

South Durham U3A Newsletter

October 2018 No.192

Chairperson's Message

Welcome to October's newsletter. I knew I was leaving you in capable hands last month well done team I am back and ready to lead October's meeting. We are heading towards our AGM so any member out there interested in joining the committee or running a group now is your opportunity all you need to do is contact a committee member.

Carol Boyd.
01325496153
07790584120

carolboydu3a@gmail.com

Last Month's Speaker

We were treated to a fascinating talk on Bee Keeping by Roger Chappell and his fellow bee keeping friend Chris. Perhaps we envisaged a sober topic but beekeeping is indeed an intriguing insight into how bees feed the world.

Roger became hooked on bee keeping as a child, sharing his Grandfather's love and commitment to bee keeping. He decided at an early age that this would be his hobby when he retired. Having now accumulated 25 years experience, he is a champion in his field. He formed the Darlington Association of Bee Keepers in 2010 and also set up his apiary by acquiring his site on the old bowling green in the Denes.

Roger explained in detail the structure of the hive, the bee activity in their colony and how

October Meeting 9th October 2018

**Bowen Hall
Coffee 9:50am**

**Barbara Dixon
A Ramble around the
Register office**

both are maintained by the bee keeper. The life cycle of the bee is a wonder of nature with the role of each bee organised to preserve its existence in the ecological chain. The bee is active from April to September whilst during the winter months preparations are made by the bee to commence its active period again once April arrives.

Bees live for an average of 40 days but the Queen can live as long as 5 years. Once her productivity begins to decline other bees select a small quantity of bee grubs, feed them

whilst sealing them into the nest with Royal Jelly. These grubs will grow to be much larger than the usual bee and one of them will be selected to be the new Queen. The only time bees "swarm" is when the old Queen dies which then facilitates the bees locating a new hive where they will establish a new colony.

Bees are superb pollinators providing honey for a special delicacy and feeding the world. It has been noted that without bee pollination, mankind would survive for no longer than 4 years.

Roger brought some of his organic, preservative free honey for us to purchase. Anyone who would like to purchase more, please contact me for his contact number.

Thank you Roger and Chris for this enjoyable and instructive talk.

Rosina Rowley

AGM

We have our AGM on 13th November. At the AGM, members select their Committee; nomination forms will be available at the October meeting and will need to be submitted to the Secretary, Debbie Hardy or a member of the Committee by 22 October.

The Committee would also be grateful for advance notification of questions to be asked, so that the Committee may discuss them at their meeting on 6th November.

Copies of the Minutes from the last AGM and the accounts for the year 2017/2018 are attached together with a Nomination form.

Recent Events

Theatre Group 30th August

A coach party of about fifty members and guests set off on fine Thursday morning on the 30th of August from Cockerton to travel to Keswick for the day. The day had been arranged by Joan Sadler who ensured that nobody missed the coach and who distributed the theatre tickets.

The coach driver Andy stopped at the Rheged Centre to allow passengers a "coffee stop". This unusual service centre is built in an old quarry and the main access seems to be below ground. It has a selection of food outlets and shops as well as a cinema complex.

Suitably fed and watered we drove on to Keswick which should have taken 30 minutes but due to road works took an extra hour.

The coach stopped to allow some people off in the town centre and took the rest of us to the lakeside theatre. There was enough time for a snack before the show started and some of us made our way along the lakeside to eat our sandwiches looking onto fine views over the Derwentwater.

"Wooster" played by three very talented actors. The timing was absolutely superb and very much based on slapstick with many frequent character changes throughout the performance.



Those who had not booked for the theatre had the afternoon to look around the lovely lakeside town of Keswick which, quite rightly, is known as the queen of the English Lake district.

After the show we re boarded the coach for fast and uneventful ride back to Cockerton.

Bill Oliver

Intermediate walk 3rd September

The weather forecast said rain but it was glorious when we set off from Darlington. However as we approached Winston we could see the dark clouds gathering.

