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Monthly Meeting Tuesday 4 July at 2pm

in the Great Hall at Hexham Abbey

Topic Cragside by Liz Finch

An overview of the National Trust's Cragside House and estate. The talk focuses on Lord Armstrong, the builder of the Cragside we know today, looking at what makes this house a jewel in the crown of the National Trust and the nation as a whole. Information on events taking place over the summer will hopefully encourage visits. Cragside has recently appeared on BBC's 'Treasures of the National Trust' (available on catch-up services).

Coffee/tea will be served after the meeting, so please do stay and enjoy some chat...

An Sincere Apology...

To both Joan Sykes and Jenny Harrington. In the 'Members Memories' section in the June Newsletter we incorrectly attributed Jenny Harrington's reminiscences to Joan Sykes. Joan was quick to point out the mistake and we have personally apologised to both.

For Your Diary



To book any of these events -
please **email** Margaret Earl at tu3aevents@yahoo.com or **call** her on 01434 689123

Tynedale u3a 40th Anniversary Party on Saturday 22nd JULY at 2:00 pm at Hexham Mart

Our celebration party will be a fun occasion with a delicious afternoon tea, so have a light lunch or none at all!

Please let Margaret Earl know if you have any particular dietary requirements and if you would like a lift to and from the event. Also, please tell her of any past members who might wish to come?

We are asking for a small contribution of £5.00 towards the cost and of the tea and Tynedale u3a will pay the remainder.

Bamburgh and Seahouses on Tuesday 25th July

Cost: £19.50

A beautiful part of the North East coastline. Visiting both towns as you wish - the castle, beach, harbour side and eat the delicious Seahouses fish and chips.

Edinburgh Botanic Garden on Tuesday 1st AUGUST Cost £20 (+ £8.00 for optional guided tour)

A fabulous day out, travelling to Edinburgh in a comfortable coach to see an amazing 70 acre garden with specialist collections of plants from around the world. There are cafes to buy meals or snacks, or you can take a picnic and use the many indoor and outdoor seating areas.

The site is disability friendly, with wheelchairs and mobility scooters available

Skipton and Canal Cruise on Wednesday 9th August Cost £33.50 (includes canal cruise)

Now taking names for the Reserve List

Explore the beautiful market town of Skipton, with a blissful hour cruising along Skipton's canal.

Hawes and Wensleydale Creamery on Wednesday 16th August Cost £29.50

A leisurely journey to Hawes where you will have free time to explore the town before going to the Wensleydale Creamery. This award winning flagship cheese experience and visitor centre is situated in the heart of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Learn about the 1000 year history of cheese making in the Dales and watch Yorkshire Wensleydale being crafted.

Price includes travel, entrance to Wensleydale Creamery and the Cheese Visitor Experience.

Backstage at the SAGE - an early notification of a visit sometime in the Autumn

A rare opportunity to be backstage and on the stage at the SAGE. A guided tour of music and performance room, dressing rooms and stages. Finishing with tea/coffee and cake.

For Your Diary

What Does the Future Look Like for the Oil & Gas and Energy Sector – The Energy Transition

Ian Phillips

Energy Transition Advisory Limited, Aberdeen, UK

2.00pm October 31st in the Great Hall at Hexham Abbey

Earlier this year we had a very successful extra meeting with Professor Mike Bentley talking about Antarctica and climate change. The organisation for the event was taken on by the Science Group. The committee agreed that we should consider this again and encourage other groups to come up with ideas around the theme of their interest group. We have two identified and the first will be a talk by Ian Phillips at 2.00pm, October 31st in the Great Hall at Hexham Abbey.

His presentation will consider the future of the oil and gas industry from two perspectives.

The first half paints a picture of an industry in extremely good health and with an exciting future - global population continues to grow and individuals' standard of living continues to rise - so demand for energy is growing steadily. Despite this growing demand, global proven reserves have risen as technology improves. In addition, we know where there is a lot more oil and gas in deposits that are currently uneconomic, but a small increase in the oil price would make these "proven reserves." In a nutshell, the industry might have a bright future.

The second half presents the significant obstacle: summarizing the science of climate change and considering what happened when temperature rose this high in the past. The emerging alternatives, renewables, energy efficiency, and some dramatic scientific advances in "clean hydrocarbons," will also be reviewed.

The presentation closes with an assessment of the impact of these competing forces on the oil and gas industry, the developed world, and the human race.

