

South Durham U3A

Active in Darlington, Cockerton and surrounding areas

<http://www.sdurhamu3a.org.uk/>

Monthly Newsletter – October 2019 – No 204

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday 8th October "Letters in the Attic 2"

Chair's Message

Hello and welcome to October's newsletter as summer draws to a close. I would like to thank the people who have organized trips this summer and to the members for supporting them. The one that stands out for me is South Durham U3A's first weekend away, it was well organized, well supported and even the weather played its part. I have thanked Enterprise Travel for providing good coaches and drivers for all our outings.

NEW LAYOUT IN HALL Last month we tried a new layout in the main hall for our meeting which a lot of members were happy with so it will be the same for October where we will ask for your feedback.

NEW LAYOUT IN ANNEX. Last month we had sign-up sheets for a new lunch group and Dave's Interest Group. Unfortunately neither attracted a lot of attention and we wondered if this was due to it being on the walking table. So in October there will be a table across the back of Annex which will be for **general activities**.

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday November 12th We hope to adopt a new format to this year's meeting, and we are holding a Group Leaders meeting in October to discuss how the different groups can play their part on Nov 12th instead of holding a Quiz. Attached to your news letter you will find

- Minutes of last year's AGM
- Accounts signed by Ian Groves auditor
- A nomination form for election of Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer & new committee members.

Questions or queries should be sent in writing by Wednesday 22nd October to, Mrs D Hardy, 46, Westfield Drive, Darlington, DL3 9BB

Please members let's have some nominations, as if I am re-elected I will be going into my last year as Chairperson of South Durham U3A. Carol Boyd - Carolboydu3a@gmail.com

RECENT EVENTS



Last Month's Speaker

LOOPY LISA'S FUDGE

Surely one of the most personal talks I have witnessed at our U3A, in that it revealed so much about the speaker. The Wensleydale Railway rep having failed to materialise, Lisa Lane turned up to speak to us about her fudge making business, complete with practical demo. I did lose the thread at certain times but in retrospect this was an interesting and humorous account of how a small business can grow almost by accident, from a one-pot affair in a kitchen to a specialist enterprise supplying outlets like Fortnum's and appearing at food fests all over the country. The samples weren't bad either.

The exact recipes escaped me but I'd be surprised if Lisa has divulged all her secrets, given that this is such a money-spinner. I wonder if you can patent

Any items for the newsletter or website should be sent to southdurhamu3a@gmail.com
Items for the next newsletter should arrive by the last day of the month.

fudge. Mind you, I don't like the sound of the 18-hour days - in fact the whole thing sounds like really hard physical work involving chemistry and maths. I think I'll stick to eating it – but I'm trying to watch my weight. The goods were just too tempting to buy. **LINDA CHADD**

DISCOVERERS 27 September - Binchester Fort

We were fortunate to have David Mason, the Principal Archeologist for Durham County, as our guide on our visit to Binchester Fort. He told us that there had been two forts at Binchester- a very large one built around 80AD to guard the point where the Roman road from York to Scotland crossed the River Wear, this road was known as Dere Street and formed part of the main road through the fort. The earlier, larger fort could have accommodated 1500 - 2000 soldiers and the main garrison of the smaller fort, which was built around 160AD, was a unit of Spanish cavalry.

We saw the remains of part of the Commanding Officer's house and entered a modern timber building which is above the remains of a bath house used by the commanding officer and his family and guests. The bath house included hot rooms, steam rooms and hot and cold plunge baths, as bathing in Roman times was a mixture of cleansing and sports activities and socialising and they had their own underfloor heating system known as the hypocaust. Most forts had two bathing establishments and David took us to another ongoing excavation where we saw the bath house used by the troops. The walls of this building are extremely well preserved and stand 2 metres high. When this excavation is completed in the future it will be the best example of a Roman bath building in the country.

Finally we heard about some of the artefacts discovered on the site including thousands of "Binchester Pennies". Our thanks to Carol for organising this very worthwhile and fascinating visit. **Mavis Masters**

GARDENING GROUP

This month we visited the home of Ann & Bill Paton with its extremely tidy, well stocked mature gardens to the front and rear.

