

South Durham U3A

Active in Darlington, Cockerton and surrounding areas

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

Monthly Newsletter – September 2019 – No 203

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday 10th September "Loopy Lisa's Fudge"

A change from the advertised talk about Wensleydale Railway as they no longer had a speaker

Chair's Message

Your Committee held its first coffee afternoon for the new members last week at Café Influence on Skinnergate. It was well attended and welcomed by the members. We shall hope to repeat this at regular intervals in order to introduce new members to our U3A group.

Can I remind anyone organizing a trip/ outing requiring payment in advance that this must be processed through the TREASURER in order that receipts can be issued in line with U3A requirements. U3A trips/outings, whether regular or irregular (gardening, discoverers, theatre, design, local history, walking), are initially for MEMBERS. Non members can only be offered a place if there is spare capacity. If there are possible new members they can experience two activities before they commit to join U3A.

Monthly Meetings. Please do not interrupt the speaker whilst they are giving a talk as it proves distracting to other members. Save your questions until the end when there is always time to find out more.

An update on members who are not renewing this year, **to whom we say farewell**: George Able who is now a resident at Rydale Nursing Home; Eric Lodge who as member offered coaching to members wishing to learn to play bridge; Harry Peart who has been a long standing member who offered a lot to this U3A giving numerous talks, leading walks and always on hand to offer information. Also, Kitty Blakeley, Jean Brownbridge, Lynne Sutcliffe, Denise Robertson and Bryan Stapley. I have contacted each one thanking them for past membership and wished them well.

On Sunday August 25th a past member Ruth Bishop passed away peacefully in her sleep. Ruth up to last year had been a long standing member who had enjoyed numerous activities and made many friends. I have spoken with Ruth's niece to pass on our condolences. Ruth's funeral is provisionally booked for September 18th but no other details are available at this time. Arrangements will be announced in Northern Echo

Carol Boyd. 01325496153 Carolboydu3a@gmail.com

RECENT EVENTS

Last Month's Speaker

"Friends against Scams" by Roger George Community Banker from the NatWest Bank Scams Team

Roger explained that he is part of a team that works in conjunction with National Trading Standards to publicise Friends Against Scams [FAS] an initiative which aims to prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering communities to **Take a Stand Against Scams** - see the website www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk This was a very informative talk about an increasingly serious problem which is not discussed enough – Roger feels that this is often due to embarrassment.

It is estimated that ONLY 5% of scams are reported with a cost to the UK economy of between £5 -10 Billion per year which would obviously be multiplied if more scams were reported. 53% of people over 65 have been randomly targeted by scammers and statistics indicate that the average scam victim has lost over £3,000.

Anyone can be a victim & unfortunately when criminals are caught, often the penalties do not appear to match the crimes.

*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.*

When a victim responds to a scam their personal details are added to a **Victims List [or Mugs List]** which is sold to other scammers so that criminals target the victim who then receives even more scam approaches & continues to lose money.

Scams are the product of organised, predatory gangs who gain trust to exploit & steal money. They use befriending & grooming techniques & generally appear friendly, charming, helpful & VERY PERSUASIVE.

The 4 main types of scams are:-

POSTAL SCAMS

All kinds of fake letters are used by scammers – lotteries, prize draws, investments, inheritances, health cures & clairvoyant scams when they peruse the obituaries. Whatever it is **DO NOT SEND THEM MONEY**

Roger mentioned a victim in Yorkshire who had lost £17,000 over a 6 month period having believed that she would win prize draws. The bank estimated that if she had received all the alleged winnings they would have totalled £2.8 million.

The moral of this story is - **If it seems too good to be true it usually is.**

TELEPHONE SCAMS

These scams include phishing, text message fraud, investment scams involving wine schemes, shares & commodities. Pension scams - £23 million was lost in the UK in 2017 & it is illegal to cold call about pensions. Another common scam is when the caller purports to be from Microsoft or B.T.

The advice here is **NEVER** to give your **PERSONAL** or **BANKING DETAILS** to anyone you don't know or trust.

