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Monthly meeting online, Tuesday 6 July 2021 at 2pm

Topic: Take me up the Tyne: Exploring the river from source to mouth and discovering the fascinating events and legends along the journey

Speaker: Geoff Hughes



Geoff Hughes says: "I have been giving talks for the past 25 years - mainly on all things 'Northumbrian'.

After taking early retirement from teaching, I began by talking to a group of university students, all from Norway, about what they might see and do in this area whilst they were enjoying their year at university.

Soon after that the National Trust asked me if I could run a talk service for them throughout the Northumbria area, highlighting their properties.

From that I developed 38 talks, mainly about the locality and, until things stopped abruptly 16 months ago, was giving around three talks each week.

Zoom talks have been a salvation to me - and I hope to you all!"



Group news and activities

Environment Group

After last month's discussion of 'The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review', we decided that economists' treatment - or mistreatment - of the environment merited further study.

We travelled, metaphorically, to the Pacific island of Nauru, which trashed its environment by mining for phosphate but followed the economists' advice to invest the proceeds so as to secure a sustainable income, only to see their investments flounder in the 1997 Asian financial crisis. This left the islanders having to make ends meet by serving variously as a tax haven; money laundering centre; and offshore holding pen for the Australian immigration authorities. Perhaps the economists' sustainable income stream is not the same as the ecologists' sustainable environment.

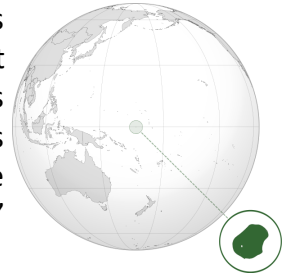


Image: [Addicted04](#), [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Is there such a thing as an 'environment problem' or merely the incorrect pricing of environmental assets? Is 30% of the value of the oceans really attributable, as economists have calculated, to humans' love of a sea view? Is sustainability better thought of as something that's going to be expensive or as things - bike not car; staycation not cruise; sweater not heating; beans not meat; one child not a full tribe - that would save a fortune? And, perhaps, are economists merely trying to make sense of the poor hand that human nature deals them?

Matthew Naylor

Art Appreciation Group 1

I joined this group under the strange conditions that life with Covid brought us, which means I have only met the other group members through Zoom, and have only seen them sitting down! But despite the challenges such technology creates, and the lack of personal contact, my experience of the group has been enjoyable, rewarding and informative.

The theme since January has been landscape art, with fortnightly presentations given by group members on a wide range of artists – from Pissarro and the impressionists to Cézanne and David Hockney — as well



David Hockney, Woldgate Woods 6 & 9 November 2006

as sessions on Victorian landscapes, British landscapes, and landscape photography. Our final presentation before reconvening in September brought a consideration of 20th-century movements in art. Presentations cover the artists' major works, short biographies, and, to varying degrees, an examination of their techniques and styles.

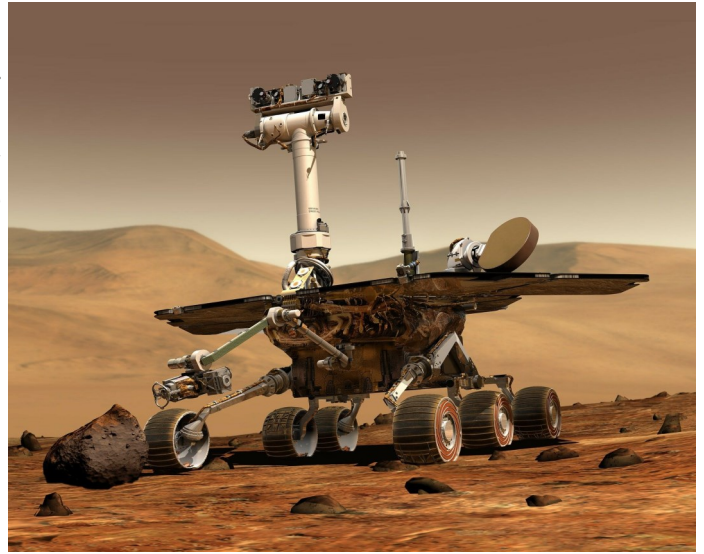
Personally, while I enjoy the occasional stroll around a gallery (well, used to, before Covid), I know little or nothing about art, but have always been interested in learning more. And, as a friend suggested to me early on, if the factual details in a presentation fail to grip sometimes, or they pass overhead, then the meetings still grant an opportunity to sit back, relax, and enjoy looking at beautiful and inspirational paintings on a Monday morning.

This is a lively and friendly group, and, in the true spirit of u3a, a collaborative one. There is no pressure to present though; whatever contribution anyone makes, it is always appreciated. Sessions are kept on track by the steady hand of our convenor, Elizabeth Porter. Why not contact her and find out more? Sessions start again at Hexham Abbey on 6 September (all being well).