Ann clearly loves gardening and there is much evidence of her moving plants to find the perfect location and splitting plants she likes, to fill gaps. There is a large variety of shrubs of all shapes and size, ground cover plants and a lovely lawn edged with plants in containers. There are shaped borders with climbers trained through the trees, and even a clever use of mirrors to give another view of the plants. Ann shows a very good knowledge of plant names and those she couldn't remember Frances could!

A most interesting feature that sits by the front door is a very large tree stump which Bill found washed up on Redcar beach and brought home!! It now sits majestically bearing stones and pebbles from Cornish beaches. **Ruth Beckett**



GARDEN VISITS GROUP Breezy Knees 25/9/2019



A mild, dryish day saw 21 greenfingered ladies off with M & D Travel to Breezy Knees, York (it wasn't breezy and our knees were fine) even with 20 acres of splendid gardens to explore.

It was largely divided into rooms by substantial hedges, all extremely neat and well maintained, with hardly a weed in sight, by a very small group of gardeners. Favourites included the spacious and immaculate Conifer garden, the pretty Cottage garden with its winding paths, the White Rose fountains and the colourful floriferous September garden with coordinating colour zones.

Supplementing the many plants were a selection of quirky notices, enormous specially commissioned fibreglass Wellington Boots, Stonehenge/hedges, elfin figures, stunning gates as well as a knot garden butterfly. With 20 named areas to explore there would be plenty to revisit including the friendly staff and tasty food in the cafe. **Pam Todd**

HILL WALKING Weardale 21st September



On Friday the 20th September 7 of us set off from Westgate in Weardale along the river Wear to St John's Chapel then to New House where the lead miners mangers house was built. Then we continued up to Seeingsike road passing disused quarries and having our lunch stop on the shade of a tree looking over the Valley. Then made our way back down along Middelhope Burn passing old lead mine working and back to Westgate to return home after a very enjoyable walk and good company on a hot sunny day. **Dave Boyd**

INTERMEDIATE WALKING 2nd September

Today the walk commenced from West Witton, Near Leyburn. Although we had set off from Cockerton Car Park in sunsh1st ine, unfortunately by the time we arrived in West Witton the weather had changed. In fact throughout the walk, we had sunshine and showers. It was also windy and we all agreed it felt like an autumn day. Still, it was a lovely walk; when the clouds disappeared you could see Preston, Redmire, Bolton Hall and Bolton Castle. On our return part of the walk high above was Penhill. Part of the walk was described as a "hummocky landscape". We passed through pastureland and the walk by the river was lovely. When we arrived back in the village it was time for a cup of tea! This turned out a delightful experience. The teashop was inside the village shop. The lady said yes she could fit us all in (ten people). Well, it was similar to sitting in someone's parlour. Books lined the walls; any donations were for Great Air Ambulance. It was a lovely end to a lovely day. Many thanks to Susan Storey for leading the walk. **Eileen Miller**

INTERMEDIATE WALKING GROUP 16th September Sandsend – Whitby



It was a brilliant day to walk the three miles from Sandsend to Whitby along the beach, returning after fish and chips, and another three miles, to Sandsend again. This is becoming a regular September walk for us and for the first time we were able to go both ways on the beach, just nicely reaching the Sandsend café before the tide came in. The weather echoed the sunshine of our weekend in Derby and was almost a continuation of the mini holiday. Thanks to Dave for the brainwave for a walk which didn't need to be 'reccied'. **Muriel Jones**

LOCAL HISTORY 17th September An Update on The Auckland Project

Kathy Wilson, Senior Visitor Engagement Officer of the Auckland Project, provided us with a very interesting, enthusiastic and entertaining talk.

Kathy explained that in 2011 when the Church Commission decided to sell the Zurbaran paintings, Jacob and his twelve sons, Jonathan Ruffer, UK financier, purchased them together with Auckland Castle. He placed the Castle and paintings in trust for the people of the North East. He named the charity the Auckland Castle Trust and has since renamed it the Auckland Project to reflect its continued evolution and long term aspirations including its mission to revitalise the town of Bishop Auckland and the surrounding area. The Auckland Project is a catalyst for regeneration and already 2 new pubs, coffee and gift shops have opened.

