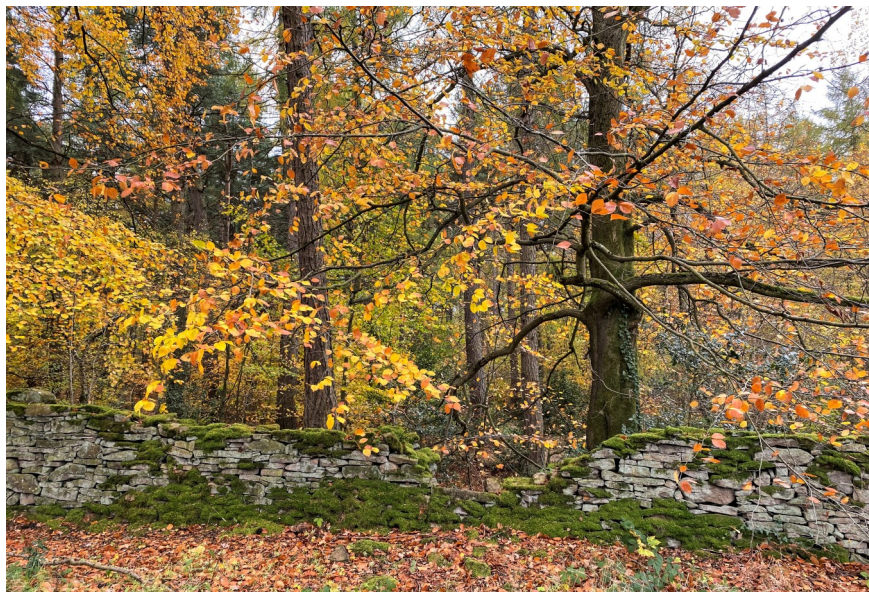


In this issue

- ◆ Monthly meeting
- ◆ Open Day success
- ◆ Groups liaison update
- ◆ Group news and activities
- ◆ Events
- ◆ Desert Island Discs 2022-2023
- ◆ Invitation to join the committee
- ◆ From our members
- ◆ Subscription renewal reminder
- ◆ Committee and membership
- ◆ New members
- ◆ Dates for your diary



Monthly Meeting, Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 2pm in the Great Hall, Hexham Abbey - and on Zoom

Topic: The rediscovery and rebuilding of Joe the Quilter's cottage

Speaker: Richard Young

Richard Young has studied building history for over 35 years and is a founder member of the Traditional Architecture Group (TAG). He is a former teacher and lecturer in interior design and architectural history, and holder of an advanced diploma in local history from Oxford University. Richard has also worked as a volunteer archaeologist on projects ranging from Roman Roads to Eighteenth Century Industry. His aim is to help owners of older properties learn more about the history of their houses and seek advice on sympathetic renovation and decoration.



This postcard, produced shortly after Joe's death, gave valuable details about how his home looked.

Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.

Open Day success

Our Open Day, held in the Great Hall, Hexham Abbey on 23 September, was an opportunity to showcase the activities of our 40 interest groups. Convenors and group members worked hard to put together attractive displays of their work and share information about what they do.

As soon as the doors opened at 11am, the Hall filled with members and non-members eager to find out more about the groups. The lively atmosphere and the buzz of conversation continued through to the end of the event at 3pm. Many attendees expressed an interest in joining one or more of the groups, with nearly 120 people entering their details in group record sheets. In total, more than 230 expressions of interest were recorded.

We wish to thank all those who attended for supporting the event, and all the volunteers for their commitment and hard work. We are delighted that the event was so successful in disseminating information and generating interest in our u3a.

Tynedale u3a Committee



Groups liaison update

A message to those planning and implementing an Open Day display

I confidently expect that you are all sick of hearing from me by now with constant questions about whether you are doing a display, how big it is, what sort of display stand will you need, do you need power, etc. etc. It is a significant indication of your patience that nearly all groups will be represented with displays that have taken a lot of thought and effort. Thank you one and all.

I am writing this before the event so I do hope we manage to attract non-members and that existing members will come along to check out what the groups get up to and to have a good gossip about whatever takes their fancy.

