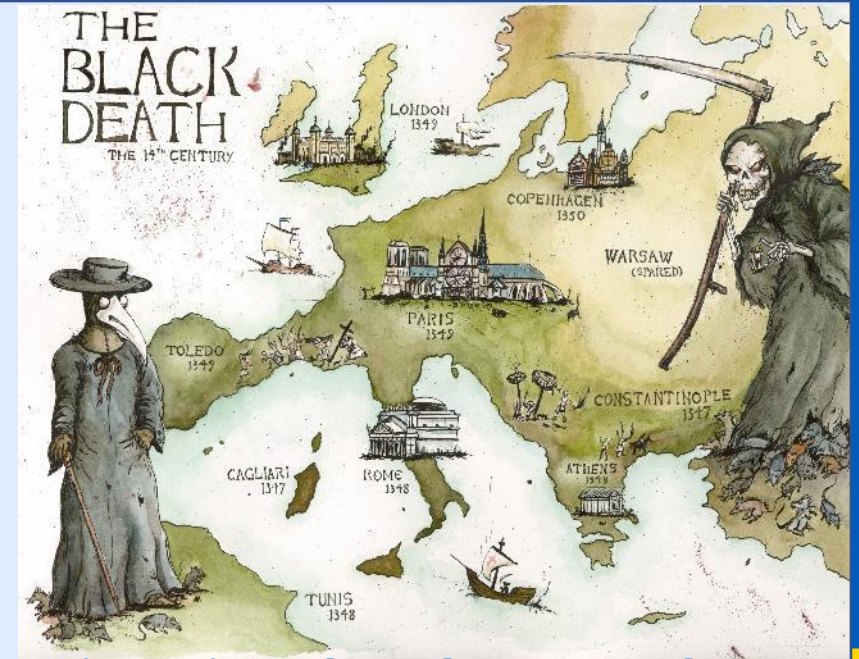
Prudhoe and District u3a is registered charity no. 1179503

The talk at our February monthly meeting is entitled 'The Power of Plagues' and will be given by Paul Nash, in aid of prostate cancer research. That's at 10am on the last Monday of the month, 26th February.

On Monday March 25th we'll hear from Liz Finch about the history of Seaton Delaval Hall. As always, you can choose



either to come to the Parish Hall or to join via Zoom, but if you come in person please arrive well before 10 o'clock to get your coffee and a seat!





OPEN
DAY

Monday 11th March will be our Open Day, or rather, morning, from 10-12 in the Parish Hall. Every Group will have a display with a couple of people manning it, to chat to visitors about what we do. Come and find out more about what's going on!

It's also a great chance to introduce your friends to the u3a. Refreshments will be available, and a slide show to illustrate how much has been going on.... *(continued)*





OPEN
DAY

(continued from previous slide)

Obviously lots of help will be needed, e.g. bring a cake/ help tidy up at the end/... Chat to the convenor of a group you're in or Jean Thomas the Groups Coordinator to find out how you could help! Thank you!

This does mean that there will no coffee morning in the Spetchells Centre the following day, but our regular coffee mornings will be back on the second Tuesday of each month from April onwards.



At our last monthly meeting, our member David Archer gave us a fascinating talk entitled 'Great Floods of Northumbria', including photos of incredibly high flood levels carved into buildings, much personal research from old records, and memories of his own observations of dramatically rising floods at river monitoring stations. The picture above shows how the 'Great Flood of 1771' destroyed much of the old Tyne Bridge.



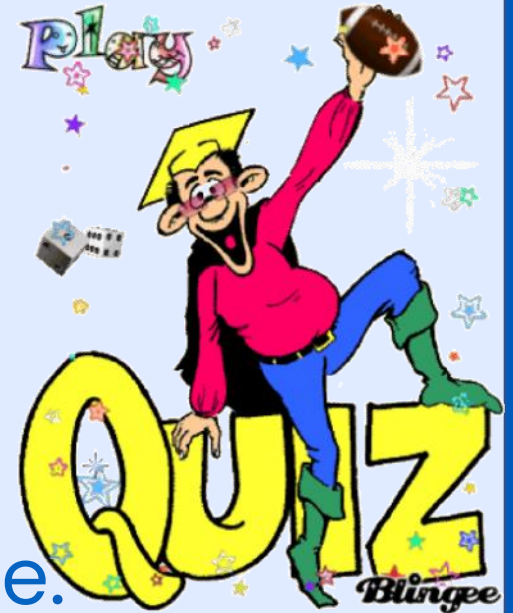
Social events: Last call! Denise has organised a visit to The People's Theatre on **Friday 8th March** to see a performance of "**Blue Stockings**", the true story of how four girl students fought to change the future of women's education.



