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Monthly Meeting Tuesday 6 June at 2pm

in the Great Hall at Hexham Abbey

Topic Norumberland Greyhound Rescue

The Greyhound Trust was founded in 1975, they have found over 100,000 loving homes for greyhounds. Each year, we home approximately 3,500 retired racing greyhounds and help hundreds more, but there are many more that still need us.



Coffee Morning for New and Recent Members

Friday June 9th at 10.30

in the **Prior's Room at Hexham Abbey**

If you have joined recently and have not been to one of these before please do come along. It is an opportunity to meet other new members, to hear more about what the Tynedale u3a does and listen to the brief presentations from committee members

And if you know anyone interested in joining, it is a great opportunity for them to learn about the u3a; they are very welcome to come along for a "taster"



We're inviting you to a special birthday celebration.....our CELEBRATION PARTY

... Tynedale u3a is 40 years old this year! It has grown from a very small group of people with great enthusiasm to the wonderfully successful organisation we have today with almost 500 members participating in 53 group activities and events. That is a success we should celebrate.

Our celebration party will be fun with afternoon tea on Saturday 22nd July, 2.00 pm, in the Hexham Mart. We are asking for a small contribution of £5 towards the cost of the afternoon tea; Tynedale u3a will pay the remainder. You are advised that it will be a very substantial afternoon tea, so have a light lunch, or none at all!

To book your place email Margaret Earl, email tu3aevents@yahoo.com or call 01434 689123

To pay the £5.00 per person by Bank Transfer the details are -

Sort Code	20-40-09	Account Number	60601209
Reference	Your surname and 40B	(if you are paying for two people with the same surname add x 2)	

Also, cheques can be given to Margaret Earl at the monthly meeting or sent to - Margaret Earl, West Neuk, Humshaugh, NE46 4AG

Note: You can also book for the birthday party on line at <https://u3asites.org.uk/tynedale/events>



A Baking Opportunity

All the best birthday parties have special cake. We would like one too, after all we will be celebrating being 40 years old! Sadly, we're like Cinderella a bit disappointed because we haven't got a cake maker.

There must be someone out of our huge membership who would like the opportunity to be the star baker. Is it you? We will pay for all the ingredients and you can go as wild as you like with the design, outrageous or traditional.

If you would like this once in a lifetime opportunity please email Wendy Dale at tyneu3achair1@btinternet.com

The Sun Has Got His Hat On Hip, Hip, Hurray and Tynedale u3a members are going out to play.....

We have some day excursions to help you get out and about to enjoy the summer. Travel will be in a luxury coach, picking up in Chollerford and Hexham.



Bamburgh and Seahouses, Tuesday 25th July

A simply beautiful part of the North East coast. You will have time to explore both towns, eat the “must have” delicious fish and chips, sit on the beach or visit the castle.

Cost £19.50

Skipton & Canal Cruise, Wednesday 9th August

Explore the beautiful market town of Skipton with a blissful hour cruising along Skipton’s canal. You won’t want to come home!

Cost £33.50

Hawes and Wensleydale Creamery, Tuesday 15th August

A leisurely journey to Hawes where you will have free time to explore the town before going on 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 cheese being crafted.

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

Cost £29.50

To book contact Margaret Earl at tu3aevents@yahoo.com or call her on 01434 689123

Off The Wall 10th May

It was a successful day, a friendly atmosphere, much sharing, fun and learning.

Over a 100 u3a members took part in what has been called a Festival of Learning at The Sill. There were 4 interesting talks, two by academics Dr Rob Collins and Dr Tony Wilmott, who have spent their entire careers studying Hadrian’s Wall, one by Alan Leslie on the Antonine Wall and one by Dr Andrew Birley director of excavations at the Vindolanda Trust. The day also included workshops, guided walks, cycle rides and tours of the spectacular remains of the Vindolanda Roman fort. You might have seen it reported in the Hexham Courant.



Six members attended from Tynedale and three of whom deserve a special thanks for their contribution to the day. John Sandiford played a significant role on the working party and on the day itself by leading 2 tours around Vindolanda which was no mean feat. Sally Hewitt and Doreen Nesbit guided a short walk from the Sill to Sycamore Gap.

Wendy Dale



Can You Tell a Good Story....?

