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## Message from the Chair

### Annual General Meeting, 1 March 2022 at 2pm in the Great Hall, Hexham Abbey - and on Zoom

I would like to see you at our AGM on 1 March, either in person or on Zoom. The business is not likely to take long as we have not received any motions. Sadly, we have not received any nominations for the vacant posts either.

The Publicity role is important to us to maintain a high profile and support recruitment. Kevin Stephens has done a great job and had plenty of ideas that he was not able to carry out due to the lockdowns. The member who takes on this role does not need to have any publicity experience as Kevin will be able to advise and guide. Much of the basic work has been done. On the other hand, there will also be plenty of opportunity for someone to put their own mark on it.

The Events role will take some time to re-establish, but we would like someone to take the lead on the organisation of the garden party in June and an open day in September. Both events will be supported by other members of the committee.

Committee members do work together, so nobody in any role should feel isolated or overwhelmed.

I do hope to hear from members before 1 March.

After the AGM we will announce the winners of the Flash Fiction competition and hear the winning pieces. This will also be available to those on Zoom. Following the results of the competition, those in the Great Hall will have refreshments and there will be opportunities for discussion about the future of Tynedale u3a and, perhaps more importantly, for socialising.

I hope to see you soon.

Wendy Dale

**Agenda for Tynedale u3a Annual General Meeting**

**To be held at 2:00pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 at the Abbey, Hexham and via Zoom**

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1. Welcome and apologies
  2. Approve minutes of AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 (published in this issue of the newsletter)
  3. Matters arising
  4. Chair's Report (a copy will be published in the April Newsletter)
  5. Treasurer's Report (a copy will be published in the April Newsletter), followed by adoption of the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. A copy of the financial statement is published in this issue of the newsletter.
  6. Elections to Committee:
    - a. Beacon Administrator  
Events Secretary  
Publicity Officer
    - b. Tynedale u3a would like to ratify the election of Colin Argent, replacing Margaret Earl as Groups Liaison Secretary.
  7. Our Honorary Examiner for 2022/23 will be Noreen Freeman.
  8. Meeting closed
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## Minutes of AGM 2021

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 2pm via Video Link.

1. **Welcome:** The Chair, Alistair Sinclair, welcomed members to the 2021 AGM. He thanked Wendy for taking over from him when he felt it was necessary to step down and said she had done a splendid job in leading Tynedale u3a through the difficult period of restriction. Wendy has been helped by a strong committee who have not only kept things going but have introduced some new activities which have been appreciated by the membership. Alistair wished the committee and members every success in the future. He then handed over to Wendy to carry on the meeting.

88 members were present. We received 15 postal votes and 32 electronic votes.

(Votes made in advance of the meeting were added to the votes taken in the room).

**Apologies** were received from Jenny Harrington, Dennis Harrington, Hedley Everett, David Grey, Mary Oswell, Steve Rozario, Sally Pearson, Linda Rowell and Jennifer Baker.

2. **Minutes of 2020 AGM:** which were printed in the February Newsletter, were accepted as an accurate record and agreed by all present.

3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.

4. **Chair's Report:** Wendy Dale delivered her report, a copy of which will appear in the April Newsletter.

5. **Approve the amendments to:** Section 3 and Section 8 of the Tynedale u3a Constitution.

1. Paragraph 3.c.1. "...the due date of 1 April each year" shall change to "...the due date of 1 September each year".

Members were asked to vote electronically and the Motion was carried unanimously.

2. Paragraph 8.g The Annual and Special General Meetings may be held electronically online, and any written notices, nominations or calls to members (as defined in 8.b, 8.e and 8.f) may be issued in writing electronically, where required.

Members were asked to vote electronically and the Motion was carried unanimously.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, David Pattinson, went through the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 with members, then gave his Annual Report which is available on the website.

Wendy Dale proposed that we adopt the accounts and was seconded by Barrie Mellars.

