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Message from the Chair

Annual General Meeting and launch of 40th anniversary celebrations, Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 2pm in the Great Hall, Hexham Abbey - and on Zoom

I do hope you will join us for our AGM on 7 March, either in person or on Zoom. The formal meeting will be followed by the launch of our 40th anniversary celebrations.

We have recently succeeded in recruiting new members to the committee, but the Events Secretary role remains vacant. This is disappointing because there is nothing I would like more than for us to start the year with a full committee. The Events role has been vacant since I became Chair, and it was vacant for a period before that. We are not sure why there is a lack of interest in this role. We have tried to make it more attractive by encouraging individual members to organise events for the whole membership, so the role now involves supporting the events and developing activities rather than doing it all. Events advertised recently are getting a healthy response, which in our opinion confirms the need for this role.

After the AGM business is completed, we will be launching the celebrations of our 40th anniversary. Mike Worthington will chair a round table conversation with three Tynedale u3a grandees, Margret Jacot, John DeStefano and Sue Loader. The conversation will give a flavour of the history of our u3a - how it started, how it grew, its highs and lows, and some of its golden moments, drawing on the reminiscences of Margret, John and Sue.

Wendy Dale

Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.

Agenda



Agenda for Tynedale u3a Annual General Meeting

To be held at 2:00pm on Tuesday 7th March, 2023 at Hexham Abbey and via Zoom.

Welcome and apologies.

Approve Minutes of AGM held on 1st March 2022.

(Published in the March newsletter.)

Matters arising.

Chair's Report (a copy will be published in the April Newsletter).

Treasurer's Report (a copy will be published in the April Newsletter), followed by adoption of the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022. A copy of the financial statement is published in the March newsletter.

Motions

It is proposed that Tynedale u3a returns to the system in place prior to 2015 of publishing an annual membership list, subject to the consent of the members and in a way that does not fall outside data protection legislation.

Proposed by John DeStefano. Seconded by Margret Jacot.

Prior to 2015 Tynedale u3a published, annually, a list of members and their contact details, with the consent of the members. With the advent of Data Protection the committee decided to cease this practice. This despite confirmation from the Information Commissioner that the practice was legal, and without consulting the members. Provision of this list made communication between members easy, and made people aware of fellow members in their neighbourhood. The ability to know where members lived and to communicate directly had many advantages, such as sharing information and transport.

New Committee Members

- Treasurer: Barbara Redhead. Proposed by David Pattinson. Seconded by Colin Argent
- Business Secretary: Ann Atkinson. Proposed by Wendy Dale. Seconded by Barrie Mellars
- Assistant Treasurer: Susan Turnbull. Proposed by Wendy Dale. Seconded by Lesley Parsons
- Newsletter Editor: Tim O'Brien. Proposed by Alicia Cresswell. Seconded by Sally Hewitt
- Events Secretary: Vacant

To approve the proposed Honorary examiner for 2023 - Noreen Freeman



Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a AGM 2022

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 2pm
at Hexham Abbey and on Zoom.

1. **Welcome:** The Chair, Wendy Dale, welcomed all members to the 2022 AGM.
51 members were present in the hall and 26 on Zoom making a total of 77.
Apologies were received from Susan Ketelaar, Jean Holden, Julia Woolley, Jane Hastings and Jenny Loring
2. **Minutes of 2021 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. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, David Pattinson, went through the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021 with members, then gave his Annual Report which is available on the website.
Barrie Mellars proposed that we adopt the accounts and was seconded by Susan Turnbull; this was agreed by all present.
6. **Elections to Committee:**
 1. **Beacon Administrator** – Lesley Parsons, proposed by Wendy Dale and seconded by Susan Turnbull.
 2. **Publicity Officer** – Sally Hewitt, proposed by Wendy Dale and seconded by Susan Turnbull.
 3. **Events Secretary** – Sarah Bowen, proposed by Wendy Dale and seconded by Susan Turnbull.
 4. **Ratify** the election of Colin Argent as Group Liaison Officer, Proposed by Wendy Dale and seconded by Alicia Cresswell.All nominations received the meeting's approval.
Colin Argent thanked the Convenors for all their hard work getting groups up and running again after Covid lockdown.
7. Honorary Examiner for 2022/2023 - Noreen Freeman was accepted by all present.
8. **A.O.B.**
The Programme Secretary was asked when we would have outside speakers again and Barrie replied that they were starting from next month.
Wendy told the meeting that from next month there would be tea and coffee available from 1:30pm, with the monthly meeting beginning at 2pm.
9. **Meeting closed at:** 14:45.