While the subject might be of particular interest to the Environment group, Science Group, and Geology groups, it will be open to all members.



Members Memories

A handful of members recorded their memories earlier this year. Here are some direct spoken quotes from them on what they value about Tynedale u3a.

Michael Crick and his wife moved to the area when they retired. "We decided we liked it up here .. and somebody told us about u3a ... and so when we came up, we joined u3a ... you joined a group or groups and instantly you had contacts who were into mutual interests ... it was the best thing we ever did ... It has provided me with some sort of focus ... and one of the main things is the companionship."

Elizabeth Fish joined when she moved to Hexham in 1994

"It's enabled me to get to know some very interesting people, it was at one time a real support to me. ... u3a, it sort of grounded me I suppose."

Charlotte Coxon joined in about 2007 and she joined husband Peter up about 10 years ago.

Charlotte said "I do encourage people to join the u3a ... and I say there are all subjects from a to z ... join and make friends." And Peter commented "That's one of it's principal attractions I think, there is so much, such a wide variety, it would be difficult for you not to find something to suit you or more than one thing". Peter described the experience of one group member. "She regards it as a day out ... she regards the group as friends now, ... they were just people I came to the group with."

Ruth and Eric Bramfit emphasise the friendships, sharing of knowledge, and expertise of members.

Eric " the holidays we had were really good and allowed a lot, to use that word, a lot of bonding, and we formed a lot of good friendships along the way, whether we were walking in the mountains in northern Spain or in the mountains in Bulgaria. Holidays ... were excellent for camaraderie and for forming friendships and that's what my intention, my benefit was in joining the u3a. It gave me a lot of contacts, connections and like interests. ... You benefit too from the specialisms of people who are in the u3a."

Ruth "Often people aren't experts, but they're interested so ... like in art appreciation, everyone is encouraged to do the research ... look into an artist and present the information. I have a belief that everyone can do it, and it can be shared, and you can encourage each other to do these presentations. ... I think the sharing, the encouragement to do the research - because everybody at the beginning feels they can't do it - is the most important thing, the sharing."

'Warksworth View'

Inspired by the walk with the Wildlife Group, this a painting by Jenny Loring.

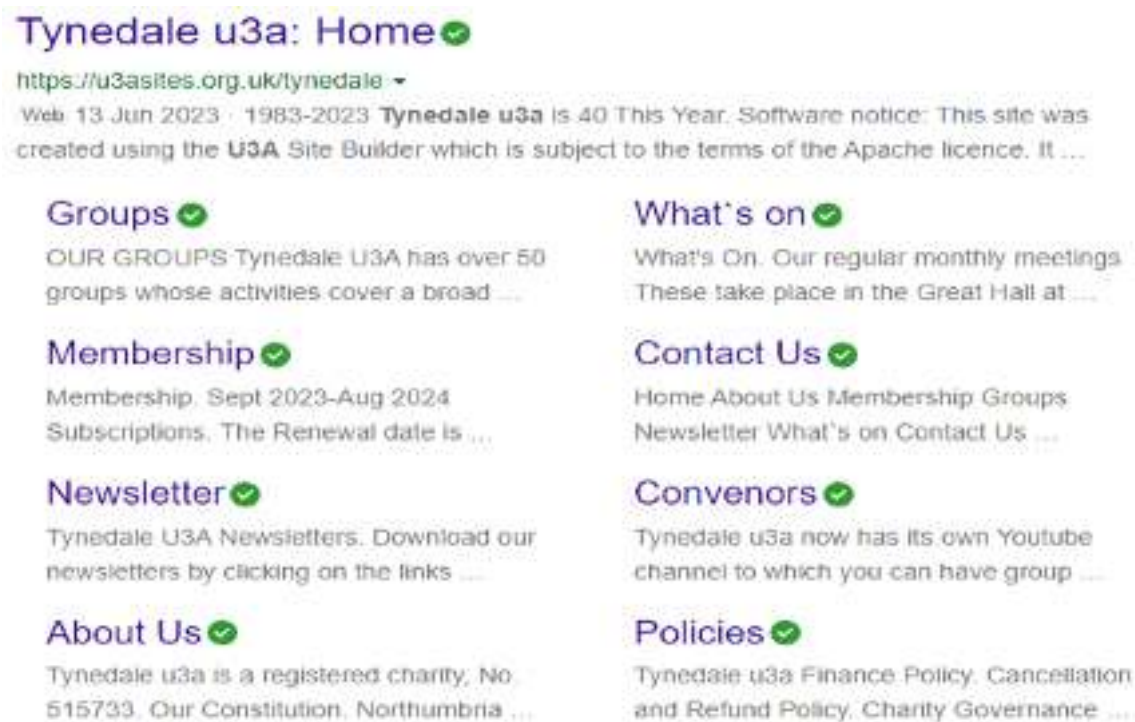
Such a lovely work of art deserves its own place in the newsletter.



