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## Monthly Meeting, Tuesday 7 February 2023 at 2pm in the Great Hall, Hexham Abbey - and on Zoom

**Topic:** Confessions of a cheesemaker

**Speaker:** Simon Raine

Simon Raine is the founder of the Weardale Cheese Company, based in Hut 16 at Haperley near Crook in County Durham. The Haperley Camp, completed in 1943, was built to house Italian prisoners of war captured in North Africa.

By the last quarter of 1944, most of the Italians had moved on to other locations to make way for German prisoners considered to be low risk. Hut 16 was used as a workshop by both Italian and German prisoners.

Over the years the buildings fell into disrepair, but in the last decade efforts have been made to restore some of the buildings.

In 2015 Simon set up his cheese company in newly-restored Hut 16. His small-scale dairy produces between 100 to 120 kilogrammes of cheese using an average of 1000 litres of milk from a neighbouring farm.

He sold his first cheese – the appropriately named St Cuthbert – at the St Cuthbert's Day Fair at Durham Cathedral.

Simon particularly enjoys working on his own in the dairy during the week and then meeting people on his delivery rounds and at farmers' markets.

Join us to hear about Simon's passion for cheese-making.



**Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.**

## Groups liaison news

### New groups

Several new groups have now held their first meeting. They are:

- ◆ Wine Appreciation 2
- ◆ Art Appreciation 3
- ◆ Cryptic Crosswords
- ◆ Northern Rocks (Geology)

If you have an interest in any of these groups, check the website for details of how to contact the convenor or get in touch with me.

Currently we have a total of 52 active groups.

### Convenors' lunch

The 2023 convenors' lunch is pencilled in for 19 April. More information in the next newsletter.

Colin Argent  
Group Fixer

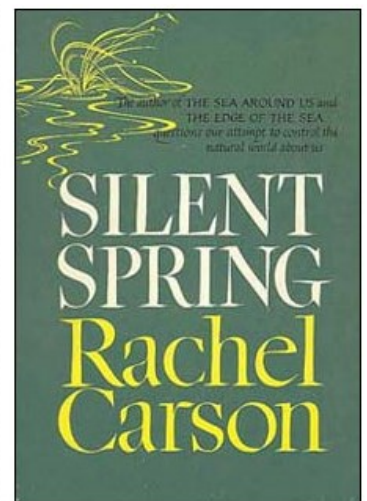
## Group news and activities

### Environment Group

Our first meeting of the New Year was spent discussing Rachel Carson and her book *Silent Spring*, written in 1962. This meeting followed a comprehensive presentation of her life and work at our last meeting in November 2022.

Carson suffered both criticism and denial largely based on economy-driven vested interest, although her work and conclusions have been subsequently vindicated. However, any contemporary environment whistleblower seems to experience the same reaction, which makes one wonder why an economic argument rather than scientific evidence has such power over the powerful. Is GDP really the holy grail or a massive distraction from our sense of human value?

Richard Bentley



### Putting the World Right Group



The group talked generally about social media but tried to focus on two issues. What makes people let themselves become so angry and intolerant online? And why do they adopt a coat of gullibility and believe so much of what they read without questioning?

Mike Foster

## Art Appreciation 3

Art Appreciation 3 had a successful inaugural meeting at Newcastle Building Society in Hexham on 24 January .

We agreed that meetings would be monthly at the same venue, from 1.30 to 3.30 on the fourth Tuesday of the month.



Topics were agreed for the next five months, starting with a presentation and discussion on The Pitman Painters on 28 February.

Further dates are 28 March, 25 April, 23 May and 27 June.

We are a core of five members so far and would welcome others to join our group.

There is no commitment to do a presentation. After our next meeting, we will be able to circulate our programme up to June.

Contact enquiries to Liz Newsome 07745133777 or [elizabethnewsome91@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethnewsome91@gmail.com)

## Wildlife Group

Our first meeting of 2023 was held on a cold and wet afternoon in January. How lucky we were to be transported to the south of France for a taste of holiday sunshine by Jenny Loring.

This talk was not all about the famous white horses, black bulls and flamingos of the Camargue, but also about the variety of wild flora and fauna in this area.

We were also entertained by Jenny's holiday saga. Jenny was to be part of an organised wildlife tour but unfortunately strikes on the French transport system meant she was the only member of the party to arrive. So did Jenny spend the rest of the week sitting in the sun drinking wine?

No, she hired a car (and that is another story) and went exploring on her own.

The Carmargue is a vast nature reserve situated between two arms of the Rhone and the Mediterranean Sea. It is designated as a UNESCO biosphere reserve for the wildlife of the marsh, lagoon and saline habitats.

As a lone traveller, Jenny was able to take time to explore and photograph this amazing landscape and its wildlife at her leisure. The list of birds seemed endless, from warblers, rosy starlings, bee eaters, avocets, black winged stilts and egrets, to short-toed eagles and other birds of prey. She even spent part of one walk with a young great spotted cuckoo keeping her company. A variety of insects and wild flowers also caught her interest.