2022 final account statement

Tynedale u3a Charity No. 515733 Receipts and Payments Account Year ended 31 December 2022



	2022			2021		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	GENERAL	RESTRICTED GROUPS	TOTAL	GENERAL	RESTRICTED GROUPS	TOTAL
			£			£
INCOME						
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:						
ANNUAL			7279			5499
GIFT AID			906			946
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS			8186			6445
DONATIONS, BOOK SALES etc.			542			75
INTEREST RECEIVED			57			1
REFRESHMENTS			0			0
COMMISSION			0			0
OTHER INCOME			599			76
EVENT INCOME			0			0
TOTAL INCOME			8785			9293
EXPENSES						
AFFILIATION FEES			1725			1453
MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:						
NATIONAL NEWSLETTER	345			161		
TYNEDALE COMMUNICATIONS:						
PRINTING	340			140		
POSTAGE ETC.	626			587		
GROUP CONVENORS' LUNCH	585			0		
GARDEN PARTY & OPEN DAY	759			0		
TOTAL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS			2655			888
GENERAL EXPENSES:						
HALL HIRE	840	6807		420	2821	
MISCELLANEOUS	60			0		
OFFICE EXPENSES	607			755		
ADVERTISING	419			216		
SPEAKERS	230			240		
TRAVEL	0			0		
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES			8963			4451
TOTAL OVERHEADS			6535			3972
EVENTS OUT			0			0
TOTAL EXPENSES			6535			3972
SURPLUS/DEFICIT			2249			2549
(Income less Expenses)			272			-48

Tynedale u3a Charity No. 515733 Balance Sheet Year ended 31 December 2022

	2022			2021		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	GENERAL	RESTRICTED GROUPS	TOTAL	GENERAL	RESTRICTED GROUPS	TOTAL
u3a FUNDS:						
Balances 31 December 2021	15403	2257	17659	12854	2305	15159
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	2249	272	2522	2549	-48	2501
Balances 31 December 2022	17652	2529	20181	15403	2257	17660
Represented by:						
Cash & Current Account	14248		14248	11784		11784
COIF Deposit A/C	5933		5933	5876		5876
	20181		20181	17660		17660
Less Funds specific to individual Groups	2529	2529		2257	2257	
	17652	2529	20181	15403	2257	17660

Hon Treasurer

Honorary Examiner's Report

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

01/02/23

Groups liaison news

Wine Appreciation 2

This group had the first meeting in January and are now looking to recruit more active members. Check out the group details on the website.



Mike, the convenor, has suggested an informal get together in a local café at a time and day to be agreed for an informal discussion with prospective new members. This would be in the second half of March, ahead of a regular group meeting in April.

If you are interested in the group, why not contact Mike or the Group Fixer (contact details on the website) and we will arrange a convenient time to get together for an informal chat over coffee.

Book Group 3

Book Group 3 meets on the second Thursday of the month and is now actively looking to recruit new members. If you are interested, check out the group on the Tynedale website, where you can find contact details for Ann, the group convenor.



Photography

It has been suggested that we should start a new photography group.



The idea is to meet twice a month, one meeting to visit a location as a group, have a cup of coffee and take some images. In the second meeting at a local venue, we shall share the images from the first meeting and discuss the results.