At this time of remembering our history, it would be good for us to share some of our stories of our u3a Tynedale experiences over the past 40 years.

So Members and Convenors please do email Wendy Dale (see link below) or go on to our Facebook page and let us know about those funny moments or arrangements that went awry or any other events that will be of interest and amusement.

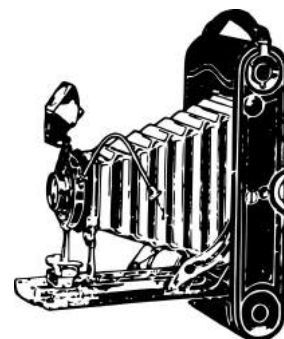
A Photo is Worth a Thousand Words...

Do you have any photographs you would like to share with other members?

Perhaps from group meetings, outings or events and activities that show the wide range of interests that Tynedale u3a members have been involved in over the past 40 years.

If so, please let us know and we can arrange to have them scanned to be put on display at the birthday celebration or in the newsletter.

Please email Wendy Dale at tyneu3achair1@btinternet.com or pass the information to any Committee member



Members Memories

Recollections from Seán Mac Nialluis

Peter (RIP), a former Chair who was married to Jenny - also a former Chair - and who, sadly, has dementia now. He told a few of us about a former (male) Secretary who fell out with the rest of the Committee. They had difficulty getting the Minutes back from him. When he finally handed over a box, they found it was full of ashes - he'd burnt everything!

There was a 'posh' member called Madge (RIP) in the Poetry Group; it was she who conceived a "hat" day when Bill Walton was chair. Madge always sat to the right of Ray Tully (RIP) the Convenor. Ray and she both liked tunes from shows, so some poetry sessions ended with Ray singing a show tune. Madge always joined in with gusto (they knew all the words). The rest of us joined in as best we could. We missed them hugely when first Madge and later Ray died.

Ray and a friend of his used to run the Book stall to raise funds when we used Trinity Methodist Church.

The u3a has been, and is, a great blessing in my life.

Members Memories

Marion Poad reflects on what u3a has meant to her...

Since becoming a member of u3a I can honestly say it has opened up many doors to many things and, most importantly, to interests and hobbies I had never thought I would be able to revive again from years gone by. In my case it was art and joining the Watercolour Art Group, I started drawing and painting again after a drought when bringing up my children who were aged 7 and 8, on my own after the death of my husband. Then looking after grandchildren on some days, babysitting etc. which most members will be all too familiar with.

The main thing for me out of all this has been the wonderful friendships which have evolved from a group with a common interest. Because of COVID, technology gave us the opportunity to join WhatsApp and Zoom meetings.

I am also a member of the Out and About Group and we continue to Zoom each week, meet for coffee regularly and occasionally lunch. The Art Group keeps WhatsApp going even though we meet weekly. Being able to join the monthly u3a meetings via Zoom is a great asset if you are not always physically able to get to the Great Hall. Desert Island Discs is also a great innovation as we can hear about interesting lives various members have led and the choices of music has been very varied and enjoyable. Many congratulations are due to all those who make the u3a so accessible to everyone.

At the risk of repeating myself, it is the friendships which develop from shared interests that is the best thing the u3a has given me, and I'm sure many others, in our "third age".

Jenny Harrington describes the early days of Tynedale u3a

We both retired from our teaching jobs in 1996 and moved to Wall in Northumberland. I really loved my last job teaching Classics to adults. Interesting people who gave as much as they received. What was I going to do now? I feared becoming bored. No new lessons to prepare, no new topics to explore. I had never heard of the U3A but we saw adverts for the local U3A and went to an open day which showcased all the activities on offer. Dennis signed up for the Science group and I showed interest in the Bridge group. We both wanted to join the book group. Somebody from the committee helped us to get this going. she stressed how important it was to have some ground rules. We decided that we must limit discussion to the book and not indulge in gossip until the tea break. I'm very proud that we stuck to this. We also decided everyone must participate and lead the discussion. However we did come to a natural end after Covid. In that time we had read over 20 books and I think it's important to realise that groups can come and go

We had both shown an interest in the travel group and soon after we had a visit from Guy and Margret Jacot who were leading lights on this committee We quickly learned you do not say no to these two. And so we signed up for a holiday in Slovenia, the first of many lovely trips abroad and we were introduced to the joys of group travel. As well as foreign trips the committee organised many breaks in this country including walking in the Highlands which was combined with visits to Pitlochry theatre.