Once in Cothelstone, we set off down Mire Lane in fine weather to follow tracks and fields. To then cross the disused Darlington to Middleton in Teesdale railway and the tunnel below the old Kirkby Stephen railway line. We then followed the lane and a bridge over Scur Beck to a graveyard, where we had our banana stop. Thankfully no extra people appeared!! After this we passed Lartington Hall and its parkland where we could see the medieval ridge and furrow ploughing strips, to reach the caravan park at Pecknell Farm. At this point the

wet weather clothes came out as the heavens opened. We took advantage of the next tunnel to have our lunch stop! Our return trip was via the wooded slopes of the River Tees.

We ended our day with a welcome drink and cake at Sam Turners. This gave my trousers time to dry!!

With many thanks to Moira and Margaret for leading a delightful walk.

Susan Storey

Reading Group 12th September Holy Island by L J Ross

For those lovers of the tranquility and sanctity of Holy Island look away NOW.

The title could be considered ironic as there is nothing remotely holy about the events which take place during the four days of murder and mayhem preceding a recent Christmas. In fact the tiny island population hides a plethora of heinous criminals whose gruesome actions include murder, paedophilia, drug abuse and satanism.

The central character Detective Chief Inspector Ryan is seeking sanctuary on the island after a series of personal traumatic events but is rapidly thrust back into the murky world of murder when a young woman is found dead amongst the ancient ruins of the Priory. This triggers a series of rapidly unfolding events, a romance and the revelation of a network of criminals with a twist at the end which provides the plot for the next book in the series.

This was a 'marmite' book which fostered opposing views from the group. Some members found it badly written and boring whereas others enjoyed the developing romance, the humour around the flamboyant ties of Ryan's deputy and the way the isolation and wild



The show we had booked to see was a farce based on "Jeeves and

Recent Events

beauty of the island influences events. Some have gone on to read other titles in the series.

Still fancy re visiting Holy Island? Beware!

Many thanks to Lorna for her hospitality and delicious scones.

Toni Carr

Local History 18th September

This month we were treated to an informative and entertaining talk by Jackie Roberts & Pat West on 'Southend – from Quaker to Catholic, the story of a house'.

The house (which is now Bannatyne's Hotel) began its life in the early 1800s built by the Backhouse family and called 'Borrowses'. It was bought by Joseph Pease in 1826; he extended the house, developed the gardens to include a large fish pond and changed the name to Southend. After his death the house passed to Joseph's unmarried daughters Emma & Jane as their brothers were now married with their own homes. The land around the house was developed including residential roads (Southend, Oakdene & Beechwood) with the Crocus Walk created for the public to enjoy in front of the houses on Southend Avenue.

After the two Pease sisters had died the house was bought in 1900 by the Sisters of St Vincent de Paul and extended to form a Catholic boarding and day school for girls, a school attended by Pat's aunt back in the 1920s and Pat & Jackie themselves in the 1960s. They were able to describe how the house functioned as the Immaculate Conception school with a chapel, classrooms, canteen and boarders dormitories. In the 1960s the main roads in the area were changed as the ring road was developed, land lost from the the Crocus Walk and the lodge house

(where the caretaker lived) was probably demolished then.

As the comprehensive system arrived in town the Immaculate Conception school merged with St Mary's (the boys Catholic School) and moved up to Carmel. The house was then taken over by the Grange Hotel and parts of the building were demolished. Subsequently this was sold to Duncan Bannatyne to form the hotel we now see and he extended the building, with further bedrooms, in the area where the dormitories had once stood.

Pat & Jackie illustrated their talk with photos and anecdotes of their own experiences within Southend ; they had also revisited the area recently and photographed the building along with commemorative plaques from the house and significant stones at either end of the Crocus Walk. Many members of the group were able to add their own recollections of Southend and school life which made for a lively and entertaining morning.