Along the way Jenny also visited Arles and found scenes painted by Van Gogh. A final photograph was of her visit to Van Gogh's *Starry Night Cafe*.

Thank you Jenny for a very entertaining presentation.

Jenny Cessford



A selection of Jenny Loring's holiday pictures

## Projects with the grandchildren

### A mobile sound system for free!



### Introduction

Early “Gramophones” (Google that word if you haven’t heard it before) used mechanical means to amplify the sounds made when the needle followed the patterns of grooves on the record. You can do something similar to make the sounds from a mobile phone clearer and of better quality.

### Project needs

- ◆ Cardboard tube from kitchen roll or toilet paper
- ◆ Two paper or plastic cups
- ◆ PVA Glue
- ◆ Scissors

### Construction

The speakers in most mobile phones are at the base of the phone. Check that this is true for the one that you will be using. Cut a slot along the cardboard tube in the middle that will allow the phone to fit snugly into the tube. Mark out a hole in the side of each cup that will allow the tube to be inserted. Cut out the holes, insert the tube, glue round the outside and you are done. [This YouTube clip](#) shows how to do this.

Testing:

There are tests you can do to see whether you can improve this design. You can vary the length of the tube, compare paper and plastic cups, and check what is the best surface to rest the speakers on. You can also see whether the performance is affected by the type of sound (speech vs different styles of music) or the pitch of the sound.

This [online tone generator](#) allows you to generate single tones of variable pitch.

Chris Pollock

November 2022

## Events for 2023

### Dates for your diary

<b>March 17th (Friday):</b>	<b>Backstage at the Sage tour</b>
<b>March 28th (Tuesday):</b>	<b>Quiz and supper evening Hexham Golf Club</b>
<b>April 5th (Wednesday):</b>	<b>Coach trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park</b>
<b>May 10th (Wednesday):</b>	<b>Hadrian Wall Festival of Fun at the Sill</b>
<b>June 17th (Saturday):</b>	<b>40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at the Mart</b>
<b>August 1st (Tuesday):</b>	<b>Coach trip to Edinburgh Botanic Gardens</b>

We are still waiting for the dates for the recycling plant visit. We have been assured it is in hand.

### Backstage at the Sage Gateshead

Some members are interested in a fascinating tour of the Sage and we have provisionally booked Friday 17 March at 10am. The tour costs £15 and includes free parking, a hot drink and a cake.

We need between 10 and 20 members so if you would like to go, please contact John Dark at [tyneu3amemsec1@gmail.com](mailto:tyneu3amemsec1@gmail.com) as early as possible. We do not know how popular this will be and if it is oversubscribed, we will look to organising a second trip later in the year.

When we have confirmed you have a place, we will need payment by 1st March as we have to give the Sage the money in advance. Many members will travel using public transport, but if anyone will have difficulty getting there, please let us know when you register your interest.

### Birthday celebrations

We hope you will join us for afternoon tea at the Mart to celebrate our birthday on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Please put the date in your diary.

### Quiz and supper evening

March 28<sup>th</sup> at Hexham Golf Club at 7pm

We would like you to join us for a social evening at the Hexham Golf Club. There will be a quiz and a buffet supper at the cost of £10 per head.

There was an annual quiz prior to the Covid lockdown, and we need to assess whether there is sufficient interest for its return. Please can you let Wendy Dale know you are interested either by recording it at the monthly meeting or emailing her [tyneu3achair1@btinternet.com](mailto:tyneu3achair1@btinternet.com) by February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will ask for the money in advance and provide tickets but not until we know there is sufficient interest.

### Discovery Award

In the September newsletter we heard from Elizabeth Beardsley about her journey to achieve the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Discovery Award. The Discovery Award is like the Duke of Edinburgh award for the over 50s. This year I have decided to work on achieving the Bronze award and I wondered if there were any other members who were interested. If so, we could form a support group and meet up from time to time. Just contact me if you are interested in the challenge.

Wendy Dale [w.dale381@btinternet.com](mailto:w.dale381@btinternet.com)

## u3a off the wall

Wednesday, 10 May 2022

The Sill, National Landscape Discovery Centre, Bardon Mill, Northumberland NE47 7AN



An event for the curious mind

u3a members from all over the UK will descend on Hadrian's Wall to celebrate the building of the wall and the influence that the wall has had on our creative lives.

A festival of learning and fun organised by the u3a national body, the Third Age Trust, will take place on Wednesday 10 May 2023 at The Sill. We are privileged to have this event in our area in our 40th year. The event aims to draw on the experience, enthusiasm and talents of u3a members from across the movement and from a wide range of subjects.

### Festival programme

u3a members will meet at the Sill from 10am for **talks** from Dr Rob Collins, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at Newcastle University, and Dr Andrew Birsley, CEO and Director of Excavations at The Vindolanda Trust.

### Other activities

In the afternoon there will be a **guided tour of the Vindolanda site**, followed by free time to visit the museum and/or the archaeologists working on the site.