The Postchaise and Queens Head Hotels in the Market Place have been purchased to convert to a boutique hotel with 80 rooms, to encourage visitors to stay in the town.

Kathy provided a brief history about the Bishops of Durham who became known as Prince Bishops from 1075 when Walcher, following his purchase of the Earldom of Northumbria, became the first Prince Bishop. The Prince Bishops were military leaders and controlled huge areas of land, they wielded vast amounts of power allowing them to raise their own army, mint their own coins and levy taxes. The title Prince Bishop continued until the early 19th century.

It was said "There are two kings in England, namely the Lord King of England, wearing a crown in sign of his regality and the Lord Bishop of Durham wearing a mitre in place of a crown, in sign of his regality in the diocese of Durham". (Steward of Anthony Bek, Bishop of Durham 1284-1311).

The Castle was built in the 12th Century as a manor house and converted to a castle by Bishop Bek. In 1756 Bishop Trevor purchased the Zurbaran paintings, Jacob and his twelve sons, who went on to found the twelve tribes of Israel. He hung the paintings in the long dining room where he could display his wealth, status and taste.

The Auckland project is returning Auckland Castle, Auckland Palace, the Bishop's Castle or Bishop's Palace, however you wish to call it, to its former Georgian Gothic splendour. The Castle was still occupied by family until 2012, but will now open to the public on 2nd November 2019 showcasing rooms through different periods of history. A medieval bowling green and garden are also being built.

The Chapel

St Peter's is acknowledged as the largest private chapel in Europe. It was originally constructed as a banquet hall with 800 acres of hunting grounds in the Deer Park, replacing the original 12th century chapel which was lost in the English Civil War. In 1660 Bishop Cosin turned the banqueting hall into a chapel.

Our very own Barry Garnett conducts tours of the site.

A Faith Museum The first Faith Museum in England is being added to the long wing of the Castle together with the creation of a contemplation garden. The Museum which will open in 2020 will show how faith, religion and belief shaped Britain.

The Walled Garden was originally a 17th century garden which had a pinery, constructed in the 1750's believed to be one of its kind in the North East. Pineapples were grown as a sign of wealth, as is portrayed in the tv series, Sanditon. The new orchard has been planted and a conservatory restaurant, designed by a Japanese company with glass produced at Consett, is being constructed on the upper terrace. Clay pipes and glass houses have been found in the excavations and these are being sorted and labelled by our very own Linda Chadd.

Deer Park now only extends to 200 acres. The parkland was the hunting ground and was landscaped in 1860 by Joshua Spencer. The intention now is to return it to its original parkland.



Mining Art Gallery which won the Small Visitor Award in 2018, is located in 1860's Backhouse Bank in Bishop Auckland market place. There are 430 works of art on display including the Gemini Collection. Prominent mining artists, Tom McGuinness and Norman Cornish, have many paintings dominating the walls.

The Spanish Art Gallery inspired by Jacob and his twelve sons, opens this year in the old Barclays Bank building and adjoining Bishop Barrington school building together with a tapas restaurant, reference library and large exhibition room. It will be the first museum in the UK dedicated to exploring the arts and cultures of the Spanish world and will display paintings from the medieval period onwards with particular emphasis on the 16th and 17th century Spanish Golden Age.

The Auckland Tower The love or hate structure, designed by Niall McLaughlin, stands on the threshold between the town and Castle. Its modern design echoes historic structures, like a great wooden siege engine. The 29 metres tall Auckland Tower has an exhibition hall and a 15 metres high viewing platform providing superb vistas of the surrounding area. It houses all the information needed to explore the Castle, grounds and local area and an Auckland Pass will be available from this location providing access to Auckland Castle, Bishop Trevor Gallery, Mining Art Gallery and the Auckland Tower at a cost of £10.50 for a concession



*Any items for the newsletter or website should be sent to southdurhamu3a@gmail.com
Items for the next newsletter should arrive by the last day of the month.*

Kynren is not just an epic tale of England, showcasing 2000 years of English history, it is a spectacular outdoor live performance held during the summer months replicating the performances held at Puy du Fou in the Vendee and is viewed from The Tribune which seats up to 8000 spectators. Kynren organisers, Eleven Arches, a sister charity of the Auckland Project is developing the site to become a large day park with a living museum which will become an attraction in its own right.