Banks or the Police would never ask you to transfer money to another bank or withdraw it & hand it to a courier.

DOORSTEP SCAMS

Face to face scams are the most intimidating – rogue traders and bogus callers can be so insistent & persuasive but the advice is **DO NOT INVITE ANYONE INTO YOUR HOME TO BUY, SELL OR TRADE** from a **COLD APPROACH**. Distraction burglaries are common. You are legally entitled to a 14 day cooling off period for contracts made in your home.

ONLINE SCAMS

53% of the public view these as being as bad as physical world crimes.

Fake emails can be disguised to look as though they from official sources - Banks, HMRC are very common. This phishing usually requires a time limited response which should ring warning bells. Always check bogus websites in minute detail as e.g. NatWest's genuine website has a very small FSCS logo. **NEVER CLICK LINKS WITHIN THE EMAILS & if you think that it could be from your bank then ring to check.**

Romance scams are longer term – 6 months to a year and the perpetrator will want a lot of information but will usually give no information in return. There will normally be a request for financial help for e.g. a medical emergency & victims have lost substantial amounts of money often when they have been at their most vulnerable.

Scams targeting the younger generation

The Digital Generation have not known life without using technology & they can easily fall foul of identity fraud where the scammers will steal their details if they have not been sufficiently security conscious e. g. date of birth visibility. There have also been cases of "Money Mules" money laundering using text jargon e.g. Santander -"Santa cube for money drop". If caught the young person would have a 6 year finance ban jeopardising their chance of getting a student loan for University.

Other common scams involve fake job adverts offering courses [for a fee] with a genuine job offer at the end.

In conclusion FAS recommends that we should all **TAKE 5:-**

- 1. Never disclose security details**
- 2. Don't assume everyone is genuine**
- 3. Don't be rushed**
- 4. Listen to your instincts**
- 5. Stay in control**

Don't be embarrassed - talk about scams.

Report the scam to ACTION FRAUD 03001232040

Contact your bank

Seek further help – Citizens Advice Bureaux are very helpful. Stella Barnes

CURRENT AFFAIRS August 27th

Seven of the group met as usual to discuss..... what? Is there any escape from Boris, Brexit and Borders. YES!!!

We started our discussion with the circumstances around Prince Andrew. There was unusual unanimity and a remarkable [?] degree of scepticism. Overall we just wish he would apologize for at best, such dreadful poor judgement, at worst, come clean ... whatever that is [says she not wishing to visit The Tower except by paying an entry fee].

We proceeded to the less unanimous subject of summer holiday childhood poverty. There was an interesting mix of yet more scepticism and sympathy. We acknowledge that we do not KNOW such circumstances first hand though some have related experience. We had good input from one member who assists in a food bank and clarified issues. Rent and the looming cost of that post council house sales was discussed. It was not a happy discussion. But what do **YOU** think?

*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.*

To cheer ourselves up we discussed what gives each of us that “feel good factor”. For many it was simply family and their love. For others it was the fleeting moment, maybe in the countryside; by the sea; when the sun shines.... that scored highly. Music; a really nice film bad language; a great meal. For me its losing two pounds weight in a week, now that I come to think of it.

We moved on to our favourite meal. Goodness, what variety!! From Boeuf Stroganof to Tiramisu; from Ham, Eggs and chunky Chips to Blackberry and Apple Crumble and the most unique was Meat and Potato Pie with Hendersons relish, a Sheffield based sauce. We are humble folk. No mention of Oysters or Lobster or some fancy cut of meat. Or curry!! The most exotic was Hungarian Pork. Must get the menu..... do we have a SD U3A Cookbook?



Inevitably we finished with the present political situation. Most of us, probably mirroring the nation, just want a resolution and then somehow ... and we were optimistic... resolve the problems over, hopefully, only the next couple of years. We suspected much could be sooner rather than later.

So what are we? Optimists; certainly. Sceptics; certainly. A group who enjoy each other's company and expressing our opinions without fear or favour; **Certainly. Kathy Clulee**

DESIGN APPRECIATION

Our meeting on the 22nd August had the theme of Furniture Design and looked at two aspects of 20th century design, that of Danish furniture and then specifically, two exponents from America, Charles and Ray Eames.