As well as the travel group there were walking groups. We first went out with them on a glorious early Autumn day on a circle of about 5 miles through woods near Shotley Bridge. Even better we were told these walks often ended up with a pub lunch.

So bored? Definitely not. Instead new friends and new interests. A friend once remarked that U3A was the next best thing since sliced bread. I think she was right.

Members Memories

Margaret Bentley Describes the Involvement of Three Generations

One of the very early members of Tynedale Leisure Learning, the original name of Tynedale u3a, was Miriam Latimer, mother of current member Margaret Bentley. Miriam moved here in 1976 to be close to Margaret and family and is thought to have been a member from the start.

A u3a newsletter recorded that Miriam joined a beginners German group in 1986 as she wanted to pick up enough language to “get by” on a trip to Switzerland. She sent a postcard to the group with news of her adventures - in German, proving her catchphrase that “it’s never too late to learn a language.” Miriam also belonged to French and music appreciation groups and was a founder member of an alternative religions group. The group studied and discussed the philosophies and beliefs of other religions of the world.

Margaret recalls that her mother always joined everything, it was part of her background. Miriam changed schools a lot as a child and didn’t have the opportunity to pass exams but, as Margaret explains “she went on making up for it all her life. She was always going to WEA classes, WI etc. ... She was a joiner, so the u3a, she loved it, she loved learning.” Her obituary noted that she “was truly modest about her undoubted gift for friendship”.

Margaret too values the sociability of u3a, and the variety of groups. Since she joined in the late 1990’s groups she has taken part in include local history, singing for pleasure, and birding, and setting up the environment group with her husband, Richard. Margaret says that in the u3a “people who don’t think they can ever, ever present something, they can. And you don’t have to do it in a formal way, ... you don’t have to have been to a university.”

If you’re thinking that ‘Bentley’ rings a bell, Margaret and Richard’s son Mike, a Professor of Antarctic Geoscience at Durham University, has given two fascinating talks to our u3a in the last year on working in the Antarctic and climate change.

What are your earliest memories of our u3a? What groups have you belonged to that no longer exist?

Your Newsletter Editors - Past and Present

These are the Editors who have kept members informed over the many years on the activities of Tynedale u3a, including the difficult time of the lockdown.

So, as part of this recollections section of the Newsletter it seems appropriate to include the group photo...



Kevin Stevens Sue Charlton Alicia Cresswell Tim O'Brien



Members Memories

Margret Jacot and Her First Encounter with Tynedale u3a

Summer 1985. My husband had just been relocated from Cambridge to the Ministry of Agriculture offices in Newcastle and Carlisle. This sadly meant I had to give up my German teaching job in schools, lecturer in college and adult education and followed Guy to the North.

We were house hunting in Hexham and looked at Hackwood Park, not yet completed. A stranger came out "When you have finished looking, would you like to come in for a cup of tea?" What a surprise and friendly welcome to the North.

This lady turned out to be BETTY BAMBER, one of the founder members and driving forces behind launching a new U3A branch just over a year ago, the first in the North of England. Within a year it had already attracted forty members.

Being relatively small everyone knew each other; everyone joined most groups and took it in turns as a convenor or to serve on the committee. A lot of social networking went on and support ready when someone was not well.

New interest groups grew out of existing ones like Travel, Botany and Geology which I all joined. The same happened with the language groups,

There was an opportunity for me. So, I straight away offered to run a weekly German session drawing members from French and wanted to know how it felt to learn myself Italian, French and Russian to be at the receiving end.

How ever did I find time to also join Music, Comparative Religion and Art Appreciation.

If you had a good idea, you offered to start a group yourself.

Betty and I with a few others first launched the walking and travel group and when Betty became ill, I took over for 25 years with walking weeks away in this country and all over Europe, Island hopping, exploring the Alps.

Most exciting eleven of us travelled to the old Soviet Union. That's when our Russian language came in useful, like the beginners German group I especially launched for Austria.

Looking back almost thirty-eight years ago I am forever grateful to have found this amazing organisation.