In addition, a **fringe festival of informal workshops** on drama, art, music and photography will take place around the site throughout the day. These are some of the activities on offer:

- ◆ Artefacts from the Discovery Museum, Newcastle
- ◆ Charcoal landscape drawing
- ◆ Creative writing
- ◆ Development and mechanics of the Northumbrian pipes
- ◆ Ecology
- ◆ Roman food

You can download the full Festival programme [here](#).

### Fringe events online

In the build-up to the day there will be opportunities to attend events online. A draft schedule of online events will be available [here](#) soon.

If you are interested in taking part in any of these events, please contact [thewall@u3a.org.uk](mailto:thewall@u3a.org.uk).

### Off the Wall art competition

A postcard artwork competition has been launched by the Third Age Trust. The idea is to collect artwork from across the movement which interprets the theme of Hadrian's Wall.

The judges want to see what you can create in any medium, be that paint, pencil, collage or otherwise. The theme is broad and can be interpreted in many ways, whether you want to draw a wild landscape, focus on the history of the area, or the wall itself.

There will be an overall winner and three runners up. All work will be displayed in an online gallery.

The winning artwork will be displayed as a selection for the postcards on the u3a brand centre.

Get creating! It would be good to have a local winner.

More information about the competition is [available here](#).

## Committee vacancies

### Events Secretary

This post has been vacant for some time and we would like to find a member who will develop the role to increase the opportunities for members to learn and have fun outside their own interest group.

Responsibilities:

- ◆ To facilitate a programme of events open to all members
- ◆ To support the organisation and administration of each event

### Newsletter Editor

This role will become vacant in March 2023.

The role involves compiling information from a range of sources (Tynedale u3a committee, group convenors and other members; regional u3a; Third Age Trust) and using the information to produce a monthly newsletter.

Responsibilities:

- ◆ To encourage all potential contributors to make material available for inclusion in the newsletter and ensure that they are aware of deadlines for publication.
- ◆ To circulate the newsletter by email to all members with an email address and arrange printing for circulation to members with a postal address only.

Basic requirements are the ability to meet deadlines, edit and proofread text, use a computer and insert photos in documents.

## Report on the extra open meeting of 24 January 2023

### Antarctica and climate change

The Environment, Geology and Science Groups joined forces to organise a meeting where Professor Mike Bentley of Durham University talked to us about Antarctica and climate change. The meeting was open to all u3a members and on the day over 70 people attended.

Professor Bentley described how measurements were made to allow melting and deposition rates to be calculated for ice in different parts of Antarctica, and the huge improvements that modern technologies had made in data gathering. He even presented some data obtained by radio-tagging of seals and sea birds. He argued that the consequences for us of increased overall rates of ice melting, particularly in West Antarctica, are likely to be significant in terms of sea level rise.

Following the talk, there was a very active question and answer session, indicating just how fully engaged the audience had been. Indeed, the meeting only finished when it did because the room was needed for another event! Those of us involved in the organisation of the meeting feel that it could be a model for events using external speakers to explore in detail topics that cross the boundaries between different groups.

Chris Pollock



## Your committee

### Chair

Wendy Dale - 606215

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### Business Secretary

Susan Turnbull - 607264

[tyneu3abus@gmail.com](mailto:tyneu3abus@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

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[tyneu3afindavid@gmail.com](mailto:tyneu3afindavid@gmail.com)

### Membership Secretary

John Dark - 602584

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### Programme Secretary

Barrie Mellars - 07831255520

[tyneu3aprogsec@yahoo.com](mailto:tyneu3aprogsec@yahoo.com)

### Events Secretary

Vacant

### Groups Liaison Secretary

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Lesley Parsons - 07588178570

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### Newsletter Editor

Alicia Cresswell - 608170

[tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com](mailto:tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com)

## Membership

We currently have 438 members, including 11 associate members (lapsed members have now been removed).



Tynedale u3a is a registered charity (number 515733).

# WELCOME

A very warm welcome to new members Sallie Piper, Roger Newsome, Kate Robinson, Karen Barrett, David Piper, Philip Ashmore, Susan Shier, David Liddle, Hilary Graham, Diane Murphy, Tony May, Jane Brantom, Valery Doughty, Peter Mentell, Sue Underwood, Ann Edwards and Julia Thompson.

## Dates for your diary

### Monthly meeting - 7 February 2023 at 2pm

Confessions of a cheesemaker, Simon Raine

### Desert Island Discs - 21 February 2023 at 2pm

Castaway: Maggie Bassendine

### Monthly meetings - March to July 2023

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 7 March | AGM and launch of 40th anniversary celebrations |
| 4 April | Tales of the Tyne, Jo Bath                      |
| 2 May   | RNLI, David Hastings                            |
| 6 June  | Northumberland Greyhound Rescue                 |
| 4 July  | Cragside, Liz Finch                             |



## Next issue of the newsletter

The next issue of the newsletter will be published in March 2023.

We welcome contributions from groups and individual members.

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Alicia Cresswell, by 23 February. Email address: [tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com](mailto:tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com).

Thank you