I do plan to see you there but as I write this, I am suffering a second, consecutive bout of sciatica and a single flight of stairs is enough of a challenge just now; four hours at the open day is unthinkable. Thankfully I have a few days to improve.

Visits

Some of you will remember, with a great deal of pleasure, a range of visits and excursions arranged by the 'Out and About' group. This group has not arranged visits since the start of the Covid lockdown, and the convenor described their current activity as more akin to 'In and Coffee' due to a degree of reduced mobility on the part of the members. All groups evolve, and I think this evolution from 'Out and About' to 'In and Coffee' is about as good as group evolution gets and I applaud it.



However, it does leave a possible gap in our activities and I wonder whether there is scope for 'Out and About Mk 2'. If you are interested, let me know and we will organise an initial get-together to discuss it.

Shorter days



Some of you will also have fond memories of Sunday lunches. We cannot predict whether there will be a Covid risk this winter but after four - or is it five? – injections, we must have a degree of immunity by now. The short, dark days of winter can be depressing in the absence of good company, so I am asking whether the time is right to consider Sunday lunches once more.

Colin Argent
Group Fixer

More images from our Open Day



Groups news and activities

Environment group

We met in September to complete arrangements for the Open Day and hear about two climate virtual workshops held since our last meeting. This led to an impromptu discussion about the role of the economy and its management in determining the fate of the environment, as opposed to the vagaries of human nature, and our willingness or unwillingness to change attitudes and adapt our behaviour.

What is economics, a science, a philosophy, a tool? Perhaps all three. We are fortunate to have an economist as one of our members, who explained that economists can only measure that which can be expressed in numbers such as the GDP, and this can lead to apparent simplification of complex issues. In the end it is how economic advice is formulated, received and then implemented by us that determines the effect it may have individually, on our communities and on the environment.

Richard Bentley

Wildlife group

Life is full of surprises and on our walk along the riverbank today, we found plenty. The sun came out, the path was not muddy, and we saw nearly 50 different species of flowers, grasses and trees.

With Jenny as a guide, we soon became knowledgeable about which flower belonged to which group and why. For instance, the Thistle, Dandelion, Ragwort and Burdock all belong to the Daisy family and their seeds are dispersed into the air, while the Meadowsweet, Greater Burnet, Silverweed and Lady's Mantle belong to the Rose group. Rowans and Hawthorns also belong to this group, and their seeds either fall to the ground or are eaten by birds and deposited elsewhere.

The Bedstraws and Madders group owe their name to some which are fragrant when dried and were used to stuff mattresses in the Middle Ages. We saw the Crosswort and Marsh Bedstraw in this group. Most of course were no longer flowering but would still look very attractive in a vase.

Grasses were also numerous, and the two I found most interesting were the Cocksfoot Grass, so called because of its spur, and the Yorkshire Fog Grass, so called because of the effect of its purple flowerheads growing in a mass. Such names remind us that they have been around for centuries and have become part of our folklore.

The fauna, unfortunately, were not as common as the flora, but the reason for this is simple. Fauna move, flora do not! And with autumn upon us many are no longer around. But we did see the Small White Butterfly and the Speckled Wood butterfly along with two dragonflies, one of which was the Common Darter.

Along the river we saw a few late Swallows and of course the inevitable Mallard, our most common duck, I think. But the highlight of the day must be the sighting, not once but twice, of a Kingfisher darting down the river and back, its iridescent plumage glinting in the sun. For me it was the loveliest surprise of all.

The whole afternoon had been a very rewarding one, and the impression I took away from it is that every plant, big or small, has some story to tell if we have the patience to study it.

Joan Sykes



Events

Haltwhistle Walking Festival - Taster Walks: 'Allendale Adventures', Saturday 1st October, and 'Haltwhistle Hikes', Sunday 2nd October 2022 at 10am

The aim of the 'Taster Walks' is for people to discover how far they can walk and find out what it is like to take part in a group walk. The focus is on 'lapsed or slower or lacking in confidence walkers' possibly due to Covid.