Thanks, to the warm welcome and companionship within the then called Tynedale Leisure Learning, we soon settled, loved it here so much that on retirement decided to stay in the Hexham area.

Please do send us **Your** memories of your time with Tynedale u3a

GROUP NEWS

A look back at groups

As part of the preparation for our 40th Anniversary celebration on July 22nd we have been looking back at how our u3a has changed over the years. As you would expect, interest groups come and go but some topics, such as languages just keep going. Here is a list of groups that have come and gone over the last forty years.

Archaeology, Architectural History, Arts and antiques, Astronomy, Ballroom Dancing, Botany, Bridge, Canoeing, Church Architecture, Comparative Religion, Computers, Cookery, Drawing, Embroidery, Exploring Art, EXTEND, Gentle Exercise, History on the ground, Hook and Prog, IT, Life Stories, Local History, Luncheon, Museum Visits, Philosophy, Railways Studies, Research, Singing for Pleasure, Sketching, Social History, Society and Culture, Theatre, Travel, Ukulele, Weaving

Most notable of these is the now defunct Travel Group. This group was particularly active and organised several holidays every year throughout mainland Europe and all over the UK.

If there are any topics in that list that stimulates your interest get in touch and we can explore how to restart that activity.

Update Sessions

Several convenors have expressed an interest in a briefing session on the Tynedale web site and we will be fixing a date for this in the near future. If you are a convenor and would like to add your name to the list, let me know.

One member has expressed an interest in getting help with putting together presentations in Powerpoint, or the Apple equivalent, so she can make a contribution to group activities. Are there any more members out there who would like help to start making presentations? Let me know and we will try to organise something.

Landscape Group

The May Outing

This isn't about Landscape – it's about language. "Outing" has acquired a second meaning. I just wish to clarify that no-one in the Landscape group was "outed" – we just had a nice walk. As is the custom of the Landscape group, we first fortified ourselves with lunch at the Riverdale Hall hotel before adjourning to Falstone and a walk to and then around the lakeshore of Kielder Water. In the course of the walk we looked at the development of Falstone, the site of the long closed Falstone mine, two of the Kielder sculptures and of course Kielder Water and dam.

The photo was taken beside the Wave Chamber, Chris Drury's 1996 camera obscura sculpture. Unfortunately, the weather gods weren't kind and the grey light did not provide a good subject even though we had taken our own blackout curtain. Anyone who plans to visit in the near future should be warned that the door to the Wave Chamber has been destroyed and without a blackout the camera obscura doesn't work.



After considering the general enormousness of Kielder dam we made our way back to Falstone riverside. Unfortunately we were over-running slightly so not all of the group visited The Stell, Colin Wilbourn's charming interpretation of a sheepfold. It was installed in 2006 and the cushions are still as comfortable as they were in 2006.

GROUP NEWS

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

Our German Group is small but perfectly formed. We are from a variety of backgrounds, be it Engineering, Construction, the Military (RAF and Army) and Education. What we share, however, is a love of language, of all kinds, but principally German, Some of the knowledge was attained at school or higher education and with others through working for German companies or further polished with the army in Germany.

We admire the structure of the language and the way it is a little complex, how for instance, unlike English, you frequently will only find the verb at the end of the sentence, sometimes after a very long sentence! Some of the stories we read are sprinkled with humour, yes humour, and one in particular features a young scamp who could be Germany's Just William.

We also find it interesting to compare the German News Broadcasts we listen to (Deutsche Welle) with what we hear on our news. We appear to learn more from these extracts than we do from British broadcasts as they tend to be more wide ranging, whilst leaving the listeners free to form their own opinion. Becoming part of the group has made firm friends of comparative strangers who on occasion now meet socially.

We are a little restricted where we currently meet, in the Garden Coffee House in Hexham, but there is always room for one more.

Should anyone wish to join us please contact one of the joint convenors beforehand.

Peter Coxon, Joint Convenor

Walking with Dogs

There's a certain fellowship amongst those who own and love dogs. Lots of the time you commune alone with your dog as you deal with their daily needs and share your regular exercise. Nonetheless it's great when you and your dog can both socialise, courtesy of a collective dog walk.

This is what our Walking with Dogs group is designed to foster. Twice a month we get together; the dogs enjoy each other's company, while their owners can exercise their pooch in the company of their dog-walking friends.