Many thanks to Kathy for providing us with such an interesting talk- so much so I had to share it all with you!

Sue Clark

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP VISIT TO Local Studies Library 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

As the group's previous visit was over 7 years ago a return visit was felt to be required. By coincidence the group was the same size as last time, however only one member attended on 22 March 2012 and again on 19 September 2019. We do know, however that some members have spent a considerable amount of time at the Local Studies Room researching local history.

On this occasion we met with Katherine who had very kindly retrieved a tremendous amount of material out ready for us. Katherine advised us of the various records that are maintained by the Centre for Local Studies. It holds the majority of published matter about Darlington and the surrounding areas, copies of all local papers are held, some of these now being available to view on microfiche.

It also holds trade and street directories, electoral registers, old maps of the town, as well as books written by local historians about aspects of life in Darlington, as well as many photographs and pamphlets about the area.

We spent some time looking at the huge amount of material on display, of particular interest were the former Mansions of Darlington, additionally we were able to see many other photographs of the area from some time ago.

Also of particular interest were the old maps of Darlington from around the 1800's. It was possible to trace the development of the town from the days of the Railways and see the rows of terraced houses gradually being amalgamated into the local area and joining the separate parts of the town together.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our morning in the Library, our thanks to Katherine Williamson for her kind assistance. A few members also took advantage of the Heritage Open Day Tour of the Library, more about this separately. **Debbie Hardy**

MUSIC FOR PLEASURE 17th September

This was the Life Story of Dmitry Shostakovich which was recorded from Sky Arts unfortunately with lots of adverts but whizzing through these reduced an hour and 15 minutes to less than an hour

Following the coffee /tea and biscuits we had a performance of Schostacoviches Jazz Suit streamed from YouTube Music as a complete contrast. **Barry Garnett**

PLAYREADING GROUP

Joan and Clive played host to us for the first time at their new address and we enjoyed a Francis Durbridge murder mystery, 'Deadly Nightcap', albeit for the second time around.

As usual we reached the end of Act 2 in time for tea and biscuits, ready to begin Act 3 next month. Let's hope we remember the plot when we meet again. **Muriel Jones**

READING GROUP 1

For our September meeting we discussed The Glassblower of Murano by Marina Fiorata.

This is a novel, set in Venice, moving between 1681 when Venetian mirrors were more precious than gold, and the present day. A young woman seeks to follow in the footsteps of her illustrious ancestor Corradino Marin, in becoming a Glassblower on Murano, one of the islands close to Venice, with an ancient history of glass production.

The story itself would have been considered lightweight historical fiction were it not for its content about glass making which ignited the interest and enthusiasm of the group.

Sandy gave us a potted history of glassblowing which originates from ancient times and other members produced pictures, books and artefacts of Venetian glass. This prompted a lively exchange of members' memories of visiting Venice, Murano and St Michele cemetery island with snaps to illustrate them.

A very enjoyable meeting indeed with thanks to Lorna for hosting us and providing delicious refreshments. **Toni Carr**

READING GROUP 2

We met on Monday 30 September to discuss Kate Summerscale's version of The Suspicions of Mr Whicher, otherwise known as The Murder at Road Hill House. The book tells the true story of a gruesome murder on 30 June 1860 in the village of Road.

Jonathan Whicher was the Metropolitan Police Officer brought in to investigate the murder of 3 year old Saville Kent. He eventually arrests Saville's 16 year old half sister Constance, however when she is acquitted his reputation lies in tatters and he leaves the Police Force.

Five years later Constance confesses to the murder and is sentenced to death, following a public outcry and concern that she was covering for her brother, William, her sentence was changed and she spent twenty years in prison. On her release she emigrated to Australia where she worked as a nurse and lived to the age of 100.

