



# South Durham U3A Newsletter

January 2019 No.195

## Chairperson's Message

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2019.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all Health, Wealth and Happiness for the year ahead.

Attached to this Newsletter is the new South Durham U3A Constitution for you all to digest (sorry it's so long!) It has already been approved by the National Office, but it needs to be approved by the members now.

If you have any questions or inquiries please forward them to Debbie Hardy before January 22nd. We will have a very short Emergency General Meeting before the speaker in February for you to vote in the new Constitution.

look forward to seeing you all for our first meeting of the year on January 8th when Peter Barron is entertaining us.

Carol Boyd.  
01325496153  
07790584120

[carolboydu3a@gmail.com](mailto:carolboydu3a@gmail.com)

## Last Month's Speaker Jean Bird

The Music Hall, Marie LLOYD and  
King Edward V11

Jean gave us a morning of levity, song and a lighter look at Edwardian history. Music Halls were originally very basic venues of entertainment for the working classes. However their popularity ensured their development into a vast commercial enterprises for variety artists and a place of

## January Meeting 8th January 2019

**Bowen Hall  
Coffee 9:45am**

**Peter Barron  
Cloudy, Rain later**

vast commercial enterprises for variety artists and a place of entertainment for aristocratic gents and merchants. "Ladies" were never present in these dens of iniquity!

Both Marie LLOYD and "Bertie" (King Edward V11) were much loved by the public and recognised as of the people. In other words - one of us. They shared Humour, compassion for the people and difficult childhoods. Marie, one of nine children, was born in the East end of London to a poor but very happy family. Her father was a waiter and took Marie to work with him and encouraged her to entertain his clientele with song and dance. By the age of 16 she had achieved stardom and was commanding £100 per week, a huge salary in 1886.

Bertie's childhood was emotionally very harsh, being neglected emotionally by his mother Victoria and subjected by both parents to continual moulding of his nature into an acceptable royal bearing. **He was outgoing and very**

He was outgoing and very gregarious and by the age of 18 was involved in an affair with an actress. In spite of being married to the beautiful Alexandra of Denmark, he sustained salubrious affairs all his life.

Marie's adult life was most unhappy, marrying three times twice to brutes who beat her and swallowed up her wealth and finally a dead beat toy boy who was a total wastrel. She did however continue to support every member of her family financially until her death and also give considerable charitable donations to the needy of the East end. Not surprisingly Marie drowned her sorrows and was often on stage inebriated. Her audiences still loved her and accepted her drunkenness. She was valued for her good heart and judgments were not made about her lifestyle. She died on stage at the age of 52 in 1922. Like Bertie's funeral in 1910 her funeral also saw the streets lined with thousands of mourners. Different people, different walks of life but both immensely popular.

Jean carried her fascinating talk along by intersecting many songs from The Music Hall days. We all sang along together enjoying these wonderful old melodies, just hoping that the "hook" would not pull us off stage for poor performance! Well done and thank you Jean for such a cheerful morning.

Rosina Rowley

## Recent Events

### Intermediate Walking 3rd December

A small group of members set off from Stockton on a fine December morning for a guided walk along the river Tees.

The walk was led by Dave Boyd and set off on the north bank of the river in the direction of Middlesbrough.

After about a mile we reached the Tees Barrage which is an amazing facility featuring a canoe course, navigable lock, adventure climbing structure, marina, riverside cafe and a nearby hotel and restaurant. The whole area is landscaped and features rocky outcrops and picnic areas.

After a welcome cuppa in the cafe we carried on downriver passing under the A19 Tees flyover to reach the Newport bridge.

This interesting structure was built in accommodate shipping sailing up river to Stockton which used to be a busy port. The roadway which crosses the river is designed to be raised up to allow the passage of vessels to and from Stockton. Since the barrage was built large ocean going vessels no longer go to Stockton and the building is no longer raised on a regular basis.

We walked across the bridge to return to Stockton on the South bank of the river. After passing the barrage we walked by the university complex before we recrossed the river on the Infinity bridge.

The walk was paved, tarmaced or concreted and more or less level all the way.