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a posh camera? NO. Whether you want to take the images on your phone or the latest whizzy camera, the aim is to help everyone get the best out of the equipment they have.

Do I need photo editing software? NO. The aim is to help you get the most out of the images you take. Advice will be available.

The overall aim of the group would be to help members take the best images they can, whether of landscapes, sport or family, for example.

If you have any questions, please contact Ewan at jaefphoto@icloud.com.

French Discussion

We have been looking at the feasibility of starting another French Discussion group, but we need a few more participants. We're looking to have a group of up to six members who should ideally be fluent/semi-fluent speakers, capable of taking part in a conversation on current affairs and/or personal topics. It would be a self-help group where participants support one another. Suggestions on how, when and where the sessions are run is to be negotiated.



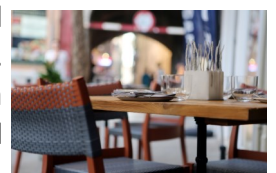
Latin



Sue, convenor of Latin Learners, is asking if there are more prospective Latin scholars out there, from total beginner to Roman orators. The existing group may be able to accommodate another member, but current thinking is to consider starting another group. Check out Latin Learners on the Tynedale website, where you will find information about the group and contact details for Sue.

Luncheon Club

From time to time the idea of a luncheon club is raised. This would entail an informal get-together for a tasty lunch and good conversation in pleasant surroundings. Whether this should take the form of Sunday lunch or something more informal on a different day would be decided by those wishing to participate. If you are interested in such a group, please get in touch with Colin, the Group Fixer.



Projects with the grandchildren

We have proposed several projects over the last few months and this month, as you can see below, the project is based on water rockets. Our current plan is to organise a get-together before the summer at which interested parties (big kids) can demonstrate their water rockets and maybe even compete for the greatest distance etc. This could be extended to include all the projects so far included in the newsletter, such as vacuum bazookas etc.

If you are interested in such an extravaganza of project engineering, please let one of us know, i.e. Colin Argent (aka Group Fixer), Chris Pollock or Neil Downie. For those of you itching to have a go, we will aim to fix a date in time for it to be included in the April newsletter. The venue will most likely be one of Colin's fields on the outskirts of Stocksfield.

I suppose I should mention that grandchildren will be welcome, but by no means essential!

Colin Argent
Group Fixer

Projects with the grandchildren

Water rockets

These have been popular since my childhood, although the development of plastic bottles for soft drinks has dramatically improved the performance of these devices.



Probably the best introduction to this pastime is to buy one of the cheaper commercial versions such as the ROKIT.

Available from a number of places for about £15, the kit consists of a launch stand, screw-on fins and an adaptor tube that allows the rocket to be pressurised using a bicycle foot pump. Water is put in the bottle which is then pressurised. Once a critical pressure has been reached, the rocket slips off the adaptor and ascends rapidly. There are relationships between size of bottle, amount of water and the way in which the bottle tapers that affect flight and can be studied.



There are two disadvantages to the rocket.

- (1) The stand is flimsy and is liable to change in angle during pressurisation. I soldered an additional length of 3mm steel rod onto the stand to enable it to go deeper into the soil and remain firm.
- (2) As the rocket reaches its maximum height, it begins to fall tail first very erratically. It is extremely sensitive to the prevailing wind during descent, so you either need a large open space or to fire the rocket into the wind. You could also try the effect of shifting the centre of gravity by taping a tennis ball to the top of the rocket.

If this turns out to be an entertaining project, then there is much more to follow.

[This website](#) provides details of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) water rocket challenge but also allows you to download a comprehensive booklet about the design and construction of water rockets. There are plenty of tips about design improvements and also better ways to launch the rockets to improve distance and altitude. It is even possible to build a two-stage water rocket. Good luck!

Chris Pollock

Group news and activities

Wildlife Group

Visit to the Washington Wetland Centre

It was a slightly chilly but wonderfully sunny day when the Wildlife group visited the Washington Wetland Centre. We could not have wished for a better day to see the birds in their finest plumage.

