



u3a WOOLER E-BULLETIN: AUTUMN 2022

<https://u3asites.org.uk/wooler>

WELCOME

On behalf of u3a Wooler Chair Peter Davies, Trustees and members ... welcome to this edition of the e-bulletin which keeps you in touch with the many and varied activities of one of the largest voluntary sector membership organisations in Glendale. Apologies if you receive more than one copy of this e-bulletin; better to see it twice than not at all?!

Apologies from E-bulletin Editor, Kelvin Rushworth

Some regular readers will know that, in November 2021, Storm Arwen virtually destroyed my apartment in Seahouses. The roof was replaced but the interior costs resulted in protracted discussions with my insurance company! However, fast forward to the last few months, and the apartment is sold and I am living in Keswick in the Lake District! With regard to the 'Autumn' edition of the E-bulletin, house removal and disruption of my internet access have meant huge delays in drafting/completion. Sorry. However, I have been reminded that Autumn does not end, officially, until 21 December!

Anglo-Saxon bones and a hereditary Peer

After a Covid-19 gap, reliance on Zoom and YouTube, u3a Wooler History Group had two great guest speakers at recently re-launched face-to-face meetings. **Lord Joicey** spoke about the development of the Ford and Etal estates since the end of World War II.



Baron Joicey of Chester-le-Street in the County of Durham, is a title in the Peerage of the United Kingdom.

It was created in 1906 for the coal mining magnate and former Liberal Member of Parliament for Chester-le-Street, Sir James Joicey, 1st Baronet. The family seat is Etal Manor on the Ford Castle and Etal Castle estate in Northumberland.

Ford and Etal estates have been the home of the Joicey family for over 100 years. The present Lord Joicey's father, the 1st Baron Joicey, purchased Ford Estate in 1907 from the Waterford family. One year later, in 1908, he purchased the adjoining Etal Estate, uniting the two for the first time in history.

Jessica Turner (Project Officer, Accessing Aidan) gave a fascinating talk about 'Bamburgh Bones', the Ossuary in the Crypt at St Aidan's Church, Bamburgh.



Beneath the sand dunes on the North Northumberland coast, laid the remains of Anglo-Saxon people that helped shape Northumbria's Golden Age. All the individuals within the St Aidan's Church crypt ossuary came from the 'Bowl Hole' graveyard. First revealed by a violent storm in the 19th century, the Bowl Hole graveyard is hidden within the sand dunes a few hundred meters south of Bamburgh Castle. Dozens of individuals were uncovered during excavations between 1998 to 2007. These remains have been analysed to reveal stories about these people and their lives.

Placed in modern ossuary boxes, the skeletons excavated from the Bowl Hole were laid to rest in 2016. Visitors can view the room containing the rows of ossuary boxes through a small gate from the main crypt. To find out more about these people, where they came from, something of their lives and the ailments they suffered with, visitors can visit the digital ossuary and filter the ninety-nine ossuary entries. Each entry includes what is known about the individual along with a photo, drawing and map.

At the most recent History Group meeting, new Group Organiser Joan Thomas encouraged members to research the history of a favourite church or building and talk a little bit about what they had discovered. Those who felt unable to do research or talk still chose a church or building and those present with an iPad helped at the meeting.

Future meetings, facilitated by Joan Thomas, will be participative and all members will be asked to contribute ideas and research/present topics of local and family history.

Lindisfarne Gospels: back in the North East (where they belong?)

Joan Thomas, Peter and Jan Davies from u3a Wooler attended the penultimate u3a 40th Anniversary event, organised by the Northumbria u3a Events Committee at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle – to celebrate the albeit brief return of the Lindisfarne Gospels to the North East.



The morning and afternoon sessions, attracting the maximum forty attendees from u3as across the region, started in the Function Room with tea/coffee and biscuits provided by Joanne Charlton (Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums). Event Volunteers Sandra Davison and Sheila Hull (u3a Newcastle) welcomed attendees at the u3a Desk. Durham Cathedral Guide, Northumbria u3a Trustee and u3a Seaham Harbour Chair Malcom Wilkinson gave a wonderfully illustrated informative introductory talk about the Gospels.



Photo by Joanne Charlton

Then, attendees were able to visit the Lindisfarne Gospels Exhibition which is about its meaning in the world today and its relationship with themes of personal, regional and national identity. Created on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, the book represents the golden age of design and craftsmanship in Northumbria and has survived in almost perfect condition for over one thousand years.

The Exhibition begins with a short immersive digital experience and, in addition to the Lindisfarne Gospels, includes a stunning selection of medieval treasures brought together from across Britain, reflecting both personal and collective religious experiences in the 8th century.