This is what we did last Tuesday on a classic circular walk from Allen Banks NT car park along both sides of the river. It was a lovely spring day and as we strolled along we could gaze down through a veil of pale lime-green foliage to the sparkling water below. Part-way along we came to a little beach, where the river has been partially dammed to create the perfect paddling pool for dogs. Our path was strewn with lovely spring flowers – dog violets, bluebells, wild garlic, red campion and bright blue speedwell, not to mention the occasional purple orchid and lemon primroses. The natural world seemed fresh and new, there was even a grey heron to delight us as it flew up from the river to perch further along the bankside.

To round off our delightful walk we managed to reach Bardon Mill just in time to share a cuppa and a cake at the village shop – a great way to round off a very pleasant afternoon.

Mon

GROUP NEWS

Environment Group

Our group met to explore some aspects of the relationship between economics and the environment.

Modern economics seems to have become more and more focussed on mathematics, forgetting perhaps that in earlier times economists such as John Stuart Mill and John Maynard Keynes were very clear that there is an ethical or moral side to economics that cannot be expressed in numbers or equations.

The unpredictability of human behaviour, and the complexity of environmental management surely require a much broader perspective than the relentless focus on GDP.

Wildlife Group

On a fine day in mid May 11 members met for a spring walk at the Ladycross Quarry Nature Reserve, guided by Colin the reserve's founder there was lots of interest.

We learnt to read wildlife signs in the countryside including seeing where, as well leaving foot prints, the roe deer bucks rub scent from glands onto trees with their antlers to mark territory. We were also shown signs of rabbit and badger activity at underground entrances.



A birding highlight was the sound and sight of 3 Crossbills, occasional visitors from Scandanavia in years when conifer seed available there is insufficient to feed the population of these birds.

Looking at the many plants we noted the unfortunate encroachment into the reserve of the garden escape *Alchemilla mollis* but were pleased to find and identify three of the smaller more delicate native species of the lady's mantle family: *Alchemilla glabra*, *A filiformis vestita* and *A xanthchlora*; distinguished respectively by having hairless leaves, leaves hairy both sides and leaves with hairs only on the underside. We also explored the modern stone circle to discover how this artwork marks the seasons and key annual wildlife moments noted by workers at the quarry over the last 3 centuries.

Jenny L

Calling All Convenors and Groups - Do You Need a Laptop Computer?

The Committee has decided that the spare laptop computer should be offered to any convenor or group who might have need of one.

It is an Acer TravelMate P256-M with 4gb RAM and 64-bit operating system, which is Windows 7 Professional.

It comes with an external mouse and a charge unit.

So, if you are interested please contact Barrie Mellars at tyneu3aprogsec@yahoo.com



Photos From  The Groups
Around

Landscape Group at Kielder Water



Walking with Dogs Group at Allen Banks



Visit to the Sage



Photos From  The Groups
Around

Garden Visits Group



Dalemain Visit



Malvern Flower Show



Trip to Edinburgh Botanic Gardens on Tuesday 1st August. Very Few Places Left...

It will be 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 and accessible toilets. Coach will pick up at Chollerford 8.30am and Hexham 8.45am

Cost is £20 per person for the coach

Garden entry is free, but an optional guided tour of the garden is available, £8 per person.

To book your place email Margaret Earl, email tu3aevents@yahoo.com or tel 01434 689123

To pay by Bank Transfer

Sort Code 20-40-09

Account number 60601209

Reference Your surname and EDIN (if you are paying for two people with the same surname add x 2)

Cheques can be given to Margaret Earl at the monthly meeting or sent to Margaret Earl, West Neuk, Humshaugh, NE46 4AG

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Membership

490 Members

10 Associates



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

June Newton

Malcom Wright

Adrian Banger

Jane Bewick

John Garrad

Janet Hodges

Pamela Garrad

Next issue of the newsletter

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

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

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Tim O'Brien, by 22 June.

Email address: tyneu3anleditor@gmail.com

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

You can keep up to date with Tynedale u3a on our web site -

<https://u3asites.org.uk/tynedale/home>

or sign up to our Facebook page at -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/600426104750250/>

to join in the conversations and find out lots of interesting information about Tynedale u3a and the views of members on all sorts of things....

Follow us on Facebook