We were fortunate in spotting a pair of seals in the river downstream from the barrage and the heavy industry which once dominated the area was generally replaced by new buildings and landscaped nature parks. A very enjoyable walk indeed.

Bill Oliver

### Christmas Lunch 20th November

This was the third of five Christmas meals I had in my diary and by Friday December 14 my seasonal digestive stamina was beginning to build. I've been to Darlington's masonic hall before but always feel like a bit of an impostor there, mainly due to being the wrong sex. However these feelings disappeared on entry – I had forgotten the impressive lounge bar facilities. My, these masons do themselves proud. On quite a different note I was struck by the rather quaint wording of a notice in the ladies' cloakroom requesting that nothing be left on the "vanity shelf" in front of the mirror.

Being on a bit of a health kick, I had walked into town and ordered a sparkling water at the bar. This led to an initial smugness though I'd have been up on the dance floor sooner with a couple of glasses of wine inside me. I really enjoyed the food having opted for the smoked salmon, turkey and tarte au citron, plus the good company on our table despite two cancellations caused by a bad cold and an unexpected funeral.

After dancing with the girls for twenty minutes or so round some invisible handbags, it suddenly struck home that I was no longer 17 but a 71-year-old with a very full stomach, so graceful retirement was in order. I'm not particularly adept at goodbyes so tried slipping out unobserved - unsuccessfully. Anyway, I'd enjoyed myself. Many

thanks to Judith Bryant and Barbara Myers for organisation, to George Hardy for the music, and to all three for taking my mind off the Brexit panto for a couple of hours.

Linda Chadd.

### Intermediate Walking 17 December

On an icy morning eight hardy walkers set off from Cockerton to follow the dogwalkers path alongside Staindrop Road. We crossed the road and followed the course of the Baydale Beck where kingfishers have been spotted. It was surprising to see how many houses have been built near the Beck since we last did the walk and we commented on the plans for the new Coniscliffe Park housing estate which is to be built on the other side of the Beck.

We eventually turned back and walked over fields near Manners Farm before crossing the road to walk towards Acorn Dairy at Archdeacon Newton where we had a refreshment break. On our way back we had to climb over two stiles, one of which was challenging, as there was barbed wire along the top of it with a loose block of wood covering it. However, we eventually managed to cross it and walked back down Newton Lane to Cockerton village where we enjoyed tea and cakes and great conversation. The distance covered was six miles.

Thank you to Dave Boyd for leading this walk and the members of the Intermediate Walking Group are grateful for all Dave's hard work over the past year.

Mavis Masters

## Recent Events

### Reading Group 1 12th December

December's meeting took the form of a buffet lunch hosted by Joan where we sampled the delights of mulled wine and festive treats in the Christmassy ambience of Joan's lovely home. Lunch was followed by a quiz based on the pen names of famous authors and was won by Pauline with full marks.

As I have no book to review I would just like to say a few words about a delightful talk I attended at Darlington Library.

Dr Ben Roberts was discussing Christmas Celebrations in 19th and 20th Century Darlington. It was fascinating to observe the evolution of the customs we are familiar with today. Of course Prince Albert had a lot to do with today's avalanche of trees, cards and presents but before that by the early 19th Century there were sword dances and special dishes with unpalatable names such as fromenty and furmity.

In later Victorian times poor people would take their friends and neighbours to view the Christmas cards displayed in shop windows as a way of offering greetings without having to spend any money. The great and the good would visit the workhouses to display their generosity and to admire decorations which were taken down once they had left!

However the worst Christmas baddie was Queen Mary who declared that people should start their Christmas shopping at the beginning of November, so we can't entirely blame modern commercial interests for being quick off the mark.

This talk was one of many offered during the course of the year and for art lovers the January Exhibition at Crown Street will be 'Darlington through the eyes of Artists'.

Toni Carr

### Music for Pleasure 22nd November

This was held at Garthorne Avenue where we enjoyed "Felix's Choice, Janacek - Idyll for string orchestra, Janacek Sinfonietta and the King's Singers. These were well received and Felix gave us his reasons for the choices and a good introduction to the pieces.

Barry Garnett

### Reading Group 2

We are currently reading The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett. We will be meeting to discuss the Book on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 46 Westfield Drive, Darlington. Please contact me if you would like to join the Group.