Coach leaves the Parish Hall at 6pm. Cost approx. £24 depending on numbers. £10 non-returnable deposit, full payment by Monday, Feb 26th. We need more participants or this will have to be cancelled!

Do you have a suggestion for an outing or social event? Tell Denise! Ideas so far suggested include the Theatre Royal and Alnwick Garden. Watch this space!

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.



Are you fed up of paying all those pound coins?

As you know, we take a £1 contribution from everyone who attends our monthly Monday meeting in the Parish Hall, or the Coffee morning in the Spetchells Centre.

From October (not yet, sorry!) the committee is proposing a simple solution. We'll incorporate the refreshments money into the annual subscription, which will go up to £20 when the subscription renewal date comes round.



That will balance the books, but you won't have to pay any more pound coins at the meetings! (Of course, we'll still have to record the names of those present, for fire safety reasons.)

Ovingham Drama Group presents

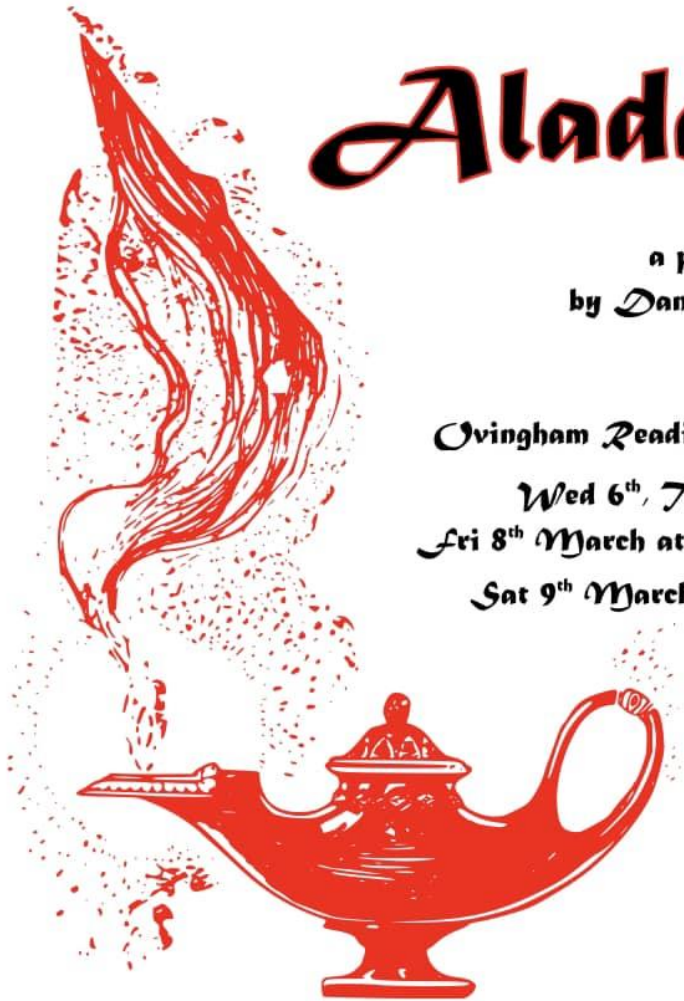
Aladdin

a pantomime
by Dan Hodgson

Ovingham Reading Room

Wed 6th, Thu 7th &
Fri 8th March at 7.30 p.m.

Sat 9th March at 2 p.m.



£10 adults & £6 sixteens and under

Book tickets at

ovinghamdrama.org.uk/upcoming-performances

What's on in Prudhoe & District

One of the cast writes...

This is going to be very very funny... if you fancy an evening of 'spectacularly amateurish amdram', with all the joys, hiccups and camaraderie that entails, book your tickets soon! (Bonus - clean jokes - no awkward explanation moments needed afterwards...)

Tickets available [here](#), but be quick, they're going fast!

A Date for the Diary

Miners' Lamp Community Hub is celebrating the Centenary of Eastwoods Park on the weekend of April 13th– 14th. Our Digital Photography Group will be taking photos and we will possibly have a painting pebbles stall and our u3a banner. There will be lots of fun things to do, e.g a Picnic, a History Tunnel, a mini 'pitch and put', bands, the Fusiliers, WW2 vehicles and people in costume and vintage toys for the children to try out.

Anyone who has any personal documents or photos that relate to the history of the area, and is prepared to lend material, please contact Jean Thomas on 07910 578399.





