

Our members usually join one or more Interest Groups. These groups are formed and run by Washington Village u3a members themselves. We currently have 31 active groups: summary details are given below. Anyone who has ideas for new groups is encouraged to speak to our Groups Coordinator.



Groups Co-ordinator: Sandra Graham

Contact:

- In person at monthly meetings.
- By email on gc.wvu3a@gmail.com
- By phone to 07443 62706

BADMINTON



Group Leader: Jack Palmer

When: Every Monday, 2pm-3pm
Where: Washington Leisure Centre, Washington NE38 7SS
Fee: £2 per session. Refreshments not included.
Equipment: Rackets can be hired at the reception desk: ~£1.60 session
Notes:

1. Suitable footwear/ clothing must be worn
2. Membership of Leisure Centre is not required.

BOARD GAMES

Group Leader: Carolyn Baxter



When: Last Tuesday, 1.30-3.30pm
Where: Cross Keys, Washington Village
Fee: No Fee but buy a drink for use of facilities
Notes: We enjoy easy-to-learn games that can be played within an hour. We try out and play more than one game during a session. Example games include: Scrabble, Rummikub, Sequence, Ingenious.

BOWLING (INDOORS)



Group Leader: Lyn Bossons

When: Every Thursday, 4.15pm.
Where: Houghton Sports Centre, Station Road, Houghton-Le-Spring, DH4 5AH.
Fee: £3 per session. Refreshments not included
Equipment: Can be hired at the reception desk.
Notes:

1. Suitable footwear/ clothing must be worn.
2. Membership of Sports Centre is not required.

BRIDGE



Group Leader: Peter Wilkinson

When: Every Friday, 1.30pm

Where: Biddick Inn, Bonemill Ln, Washington NE38 8AJ

Fee: Buy a drink for use of facilities

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)



Group Leader: Tania Le Marinell

When: 4th Monday, 10.30-12.30

Where: Cross Keys, Washington Village

Fee: No Fee but buy a drink for use of facilities

Notes: The monthly meetings are to socialise, introduce people to each other, enjoy a chat and coffee, and start making plans to do new activities together. A WhatsApp group has been set up so members can share info and make arrangements between themselves securely.

COFFEE MORNING



Group Leader: Janice Phin

When: 2nd Wednesday, 10am

Where: Venues will be publicised on the group webpage.

Fee: Cost of refreshments

COFFEE MORNING 2



Group Leader: Yvonne Woodford

When: 3rd Wednesday, 10.30am

Where: Elm Tree Garden Centre Cafe.

Fee: Cost of refreshments

Groups information

<https://u3asites.org.uk/washington-village/groups>

COMEDY



Group Leader: George Dickey

When: 3rd Thursday, 12-1pm
Where: Wheelhouse Pub, Albany Centre
Fee: No Fee but buy a drink for use of facilities
Notes: The group welcomes new members.

CREATIVE WRITING



Group Leader: Anne Oswald

When: 2nd Thursday, 10-11.30am
Where: Contact the group leader.
Fee: None
Notes: Writing Topic will be publicised on the webpage's "Dates for your Diary"

DAY TRIPS

Group Leaders: Pauline Palmer and Norma Carroll



Notes:
Members will be updated at the monthly meetings and via the website page of planned trips. Any member who wishes to nominate a place of interest to visit can contact Pauline Palmer or Norma Carroll via the website.

DINERS CLUB

Group Leader: Jeff Craggs



When: Bi-monthly, Friday evening
Where: Variable
Note: The next venue will be publicised on the webpage, and members should contact the group leader to reserve places and pay whatever deposit is required. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

DRAWING & PAINTING



Group Leader: Ron Burr (Admin Support - Terry Harris)

When: 3rd Wednesday, 2-4pm

Where: Millennium Centre, The Oval, Washington NE37 2QD

Note: We have a WhatsApp Art Group, open to all members of Washington Village U3A, not just the Drawing & Painting Group.

FAMILY HISTORY



Group Leader: Ged Parker and John Edwards

When: 4th Thursday of the month 1.30-3.30pm

Where: Washington Arms, Washington

Fee: Buy a drink for use of facilities

Notes: To help members explore their family histories using free and paid for genealogical websites.
The focus is on use of DNA data.

KURLING Group



Group Leader: Derek Ginsberg

When: 2nd and 4th Thursday, 10-11am.

Where: Washington Leisure Centre, Washington NE38 7SS

Fee: £2.50 per session to cover cost of court hire.

Equipment: Provided

Notes:

1. Suitable footwear/ clothing must be worn
2. Membership of Leisure Centre is not required.
3. (Optional) coffee after in the Leisure centre cafe.

LINE DANCING Group Leader: Joan Ball



Tutor: Linda Shaw

When: Every other Wednesday (see group webpage for dates), 1:15-2.45pm

Where: Harraton Community Centre, Bonemill Lane NE38 8BQ

Fee: £3

OUR

ENVIRONMENT



Group Leader: Helen Edwards

When: The Group is currently only meeting via WhatsApp.

Where: N/A

Notes: Any WVU3a member who is interested in joining this WhatsApp based group should send a message to the group leader giving their mobile number. Any resources we create or find that are relevant to the full WVU3a membership are added to the webpage - with summaries on the [Environment Bulletin](#) page.