Ruth Beckett

Intermediate walk 17th September

Eight ladies, accompanied by one lucky (or not, you decide) man made our way to Sandsend to commence our walk to Whitby. The weather was quite bright and mild and managed to stay dry all day.

As the tide was in, we were unable to walk along the beach so we made our way along the cliff top and later the coastal path which unfortunately necessitated a climb up to the Pavilion as we arrived in Whitby followed by a walk down the slope to the harbour. Having worked up an appetite, we quickly made our way to our favourite fish restaurant where we were soon tucking in to an excellent lunch. We managed to save a little space for dessert and returned to the harbourside for ice creams which

we enjoyed as we sat on the harbour wall.

Three of our number could not resist the lure of Whitby's shops and took their leave of the group whilst the rest of us set off for Sandsend. As the tide was now well out, we were able to walk along the beach on our return journey although there were some wet feet as we had to paddle through some of the pools left by the tide. On returning to Sandsend, we adjourned to the coffee shop for refreshments before the drive home at the end of a very enjoyable day.

Many thanks to Carol and Dave for arranging and leading what has very quickly become a walking group annual tradition.

Pauline Noble

Lunch Club 17th September



The new lunch club met at The Mowden on September 17th and we had a pleasant and very reasonable light lunch and a good chat!!! Socialising is so important so come along and meet us ... new, cheerful and positive people with interesting lives and conversation i.e. everyone [!] is very welcome.

Kathy Clulee

Recent Events

Current Affairs 28th August

This lively and fun group met on Tuesday August 28th August a full house despite the holiday; we do all enjoy the meetings.

We normally discuss a range of global; national; local and parochial issues but swiftly giving views on the usual suspects, we spent much of our time discussing the changes in Darlington High Street and proposed a way forward. This was excellent. We pretty much agreed the High street needs a "Buzz" to attract.

We want the main shops to be concentrated in the High Row area and less spread out.

We want the market to return to the Market Square [possibly with some free parking on non-market days but attractiveness is more important in the long term; we visualise increased parking [free for two hours] in a re-developed Northgate] and attractions developed in the corners of the square...a six hole; a mini golf course; a bouncy castle; a mini marquee for music to sit and enjoy and even tea dance; some seasonal attractions. [beach; Xmas etc] . A model of Locomotion No 1 in the centre would be appropriate and a big attraction In the Market Square, on at least one side, we would like a regular rotation of farmers markets; foreign markets; charity markets for local charities; a peoples market...an on site "ebay" table top for locals. Access to the Indoor Market should be made easier and more attractive. It is very shabby at the moment and does not entice. We want to keep its historic nature but be modernised and made more comfortable inside.

We want Post House Wynd to be permanently roofed with user-friendly light giving [but not baking hot] roofing and café and niche

shops encouraged with a roundabout at one end and hopscotch etc at the other.

We want the Yards to be cleaned and better lit and each specialise perhaps.

Critically, of course, we hope that Binns will indeed become a "mini Harrods", as has been mentioned, with a food hall, deli, artisan bread, cheese counter; perfumery; florist, jewellers; educational toys; pharmacy; upper end and bargain sections for all the usual items.

We would like a pergola down the length of High Row to enhance its attraction and, in time provide some cover in the rain. We would like a designated team of people to clean up every morning first thing. The stores would provide this in return for a small reduction in their rates... which are too high as are their rents. We want clean streets at 9.00 every morning.

Huge costs over ten years but a special ring fenced tax might be acceptable and a small percentage tax on out of town retailers [new at least] and we would need grants but if our MP, Councillors and above all a team of business-savvy local entrepreneurs and benefactors/sponsors would lead a team to work with councillors [but not just leave it to the Council as they have so many diverse responsibilities]; and develop ten year plan Darlington could have a thriving, albeit geographically condensed, busy, fun, bustling town centre again.

Contact Kathy 01325 462020 if interested in joining us.