The day began with an introduction to the Centre where we learned how it was founded by Sir Peter Scott, and of their work in conservation and education.

This was followed by a guided tour of the most central areas of the site where we saw eider ducks, pochards, mandarins, black swans and many more. The crane family, parents and daughter, kept their distance throughout the day but the Ne-ne (Hawaiian geese) seemed happy to make our acquaintance. Then it was on to see the otters being fed and a short talk on the flamingos from one of the many volunteers at the Centre. Sadly, flamingos are particularly susceptible to avian flu, so are currently being kept isolated and could only be seen from a distance.



Images: Jenny Loring

The remainder of the day was free time, so after lunch in the cafe we were able to visit the other varied habitats and some of the many hides around the site. At the Hawthorn hide we were mesmerised by the activities of the woodland and garden birds. As we were about to leave, a woodpecker arrived, so we had to stay a little longer. At the Prince's Trust hide overlooking Wader Lake, it was a treat to watch the herons gathering sticks and reeds and carrying them up into the tree tops for nest building.

But time was moving on and so we rounded off the day with an excellent cup of tea and a flapjack back in the cafe. A really lovely day out.

Lesley Parsons

Putting the World Right Group

The late January discussion covered 'needs and wants' and financial considerations, like many people seeing foreign holidays and expensive tech as necessities.

We also explored physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs and wants. In the radio favourite *Conversations from a Long Marriage*, Joanna said she was captain of games at school, to which Roger replied, 'You still are!' So in early February we looked at game playing by lovers, family and at work, going on to look at how gender roles had formed and changed.



Environment Group

We met in February to learn about wind turbines, their construction, where they are, and now that they are firmly established on land and at sea, how they contribute to our energy supply. There are nearly 12,000 wind turbines on and around the UK. They are becoming taller and more powerful, and in 2020 contributed 24% of our electricity consumption. This was a bumper year followed by only 21% in 2021, probably due to lighter winds that year. Wind turbines are expensive to build, particularly offshore, but the electricity they produce is inexpensive, and has a tiny carbon footprint.



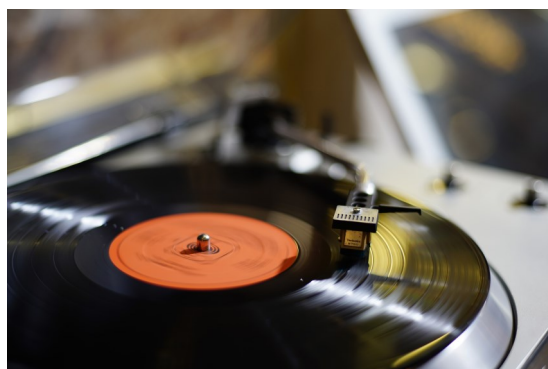
Our electricity consumption has been falling slightly in the last few years, but we now face the problem that it is certain to rise as fossil fuels are phased out. The number and power of wind turbines will have to grow rapidly to keep up, but they can only ever be a part of the solution.

Richard Bentley

Desert Island Discs

My castaway on February's Desert Island Discs was Maggie Bassendine, who shared with us stories of her distinguished medical and academic career, and of her nomadic life. Maggie's choices of music were the following:

1. Benjamin Britten. Cello concerto No 1 Op 72
2. Jackson Browne. For a Dancer
3. Dollar Brand. Cape Town Fringe
4. Gurrumul. Wiyathul (Live 2008)
5. Marianne Faithfull. Working Class Hero
6. Miles Davis. So What, from the album Kind of Blue
7. Arvo Part. Cantus, in memory of Benjamin Britten
8. Messiaen. Quartet for the End of Time-VIII, 'Louange a l'Immortalite de Jesus'



The final Desert Island Discs of this third series will be on 21 March, when my castaway will be Ian Diggory.