Debbie Hardy

### Local History Group 18<sup>th</sup> December

Once again the above group took part in a most interesting picture quiz, which served as a reminder of the many talks and visits we had enjoyed over the last year.

Ruth had put together a collection of photos of Historic Buildings (and contents), together with photos of the Property owners, all of which we had looked at over the year.

After some team discussion most of the Historic Buildings were correctly identified by Members; Rokeby Hall, Kiplin Hall, Streatham Castle (now demolished), Southend, (now Bannatynes Hotel) Bishop Auckland Castle, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Bowes Museum and Pierremont, to name a few. The large Estate known as Pierremont covered land both north and south of Woodland Road and contained the "Pierremont Vase" the fountain now located in South Park.

We may have failed to correctly identify Henry Pease, or what it

We may have failed to correctly identify Henry Pease, or what it Edward!! and the photo of Jacob, part of the Spanish Zurbaran Paintings, located within Bishop Auckland Castle did prove rather difficult. However, we did recognise both Josephine and John Bowes, the owners of Streatham Castle and we were all able to name the famous Rokeby Venus, a copy of which is on display at Rokeby Hall. We did however struggle to name the Artist, Velazquez.

The photos generated much discussion about local landmarks, and their designers, we had to be reminded of the name of the designer of Rokeby, Sir Thomas Robinson, and also Alfred Waterhouse the Architect for the Town Clock Tower and the Pierremont Clock Tower.

A very big thank you to Ruth for a very pleasant morning, we all felt we had managed to remember a great deal of historical facts surrounding our local area and its famous people.

We look forward to another entertaining and educational year ahead. Please do join us; we have spaces for a few more U3A Members.

Debbie Hardy



## Future Events

### Group Contacts

<b>Boules</b>		
Sue	07811	
129179		
<b>Bridge</b>		
Eric	720260	
<b>Canasta</b>		
Margaret	485403	
<b>Current Affairs</b>		
Kathy	462020	
<b>Design Appreciation</b>		
Clive	358247	
<b>Discoverers</b>		
Carol	496153	
<b>Hill Walking</b>		
Liz	359921	
<b>Intermediate Walking</b>		
Dave	496153	
<b>Local History</b>		
Debbie	482165	
<b>Mah-Jong</b>		
Adrienne	482386	
<b>Music for Pleasure</b>		
Pat & Barry	482391	
<b>Play Reading</b>		
Muriel	486129	
<b>Reading Group</b>		
Ann	356847	
<b>Rummikub</b>		
Liz	359921	
<b>Strollers</b>		
Debbie	482165	
<b>Theatre</b>		
Joan	358247	

### To all Group

#### Leaders/Conveners:

I have recently taken over our U3A website and would like to update the information about each of our groups. How often do you meet, where, what you do? Examples of what you've been up to recently or what you plan to do in the near future. Anything that would inform new members of what to expect and how to make contact in the first instance. Pictures would be welcome if you have any.

Please forward to  
[ruthbeckett@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthbeckett@hotmail.com).

### Boules

Boules is now in hibernation until the Spring.

Contact Sue on 359651

### Bridge

More people needed for this wonderful game.

We have great fun, while we learn. There is plenty of humour, and we are a friendly group. Whether you have ever played or not you will be welcome. We have gone away for holidays in which we walk during the day, and play bridge in the evenings, and imbibe a little. Or not so little ! So walkers are welcome ! You can reach me at [neukman07@gmail.com](mailto:neukman07@gmail.com).

Contact Eric on 720260

### Canasta

We meet at the Travellers Rest at 1:45 on 1st & 3rd Thursdays each month. We have more room here and new members are very welcome

Contact Margaret on 485403

### Current Affairs

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month - 29th January will be the next one.

Kathy Clulee on 01325 462020

### Design Appreciation

For our January meeting, we shall be gathering at Pat and Barry's on the 24th January for a programme on driverless cars and designing an electrically powered Jaguar..

Contact Clive on 358247 or  
[cliveabreeves@me.com](mailto:cliveabreeves@me.com)

### Discoverers

I hope you find the following information regarding future events helpful. All our visits are on the website page please take a look, there maybe something of interest to you.