There were mixed reviews of the Book, some found it far too lengthy with the actual crime being somehow lost within the Victorian language. *Debbie Hardy*

RUMMIKUB

As Kathy Clulee is no longer running our second Rummikub group, on 20th September several of us met at Kate's instead. We had one new member who thoroughly enjoyed the games we played (and the coffee and biscuits of course). *Kate Brown*

STROLLERS

A small group met in South Park on a very wet Monday morning. The weather conditions meant that the proposed tour of the Park had to be shortened rather and therefore consisted of a stroll past the aviaries and tennis courts, around by the Lake, over the Bridge to the Rose garden and Rockery. Back over the river and into the Café, where much needed refreshments were enjoyed. *Debbie Hardy*

VISIT TO YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK 4th September

We travelled to the Sculpture Park by coach arriving approximately 10:45pm. The Park is located near Wakefield in West Yorkshire, showing work by British and international artists, including Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. The collection comprises long and short- term loans and also gifts from individuals and artists. The park's collection of works by Moore is one of the largest open-air displays of his bronzes in Europe.

Our first point of call – a coffee. We were fortunate with the weather and sitting on the veranda sipping coffee, looking across the views over the valley was an excellent start to a wonderful day.

I had never visited the park, therefore was not sure what to expect. The grounds are beautiful kept and the park was larger than I had expected (500-acres). So we sent off, the plan to "tick off" the sculptures we had seen and try to relate to the given sculpture. This at time had us a little perplexed. Rosemary and Judith joined us and one of the photographs Chris took was of the three of us looking at a sculpture – the heading could have been "bewitched, bothered and bewildered"! We had a lovely walk around the lakes, upper and lower and also through the woodland. Chris and I visited the Chapel, which left me a little disorientated (the floor, walls are mirrors). As the saying goes art is personal.

The day went very quickly, it sparked off lots of debates, howls of laughter and we finished off with a very welcoming cup of tea in the restaurant. Sincere thanks to Carol for organising this lovely day. *Eileen Miller*

Editors Note – we are not allowed to publish pictures from YSP because of copyright reasons

VISIT TO YORK AND THE YORK COLD WAR BUNKER 23rd September

On a misty morning on 23rd September our group met outside the library at Cockerton. By the time we reached Wetherby Services for a welcome cup of coffee the sun was out and the weather was pleasantly warm. We arrived at the Cold War Bunker in the Holgate area of York in goodly time thanks to our driver Graham. Some of our group went on to spend the day in York. We took the short walk up to the semi – subterranean bunker and saw a green rectangular shape built into a slope, nick- named the Aztec temple. It was built in 1961 in the grounds of a Victorian Villa called Shelley House. Our guide Jake was waiting to greet us. He opened the electric fence and led us up the steps to the only exposed part of the bunker which was originally painted white. We went down to the mid-level where we had a short but powerful film on the effects of radiation, with original footage from Nagasaki and Hiroshima. We

then had a conducted tour of the kitchen, canteen, plant room and air filtration system, ejector room, dormitories and the fully equip operations room. .

This is the only cold war bunker in the country to be preserved in its operational condition and was opened in 2006 as an English Heritage Scheduled Monument. Its purpose was to monitor nuclear explosions and fall out in Yorkshire. It was the regional headquarters and control centre of R.O.C. (Royal Observer Corps). The operations room was at the heart of the bunker spread over the mid and lower levels. It was here information would be received from observation posts. This would then be displayed and plotted on a vertical, illuminated map so that damage and fallout levels could be assessed and sent to civil authorities, military and the public. By the 1960s an Automatic Weapons Detection Recognition and Estimation Yield device (AWDREY) was installed with roof mounted sensors. In the event of an attack AWDREY would have automatically transmitted data to other groups and sectors. AWDREY however had difficulty distinguishing between an attack and fireworks!