Denmark is a small country with a population of only six million. People looked to their own society for design and used the materials readily available. There was a wealth of traditional craftsmanship and it was in the small workshops that these craftsmen found new ways of shaping and jointing wood and we were shown beautiful examples where the joints, so perfectly and structurally executed, become decorative. We moved onto bending plywood to provide shapes which held the body, and, as with the parallel development of metal framing, all were made out of materials which were expressed on the surface. Points of reference, should you want to explore more of this subject for yourself, are Hans Wegner and the Wishbone Chair, and Arne Jacobsen and the Egg and Swan chairs.



Charles and Ray Eames are possibly best known for the Eames chair and footstool but they were also instrumental in many other directions including fibreglass chairs, photography, graphics, film work, interiors

and even toys. Charles Eames himself had started training as an architect but expanded his expertise in all these other directions, particularly having met Ray, who by training was an artist and designer. In the programme we toured his Californian house, built 1949 and then saw some of their furniture including chairs designed in conjunction with Eero Saarinen.

Eames had also used bent plywood but developed this further to substitute plastics for plywood and used crafted shaped metal framing. Derivatives of many of these are common place now, such as the rows of joined seating found in airports, the Mastermind chair and the chairs much favoured for News broadcasts and interviews. **Clive Reeves**



GARDENING GROUP

An extremely pleasant afternoon was spent in viewing the garden of Ruth and Kevin Beckett. A garden absolutely full of interest with plants and trees, paths and patios and a greenhouse. Kevin raises very many plants from seed and is at present making apple juice from the windfall apples. There are quite a few palms and even several banana trees. Colourful dahlias are spread throughout. A pond with fish and frogs completes the picture. Thank you for a most fascinating and social afternoon. This is probably the fourth or fifth members' garden we have been to.

Next one is on 11 September at 17 Upsall Drive at 2pm. **Frances Harding**



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.

INTERMEDIATE WALKING on 5th August



Many thanks to Elaine and Mary for this lovely five mile linear walk from Bishop Middleham to Hardwick Park. It was great to do this walk again in bright sunshine, and no rain. Coffee/lunch was at the café in the park. On the return route several walkers walked along the old track railway bed, meeting up with the rest of the group at Bishop Middleham. The walk was enjoyed by eleven pairs of boots. **Chris Miller**

INTERMEDIATE WALKING GROUP on 19th August

Eleven of us met in the car park at Cockerton. The day was sunny, breezy and bright, and before long we had sorted lifts and set off for what Dave promised to be only a five mile walk from Stillington to Thorpe Thewles.

On arriving at Stillington, the first thing that we noticed was the old red brick building. The Stillington Whitton Board School, built 1877 gave us an inkling to the history of the place. Stillington was known for its iron ore industry, and there is a real mix of old and new housing there. In only a short time, we were in the countryside. Wide open fields of standing crops awaiting the harvesting machines, shady leafy lanes, fields of dried broad beans rustling in the wind, and contented cows, with plenty of lush green grazing still to be had. At one point we came to a little secluded car park, and disturbed a couple locked in an amorous embrace, much to our amusement and their surprise.

Arriving at Thorpe Thewles in time for our lunch break, we experienced the only rain of the day, and that only for a few minutes. Luckily, most of us were already seated in the bus shelter unwrapping our sandwiches. On the green, The Vane Arms was scrutinised, as we tried to guess its age. There is a very fine coat of arms on the front, and some interesting chimneys.

Our paths crossed with another walking group from Hartlepool, and we exchanged greetings and information about our respective groups before going our separate ways.

What with walking at a good pace, and talking even faster, before we knew it, we were back in Stillington and taking our leave of each other till the next time. Our thanks to Dave, for a lovely and enjoyable walk, and for being calm and unflappable as he kept us all together along the way. **Alex Bailey**

Local History -Tour of Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College 8th August 2018

Once again members of the Local History Group enjoyed a tour of the college, students were on their summer break, but many workmen were present catching up on maintenance jobs before the start of term.