On Saturday 1st October the 'Allendale Adventures' begin and end in Allendale marketplace, and on Sunday 2nd October the 'Haltwhistle Hikes' begin and finish in the marketplace at Haltwhistle.

Each day there is a choice of walks either 4, 6 or 8 miles. Whatever the intention at the beginning, if people find they could go further or want to finish earlier, they can join the appropriate group and arrive back where they started.

The walks are free but must be booked through our website. [Haltwhistle Walking Festival - Taster Weekend Walks](#).

We have a good number of bookings for the Sunday at Haltwhistle, helped by the Hadrian's Wall 1900 anniversary celebrations, but we still have several places available at Allendale on Saturday 1st October.



Desert Island Discs 2022-2023

By popular request we are to run a third series of Desert Island Discs. There will be six programmes going out on Zoom from October to March next year. You can join the Zoom programme on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2 to 3 pm. My castaway on the first programme of the new series on 18 October will be our Group Fixer, Colin Argent. It should be an entertaining and interesting start to the series. Even Colin is surprised at his choices of music! I look forward to you joining us.



There are now four castaways signed up for the desert island this series, which means that I am looking for two more to complete the set. If you are interested in sharing with us some of your favourite music, and something about your life, do please get in touch with me in person, by phone on 01434 606215, or by email at worthington1942@btinternet.com

I look forward to having many of you tuning in each month to enjoy a pleasant hour during the long winter months.

Mike Worthington

Invitation to join the committee

In March 2023, two committee members will stand down as their term comes to an end. A third committee member has recently left the area, so the role of Events Secretary is currently vacant.

Below we give details of these roles. If you are interested, please contact Wendy Dale or the current postholder to discuss what the role involves.

Events Secretary (currently vacant)

Sadly, our Events Secretary Sarah Bowen resigned from her position in the summer due to family responsibilities which take her out of the area. In the early summer she led the organisation of our successful garden party.

We would like to replace her on the committee as early as possible because we would like to increase the opportunities for members to socialise. The role is to facilitate a programme of social events which are open to all members. In the past we have had theatre trips, and half-day and one-day visits to local places of interest. We have had an annual quiz and a biennial garden party. More recently, Covid has prevented us from doing many of these activities, and anyone taking on the role will need to gradually build up the opportunities.

When I did the role a few years ago, I found I was well supported, with many members volunteering to help. If you are willing to consider joining the committee, I will be very happy to speak to you about this role.

Wendy Dale

Treasurer (from March 2023)

As many of you will be aware, I will be stepping down as Treasurer of Tynedale u3a in March next year. So we now have a vacancy on the committee for our next Treasurer.

The role of Treasurer sits at the heart of all the activities of the u3a, and covers a wide range of tasks from processing membership fees, paying for the u3a's core activities and paying for our groups' venues to managing the bank account, claiming Gift Aid and putting the accounts together for the committee and for the AGM.

If you'd like an interesting and pivotal role within Tynedale u3a and have an eye for detail and aren't phased by a spreadsheet or the internet, then becoming Treasurer could be right up your street. You don't have to be an accountant, after all I'm not an accountant myself, but being interested in numbers would certainly help.

The new Treasurer will have the opportunity to shadow me over the coming months to learn the role so that they will be in a position to fly solo from next March.

If you'd like to find out more about the duties of the Treasurer and learn what the role entails, please contact me at tyneu3afindavid@gmail.com.

David Pattinson

Newsletter Editor (from March 2023)

The role of Newsletter Editor involves compiling information from a range of sources (Tynedale u3a committee, group convenors and other members; regional u3a; Third Age Trust) and using the information to produce a monthly newsletter. The Editor is responsible for encouraging all potential contributors to make material available for inclusion in the newsletter, and ensuring that they are aware of deadlines for publication. Other duties include circulating the newsletter by email to all members with an email address and arranging printing for circulation to members with a postal address only.

Basic requirements are the ability to meet deadlines, edit and proofread text, use a computer, and insert photos in documents. I will be happy to support the new Editor as necessary in the coming months so they can carry out their new role with ease and confidence from next March.