How to access interest group information on the Tynedale u3a website

It has become apparent that a number of our members are not confident about finding information on the Tynedale u3a website. There is a lot of helpful information on the web site and the following notes should help to locate information about each of our interest groups.

Type 'tynedale u3a' into your search engine. This should bring up an image like this:



Tynedale u3a: Home ✓
<https://u3asites.org.uk/tynedale> ✓
 Web: 13 Jun 2023 · 1983-2023 **Tynedale u3a** is 40 This Year. Software notice: This site was created using the **U3A Site Builder** which is subject to the terms of the Apache licence. It ...

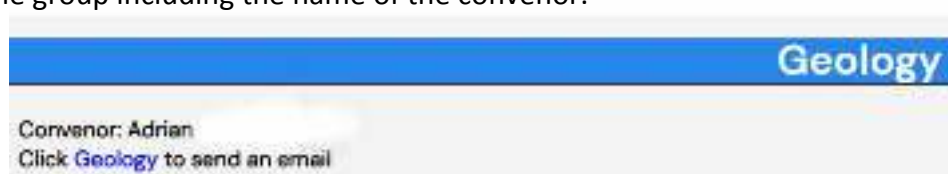
- Groups** ✓
OUR GROUPS Tynedale U3A has over 50 groups whose activities cover a broad ...
- What's on** ✓
What's On. Our regular monthly meetings. These take place in the Great Hall at ...
- Membership** ✓
Membership. Sept 2023-Aug 2024 Subscriptions. The Renewal date is ...
- Contact Us** ✓
Home About Us Membership Groups Newsletter What's on Contact Us ...
- Newsletter** ✓
Tynedale U3A Newsletters. Download our newsletters by clicking on the links ...
- Convenors** ✓
Tynedale u3a now has its own Youtube channel to which you can have group ...
- About Us** ✓
Tynedale u3a is a registered charity. No. 515733. Our Constitution. Northumbria ...
- Policies** ✓
Tynedale u3a Finance Policy. Cancellation and Refund Policy. Charity Governance ...

1. Click on 'Groups' and it will take you to a page that lists some general information about our interest groups and, if you scroll down the page it will show a list of groups that looks like this:

Group List			
Art Appreciation 1	Monday am Alnwick, Monday	Art Appreciation 2	Thursday am Luz, Thursday 10:00 am
Blue Remembrance 1 & 2	Monday am Newark, 2nd Monday, County Ho	Bird Watching	Monday am Monthly, 2nd Monday
Book Group 1	Thursday am Kearney, 2nd Thursday	Book Group 3	Wed, Monday am Monthly, 1st Wednesday 10:00
Book Group 2	Thursday am Kearney, 2nd Thursday	Book Group 4	Thursday pm 2nd Thursday 9:00-10:30
Book Group The Omniticks	Monday am Hind, Monday, 14th - 18:00am	Down and South	Thursday pm Monthly, 1st members' choice
Creative Circle	Thursday pm Evening, 2nd Garden, Del	Coptic Crosswords	Thursday am
Easy Walking Group	Thursday am 12:00 - 11:30am	First Downers Group	Tuesday am Monthly, 2nd Tuesday 10:00
Family History	Monday am Evening, 2:30am	Family History 2	Thursday am

This list shows the group name and when and where the group meets.

3. Click on the group name, e.g. Geology and you will see a new page that includes more information about the group including the name of the convenor.