From Prudhoe Community Partnership

A working party 'Front Street 2030' is looking at how Prudhoe Front Street might change. Read more and have your

say [here](#). This is just one of 20–25 projects undertaken by the PCP, including large ones like The East Centre, with a public viewing of plans projected for March; and the Walled Garden project is also progressing slowly with a public consultation soon. Also in the pipeline, busking and makers markets on the Glade, a new 'Visit Prudhoe' guide, and much more. Find details and a chance to contribute in their new monthly newsletter, 'Partnership Echo' [here](#).

Some Prudhoe u3a group reports and photos :



***Strollers:** Lovely walk today, in weather so mild that we sat outside the café afterwards.*

***Next Strollers:**
Thursday March
21st, 10.30 am.
Talk to Janice
Scott if you could
be interested!*



Group reports and photos:



The Walking group: 7 miles and 7 Newcastle parks! Ouseburn, Heaton and Armstrong Parks, lunch in Jesmond Dene, then the Town Moor and Exhibition and Brandling Parks.

The photo right was taken in Ouseburn Park. Can you guess what this underpass was for? (Answer on final slide.)



Group reports and photos:

The Flower arrangers were challenged to produce a spring arrangement. Very cheering!



Group reports and photos:



Naturewatch had a fascinating indoor meeting at which our intrepid member Ruth showed us many photos and videos

from her wildlife holidays in Curacao (1), in Panama (including the Kinkajou (2) and Rothschild's Porcupine (3)), and in S. Africa,



(4) a brown hyena and (5) an Aardvark.



More Groups! The Northumbria Regional u3a organises several groups that are open to any u3a member from the region, including the in-person **Real Ale Appreciation Group and Birding Group**, also other groups that use Zoom, including **Art Appreciation/History, Creative Writing, Geology, iPad Users and IT**. More information including contact details [here](#). A few u3as also open some of their own groups to anyone from the Region, including Newcastle's **Astronomy** and **General History** groups on Zoom, and in-person groups **Philosophy** and **Ukulele**; contacts [here](#). Finally, as a member of our u3a, you can join a group of *any* neighbouring u3a if there's space.



More Groups – continued!

Several of our groups are full, limited by space or by the time needed for everyone to contribute. But why not have a second group on the same subject? We already have two Book Groups and at times in the past we've had various duplicate groups. We'd like to start a second **lunch group** – could *you* be the contact for that, i.e. help the group make a rota for who would choose the venue and organise the booking each time? Running a group can be as easy as that! Sign up at the open day even for groups that are full, and we may be able to start a second one, or talk to Jean Thomas.



Jokes page!

(contributions welcome for next time)

Coming soon to a street near you!

Street golf



Above: Medieval humour, on Sainte-Foy-de-Conques Abbey, France, c.1050. (I think this is brilliant! Has anyone been there? I haven't, sadly. Conques is in SW France, fairly near Toulouse.)

Your committee:

Felicity Pullen (Chair, website)

Janice Scott (Secretary)

Pat Taylor (Treasurer)

Kathy Clegg (Vice chair, notices)


Jean Thomas (Groups Coordinator)

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

Janet Porter (Membership secretary and database)

Les Mitchell (technology)

Julie Beck (co-opted member)



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

The committee will be up for re-election at our June AGM, and we're always looking for new members! Could this be you?

How could you help your u3a?

The u3a is basically a self-help organisation for its members to enjoy shared learning, and use their time positively once they are no longer in full-time work.

This only works if **lots** of us contribute!

We'll soon be looking for new committee members – who would you suggest? But as you see, there are many non-committee roles too. Please don't leave it to someone else!

- Offer your home for a group to meet

- Contribute financial expertise, IT, technical or secretarial skills

- Help to run an interest group, or to start a new one

- Help on the coffee rota

- Your own idea!

- Offer to join the committee

- Take over producing these notices!

- Take over producing these notices!

The notices over the years have been produced by several different people, mostly not



committee members. Kathy Clegg has done it for over 4 years (including when it was a much longer newsletter in the Covid time), and it (and she!) needs a change. There are 2 roles which could easily be separated: (1) produce a slide show (PowerPoint or LibreOffice Impress, in your own style) from material supplied to you, to be shown at our monthly Monday meetings and emailed to the members, (2) reduce the slide show to 2 sides of a Word file or similar for printing for members without email. Kathy would help with the transition.

Walking group question: the underpass was built to keep cattle away from the walkers and carriages in the park!

