

WASHINGTON U3A – ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Retired but not Retiring is the motto of Washington U3A.

In the past year our committee and our members who are group leaders have as usual endeavoured to provide us all with activities that stimulate and revive our bodies,senses,brains and above all our well being.

The walking,strolling,cycling and fitness and dance sessions have not only provided excellent, enjoyable exercise for all abilities but have allowed people to form new friendships and interests. Our senses have been enriched by the above activities as well as by visits to Beningborough Hall and Crook Hall where we were surrounded by beauty, fragrance and opportunities to contemplate and socialise as well as treat our taste buds.Mmmm!! Speaking of food- those of us who attended Heworth Golf Club enjoyed a wonderful meal and entertainment for our annual meal in January.

Opportunities to stimulate those little grey cells have been encouraged by the Whist, Dominoes, Scrabble, Quiz and French groups which are thoroughly enjoyed by their attendees. High levels of skills abound in the digital, photography and computing group who have great fun putting together their various projects. The committee are very grateful for their contributions to some of our monthly meetings and the Washington U3A calendar. Visiting speakers have been interesting and very informative and in some cases have resulted in opportunities to visit their venues to learn more about them as will happen when we visit the Tyne Theatre and Hartlepool power station.

Our well being is enriched by enjoying the company of, and being supportive of other people. Group outings such as those to Eden Camp, Garden visits, bowling and our chatterbox lunches as well as holiday club day trips (Penrith and Holy Island) and longer holidays (Keukenhof Gardens - so popular it was repeated this year) must be encouraged and I must thank the people who work hard to organise these events.

Participating in regional and networking activities is also to be encouraged. The cycling group is now run jointly by Washington and Wessington and our members have supported Wessington this year by making and donating poppies as well as attending their Washington men at the Somme and Wear at War events. Wessington have expressed their thanks and appreciation to our members.

Onwards and upwards.we look forward to more of the same in our next year and we have some exciting events on the horizon including a 2 day trip to Barnsdale Gardens and Burleigh House and a visit to the awe inspiring Kynren . as well as visits to the Tyne Theatre, Hartlepool Power station and the BBC studios. I urge you all to have fun in participating in as many events as you can and please,please, please if you have any skills to offer or just your time ,help to keep our membership thrive with new ideas and above all participation. As they say You only get out of things as much as you put in.

Finally I would like pay tribute to Marion Tweedy, Tom Martin and Bob Emms who are sadly missed by us all and to let Pat Nicholson know that we are rooting for her after her stroke at Christmas.

Ann Moffat, Chair