Our first visit of the year is on Friday 25th January. We

Our first visit of the year is on Friday 25th January. We have a guided tour of Durham Cathedral at 11am, followed by a visit to the Open Treasure, this is at your leisure. Cost is £10 per person payable at January meeting, or you may send a cheque made payable to South Durham U3A by post to me at address below. Usually meeting place Cockerton Car Park, leaving prompt at 9-45am, car sharing and parking at Belmont Park and Ride please remember your bus pass.

April's visit on Friday April 26th is to Tennant's Auction House in Leyburn for talk commencing at 11am. The cost is £28 per person and includes coffee with biscuits, talk, lunch, tour then tea and scones before we depart at 4pm. This visit requires a deposit of £5 per person payable at January's meeting or by cheque made payable to South Durham U3A and posted to me at address below. Places still available.

Mrs Carol Boyd,  
37, Lowther Drive,  
Woodham,  
Newton. Aycliffe,  
DL5 4 UL.  
01325496153  
07790584120

[carolboydu3a@gmail.com](mailto:carolboydu3a@gmail.com)

### Garden Group

We are still looking for suggestions and offers to keep this group going  
Contact a Committee Member

### Hill Walking

The next one is around the Barnard Castle area on Friday 18th January. Please meet at ED Walker Homes at 9.30. There will be either a pub or cafe lunch plus a banana stop. For further information on this walk please contact Liz on tel [359921](tel:359921)

## Future Events

### Hill Walking

The walks for 2019 are as follows:-  
February 15th - Arden Hall Hawnby  
March 15th - Bowes area  
April 26th - Swaledale area  
May 17th - Shincliffe area  
June 21st - Muker area  
July 19th - Buckden Pike  
Sept 20th - Ireshopburn area  
Oct 18th - Langdon Beck area  
Nov 15th - Eggleston/ Wholton  
Please note that these proposed walks may change

Contact Susan on 252713  
Liz on 359921

### Intermediate Walking

As usual no walk leaders as yet but dates are Monday 21st of January and the 4th of February. As usual meet at Cockerton Car Park to leave at 10 am prompt. The walkers meal will be at the Burtree Inn on the 12th of February after the general meeting.

Dave on 496153

[goggledaveboyd1954@gmail.com](mailto:goggledaveboyd1954@gmail.com)

### Local History

We will not be having our usual Meeting at Bradbury House in January; instead we will be meeting for lunch at The Keys on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January. If you have not put your name on the list and wish to join us please contact me by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January and I will add your name to the list. Copies of the lunchtime menu will be available at the General Meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January. This will enable us to make our menu choices. Please contact me if you have any queries.

In February we will be back to having our normal Meeting at Bradbury House. We have our very own Lorna Wilkinson talking to us about her Great Uncle George, 'A window on his world'

Please do join us from 10 o'clock onwards on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Debbie Hardy on 482165  
or 07832 694353.

### Lunch Club

Contact Kathy 462020



We welcome more members to join our group. This meeting is held in members homes on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 2.00pm.

Contact Adrienne on 48238

### Music for Pleasure

Our next meeting will be held on the 15th January at John Baldwin's where we shall be watching a DVD of Tosca with Angela Gheorgiu as Tosca, with Roberto Alagna and Ruggero Raimondi.

It will be good to connect once again with John in this way, please contact Barry on 01325 482391 if you are not sure of the location.

Contact Barry on 482391

### Proposed Trip 2019

If you would like further information, please speak to me at one of the monthly meetings or, if you are unable to attend the meetings, you can call me on 07902 697508 or email me at [pauline.noble70@ntlworld.com](mailto:pauline.noble70@ntlworld.com) and I shall be pleased to help.

Pauline Noble

### Play Reading

We meet to finish 'Cat's Cradle' on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at Elaine's

Contact Muriel on 486129

### Reading Group 1

Our next meeting will be at Toni's on January 9th when we will be discussing Jeeves and the Wedding bells by Sebastian Faulks.

Contact Ann on 3568847

### Reading Group 2

We are currently reading The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett. We will be meeting to discuss the Book on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 46 Westfield Drive, Darlington. Please contact me if you would like to join the Group.

