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Monthly Meeting, Tuesday 7 June 2022 at 2pm in the Great Hall, Hexham Abbey - and on Zoom

Topic: Tyne River Trust

Speaker: Jenny Elliott



Created in 2004 to mitigate the effect of the construction of the second Tyne Tunnel on the river's ecosystem, Tyne Rivers Trust is the only environmental charity dedicated to looking after the Tyne rivers.

The work they do aims to tackle the effects of climate change and support the wildlife and landscape of the Tyne rivers.

The Trust looks to improve the fish population, tackle invasive species, reintroduce water voles, measure the rivers' health, and generally look after

the region's rivers from Alston and Kielder to Tynemouth.

The Trust aims to achieve this by working with local communities and applying scientific knowledge and environmental skills.

Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.

Events

Garden party

Our first big social event since the pandemic is taking place on Tuesday 14 June. The garden party will be held at Corbridge Cricket Club from 2 to 4pm. It will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new people, as well as enjoying tea and cakes, music, quots, croquet and more.

This event has proved very popular, so there are few places left. Book now to avoid disappointment.

For more information and to reserve a place contact Sarah Bowen at tyneu3aevents@yahoo.com, or on 07926394334.



Groups liaison update

French Conversation

Some new u3a members have expressed an interest in a French conversation group, so we are in the process of launching a new group. This could be of interest to French speakers not yet enrolled in one of our groups or even to members of the existing French groups who need more conversation. If you are interested in this new group, please get in touch. The first step will be to organise a get-together of interested parties to discuss how the group will develop.

The contact is Jennifer Graham, jimandjengraham@gmail.com.

Wine Appreciation

The wine appreciation group now has space for two additional members. Ideally they are looking for two people who can collaborate, e.g. in presenting wine information to the group. If you are interested, please contact the convenors (contact details on the group page of the Tynedale u3a website) for more information.

Railway Studies

This group seems to have hit the buffers. This is a last call for any interested parties to let me know so we can generate a new head of steam for the group to continue.

N.B. I make no apology for the dreadful style of that announcement!

Beginners Spanish

Are you interested in joining a new group for those beginning to get to grips with Spanish?

If you have an interest in any of these groups feel free to contact me, Colin Argent, 'Group Fixer'. Contact details are on the website.

Group member updates

Many thanks to all the convenors who sent me an updated group members list. As usual, it helped identify a few issues such as incorrect email addresses, lost membership applications and associate members not registered with us. These requests can appear tiresome but the information is needed to run the u3a effectively. Thanks again!

Wanted: Ideas for new groups

Many of our group activities have been severely limited over the past two years thanks to all the Covid restrictions and, more recently, due to concern over the risk of infection. I think it is now time we adopted the philosophy in the phrase 'hang spring cleaning' and get on with doing things – TOGETHER!



The whole ethos of u3a is geared to making sure none of our members are left feeling like the little guy in the bottom of the picture.

Covid has contributed to the demise of a number of our interest groups such that we now only have about 40 active groups. Most of us will have been on the receiving end of three, if not four, Covid jabs so now is the time to think again about rejuvenating our group activities.

We have over 400 members so, however esoteric you imagine your specific interests may be there is a good chance there is someone else out there pursuing the same fetish, pardon me interest.

Over to you for ideas.

Colin Argent

Group Fixer

groupfixertynedale@btinternet.com

Group news and activities

Walking with Dogs Group

The newly formed Walking with Dogs group is already going from strength to strength and currently boasts seven members. We also have five regular dog members who enjoy meeting up with one another, and last time we also welcomed an extra doggie visitor whose owner was suffering from Covid.

We meet fortnightly at 2pm and usually walk for a couple of hours. Once a month we have our 'home base' walk at Tyne Green and alternate this with a different destination. So far, we've been exploring Corbridge and then Allendale.

New members are very welcome to join us and sample our group - more information, including contact details, on the Tynedale u3a website.



Mon Richards

Art Appreciation Group

Having moved to Hexham just over a year ago, a local friend asked me to join her at the Art Appreciation group. The meetings take place on alternate Mondays at 10.30am in the Wilfred room at the Abbey. Arriving earlier makes time for coffee/tea and chats. Covid restrictions have meant that some meetings have been on Zoom only, but where possible we have attended meetings in person, while some members have continued on Zoom.

I didn't study art/art history at school but have always enjoyed visiting art galleries. Participating in this group has led to a whole new chapter for me observing all sorts of wonderful works of art. It's basically given me 'a new set of eyes'. A little background knowledge about the artist, the techniques and the period of history of the painting means observing with a closer look at detail and a greater understanding.