Alicia Cresswell tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com

From our members

Personal perspective on Queen Elizabeth II's funeral

Planned for decades
Precision, pomp, and appropriate patriotism
Plangent procession
Pressure under the spotlight (the peerless Bearer Party).

Princes, Princesses, Presidents, politicians and a new King
Power and prejudice set aside today.

Parry's and MacMillan's music
Precisely pitched sermon
Perfectly paced
Plaintive Piper, petering

Private pain in public
Plentiful tears

People's patience
Proud parade
Poesies on the Long Walk
Pony, and corgis

Pathos aplenty
Peace at last

David Pattinson



Subscription renewal reminder

If you have not yet renewed your membership, there is still time to do it before your membership lapses in the next few weeks.

The easiest way to renew is using the online form. [Click here to access it](#), or you can look on the membership page of the Tynedale u3a website. More than 200 members have already renewed their membership this way this year, and we hope even more will in the coming weeks.

This year the form is even easier - if you've not changed address or any of your contact details, you can simply indicate that, put in your name, tell us how you are paying and whether we can claim Gift Aid, and just press 'Submit'.

REMINDER: the annual subscription is unchanged at £14.00, but for those taking the Third Age Matters (TAM) magazine, it has gone up to £17.35, just to pay the increased postage. Again, the easiest way is to pay online; pay to **Tynedale u3a**: sort code **20-40-09**: account **60601209**: reference is **your membership number and surname**. (The 'reference' is essential for us to process your renewal.)

If paying by cheque, remember to make it payable to '**Tynedale u3a**'. It can be posted with any paper forms, sent separately to the Membership Secretary at West Oakwood House, Hexham NE46 4LB, or handed in at one of the monthly meetings.

Alternatively, the renewal form can be printed off from the website (again there is a link), completed and posted to the Membership Secretary. For those receiving the newsletter by post, a form is included.

If you have a Standing Order for the subscription including TAM, **PLEASE** can you ensure that the increase to £17.35 has been done - this saves us chasing you for 25p!

Thank you

John Dark, Membership Secretary

Your committee

Chair

Wendy Dale - 606215

tyneu3achair1@btinternet.com

Business Secretary

Susan Turnbull - 607264

tyneu3abus@gmail.com

Treasurer

David Pattinson - 01661 842903

tyneu3afindavid@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

John Dark - 602584

tyneu3amemsec1@gmail.com

Programme Secretary

Barrie Mellars - 07831255520

tyneu3aprogsec@yahoo.com

Events Secretary

Vacant

Groups Liaison Secretary

Colin Argent - 07498798020

groupfixertynedale@btinternet.com

Publicity Officer

Sally Hewitt - 07500136870

tyneu3apublicity@gmail.com

Beacon Administrator and Website Manager

Lesley Parsons - 07588178570

tyneu3abeacon@gmail.com

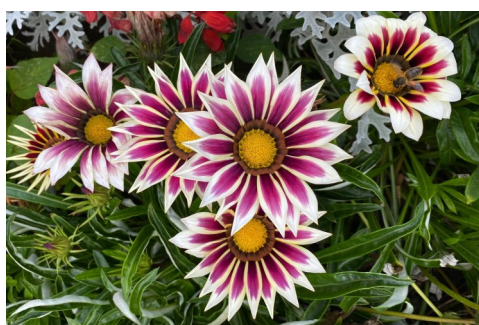
Newsletter Editor

Alicia Cresswell - 608170

tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com

Membership

We currently have 445 members, including 10 associate members.



Tynedale u3a is a registered charity (number 515733).



A very warm welcome to Raymond Dance, Barbara Hamer and Allan Hamer, who have recently joined our u3a.

Dates for your diary

Monthly meetings - November and December 2022

All meetings start at 2pm

1 November: Tony Flynn, The Brasilia of the north?

6 December: Chris Pollock, Plants poisons



Next issue of the newsletter

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

We welcome contributions from groups and individual members.

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Alicia Cresswell, by 20 October. Email address: tyneu3aeditor@gmail.com.

Thank you