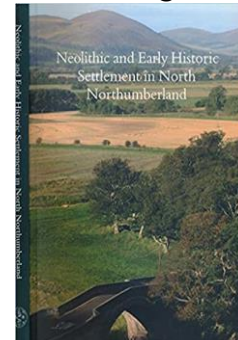
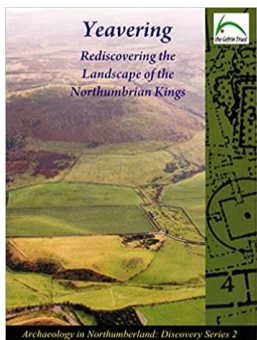


Photo by Joanne Charlton

Level Six of Newcastle City Library hosts a free complementary exhibition – “Sharing Stories: through the ages” (until 31 January 2023), exploring how we have shared stories since the time of the Lindisfarne Gospels, with items from the Newcastle City Library collection and items borrowed from the British Library (London) and Seven Stories (Newcastle).

Fascinating Speaker at Monthly Meeting and lots going on in u3a Wooler Interest Groups ...

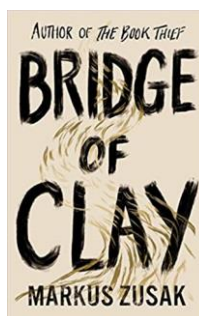
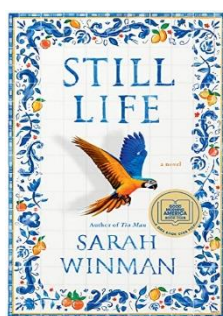
Members were fascinated by the impressive presentation, “Homes for the Living: Houses for the Dead: life and death in Glendale across 8,000 years”, by archaeologist Roger Miket ...



(Northumberland Gazette)

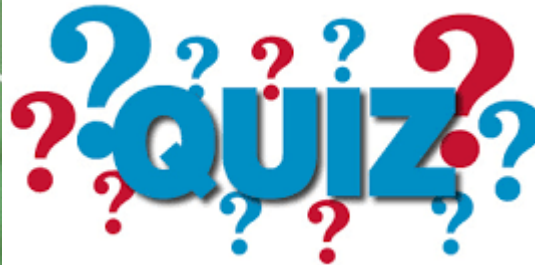
Recently, Geology enthusiasts enjoyed two great discussions, “The structure of the earth and an introduction to plate tectonics” led by Alison Tymon and “Cheviot Volcanoes: What were they like? Would you have survived?” led by Elizabeth Devon.

Reading for Pleasure devotees, facilitated by Elaine Bales, discussed two interesting books, “Still Life” by Sarah Winman and “Bridge of Clay” by Markus Zusak ...



A relatively new Group, Computer Advice (led by Mo Brown), is proving very popular. Sessions include a general tutorial, via Zoom, and some time for individual attention – at present, focussing on iPads and iPhones.

The monthly Fun Quiz has restarted with enthusiasts being told by organiser Pat Brown that it is a “relaxed fun quiz – nothing highbrow, lots of laughs!”. Active u3a Wooler members – and there are many – continue to enjoy weekly sessions of Carpet Bowls (Derek Riley: “good exercise and very sociable!”) and Table Tennis (Veronica Gilbert: “all levels of ability welcome – come and have fun!”). Ann Love and Wine Appreciation Group members insist that they are very active too!



HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON

u3a Wooler is waiting to welcome you
– whoever you are, wherever you live and whatever your circumstances.

Once a month, all members are invited to a meeting where you can get together,
chat over tea or coffee and listen to some great speakers.

Anyone can attend two Monthly Meetings or try out two Interest Groups for free, before
deciding to join u3a Wooler (there may be a small charge, towards room hire).

Following an informal agreement with other u3as in North Northumberland, u3a Wooler
members can attend Monthly Meetings and Interest Groups
at u3a Alnwick, u3a Berwick and u3a Coquetdale on the same basis.

Usually, full details of u3a Wooler monthly programmes and Interest Groups can be found
in Glendale Live listings and on the u3a Wooler website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/wooler>).

REMEMBER

If you are no longer in full time work, u3a gives you opportunities
to develop your interests, make new friends and have fun.

Currently, u3a Wooler has a growing number of Interest Groups, including –
Art Appreciation, Carpet Bowls, Computer Advice, Fun Quiz, Geology, History, Opera &
Ballet, Painting and Drawing, Philosophy for Fun, Reading for Pleasure, Table Tennis and
Wine Appreciation. Decisions about what to do are made by the members.

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