Mike Worthington

Events for 2023

Dates for your diary

- March 17th (Friday):** **Backstage at the Sage tour**
(Full, but we are taking names for a second tour in the autumn)
- March 28th (Tuesday):** **Quiz and supper evening Hexham Golf Club**
(We would like more people to join us)
- April 5th (Wednesday):** **Coach trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park**
(We still have a few places)
- May 10th (Wednesday):** **u3a Off the Wall - Hadrian's Wall Festival of Learning and Fun at the Sill**
(Please register and support this event)
- June 17th (Saturday):** **40th anniversary celebrations at the Mart**
(Please register interest)
- July 26th (Wednesday):** **Recycling plant visit**
(There are one or two places available)
- August 1st (Tuesday):** **Coach trip to Edinburgh Botanic Gardens**
(We are taking names now)
- August 23rd (Wednesday):** **Recycling plant visit**
(There are one or two places available)

Quiz and supper evening

28 March 28 at 7pm, Hexham Golf Club

We would like you to join us for a social evening at the Hexham Golf Club. There will be a quiz and a buffet supper at the cost of £10 per head.

Visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Wednesday 5 April 2023

Cost £26 (plus £3.50 if you want to join the tour)

Good news! Tynedale u3a are going to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park on **Wednesday 5 April**. The cost is £26, which includes entrance to the Park and return coach travel. For a further £3.50 there is an hour-long tour. The guide will talk about the artwork and the landscape. We need to know in advance if you want to join the tour.

Will you join us? The coach will pick up at Hexham and Corbridge. It might be possible to negotiate other pick-up points if there are enough members.

To book a place, please contact Wendy Dale at tyneu3achair1@btinternet.com or on 01434 606215 **no later than 13 March**.

For more information, please contact Margaret Earl at margaretwall@yahoo.co.uk or Marjorie Marran at marjoriemarran@gmail.com.

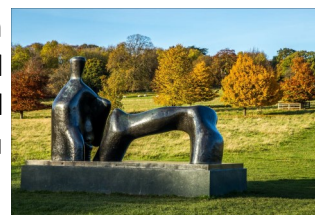


Jaume Plensa,
*House of
Knowledge*

The Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is set in 500 acres of 18th-century landscape with open-air and indoor galleries. The area is disability friendly.

The open-air collection includes long and short term loans, gifts from artists and individuals and site-specific commissions. There are always around 100 sculptures and installations to discover in the open air. You will see sculptures by both well-known artists and artists that may be new to you, including Henry Moore, Damian Hirst, Jaume Plensa and Robert Indiana.

There are restaurants, cafes and picnic areas.



Henry Moore, *Reclining
Figure: Arch Leg*

Tynedale u3a 40th anniversary celebrations

We hope you will join us for afternoon tea at the Mart to celebrate our 40th birthday on 17 June at 2pm. Please put the date in your diary and register your interest.

u3a off the wall



A festival of learning and fun organised by the u3a national body, the Third Age Trust, will take place on Wednesday 10 May 2023 at The Sill. We are privileged to have this event in our area in our 40th year. The event aims to draw on the experience, enthusiasm and talents of u3a members from across the movement and from a wide range of subjects.

Festival programme

You can register [here](#).

Events taking place at The Sill

National Landscape Discovery Centre, Military Road, Bardon Mill, Hexham, NE47 7AN

10.00 - 10.30: Registration and Coffee

10.30 - 11.30: A General Overview of Hadrian's Wall Through the Ages - **Dr Rob Collins**, FSA, Senior Lecturer, Archaeology, Newcastle University.

11.30 - 11.45: Break

11.45 - 12.30: A Frontier in Transition - **Dr Andrew Birley**, FSA, FSA Scot., CEO & Director of Excavations, The Vindolanda Trust

12.30 - 13.30: Lunch

Events taking place at Vindolanda

Hadrian's Wall, NE47 7JN

14.00 - 15.00: Guided Tour (ideally free but if not a fee of £5 per person. To be confirmed based on numbers applying.)