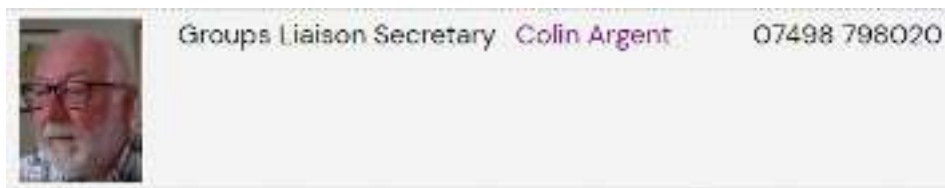
Geology

Convenor: Adrian
 Click [Geology](#) to send an email

In this case it includes the convenors telephone number but for many groups there will only be an email option that is triggered by clicking on the group name shown in blue.

How to access interest group information on the Tynedale u3a website - Continued

- If you are interested in joining a group contact the group convenor first. Please do not turn up to a meeting unannounced.
- If you have a problem, or are unable to join a 'full' group go back to the 'Tynedale u3a': Home page and click on 'Contact us'. This will show a list of all Committee members with a telephone number, like this:



If you then click on the Committee Member's name a new screen will appear that looks like this. You can use this screen to send an email – in this case to Colin the 'Group Fixer'.

A screenshot of a web form titled "Message for Colin Argent". The form has a blue header bar with the title. Below the header, there are three main sections:

- A section with the prompt "Enter your own name and e-mail address:" containing two input fields: "Your name?" and "Your e-mail?".
- A large text area with the prompt "Enter your message or query:".
- A "Send Message" button at the bottom right of the form.

- Some group convenors also list the groups programme on the events page. If you return to the 'Tynedale u3a: Home' page and then click on 'What's on' you will find a list of the current social events. If you scroll down that page you will find a programme list for some individual groups.

Dates for your Diary		Link to events in date order
Meetings		
Tue Jul 4th	Cragside	
Outings		
Tue Aug 1st	Coach trip to Edinburgh Botanic Gardens	
Social Events		
Sat Jul 22nd	40th Anniversary Celebrations at the Mart Saturday July 22nd at 2.00pm Come and join us for Afternoon tea While this event is being subsidised, we are asking members to pay £5 per person. We believe the tea will be substantial, so we advise you not to have lunch.	
Geology		
Fri Jul 21st	Permian rocks on the Tyne/Wear and East Durham coast	
Fri Aug 18th	Gililand Gorge and Crammel Linn	
Wed Sep 20th -Fri Sep 22nd	2 nights/3 days residential field trip to Malham in Yorkshire Dales.	
Landscape		
Mon Jun 26th	Field trip to Heshamshire Common Led by Veronica and Steve. A pub lunch will be followed by an exploration of some of the sites described in 'The making of the Heshamshire Landscape'.	
Mon Jul 24th	Field trip to Bellingham Led by Wendy Lunch at Bellingham followed by a talk (and a short walk) provided by volunteers at the Bellingham Heritage Centre, on mining, ironworks, the railway and renewables.	

The Classic Series at the Sage Gateshead 2023/2024

Many of you have shown an interest in the Backstage at the Sage tours that we have organised this year (we will be running another one in the autumn) so I thought I would draw your attention to the new programme which is full of brilliant concerts [Royal Northern Sinfonia | Sage Gateshead](#).



If you are not keen on going on your own or are worried about transport and parking, you might like to know that there are many members who use the bus. Unfortunately, the bus doesn't operate for all concerts but when it does it starts from Chollerford and picks up at Wall, Acomb, Hexham, Eastwood Grange and Corbridge.

The programme for this year has buses running on the

To All Group Convenors - Website Familiarisation Session

I wrote to you all several weeks ago to ask whether you would be interested in a familiarisation session on our website. I have now made a provisional booking to run this session in one of the meeting rooms in the Abbey between 10:00 and 12:00 on Friday 28th July.

If you have already expressed an interest you should have received confirmation from me. If you would like to attend the session just let me know.

Have a Laugh!

Due to a last minute change of content a white space had to be filled. One of the great joys of the Tynedale u3a is that, at the monthly meetings or on group outings, there is always laughter and banter. So, here is the newsletter editor's contribution to make you laugh or groan....

1. Just ate a frozen apple. Hardcore.
2. Bought a litre of Tipp-Ex. Big mistake.
3. I stayed up all night to see where then sun went.
Then it dawned on me.
4. I've started a business building yachts in my attic
Sails are going through the roof.

He promises this will not be a regular feature.....



The Group News section this month has a great selection of shared adventures, interesting information and wonderful photographs.

So, Convenors and Members please do share the activities of your group with all of us.