Members were asked to vote electronically to adopt the accounts and this was passed unanimously.

7. **Elections to Committee:**

1. **Chair** – Wendy Dale, proposed by Sylvia Field and seconded by Sue Loader.

2. **Membership Secretary** – John Dark, Proposed by Alistair Sinclair and seconded by Wendy Dale.

3. **Auditor** – Trevor Field, Proposed by Alistair Sinclair and seconded by Wendy Dale.

4. **Events Secretary** – Tony Cooke, proposed by Alicia Cresswell and seconded by Wendy Dale.

All nominations received the meeting's approval.

8. **Non Committee Posts:**

There were no Non Committee Posts.

9. **Meeting closed at:** 14:40.

# 2021 final account statement

## Tynedale u3a Charity No. 515733 Receipts and Payments Account Year ended 31 December 2021



	2021			2020		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
		GROUPS			GROUPS	
			£			£
<b>INCOME</b>						
<b>MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:</b>						
ANNUAL			5499			6194
GIFT AID			946			950
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS</b>			<b>6445</b>			<b>7144</b>
DONATIONS, BOOK SALES etc.			75			184
INTEREST RECEIVED			1			15
REFRESHMENTS			0			0
COMMISSION			0			0
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			<b>76</b>			<b>199</b>
EVENT INCOME			0	2772		873
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>6521</b>	<b>2772</b>	<b>2284</b>	<b>3157</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>AFFILIATION FEES</b>						
			1453			1635
<b>MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:</b>						
NATIONAL NEWSLETTER	161					564
<b>TYNEDALE COMMUNICATIONS:</b>						
PRINTING	140					646
POSTAGE ETC.	587					906
GROUP CONVENORS' LUNCH	0					990
<b>TOTAL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS</b>			<b>888</b>			<b>3107</b>
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES:</b>						
HALL HIRE	420		2821	450		2147
MISCELLANEOUS	0			0		
OFFICE EXPENSES	755			824		
ADVERTISING	216			488		
SPEAKERS	240			90		
TRAVEL	0			9		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>1631</b>	<b>2821</b>		<b>4008</b>
<b>TOTAL OVERHEADS</b>			<b>3972</b>	<b>2821</b>		<b>6792</b>
<b>EVENTS OUT</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>925</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>3972</b>	<b>2821</b>		<b>6792</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>			<b>2549</b>	<b>-48</b>		<b>825</b>
<i>(Income less Expenses)</i>						

## Tynedale U3A Charity No. 515733 Balance Sheet Year ended 31 December 2021

	2021			2020		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
		GROUPS			GROUPS	
<b>U3A FUNDS:</b>						
Balances 31 December 2020	12854	2305	15159	12165	2168	14333
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	2549	-48	2501	688	137	825
<b>Balances 31 December 2021</b>	<b>15403</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>17660</b>	<b>12854</b>	<b>2305</b>	<b>15158</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>						
Cash & Current Account	11784		11784	9283		9283
COIF Deposit A/C	5876		5876	5875		5875
	17660		17660	15158		15158
<b>Less Funds specific to individual Groups</b>	2257	2257		2305	2305	
	<b>15403</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>17660</b>	<b>12854</b>	<b>2305</b>	<b>15158</b>

Hon Treasurer

Honorary Examiner's Report

Checked and found to be in accordance with the information provided.

*dp Freeman*

23 January 2022

## Tynedale Desert Island Discs

My castaway for February's Desert Island Discs was Steve Rozario. The following were his eight choices of music:

1. Schubert's 9th Symphony (The Great), 3rd movement. The Hanover Band, conductor Roy Goodman
2. Fanfare for the Common Man. Emerson, Lake & Palmer
3. Journey of the Sorcerer. The Eagles
4. Shostakovich. Cello Concerto No 1
5. Mendelssohn's 3rd Symphony (The Scottish), 1st movement
6. Wish You Were Here. Pink Floyd
7. Fratres, Arvo Part
8. The Vagabond, from Songs of Travel. Vaughan Williams

### This month's Desert Island Discs

The next Desert Island Discs, the last in this second series, will be at 2pm on Tuesday 15 March, when my castaway will be John Loader.