15.00 - 16.00: Free time to visit the Museum and/or the archaeologists working on site. If we have enough interest, we may be able to offer two tours at Vindolanda.

Fringe events online

In the build-up to the day there will be opportunities to attend events online. The online programme is available [here](#).

Off the Wall art competition



A postcard artwork competition has been launched by the Third Age Trust. The idea is to collect artwork from across the movement which interprets the theme of Hadrian's Wall.

More information about the competition is [available here](#).

From our members

At the end of January, I had a bucket list experience! Maybe one for you too...

I heard that starling murmurations were being seen near Wall village so went to investigate and, despite rain in Hexham, I set off before sunset to drive up the A6079 past Acomb.

It wasn't raining on the north side of the valley and, as I was approaching Wall, I saw the first small flocks of birds flying west across the road towards the course of the lower North Tyne. I drove through the village and pulled into the lay-by just beyond, turning to face south, and looked west over the field wall just as the sun set.

As the dusk deepened, starling numbers were building, with flocks flying in from all directions. After a while, I really had to leave the warmth of the car to see better - just as a large incoming flock flew close overhead with rustle and draft of wings to join the growing cloud that was rising and falling in ever swirling clouds along the visible length of the valley across the field. It was

mesmerising to watch shape and density changing until, after about 45 minutes from sunset, the last birds in close formation descended into the trees behind the village as darkness fell.

WOW!

As I write this in mid-February, I am still hearing of people going out to see the spectacle. There may even be a chance when you read this but remember to check for sunset time.

Jenny Loring



Images by Jenny Loring

Change of editor

Having come to the end of my three-year term as newsletter editor and committee member, I would like to thank all present and past contributors for their support. Without your contributions, there would not be a newsletter. Thank you too to our readers for their support, comments and feedback.

I am very pleased to let you know that we have a new editor, Tim O'Brien. Tim brings to the role a wealth of experience in written communication and a keen interest in photography. We are delighted that he has agreed to take on this role. Tim can be contacted at tyneu3anleditor@gmail.com.

Alicia Cresswell

Your committee

Chair

Wendy Dale - 606215

tyneu3achair1@btinternet.com

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Susan Turnbull - 607264

tyneu3abus@gmail.com

Treasurer

David Pattinson - 01661 842903

tyneu3afindavid@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

John Dark - 602584

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Programme Secretary

Barrie Mellars - 07831255520

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Events Secretary

Vacant

Groups Liaison Secretary

Colin Argent - 07498798020

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Beacon Administrator and Website Manager

Lesley Parsons - 07588178570

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Newsletter Editor

Alicia Cresswell - 608170

tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com

Membership

We currently have 463 members, including eight associate members.



Tynedale u3a is a registered charity (number 515733).



A very warm welcome to new members Eunice Martin, Richard Hewitt, Jennifer Hewitt, Stephen Stanforth, Tracy Stanforth, Michael Robinson, Rosalind Waller, James Fairfull, Brenda Fairfull, Pamela Cook, Robert Elston, Anne Brown, Duncan Burridge, Martin Roberts, Kim Schofield, Kay Peden, Andrew Gessey and Jill Callaghan.

Dates for your diary

Monthly meeting - 7 March 2023 at 2pm

AGM and launch of 40th anniversary celebrations

Desert Island Discs - 21 March 2023 at 2pm

Castaway: Ian Diggory

Monthly meetings - April to October 2023

4 April Tales of the Tyne, Jo Bath

2 May RNLI, David Hastings

6 June Northumberland Greyhound Rescue

4 July Cragside, Liz Finch

5 September Topic to be confirmed

3 October Coquetdale red squirrels, Iain Glendinning

Next issue of the newsletter

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

We welcome contributions from groups and individual members.

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Tim O'Brien, by 23 March. Email address: tyneu3anleditor@gmail.com.

Thank you