Putting the World Right Group

Radio 4's Americast programme took time out to look at Conspiracy Theories <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001mcp8>. Including the excellent John Ronson, it looked at across the pond and how tens of millions of Americans still think the Democrats stole the last election. Here in Britain, we have the anti-vaxers and all evidence is discarded in favour of a pre-existing belief. Sad that so many refuse to look at the authority of the information source or dismiss objective facts as 'your truth'. Locally though we have good news as our committee have been found not to be David Ickes Lizard People.

The Moral Maze on the 7th June revealed the many dimensions of Football on both an individual and community level. See BBC Sounds <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001mlrc>. The discussion contributed to what it is to be a human as it brings out a fierce tribalism in many and can contribute to our sense of identity, who we are and are not. The corporatisation of the game was explored and there were early thoughts on whether we've become too sanitised in Britain, a topic worthy of further conversation.

Mike Foster

Northern Rocks Group

Our field trip this month was to Dukesfield to examine the remains of one of the region's lead smelting mills, an industry that was the backbone of the south Northumberland economy. It processed lead ore called galena that was mined in the Pennine hills to the south, into ingots of lead. The dramatic arches are believed to hold the flues that were supposed to carry the very poisonous fumes away from human habitation but also enabled valuable minor metals such as silver and cadmium to condense out on the walls of the flues. These metals were then recovered by unfortunate workers whose job it was to crawl through the flues to collect it, their lives at constant risk of lead/cadmium poisoning.



GROUP NEWS

The Environment Group - Down on the Farm

The Environment Group visited a traditional upland farm this month, in the West Allen Valley – except there is very little that is ‘traditional’ about the farming practices here.

Our hosts were Richard and Jessica, who took on the lease of the farm some two years ago. They each have full-time day jobs, as well as two teenage-girls to raise.

Richard told us about his work with the Forestry Commission, while the rain, although welcome after such a prolonged dry period, drizzled down outside. His work involves encouraging local farmers to take up the new grants available for tree and hedgerow planting, notwithstanding the bureaucratic complexities farmers now face with such applications through the new Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMS). These grants are among those that will be, by autumn this year, the only source of farming subsidies from the Government.

Richard is also able to advise on existing trees and wooded areas. He said that he was always at pains to explain how mature trees not only benefit nature and provide carbon capture, but also protect livestock, offering shelter in winter and shade in summer. Livestock can also graze on the trees to access their medicinal properties, reducing the need for food additives. “It’s a win, win situation,” he said.

With her day job as an ecologist, Jessica is more concerned with the built environment – or its development at least. She is engaged to survey development sites and report on existing wildlife and habitats, before recommending how nature can be better served. The aim is to improve habitats and biodiversity with a 10% uplift on existing. This might involve including areas for natural ponds and wildflowers. Even single tree plantings contribute something to the scoring system applied.

The rain eased off and we were able to walk around the farm outside. We saw where Richard has established a small orchard, planted trees, and where more hedgerows are planned. A wildflower meadow was bursting with colour and we identified yellow rattle, ox-eye daisies, yarrow and poppies all served by, and serving, bees in the nearby hives.

With the farm registered under the ELM scheme at the ‘Sustainable Farming Incentive’ level, the focus is on soil health. This means fertilisers and insecticides are not used. That’s where the animals come in! No livestock is kept that hasn’t a dual purpose. ‘Food production is considered a by-product,’ Richard said. And so pigs are used to clear and turn the land to prepare for subsequent planting, and highland cattle browse the undergrowth spreading seeds and ‘natural’fertiliser, ridding the higher slopes of reeds. Alpacas and ‘fancy sheep’ are kept for their wool – does anyone want to take up spinning?



Bottle-feeding a Highland Cattle calf



Richard brings a day-old Alpaca to show us



Richard holding a young kid

GROUP NEWS

Geology Group

Steve's Geology Army on Manoeuvres again!

The Geology group trip this June was the first of two planned residential excursions for the summer period of 2023. After the six indoor sessions running from October 2022 through to March 2023, it was time for the group to get on the road and look at some rocks. Day trips had already taken place in April and May with great success - so now we were ready for an extended residential trip to Westmorland.

Group member, devoted Geologist and superb communicator on the subject, Steve Rozario, had already made a detailed reconnaissance of where we were headed and, with support and encouragement from other members, a detailed campaign plan was drawn up that took in almost a dozen sites of interest. The residential trip to Bute in September last year, led by Steve, had been a memorable outing and we were ready for another well planned manoeuvre.