Mike Worthington



## Groups liaison news

### Interest groups and convenors

There is a widespread reluctance amongst u3a members to take on the role of convenor but without them the interest groups would not function. I am therefore proposing the following models for group operation that look at different ways of sharing responsibility.

All of these models rely on a single group administrator, or point of contact. This would be the person that books rooms and, where appropriate, collects money for room rent; keeps a record of attendees; and is the contact point between the interest group and the main committee.

In the simplest model, the long-term convenor assumes the role of group administrator and organises the subjects to be considered at each meeting, i.e. develops the programme as well. The subject planning could be through a single planning meeting once per year or through a less formalised system of agreeing the meeting content a month or two in advance. The latter, less formalised system, provides greater scope to accommodate several short presentations in a single meeting, a less daunting route for new members to begin making a contribution. A recommended variant of this model is one in which the convenor changes after a maximum period of 1 – 2 years. This is to limit the obligation of the convenor and to allow the group to develop new ideas.

All other models depend on the separation of group administration and group programme development, i.e. the group administrator organises the meeting room but has no responsibility for the programme.

In its simplest form, the programme could be the responsibility of one person or a small group, say 2 or 3 active members of the group. As before this could be on a 1 or 2-year basis.

A model that ensures greater participation in programme development would be one in which a small group of members, two or three for example, assume responsibility for the programme over a 3-month period. In this model all group members would contribute to programme development each year if the organising group changes every three months.

All interest groups will decide their own way of working but I am aware that some groups have failed because no-one is prepared to take on the open-ended responsibility for group administration and programme development. Through this note I am suggesting that all members pause to consider more equitable ways of working and sharing responsibility.

Colin Argent, Groups Liaison Secretary

## Living history

I would like to explore the feasibility of running a living history project with an interest group encompassing all members of our u3a. The idea is to collect and collate short observations on our collective life experience. Ideally the tone of the contributions would be in the form you would use in reply to a young grandchild's question: 'What was it like when.....?'

The contributions can be anonymous as in the attached example, which does not identify the author or the exact location. Of course, names and locations can be included if you so wish.

The first obvious question is 'What are you going to do with the contributions?' At this stage, the simple answer is 'I do not know, that will depend on the response'. One option would be to roll the project out to the entire Northumbria region, but the final decision would be based on the views of the contributors.

Colin Argent

### Living history: Sample contribution

**Subject area:** Primary school

**Period:** 1950 – 1958

**Location:** Rural Essex

From the age of 4 I attended a small village primary school with 18 pupils organised in 2 classes. The school was built in ~1840 with an attached house for the head teacher and a toilet block ~50 metres away at the far end of the school playground and yard.

Each day every pupil was provided with a bottle of milk (just under 0.2 litres) which was warmed in winter over the coal fired stove that provided the only heating. Cooked lunches were delivered each day by van. The food came in metal containers and was usually only just warm on arrival.

The toilets were Victorian (a seat over a bucket) and hand washing was limited to a bowl of water in the cloakroom. The bowl was part filled each morning from the well, which meant the water was slightly cloudy, but by the end of morning break repeated hand washing turned the water brown with a distinct layer of scum.

The education provided by the school must have been reasonable because a healthy percentage of pupils passed the 11+ exam to go to grammar school. However, the education was unconventional at times, for example on the day the entire school was ushered out into the yard to watch a sow farrowing so we all saw at least 8 piglets enter the world.



The Victorian school and school house



The full school on the day it closed

When I was 10 the school closed and we were taken by bus to a bigger school (~50 pupils) in a neighbouring village. This had 3 classes and the school was different. The cane, I had not seen one before, was in regular use and most of the children from that village were close relations. The head teacher had been in post forty years without a single child passing the 11+ exam. In her final year 2 of us 'outsiders' passed the exam to fulfil her lifelong ambition just as she retired.