Focus: Think Globally: speakers/discussions on both nature and the environment.
Act Locally: members to do practical projects.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Group Leader: Frank Carroll



When: Last Thursday, 10.30-12noon

Where: Cross Keys, Washington Village.

Fee: Buy a drink for use of facilities

Notes: See group's webpage for field trips and themes.

PICKLEBALL

Group Leader: John Sutton



When: Every Wednesday, 11-12noon and also Thursday 2-3pm.

Where: Washington Leisure Centre, Washington NE38 7SS

Fee: £3 per session to cover cost of court hire.
Refreshments not included.

Equipment: This is provided.

Notes: 1. Suitable footwear/ clothing must be worn
2. Membership of Leisure Centre is not required.

QUIZ GROUP

Group Leader: Helen Edwards



When: 3rd Tuesday, 1.30-3.30pm.

Where: Cross Keys, Washington Village.

Fee: Buy a drink for use of facilities

Notes: There are no set teams, they are drawn at random on the day. So don't feel you can't come on your own, new members are always welcome. There is no prize to be won and therefore there are no subscriptions or entry fees.

READING 1



Group Leader: Helen Edwards
When: 2nd Thursday, 2-3pm
Where: AM Coffee, Level 1 at "The Galleries" Washington
Fee: Buy a drink
Equipment: Books provided by the Library
Notes: ***The group is full. There may be a waiting list.***

READING 2



Group Leader: Angela Nichols
When: 3rd Monday, 1.30-3pm
Where: Contact the Group Leader
Fee: None
Equipment: Books provided by the Library
Notes: ***The group is full. There may be a waiting list.***

READING 3



Group Leader: George Dickey
When: 3rd Thursday, 1.30-2.30pm
Where: Wheelhouse Pub, Albany NE37 1UB
Fee: Buy a drink
Equipment: Books provided by the Library
Notes: The group welcomes new members.

SNOOKER



Group Leader: Lyn Bossons
When: Every Tuesday, 2.00-4.00 pm
Where: Gateshead Snooker Centre, Durham Rd, Gateshead, NE9 5EF
Fee: £5 per session to cover cost of table hire. Refreshments not included.
Notes: Only basic knowledge and experience is needed. Limited to 12 members: not full at present.

SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS

Group Leader: Carolyn Wray
When: 2nd & 4th Monday, 12.30-1.30pm
Where: Washington Leisure Centre Cafe
Fee: Buy a refreshment.

Groups information

<https://u3asites.org.uk/washington-village/groups>

SPANISH ADVANCED

Group Leader: Crispin Welby

When: 2nd Tuesday, 12 noon

Where: Washington Arts Centre

Fee: Buy a refreshment.

Note: Please note that the Spanish speaking level is sort of failed O level or frequent visitor to Spain.

STROLLERS



Group Leader: Chris Scorer

When: Last Wednesday, 10am start.

Where: Various, see events on the group's webpage

Notes: Starting on 29 March on a 5 month trial. All walks will be around Washington. Duration of 45 mins, followed by optional visit to cafe for coffee afterwards.

TAI CHI



Group Leader: Ron McLennan

External Tutor: Bruce

When: Every Monday, 11-12noon

Where: 1st Washington Scouts Hall, Glebe Cres, Washington NE38 7AW

Fee: £5 per session.

Notes: Arrive to start the class at 11am.

Please ensure your mobile phone is switched off.

TABLE TENNIS



Group Leader: Jack Palmer

When: Every Tuesday, 11-12noon

Where: Washington Leisure Centre, Washington NE38 7SS

Fee: £2 per session to cover cost of court hire.
Refreshments not included.

Equipment: Spare bats are available.

Notes: 1. Suitable footwear/ clothing must be worn.
2. Membership of Leisure Centre is not required.

THEATRE/ CINEMA



Group Leaders:

Marilyn Ward & Sandie Parsons

When: 1st Monday, 10.30-12 noon (excluding bank holidays)
Where: The Cross Keys, Washington Village
Fee: None, but the Management request that members purchase a drink.
Visits: See 'Dates for your Diary' on the group's webpage

UKULELE



Group Leader: David Wood

When: 2nd and 4th Monday, 2-4pm
Where: Glebe Methodist Church, Fatfield Road, Washington, NE38 7DE
Fee: £1.50 + 50p (for coffee and biscuits)
Equipment: Instruments are not provided.

WALKING



Group Leader: Sandra Graham

When: 2nd and Last Friday, starting at 10am.
Where: See the group's webpage for specific walk locations.
Fee: None. Walkers provide their own refreshments.
Health: Walkers must prove themselves fit enough to cope with the walks, especially those that are more strenuous and challenging

Notes:

1. Walks are generally between 4 and 7 miles.
2. Appropriate footwear and clothing must be worn.

General

Information for Walkers:

1. You are advised to wear walking boots.
2. A waterproof jacket should be worn or carried.
3. Appropriate clothing to be worn e.g. light-weight walking clothing, fleeces, layers of clothing rather than bulky jackets.
4. It is advised to bring some food, a drink, mobile phone and walking pole if required.
5. It is the policy of Washington Village U3A for dogs **not** to be allowed on walks.
6. The leader of the walk, not necessarily the Group Leader, determines the route and reserves the right to alter the walk, as appropriate.