A little army was assembled (15 in number including Steve) and met at Brough Castle Coffee shop and Ice Cream Parlour for the start of the two day manoeuvre. On the first day we looked at aeolian and alluvial sandstones and conglomerates, a Permian/Carboniferous unconformity, limestone pavements and typical karst features – climbing up Beacon Hill for a fine views over Great Asby Scar SSSI and NNR to the east and south to the distant Howgill Fells.

The weather was sunny and warm all day, but we took our time and enjoyed the wonderful countryside in June. Lunch was taken as a picnic at the scenic gorge in the upper reaches of the river Eden near Nateby, and we bivouacked in style that night at the Westmorland Hotel at Tebay .

On day two, we set off from the hotel to go back four hundred or so million years and look at Silurian turbidites that had been extensively fractured and folded. Then there was a stone circle largely consisting of Shap granite glacial erratics, Carboniferous limestone with fossils, an unconformity of upper Devonian conglomerate sitting on lower Palaeozoic basement rocks and, finally, a hypabyssal intrusion related to Shap granite with large xenoliths of Skiddaw slate at Fairy Rocks near Shap Abbey. We had taken lunch at the very grand Shap Wells Hotel where Open University summer schools in Geology are held – so the management are quite used to armies of ardent geologists tramping around. The unconformity just mentioned, (one of three examined on this trip), was close to the hotel and, as we crossed a damp field full of Northern Marsh Orchids, a Cuckoo was heard in the woods nearby. The weather was again warm and sunny all day. When we finally finished our campaign and started to disperse at Shap Abbey car park, we were all ready for home, feeling totally fulfilled and happy with our trip.

Thank you, Steve. Wonderful Westmorland – well worth our visit.
Adrian Woolley, Geology Group Convenor



GROUP NEWS

Wildlife Group

Our regular meeting visited the coast at Warkworth for a birdwatching and plant hunting walk. With Alison's expert guidance we found about 40 species of bird including creches of eider ducklings from Coquet Island bobbing on the high tide in the estuary and ringed plover camouflaged along the strand line on the shore. Out at sea we watched sandwich terns & gulls fishing, along with puffins & guillemot resting on the water. We had super views of a sedge warbler singing from a bush and were mesmerised for quite a while by the sound of a grasshopper warbler in strident song along the dune edge, eventually revealing itself as it flew to a new shelter. A rare find and Alison's bird of the day.

Walking between dune and saltmarsh we spotted and identified with Jenny's help, several dandelion type flowers including the large *Tragopodon pratense* with its impressive beak-like closed flowerheads as each day they demonstrate the nickname, "jack-go-to-bed-at-noon" before eventually forming into large architectural seedhead spheres. On the saltmarsh we found several salt tolerant plants, including Sea Purslane, Sea Pink, Sea Spurrey and glasswort, then explored the dunes to find some characteristic but uncommon plants in the wild. These ranged from the delicate Maiden Pink, the tall spikey Vipers Bugloss, Wild Thyme and Biting Stonecrop as well as the prickly but delicately leaved Burnet Rose which helps hold the dunes together.

A bonus this month was an evening visit to see early flowering orchids in a local hay meadow, with Monica's guidance we found early purple orchids, the tall twin-leaved Twaebblade and the tiny pale-green flowered Frog Orchids. As we walked we disturbed a few evening moths, identifying the Chimney Sweepers and a Yellow Shell moth. Looking at hedgerow flowers we heard how a local child, asked to describe a wild flower to their classmates said how the greater stitchwort had petals that looked just like rabbits ears - I couldn't have put it better myself!



Garden Visit Group at Slaterfield House, Simonburn

The house and garden is part of Nunwick estate and the owner and host on that day was Mrs Allgood



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Membership

493 Members

10 Associates



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Anita Portsmouth

Veronica Harding

Alison Howey

Next issue of the newsletter

We very much welcome written contributions and photos from groups **and** individual members.

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Tim O'Brien

Email address: tyneu3anleditor@gmail.com

Thank you and look forward to hearing from you.....

DEADLINE for NEXT NEWSLETTER

As the newsletter is not published in August, the deadline for the September one is **August 24th**

We do hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Newsletter

Please join us on the **Tynedale u3a Facebook** page to keep up to date with information on events, interesting comments from members and engaging photos.