Please send your contribution to Colin Argent at [groupfixertynedale@btinternet.com](mailto:groupfixertynedale@btinternet.com)

## Group news and activities

### Art Appreciation 2 group

Art Appreciation 2 meets on the last Thursday of each month in Corbridge Parish Hall, 10 am till 12 noon.



View of Delft c. 1660, Johannes Vermeer

This January we met up in person for the first time in two years for a formal meeting. It was so refreshing to be back together 'live' again. During Covid we kept in touch by 'coffee in the park' and through Zoom presentations, but it's definitely not the same as being back to meeting in person. In January we shared ideas of possible topics for our programmes in the future. These included 'Townscapes' (hence the View of Delft by Vermeer,) 'Photography', 'Textiles in Art' and '3D Creativity'. We think it's going to be a busy 2022.

For February, to get us back into the swing of things, each member is going to choose a still life work to share with the group and discuss.

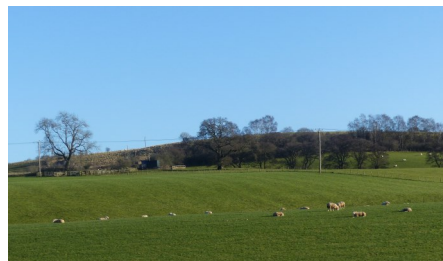
Last but not least, as a group we enjoy day trips to galleries and exhibitions, and a good lunch to discuss what we have seen. We recently had a trip to The Maltings in Berwick to see *Quilts: Resurgence*. This wonderful exhibition was co-curated by the renowned quilt artist Pauline Burrige and explored the revival of quilt making, with beautiful examples of traditional and contemporary quilts. This was followed by a delicious lunch at the Granary and a gentle meander back to the railway station through the historic town of Berwick.

Lil Young and Miranda Howat

### Environment group

#### Sheep Farming

The Environment Group met in February to talk about sheep farming in Northumberland. There is a growing dispute between farmers and environmentalists about the place of sheep farming and the environmental damage associated with it. 'Sheepwreck' has entered the language as a word to sum up the way sheep create a relatively sterile monoculture of short grass, but we all enjoy the view of traditional pastures with grazing sheep, and the arrival of gambolling lambs in spring.



One hundred years ago a 200-acre upland sheep farm could provide a living for a family. That was long before the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) and its subsidies. Traditional sheep farming has gradually become uneconomic. How did that happen and how should our uplands be managed in the future? At least there is plenty of talk even if little agreement yet.

Richard Bentley

### Putting the World to Right group

Sadly, there is not enough interest in this group at the present time, but we hope to meet up again for coffee in a few weeks and have another try at creating a group.

In the meantime, I have been listening to *The Moral Maze on BBC Radio 4*. Last week's session was 'How do we make a longer life a moral one?' It was an excellent discussion covering many of the different strands on this topic. For a quality, enjoyable life though, apparently we need two things: Meaning/Purpose and Community. You can hear the programme [here](#). It would also be worth reading stuff from Frances Edmunds, who is in the 'Springtime of Her Senility'!

Mike Foster

## Hadrian's Wall group

**Thursday 3 March 2022**

Visit the site of Trimontium Roman Fort near Newstead, just east of Melrose, and Trimontium Museum in the centre of Melrose.

This is probably the most important Roman fort and settlement north of Hadrian's Wall. It was built four times, abandoned three times, and overran once and destroyed.

This link shows you [the site](#), but its history is shown [here](#). There was a civil community, an arena, large annexes and temporary camps.



Trimontium from Scott's View by Christian Bickel, licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Germany](#) licence

### The visit

If you would like to go, you need to tell me as soon as possible so I can book the museum and lunch. We are going by car, so I need to know whether you need a lift or plan to travel independently.