My recent experience of researching and presenting a talk on the Glasgow Boys with another member has been really enjoyable, though a steep learning curve. We arranged several planning meetings in each other's homes and opened up 'PowerPoint' on our computers, for the first time in many years in my case. We managed with the help of the internet, and the advice of a couple of more 'tech-savvy' members, to achieve our goal, and learnt so much on the way.

Fortunately for me, a pre-planned visit to Glasgow for a music festival allowed me to visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where there's a permanent exhibition of about 60 Glasgow Boys paintings. I realised that having started to research this topic, I could enjoy their work so much more. Needless to say, I loved the exhibition, and hope my enthusiasm was evident in the presentation.



The druids: Bringing in the mistletoe by George Henry and Edward Hornel



Hard at it by James Guthrie

Every meeting has been so educational and enjoyable. There's always time for questions and discussion. The facilitating skills of the organisers and the friendliness of the group, as well as being amongst so many knowledgeable participants, has been a joy. I'm looking forward to the next series of meetings in the Wilfred room or on Zoom, which includes presentations about Haida monumental art, Jules Pascin, Mathias Grunewald, and architects who made history.

Aileen Duncan



Anna Pavlova by John Lavery

Wildlife Group

Greetings from the fledgeling Wildlife group. We are currently a small group but enthusiastic about all things wildlife and would like to grow. We are planning our programme for the rest of the year into early 2023, including indoor and outdoor meetings to share our interests and get to know each other.

On Monday 13 June we are meeting near Corbridge to visit the Dilston Physic Garden with over 800 medicinal plants. We will learn how plants that grow wild in different parts of the world are used to benefit medicine and wellbeing.

In July we will visit The Spetchells near Prudhoe. These mounds of chalk waste, the by-product of 20th century industries, now support a flora and insect fauna more typical of southern England at this unique site in Northumberland.

Topics for the autumn and into the new year include USA state flowers and their protection, and finding wildlife in the Camargue area of Provence, southern France.

We will visit the Washington Wetland Centre early in the new year when the waterbirds are in their most colourful plumage.

Members are welcome to share their own interests and make suggestions for meetings and outings. Please contact Jenny by clicking [Wildlife](#) to send an email if you would like to join us.



Visit to Kirkleatham Walled Garden, Redcar

Thursday 30 June 2022 at 10.30 am and 2.00 pm

In conjunction with Redcar and Cleveland Council and elior, Northumbria u3a has organised a fascinating visit, packed with interesting plant and gardening topics, to learn while having fun.

Morning Session (limit of 30 attendees): registration from 10am.

Guided tour of garden with free time to wander and explore from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Afternoon Session (limit of 30 attendees): registration from 1.30 pm.

Guided tour of garden with free time to wander and explore from 2pm to 4pm.

Each garden tour will be led by head gardener Yvonne Hartnett and her team, and will include 15 attendees. Numbers have been restricted to ensure a quality experience.

There will be a fee of £8.00, payable at the garden pay desk, which includes a free hot drink during the visit, free entry to the garden for one year from the day of the visit, and the expert-led guided tour.

Louise and Denice from Saltburn District u3a look forward to greeting you.

To reserve (a) place/s, please contact Kelvin Rushworth by email on kelvinregnat@outlook.com.

PLEASE STATE:

Morning or Afternoon Session

Name/s of attendee/s

Email address/es of attendee/s

Name of u3a/s

FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT TO ATTENDEES ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT

Your committee

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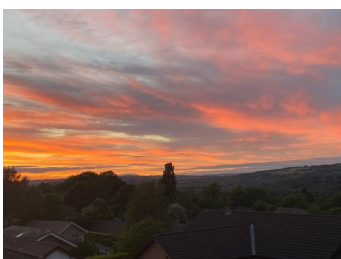
Newsletter Editor

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Membership

We currently have 438 members, including eight associate members.



Tynedale u3a is a registered charity (number 515733).

welcome

A very warm welcome to Brian Earl, Patricia Burrige, Rita Kemp, Elizabeth Beardsley, Inga Nightingale, Gillian Law, Anne Porter and Celia Burney, who have recently joined our u3a.

Dates for your diary

Monthly meetings - June to December 2022

All meetings start at 2pm

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|--------------|---|
| 5 July: | Professor Mike Bentley, Living, working and doing scientific research in Antarctica |
| 6 September: | Tony Flynn, The Brasilia of the North? |
| 4 October: | Richard Young, Buildings of Northumberland |
| 1 November: | John Richards, Flora of Northumberland |
| 6 December: | Chris Pollock, Plants that kill you |

Next issue of the newsletter

The next issue of the newsletter will be published in July 2022.

We welcome contributions from groups and individual members.

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Alicia Cresswell, by 23 June. Email address: tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com.

Thank you