Liz Barnes

Space Exploration Group

The Space Exploration Group was the brainchild of Colin Argent and Steve Rozario back in 2018. The purpose of the group is not to “boldly go where no man has gone before” but rather to entertain ourselves by delving into any aspect of space exploration that is of interest, then delivering a talk on that topic followed by a discussion. That means we have covered a broad range of topics including gravitational waves, the problem of missing solar neutrinos, cosmic rays, rocket propulsion, establishing a moon base, and the geology of rocky planets. Last month’s meeting focused on the current state of exploration on Mars, the technology of the different landers and the problems of powered flight in a thin atmosphere. Upcoming topics will include an update on space junk, the international space station (ISS) and the relatively recently discovered fast radio bursts. In one sense our meetings are not “rocket science”, but in another sense clearly they are.



Mars Rover - Image by [Wikimedia Commons](#) from [Pixabay](#)

We have a Zoom meeting every 2nd Friday in the month starting at 2pm. If you feel like joining us on 9 July, send me an email: diggoryian@gmail.com

Ian Diggory

Group liaison update

Hi Everyone

I recently sent out to convenors a reminder about venue and Covid risk assessments but you only need to fill these out if you are having face-to-face meetings of some sort already. Many groups are waiting until September to restart such meetings and I will be in touch to clarify what is needed before then.

If your group has not been active during the lockdown, I would encourage you to start making contact with your group members to discuss how and when you restart. Some members have commented to me that they miss the contact, so please bear in mind that you do not have to be a convenor to get in touch and say ‘Hi’.

Three convenors have stepped down in language groups so I would like to remind members of the Italian and French For Fun Groups that we need one, or more, of them to step up to the role.

At the moment it seems that venues used by groups before the lockdown will be available when Covid restrictions end. Some are not yet open, for example where rules on social distancing make small rooms impractical. If you encounter this kind of problem when organising your group restart, please let me know.

As we get back to normal this autumn, it would be the ideal time to pick up on new interests or activities. If you have ideas for a new group and need help getting it off the ground, do get in touch and we will try to make it happen.

Colin Argent

From our members

Bellingham and Hareshaw Linn

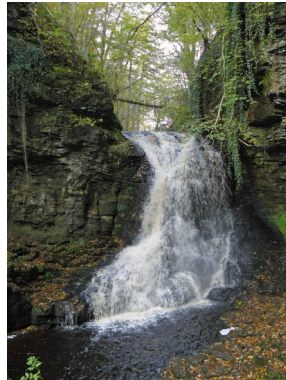
If any members are looking for an entertaining day out, might I suggest a visit to Bellingham? I try to make at least an annual pilgrimage there. It has an excellent Heritage Centre. Refreshments and sustenance are available in the adjacent Carriages Tea Room (sit inside or out) or one of the other places to eat in the village.

Bellingham itself is full of interest, including St Cuthbert's church with its stone roof (from the old days of the Border Reivers) and the nearby "Cuddy's" holy well. There is also the lovely walk to the Hareshaw Linn, crossing the stream over and back via six (or is it seven?) bridges. Details available on the National Park website and other sites.

One word of warning: the village and the Hareshaw Linn walk are likely to be very busy at weekends and bank holidays.

Check the Heritage Centre website for days and times open, and Bus 880 if you wish to enjoy the views and help save the planet.

Sean Mac Nialluis



Trebuchet challenge

I am delighted to report that there are a few big kids in our u3a who relish the thought of playing with a big catapult. I suppose it could have been the mention of beer and pizzas but we will overlook that. On July 1st a small band will gather to construct the first trebuchet, determined to ensure the spirit of 'Last of the Summer Wine' lives on in Northumberland. It is our fervent hope that a series of inanimate objects will be hurled a great distance by this first construction.

It is not too late to get involved. As an added attraction, we now propose the target-hitting competition will use images of favourite politicians and custard tarts. If you would like to take part, email me at argent2010@btinternet.com.

Colin Argent

Renewing your membership

September 1st is approaching fast!

The renewal year now starts on 1 September. The basic renewal subscription was decided at the AGM on 2 March - it is £14 per person payable by 1 September. Please add £3.10 per household if you wish to receive a copy of the national u3a magazines.

The Membership Secretary will start emailing everyone at the beginning of August. To keep the costs down, both for you and u3a Tynedale, I'm hoping to do this electronically as much as possible. The renewal forms are on the website, just click on 'Membership' and then on '2021 Renewal Form'. Forms can either be scanned and sent back by email or posted. Subscriptions can be paid directly - our bank details are on the form, but we are happy with cheques if that is what you prefer.

Letters will go out later in the month to the non-responders, so for greatest economy, please respond to the emails as soon as possible.

Anyone who has joined in the past few months will only have to renew in 2022.

John Dark

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Your committee

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Membership

We currently have 425 members, including 9 associate members.



Tynedale u3a is a registered charity (number 515733).



A warm welcome to Anne Hazon and Matthew Nayler, who have recently joined our u3a.



Monthly meetings September- November 2021

7 September at 2pm: Space Group, Hitchhiker's Guide to the Solar System

5 October at 2pm: Margret Jacot, Central Asia, where the desert meet the mountains

2 November at 2pm: Iain Moffat, The Somme 1st July 1916 - The Story of the Tyneside Scottish and Tyneside Irish

Next issue of the newsletter

The next issue of the newsletter will be published in September.

We welcome contributions from groups and individual members.

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Alicia Cresswell, by 26 August. Email address: tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com.