As on our previous visit, after stepping back to admire the front of this impressive Building, we entered via the 'new entrance'. Linda Chadd led us through to the main hall where we admired the stained glass windows and many memorials to former pupils. On climbing up to the clock tower we were able to enjoy views in all directions.

Over the years the original Building has been extended several times, we were able to see the large arts department, library, very modern refreshment areas and of course, the computer suite. We were fortunate to have a few 'old boys' with us on this occasion and it was lovely having their input on the tour as well as hearing of their own memories of the time they spent at the Boys Grammar School, as it was for many years.

Again, a very big thank you to Linda Chadd for sharing her wealth of 'inside information' about this magnificent Building.

We are hoping to arrange a visit to the Local Studies Section of the Library early next year, as we understand they hold some interesting historical information about the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. **Debbie Hardy**

LOCAL HISTORY 20TH AUGUST – HAUGHTON VILLAGE

Jean Kirkland treated us to another informative talk about a part of Darlington she knows well and where she leads historical walks. She began by looking at the various houses on either side of the Green and illustrating her talk with stories of some of their inhabitants.

William Bewick a portrait artist from the late 18th century retired to Haughton House on the Green. Haughton Hall, which is no longer standing was the most significant house and changed hands frequently- a notable inhabitant was Colonel Vane (related to the Raby family). Jean 'led us' past White Hall, Sundial Cottage, Haughton Villa and Archway House (next to the Methodist Chapel) the latter being where John Unthank had lived – he established Methodism in the area.

The Colling brothers lived on the Green and were prominent members of the Experimental Agricultural Society. They bred Shorthorn cows – The Durham Ox and The Comet being famous locally. William Putnam was the original manager of Darlington Forge, he too lived on the Green.

Haughton was regarded as a good living for a vicar – Rev Thomas le Mesurier being noted for his 14 children (and his links to the actor John le Mesurier). The Rev Bandinel was also Librarian at the Bodleian Library in Oxford at the same time as being vicar at St Andrews.

Haughton Mill was a major employer of local workers producing flax until the 1840s.

Red Hall was a major house in the area built by the Lambtons and later inhabited by 6 generations of Robert Collins who were all local justices. The Hall sold land to the Stockton Darlington Railway and was then able to rebuild the house in 1860 in the Gothic Style. The stables of the house became an independent Riding School in future years. As Darlington grew in size there was an increased need for fresh food to feed the town's population and the land at the back of the Green was put to valuable use as market gardens.

Jean is undoubtedly very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about local history and her talk revealed how much she knows about the Haughton area which was appreciated by a group of about 20 members. **Ruth Beckett**

MUSIC FOR PLEASURE

A change from the specified programme meant that we were able to enjoy how folk music from the past became the basis for Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams' efforts to bring English music, hymns and compositions back into domination to compete with the vast output from German composers. The second part of the programme comprised some of their well known works which included The Lark Ascending by Vaughan Williams and Mars, Saturn and Jupiter from Holst's Planet Suite. Another fascinating and relaxing morning thanks to Pat and Barry Garnett.

Frances Harding

READING GROUP 1

As usual our August meeting was lunch out, so we met at Thomas Wright House, Byers Green.

Thomas Wright was a local man, an astronomer, mathematician, instrument maker, architect and garden designer who lived in the 18th century.

We had a delicious meal, chosen from a varied menu, and beautifully served by pleasant and friendly staff. A few of us were able to manage one of the excellent choice of sweets; in fact two of us chose the assiette which consisted of small portions of four of the selection of sweets on offer. We would definitely go again, and recommend the restaurant.

Ann Tomlinson

READING GROUP 2 The Corfu Trilogy Gerald Durrell

The Corfu Trilogy consists of the well known book, My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell, however it also contains the lesser known Birds, Beasts and Relatives and The Garden of the Gods which he wrote some years after his most famous book.

The trilogy tells the story of the eccentric Durrell family, Mother and four children who famously left the UK for the sunnier climate of the Greek island, Corfu.