We meet at Corbridge Car Park and leave for Melrose at 10am promptly. The 60-mile journey takes about 90 minutes.

We head up the A68. Maps and directions will be sent when you book.

Lunch is at 1pm at Marmion's Brasserie near the car park.

## Create and Craft group

The Create and Craft group has a vacancy. We have changed our meeting times.

We meet in our own homes on the second Tuesday and fourth Tuesday of the month, from 2pm to 4pm.



Members do embroidery, sewing, knitting or whatever their preferred craft is, though occasionally we do a group activity. It is mainly a chance for a chat and a coffee with like-minded people. All abilities are welcome; previous experience is not necessary. Members will always give help and advice.

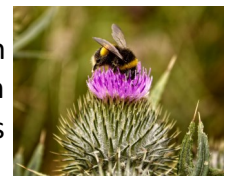
Christine Ward



## Wildlife group

The newly-formed Wildlife group had its first full meeting in February. Richard set us off to a fascinating start with his illustrated talk on bees.

The focus of the talk was 'social' bees – bumblebees and honey bees – rather than solitary bees. We learned that there are around 250 species of bee in the UK, with around 24 species of bumblebee and just one species of honeybee. All are important as pollinators.



Richard explained how the bees establish a colony. It starts with the Queen's hunt for a suitable site to start a nest early in the year, when she might be spotted darting on and out of holes in the ground, walls or trees. We went on to learn about the life cycle of the various members of the colony as it grows through the year.

We also learned how to distinguish between bees, wasps and hoverflies, with Richard showing us examples captured by photographs he had taken in his garden. And we identified some of the different bee species, characterised by the different colour combinations of their body parts.

Next time we will be looking at 'Gardening for Wildlife'.

We meet once a month on the second Monday afternoon of the month. We would love to have more members join us! Please contact me by email for details.

Liz Barnes



## Your committee

### Chair

Wendy Dale - 606215

[tyneu3achair1@btinternet.com](mailto:tyneu3achair1@btinternet.com)

### Business Secretary

Susan Turnbull - 607264

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

### Treasurer

David Pattinson - 01661 842903

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

### Membership Secretary

John Dark - 602584

[tyneu3amemsec1@gmail.com](mailto:tyneu3amemsec1@gmail.com)

### Programme Secretary

Barrie Mellars - 07831255520

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

### Events Secretary

Vacant

### Groups Liaison Secretary

Colin Argent - 07498798020

[groupfixertynedale@btinternet.com](mailto:groupfixertynedale@btinternet.com)

### Joint Website Manager and Publicity Officer

Kevin Stephens - 01661 843347

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### Newsletter Editor

Alicia Cresswell - 608170

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

## Membership

We currently have 411 members, including seven associate members.



Tynedale u3a is a registered charity (number 515733).



A very warm welcome to David Thompson, Katherine Quigley, Carole Soulsby, Barbara Redhead, Alison Oliver, Katie Abbott and Margaret Morey, who have recently joined our u3a.

## Dates for your diary

**Desert Island Discs Tuesday 15 March at 2pm**

### Monthly meetings - April to September 2022

5 April at 2pm: Frances Smiles, Northumberland Wildlife Trust

3 May at 2pm: Chris Tipple, Tales out of school life in rural Northumberland schools in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

7 June at 2pm: Jenny Elliott, Tyne Rivers Trust

5 July at 2pm: Professor Mike Bentley, Living, working and doing scientific research in Antarctica

6 September at 2pm: Tony Flynn, The Brasilia of the North?

## Next issue of the newsletter

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

We welcome contributions from groups and individual members.

**Are you downsizing, or perhaps clearing a house after bereavement?** Neither is easy. If you have any tips on what to do with treasured possessions you cannot keep, or how to get rid of unwanted 'stuff', we would love to hear from you.

**Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Alicia Cresswell, by 24 March. Email address: [tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com](mailto:tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com).**