The bunker was manned by up to 60 people, all volunteers who were there for 30 days. They had to attend evening and weekend training sessions. The conditions were basic, with poor air quality. Volunteers were not allowed to shower for 30 days and they could only flush the toilet every eight hour. An eight hour shift system was in operation with a 'hot' bed system, once the bed was vacated it was immediately used by someone else .

This is a well-preserved time capsule depicting the era of the cold war and a chilling reminder of our recent history. After the tour we returned to the coach and had the rest of the day exploring York.

Many thanks to Linda Chadd who organised the trip. **Marie Graham**



REGULAR GROUPS

BOULES

Boules is now on a break until next spring.

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Contact Gill Turnbull who has now agreed to lead this group. Thank you Gill.

'DAVE BOYD'S INTEREST GROUP'

I am trying to arrange a visit to Mathewsons a classic car company who feature on TV as '**Bangers and Cash**'. They have Auctions of Classic Cars and bikes with a museum. I am planning to go on **Friday 1st November** which is viewing day. The company is based at Thornton Le-Dale if interested in please let me know at the next meeting or contact me.

DESIGN APPRECIATION

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 24th October**, 2pm at Clive's. The subject will be the design of packaging. Please bring illustrations or examples of any good or poor packaging that you would like to share with us.

DISCOVERERS

Unfortunately no Discoverers visit in October. If interested, we could meet for coffee upstairs in Café Influence (what was Greenwoods) to look at next year's Discoverers and general trips.

Friday November 29th we have a visit to Durham Archaeology at 2-30pm till 4-30pm for a tour and hands on session. If interested in either there will be lists at general meeting or contact me by phone/email. Carol.

*Any items for the newsletter or website should be sent to southdurhamu3a@gmail.com
Items for the next newsletter should arrive by the last day of the month.*

GARDENING – TALKING GROUP We are meeting at Jean Tolmie's house on **9th October** at 10am to admire her garden and talk! New visitors welcome – contact Ruth for details.

GARDENING VISITS

Garden Trip to Himalayan Gardens: There is a list available for this visit on **23rd October**.

Chelsea Flower Show and Hampton Court 2020: At this time there are only ten people interested. If you think you may be interested in going on this 2 day trip please register your name.

I would like to sincerely thank every member of the Garden Visit Group for their support since we commenced our visits in April this year. I'm very grateful that you have enjoyed our visits.

Originally, I planned visits until the end of October however, I would like to extend this until November by organising a one-day trip to **Castle Howard's 'Christmas Masquerade event'**. This promises to be a truly magical day out where you can do some Christmas shopping in the gift and farm shops. I know its not strictly our normal day out but Garden centre will be open and we can enjoy the whole experience including the 25 foot Christmas tree adorned with 3000 baubles.

I am investigating prices at the moment Enterprise coaches are charging approximately £29 and National coaches £23. I plan to look around a bit more and will email everyone soon. If you are interested in this day out please contact me as soon as possible. Contact: Kathy Liddle Tel: 01325 484208 or Email: Kathy@theliddles.com

HILLWALKING

The next hill walk will be on **Friday 18 October**. Provisionally it will be around the Upper Teasdale area.

We leave at 9.30 from Linden Avenue. Bring a packed lunch and something for a fruit stop

Susan Tel- 252713

INTERMEDIATE WALKING

Monday 21st October will be lead by David Boyd. contact no 01325 496153. The walk will be 5 mile circular walk from the centre of Durham to Frankland and back. fruit and lunch stop weather permitting. Bring your bus pass as we will be using the park and ride.

On **Monday the 4th November** we do not have a walk leader as yet. Meet at Cockerton Carpark to leave at 10.00

Due to the increased work load of the Treasures job I have decided to give up the walking group and hand over the job to someone else in the new year, from January. So come on let's have a volunteer please. Dave

LOCAL HISTORY

On **15 October** we have James Gravenor, telling us about Richmond Grammar School with a Talk entitled [The Old Grammar School and its pupils](#). Please do join us from 10 o'clock onwards on Tuesday 15 October at Bradbury House. We have recently had record numbers of attendees, let's hope we have a high turnout for what I am sure will be an excellent morning.