All three books contain the memories of Gerry's idyllic childhood exploring the acres around the villas the family rented. As a ten year old he discovered his love for all animals resulting in numerous amusing tales of the family and their exploits, mainly involving his increasing collection of animals.

The trilogy inspired ITV's television series The Durrells portraying their lives with their new found Greek friends, and the local animals, on the beautiful Greek island, over a period of four years before the Second World War.

We all enjoyed the book and agreed it provided a really relaxing and entertaining read, providing further scope for reading other books from the Durrell family. **Debbie Hardy**

THEATRE VISIT

Our annual visit to the lakeside theatre in Keswick left by coach from Cockerton on Friday the 30th of August in fine weather. All the arrangements had been extremely well organised by Joan Sadler who arranged for our coffee stop at the Rheged centre as per last year.

Suitable refreshed we motored on and a few miles from Keswick we hit the rain which continued for most of the day. Once in Keswick our coach driver Johnney stopped near the Booths supermarket to allow those wishing to disembark before driving down to the theatre by the lake to disembark the remaining passengers.

The show in the theatre was called "Little Voice" and the actors gave an excellent performance of this play, which is about a shy young woman living with her rather wayward mother. She sought solace in singing very effectively from records her deceased father had left her which portrayed bygone artists such as Marilyn Monroe, Eartha Kitt, Gracie Fields etc.

A "boyfriend" of her mother heard her and saw money in her talent and attempted to exploit the girl by introducing her to a club owner in the hope of making the big time. Needless to say, it did not go to plan but in the meantime LV (little voice) met the man of her dreams and all ended well.

The girl that played LV had a lovely singing voice and the visual effects were very effective including the LVs house on fire.

After the show we headed back to the coach and drove back nonstop back to Cockerton for 6-30pm **Bill Oliver**

REGULAR GROUPS

BOULES

Boules will be held on 1st & 3rd Wednesday afternoons at Hurworth Grange. We need more players and absolutely no experience needed!!! Contact Sue Clark

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 Kathy Clulee

'DAVE BOYD'S INTEREST GROUP' (for want of a better name at present!)

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. daveboyd1954@gmail.com.

DESIGN APPRECIATION

I'm afraid that there will be no meeting on Thursday 26th September, our scheduled date, but I will be in touch by email. **Clive**

DISCOVERERS

Discoverers visit is to Binchester Roman Fort on **Friday September 27th** at 10-30 for a guided tour lasting 90 minutes costing £6 per person. We will meet Cockerton Car Park to leave at 9:45am. I have not organized lunch but sure if you wish to eat we will find somewhere. If interested, please contact Carol on Carolboydu3a@gmail.com or 01325 496153

GARDENING – TALKING GROUP Our group is growing as are our gardens! We're visiting each other's houses and discussing all things gardening. Next one is on **11 September** at 17 Upsall Drive at 2pm. Contact Ruth to join us – more members welcome.

GARDENING VISITS

Garden Trip to Breezy Knees: May I remind members travelling to Breezy Knees that the cost of the coach is £10.00 and must be paid in full at the next meeting on 10th September? Alternatively, you could send a cheque to Mr David Boyd, 37 Lowther Drive, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4UL The entrance fee is £7.50 and is to be paid individually on arrival. M&D Travel is the coach company we are travelling with and are meeting outside of the Library in Cockerton for 9.30am returning at 3pm.

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.

Contact: Kathy Liddle Tel: 01325 484208 or Email: Kathy@theliddles.com

HILLWALKING

September 20th The next hill walk will be from Westgate to St Johns Chapel to Ireshopburn and back to Westgate. Meet at Linden Ave, Coniscliffe Road end at 9.30. Bring a packed lunch.

Susan Tel 252713. Liz 359921

INTERMEDIATE WALKING

The next 2 walks will be on Monday the **16th September** and the **7th October** - we have no leaders at the moment. Meet Cockerton Car Park to leave at 10.00 sharp.

*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.*

LOCAL HISTORY

On **Tuesday 17 September** we have Lee Brownson, from the Auckland Project telling us more about the future for Auckland Castle and Bishop Auckland. Please do join us from 10 o'clock onwards at Bradbury House. We have recently had record numbers of attendees, let's hope we have a high turn out for what I am sure will be an excellent morning.