Music for Pleasure 28th August

This month we watched a recording of the Nutcracker Ballet by Peter Wright, it was written for the Birmingham ballet but on this recording was by the Australian Ballet. Unfortunately we had sent our curtains for cleaning and the day turned out to be very sunny so the brightness from the wind detracted from the TV clarity somewhat, however it was still enjoyed by all, in the dark scenes, which were numerous we could still hear the music even though the picture became rather indistinct.

Barry Garnett

Theatre Group 30th August

Bill has provided a lovely report on the Lakes Theatre Trip which is much appreciated.

I was so overwhelmed by the fantastic response that I certainly hope to repeat the experience next year.

Thank you all for your wonderful support and enthusiasm.

Joan Sadler

[01325 358247](tel:01325358247)

John.sadler520@ntlworld.com

Current Affairs 25th September



Yet again the full group gathered to discuss the events of September, international; national and local with a fair scattering of sociology thrown in for good measure.

Recent Events

While we normally avoid the topic of Brexit, we could not this month. There was genuine sympathy for the Prime Minister on a personal and political level. Unlike everyone else involved in what is a momentous event, we felt a degree of sincerity in Theresa May. Knowing she is a “dead woman walking”, we felt that she does seem to want to achieve a vision for Britain forced upon her whereas we felt every other politician is self-seeking. We find it impossible to believe anyone as they all give one-sided interpretations of statistics to suit their particular ploy and ambition.

The EU was roundly condemned for never suggesting what they would accept, merely, as ever, damning Britain’s proposals. On balance we felt we would leave without a deal; would undoubtedly struggle for some years but could eventually pull through. Over time after the end of the transition period, we were overall confident that issues would be resolved once the time pressure was more relaxed and we have actually left.

After the 2016 experience; the twisted facts; the biased arguments and a lot of sheer ignorance, we did not favour another referendum or a general election [which we felt, without comment, that Labour would win]. One said “Let’s Get On With It” and no-one disagreed though we too do not really understand what IT implies.

We covered several diverse topics from Gaza, smart meters and monthly bin collections to the finding of Captain Cook’s ship Endeavour off Rhode Island. We sought good news. We viewed the possibility of building a bridge across the Straits of Gibraltar to Algeria with mixed feelings, although admiring the technology enabling the concept to become real but we did feel the news re Alzheimers and attacking the oligomers before they become dementia plaques and the news

that the NHS is now able to obtain cheaper drugs for macular degeneration as wholly good.

Our final discussion was concerning the proposed attendance of the German President at the Cenotaph for the



100th anniversary of the Armistice in November. The group was really split on this. What do you think?

Kathy Clulee

Future Events

Group Contacts

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

Future Speakers

Oct.	Barbara Dixon A ramble around the Register Office
Nov.	AGM
Dec.	Jean's Sing Along Shows Story of Marie Lloyd and King Edward VII
Jan	Peter Barron Cloudy, Rain Later
Feb.	Ian Mcardle The Suffragette Emily Davison
March	James O'Connor Dorothy's Well Project Tanzania
April	Chris Lloyd

Boules

Boules is being played on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at The Hurworth Grange. Anyone is welcome to come and give it a go if they just call or email me first. Our next boules sessions will be held on Wednesday 10th October and then the 24th.

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.

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 - 30th October

Kathy Clulee on 01325 462020

Design Appreciation

There is no meeting planned for October. I hope to resume normal service in November.

Contact Clive on 358247 or
cliveabreeves@me.com

Hill Walking

The next hill walk on Friday 19th October will be from Leyburn. Please meet at ED Walker Homes at 9.30

Contact Susan on 252713
Liz on 359921

Discoverers

October's visit will be the last of 2018. Thanks to all of you that have supported the visits.

October's visit is to Harrison and Harrison Organ Builder's.

Friday October 26th please meet Cockerton Car Park to leave at 10am.

Tour is for one hour.

The one unfortunate thing is somewhere to eat afterwards as it is on an industrial estate. So I am open to ideas for afterwards.