Following on from the Talk in June about North Road Station we have managed to arrange a visit to the North Road Station on **Tuesday 22 October**. Please sign up for this visit at the next meeting.

LUNCH GROUP I am hoping to begin this group on **12th November** with lunch at The Burtree Inn. David Boyd

MAH JONG We meet in members' homes on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 2.00pm.

Contact Adrienne

MUSIC APPRECIATION

As we have booked a break in Troon for that week the music group meeting will be one week later than normal on the **22nd of October**. This will as usual be at Garthorne Avenue starting at 10 o'clock

The programme then will be Beethoven symphonies 2 & 5 by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Simon Rattle

The November meeting will be at the normal date **19th November** at Garthorne Avenue

PLAY READING

Tuesday 15th October, 2 pm at Isabel's, to continue 'Deadly Nightcap' and try something new as well.

POETRY GROUP

This group will begin again shortly with Gill Drummond taking the lead. Thank you, Gill.

*Any items for the newsletter or website should be sent to southdurhamu3a@gmail.com
Items for the next newsletter should arrive by the last day of the month.*

READING GROUP 1

Our choice for **October 9th** in A Harvest of Thorns by Corban Addison, venue Sandy, and on **November 13th** we will discuss Testament of Youth by Vera Britton. We have arranged to borrow copies of this from the library.

READING GROUP 2

Our next Book is The Murder Wall by Mari Hannah, set locally around Newcastle.

We will meet on **Monday 28th October**, venue to follow.

RUMMIKUB

The Rummikub group meets 10.00-12.00 on the first and third Friday of every month

The next Meeting is at Frances' house on **Friday 18th October** at 10 am.

As Liz will be away for **1st November and 7th December** it would be nice if someone could offer their home for the group to meet – and maybe enjoy playing the game too! Contact Liz

STROLLERS We are hoping for a better morning on **Monday 14th October** when we meet at the Brinkburn Pub on Brinkburn Road at 10 o'clock for a walk in the local area.

THEATRE VISIT SUNDERLAND EMPIRE I have reserved 20 seats for a matinee on **Wed 29th Jan 2020** to see Cabaret. I have reserved 10 seats at £37 each and 10 seats at £28.75 all mid stalls. These prices are based on a minimum of 20 or more seats, if we only achieve 10 and less than 20 the prices will rise a little.

I will have a list at the October meeting and request that money be paid, where possible, with booking. Thank you for your support for our visits to The Lakes Theatre and I hope that this theatre visit will prove to be interesting. Joan Sadler 01325 358247 07526526227 john.sadler520@ntlworld.com

Group Contacts

Boules	Sue	07811 129179
Canasta	Margaret	485403
Current Affairs	Gill Turnbull	07812 448094
Dave Boyd's Group	Dave	496153
Design Appreciation	Clive	358247
Discoverers	Carol	496153
Gardening	Ruth	252054
Garden Visits	Kathy	484208
Hill Walking	Susan	252713 & Liz 359921
Intermediate Walking	Dave	496153
Local History	Debbie	482165
Lunch Group	Dave	496153
Mah-Jong	Adrienne	482386
Music for Pleasure	Pat & Barry	482391
Play Reading	Muriel	486129
Poetry	Gill	320182
Reading Group 1	Ann	356847
Reading Group 2	Debbie	482165
Rummikub	Liz	359921
Strollers	Debbie	482165

Please keep **Friday 13th December** free for our **Christmas lunch** at the Masonic Hall.

We will be taking names with payment of £20 at the next three general meetings. Menus will be available.

Barbara and Judith

For Information:

Hurworth Village Hall holds film showings once a month on a Sunday at 4pm. Entry is by donation. Sunday 10th November is 'The Favourite' starring Olivia Coleman.

Check their website for further details.

Next Monthly Meeting - 12th November

AGM & Social – Getting to know more about the Groups

NOMINATION FORM – Please print out and complete then submit to a member of the committee before the AGM

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH DURHAM U3A

I wish to nominate for the post of
Chair/Secretary/Treasurer/Committee Member

Proposed by

Seconded by

Signed by Nominated member Dated