We have also managed to arrange a return visit to the Local Studies Section of the Library on **Thursday 19th September**, at 10 o'clock to look at the information they hold about the former Mansions of Darlington. We have a limited number of spaces so if you have not signed up for this and would like to go please let me know ASAP. Thank you. **Debbie** Tel 482165 dahardy@hotmail.co.uk

LUNCH GROUP I would like to begin this group on second Tuesday of the month after the general meeting. I will have a list at the next meeting for you to sign to see if there is any interest in this group. If you cannot make the meeting please contact me to show your interest David Boyd Googledaveboyd1954@gmail.co

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

MUSIC APPRECIATION

September 17th at 10:00 we shall be settling down to the Life Story of Dmitry Shostakovich. This will be a change for most as we have not featured his music very often in our previous programmes
As usual this will be at Garthorne Avenue. Contact Barry.

PLAY READING

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 17th September** and will be at Kay's. We shall have a look at 'Deadly Nightshade' by Francis Durbridge, but alas no Paul Temple!.

POETRY GROUP

We are trying to gauge if there is sufficient interest for a new Poetry group to be formed. Would you be interested in joining other members to form a new group? Please let me know asap. Many thanks. Debbie 482165

READING GROUP 1

The September Meeting will be held on **September 11th** at Lorna's when we will be reading 'The Glassblower of Murano' by Marina Fiorato. Our choice for **October 9th** is 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. **Ann**

READING GROUP 2

Our next Book is The Suspicions of Mr Whicher, by Kate Summerscale. We will meet on **Monday 30 September** at at 1.30 @ 46 Westfield Drive, Darlington. **Debbie**

RUMMIKUB

The Rummikub group meets 10.00-12.00 on the first and third Friday of every month
Contact Kathy on 462020 for **Friday 20th September**
Contact Liz on 359921 for **Friday 4th October**

STROLLERS new group to begin on **9th September**. Meet at Clock Tower, South Park at 10am.

YORK BUNKER TRIP, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd

- Please arrive in good time to depart Cockerton library at 8.30 am.
- Coffee stop en route to York. Everyone will get city maps/guides.
- At approx. 10.30 am coach deposits bunker visitors and takes "York only" people to city centre. Bunker visit takes about an hour.
- Around midday the coach will deposit bunker visitors in York city centre where they will have the rest of the day free.
- 4.30 pm depart York, aiming to be in Cockerton by 6 pm.
- At time of writing, 3 places are left for York only, at £11 each. **LINDA CHADD**, Tel. 01325 268285

*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.*

Group Contacts

Boules	Sue	07811 129179
Canasta	Margaret	485403
Current Affairs	Kathy	462020
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
Mah-Jong	Adrienne	482386
Music for Pleasure	Pat & Barry	482391
Play Reading	Muriel	486129
Reading Group 1	Ann	356847
Reading Group 2	Debbie	482165
Rummikub	Liz	359921 & Kathy 462020

Date for your diary

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

Sandy Hood is kindly keeping us updated on events at the Bowes Museum:

Don't miss out! Have you seen the Lego model of The Bowes Museum yet? Or the silver swan in bricks? Or the two-headed calf? You have until Sunday October, 13th to see these and several other replicas of exhibits all built from bricks. You can follow a trail to find them hidden around the museum, hunt for answers to a quiz (and get rewards) or build your own model. This unique exhibition appeals to children of all ages from 5-105.



Art lovers can enjoy an exhibition of Norman Cornish works starting on Saturday November 16th. Make a date for 'Quintessential Cornish', a talk about his life and works, on Tuesday November 26th by Gillian Wales & Dr. Robert McManners. A gallery talk on Thursday 28th is repeated on January 27th. All start at 2.15pm and are included with the admission charge. Current exhibitions include Hockney & Hollywood (until November 3rd).

Further details from the Bowes website <https://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/>

Next Monthly Meeting – 8th October

Letters in the Attic 2 - Tony Nicholson

*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.*