November I will organise a lunch out on Friday November 30th. My ideas are The Mowden, Al Forno's, Burtree. I will wait for your ideas before making a decision.

Carol Boyd

01325496153

07790584120

carolboydu3a@gmail.com

Garden Group

We are still looking for suggestions and offers to keep this group going

Contact a Committee Member

Intermediate Walking

The next 2 walks are on Monday 15th October and Monday 5th of November, no details as yet. meet Cockerton Car park to leave at 10 00 am. As a lot of you know i have been the man in charge a long time and i think it is about time i stood down and let some one take over the reins all the best

Contact

Dave on 496153

goggledaveboyd1954@gmail.com

Mah-Jong

We would welcome one or two more members if anyone would like to join our group and learn to play this enjoyable game. We meet in members homes on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 2.00pm.

Contact Adrienne on 482386

Future Events

Lunch Group

The next lunch is also at The MOWDEN on MONDAY 22nd OCTOBER at 1.00. We will then choose the next venue.

Apart from goof food, we will be enjoying a very short light and amusing mini quiz over coffee. The winner has a free coffee and some mints ... to share!

Contact Kathy 462020

Local History

Next month's meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th October at Age Concern in Beaumont Street; coffee from 10am, starting at 10.30.

The topic will be: 'Pierremont and the Pease Family'. Everybody welcome!

Debbie Hardy on 482165
or 07832 694353.

Music for Pleasure

This will be at Christine's House in Richmond when we are due to watch Part 2 of Lucy Worsley's BBC series that we saw on our last visit to Richmond.

The November meeting will be "Harry's Choice based on various music from YouTube. This will be back at the Garthorne Avenue base.

Contact Barry on 482391

Play Reading

A long summer break and we'll meet again at Muriel's on Tuesday 16th October. Such a long summer holiday!

Contact Muriel on 486129

Reading Group

Next meeting will be held at Ann's at 59 Hummersknott Avenue, when we will be discussing The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul by Deborah Rodriguez.

Contact Ann on 3568847

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 5th October then 2nd November.

Contact Liz on 359921

Sunday Club

Our Sunday Club Group will now be meeting in the afternoon. Ladies Group to meet on first Sunday after main meeting, Sunday 14th October.

I would like interested people to meet for quick discussion and ideas, on Tuesday 9th October.

Margaret Lewis

Proposed Trip 2019

We still have a few places left for the trip to Derbyshire in September 2019. As we are currently in the process of booking the tours to be included in our trip, it would be helpful if anyone who is interested in joining us could reserve a place in the near future with payment of a deposit of £30. The list will be in the annexe at the next meeting and cheques should be made payable to South Durham U3A.

We shall be travelling to the Derbyshire/Staffordshire area with a tour of Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills and a trip on a horse drawn canal boat on the outward journey. We shall then proceed to our 4* hotel in Derby for a two night stay with bed, breakfast and evening meal. The second day will be spent at the National Memorial Arboretum and on the third day we shall visit Chatsworth House and gardens before setting off on our return journey.

If you wish to reserve a place but are unable to attend the meeting, please call me on 07902 69750 or email me at pauline.noble70@ntlworld.com and I shall add you to the list.

Pauline Noble

U3A Christmas Lunch

This year our Christmas lunch will be held on Friday 14th December at the Freemasons' Hall. We are trying a different venue based on members' recommendations.

Menu choice and the list will be available for signing up at the September and October meetings. Details of price and meal options will be available shortly.

Future Events

October Calendar

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

November Calendar

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

Please hand your Nomination Form to a member of the Committee

SOUTH DURHAM U3A

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORM 2017

.....IS NOMINATED TO STAND FOR ELECTION AS CHAIRMAN /
SECRETARY / TREASURER / A MEMBER OF THE 2018/2019 COMMITTEE. (Delete as appropriate.)

NOMINATED BY

SECONDED BY

NOMINEES SIGNATURE TO SIGNIFY WILLINGNESS TO STAND.....