

## **Skiddaw U3A News 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

### **Roamers head for Hallin Fell and Patterdale**

Ullswater being as calm as a mill pond, the steamer, packed with jolly holidaymakers, smoothly conveyed the Roamers from Glenridding to Howtown. Having disembarked, the group climbed the bracken-clad Hallin Fell, standing guard over the delightful Martindale and commanding a magnificent panorama of the lake and surrounding fells. If ever there was a place to linger, that was it, particularly as the sun was warm and the breeze gentle. Then, after a photo-shoot by the impressive summit cairn, they spiritedly tackled the steep descent to Sandwick before joining the ever-popular lakeshore path. Innumerable undulations on, they reached Patterdale and the well-deserved pint – always a good note to finish on.

### **Golf Croquet Tournament**

Skiddaw U3A Golf Croquet group members have been enjoying playing since Easter, on Monday afternoons on the bowls/croquet lawn in Fitz Park. Most members had never held a croquet mallet before, but soon got pretty skilled with it. The aim in golf croquet is for your pair to get one of their balls through the hoop before your opponents. You then move on to the next hoop and start again. There are six hoops to be taken in order and then players continue to tackle the six hoops in a different order. The first pair to take seven hoops wins.

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July the group held a Pro/Am tournament where experienced (Pro) croquet players partnered a U3A player (Am) making six pairs. In two groups, A and B, three pairs played each other with the highest scoring pair in each group going through to the final. The group games were very close with the winning group only scoring one more hoop than the other pairs. The final was keenly fought between Jim and Christine and Brian and Sylvia, with Jim and Christine winning by seven hoops to five.

### **Local History group meetings**

The last two meetings of the Local History group have been most informative and very interesting.

Firstly, Dickon Chaplin-Brice gave an illustrated talk entitled 'Threlkeld Quarry - a history'. Dickon outlined key dates from 1862 when the quarry opened commercially to coincide with the construction of the Cockermouth, Keswick, and Penrith Railway. A few years later the quarry was taken over by Mr. Harkewitz who developed the operations from not just producing crushed stone but producing some amazing quarry tiles, a couple of which still survive and were passed around for members to admire. Over the following century, mergers and takeovers took place and the quarry experienced highs and lows but finally closed in 1982 due to financial problems. The site lay dormant for a decade but then in 1991 it was taken over and developed as a working museum. The museum is now thriving and visitors can see and learn about the wealth of local history it contains.

The most recent meeting was a visit to the Keswick Reminder Printworks. David Branthwaite kindly showed members around and gave a very informative talk detailing how the works first came to Keswick from Cockermouth. They were initially set up in Main Street before going into Kings Arms Yard for ninety years before finally moving to their current premises on Southey Street. Members were very interested to learn about and see some of the huge machinery which is part of the history of printing. David showed the group the whole process of producing the Reminder, from creating the news columns, cutting and pasting, producing draft copies, and proofing before the final version goes to print - the group was delighted to see an example rolling off the press! Members were amazed to hear that the 3500+ copies of the final version of the Keswick Reminder was assembled and folded by hand by the staff before being sent out for sale. They were amused too, to learn that 'locals', now domiciled abroad, could read their PDF copies earlier than Keswickians if the hard copy was just, say, 15 minutes late being assembled.

### **Forthcoming events and activities**

There is no monthly meeting in August and several groups are taking a break from meeting this month as well. Details of these can be found on the Skiddaw U3A website. September will see the annual Open Morning take place, at the Methodist Hall on Southey Street, on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Members will be able to renew their membership, and potential members will have the opportunity to learn more about Skiddaw U3A, as many group convenors will be there to discuss their group's activities. For more information about Skiddaw U3A go to [www.skiddawu3a.co.uk](http://www.skiddawu3a.co.uk)