Debbie Hardy

### Rummikub

The Rummikub group meets 10.00-12.00 on the first Friday of every month. It is a brilliant tile – based board game, easy to learn but with levels of cunning which test the little grey cells and cause much admiration and gnashing of teeth in equal proportion. We play with intent but huge friendliness and fortuitously everyone won at least once and all went home very happy. I do recommend this happy way to start the weekend and the month. Next Meeting Friday 4th January

Contact Liz on 359921

### Sunday Club

I would like interested people to meet for quick discussion and ideas, on Tuesday 8th January after the General meeting.

Margaret Lewis

## Future Events

### Theatre Group

A Happy New Year to all and happy theatre going.

Clive and I have booked to see J B Priestley's play When We Are Married at The Witham Barnard Castle on Sat 12th January at 7.30 pm. I have only just heard that this production is taking place being under the impression that it was Panto at most theatres throughout January. It is being performed by The Castle Players with tickets at £10 each. There were some seats left when I booked. To book either ring [01833 631107](tel:01833631107) or on Witham website.

If anyone would like to join us, I will try to arrange car share.

All best wishes, Joan

Sadler [07526526227](tel:07526526227)

(landline not working at present) or email

[john.sadler520@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.sadler520@ntlworld.com)

### Future Speakers

- Feb. Ian McCardle  
The Suffragette  
Emily Davison
- March James O'Connor  
Dorothy's Well Project  
Tanzania
- April Chris Lloyd
- May Sue Trewitt  
Preston Park and Victorian  
Life
- June Blood Bikes
- July Great North Ambulance
- August Tim Viggars  
Friends Against Scams
- Sept. Virginia Arrowsmith  
Right on Track. Heritage  
Education at  
Wensleydale Railway
- Oct. Tony Nicholson  
Letters in the Attic 2
- Nov. AGM  
Quiz
- Dec. Geoff Hughes  
Songs and Stories of  
Christmas

# Future Events

## January Calendar

## February Calendar

1st	Tuesday		1st	Friday	Rummikub
2nd	Wednesday	Bridge	2nd	Saturday	
3rd	Thursday	Committee Meeting, Canasta	3rd	Sunday	
4th	Friday	Rummikub	4th	Monday	Intermediate Walking
5th	Saturday		5th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting
6th	Sunday		6th	Wednesday	Bridge
7th	Monday	Intermediate Walking	7th	Thursday	Canasta
8th	Tuesday	General Meeting	8th	Friday	
9th	Wednesday	Bridge, Reading Group 1	9th	Saturday	
10th	Thursday		10th	Sunday	
11th	Friday		11th	Monday	Mah-Jong
12th	Saturday		12th	Tuesday	General Meeting
13th	Sunday		13th	Wednesday	Bridge, Reading Group
14th	Monday	Mah-Jong	14th	Thursday	Mah-Jong
15th	Tuesday	Music for Pleasure, Play Reading	15th	Friday	Hill Walking
16th	Wednesday	Bridge, Local History Lunch	16th	Saturday	
17th	Thursday	Canasta	17th	Sunday	
18th	Friday	Hill Walking	18th	Monday	Intermediate Walking
19th	Saturday		19th	Tuesday	Music for Pleasure, Local History Play Reading
20th	Sunday		20th	Wednesday	Bridge
21st	Monday	Intermediate Walking	21st	Thursday	Canasta
22nd	Tuesday		22nd	Friday	
23rd	Wednesday	Bridge	23rd	Saturday	
24th	Thursday	Design Appreciation	24th	Sunday	
25th	Friday	Current Affairs, Discoverers	25th	Monday	Mah-Jong
26th	Saturday		26th	Tuesday	Current Affairs
27th	Sunday		27th	Wednesday	Bridge
28th	Monday	Mah-Jong, Reading Group 2	28th	Thursday	Design Appreciation
29th	Tuesday	Current Affairs			
30th	Wednesday	Bridge			
31st	Thursday				

Items for the Newsletter, including Future Events and their dates, should be sent to Clive, by email, at [cliveabreeves@me.com](mailto:cliveabreeves@me.com)

The last day of the month is the latest date for insertion in the following month's edition