



teesdale.u3asite.uk

FORUM

July 2026 No. 26/07

u3a

CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Here I am again and I thought you would like to know what the teams behind the committee do. We have seven teams who comprise both committee and non-committee members, in alphabetical order:

The Forum Team – a group of members who kindly edit and produce our amazing monthly Forum magazine.

The IT team – managing all our IT needs, keeping us up to date, offering information via the website on all our activities and how to contact us.

The Minutes team – this group helps keep the committee on track and we would be lost without them.

The Publicity Team – who work hard to keep you in the know and let potential members know about us.

The Social & Workshops Team – This team works hard to offer you opportunities to try new skills and gain new knowledge through our Saturday workshops, as well as our social events during the year, e.g. the summer trip and the Christmas meal.

The Speaker Team – We all benefit from this team's work to find the amazing range of speakers we get to hear each month. A lot of hard work.

The Treasury Team – a team of great value to convenors and members, keeping us on the financial straight and narrow, with our turnover now being in the £30,000 bracket.

I hope you are now wiser about all the people working on your behalf to make Teesdale u3a what it is. If you fancy joining one of these teams or have skills you are willing to share please let one of the committee members know.

We will welcome you with open arms.

Bye for now,

Julie

Cover photo: Summer Garden by Kate Bailey

It's Your Forum

Editors: Kate Bailey, Annie Clouston, Jane Kenwright, Alyson Kuby, Tony Seward

This month's editor is Kate: Edition No: 26/07

e-mail: forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Phone: Kate **07867 683195** Annie **07988 625738**

All editors receive all contributions and share the email account.

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are very grateful for all your contributions. Wherever possible, we will try as editors to include your work, and also urge you to be succinct. The more succinct you are the more photos, illustrations and interesting articles and silliness we can include! Photos should be credited, of high resolution in jpg format and sent separately.

Please limit submissions to 350-400 words (in a Word document), and 1 photo, and send them to the Forum Editor at: forumeditor@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

DEADLINE for the next edition: 6pm Monday 17th August and next month's editor is Alyson.

If you want to receive a copy of the Forum but cannot make it to the monthly meeting, you can acquire one by:

- Viewing it online on Teesdale u3a website at: teesdale.u3asite.uk
- Asking a friend to collect one for you at the meeting - the cost is £2 on a 'first come first served' basis.
- Back copies are available online and also at Coffee and Chat events.

teesdale.u3asite.uk

TEESDALE u3a Committee Contacts

Chair: Julie Archer chair@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Ian Royston memsec@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Business Secretary: Ruth Lapworth bissec@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

Treasurer: Hazel McCallum treasurer@teesdaleu3a.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETING – Report by Ian Reid

Neil Hanson, Ghost-Writer

Teesdale u3a welcomed Neil Hanson back for a second visit. On his first visit, he spoke about his life, having worked in a variety of jobs, including being editor of The Good Beer Guide, having travelled round the world twice and been landlord of the Tan Hill Inn. On this occasion he was talking about his 35-year career as a writer, particularly as an anonymous Ghost Writer.

Neil has been a prolific ghost writer for sports stars, showbiz legends, captains of industry and many others. These have included an American gangster, a well-known England football coach, one of England's best known cricketers, an internationally known American singer, a major food manufacturer, an underwater diving legend and several SAS veterans. Neil has also written or rewritten more than 40 other books.

Neil informed his audience that, without giving away any secrets, the written word is not always what it seems. He spends a lot of time with his authors and they have to be 100% happy with the final product. However, the stories have to be interesting and engage the reader. He spoke of the tyranny of the blank page as it was much easier to rewrite or adapt an existing story.

In addition, Neil had a plethora of amusing anecdotes, including how fighter pilots manage to go to the loo, how SAS personnel were trained to assist with the birth of a baby, and the reason counter terrorist groups did not use "attack dogs". His books have been hailed by critics as astonishing, brilliant, haunting, extraordinary and many other superlatives.

Neil finished his presentation by suggesting that we should all write down our own history, for later generations who might be interested in reading it or even using it. So, he left some homework for u3a members.

NEXT MEETINGS AT THE WITHAM

27th August: Keith Simpson – Castles of County Durham

Keith is Senior Guide at Raby Castle. His talk 'The Castles of County Durham' isn't designed to give a chronological and coherent history of each castle, rather he will share information about each place which invites people to think about why one place is ruined and another isn't, and maybe to go and see for themselves!

24th September – David Whinpenny – Edwin Lutyens – 'A Singular and Delightful Man'

David Whinpenny worked for the Countryside Commission before setting up his own PR company. He has always been interested in gardens and in the quirkier side of architecture. His talk explores Edwin Lutyens' career.

In the first half of the 20th century, Lutyens was certainly Britain's most famous architect – and one of the most famous in the world. Meeting garden designer Gertrude Jekyll was a major turning point early in his career, and the partnership between the two produced vernacular-inspired houses fully integrated with majestic gardens.

22nd October – Gordon Hetherington - Gertrude Bell, the Uncrowned Queen of Iraq

Gertrude was brought up in Redcar as a member of a wealthy family of iron and steel manufacturers. She had an unusual career, being educated at Oxford University at a time when there were few women undergraduates. She became the foremost women mountaineer of her time and then started a series of epic adventures in the deserts of the Ottoman Empire. These led to her becoming the leading expert on the Middle East during WW1. She was attached to the British forces during the invasion of Mesopotamia and was heavily involved in the formation of the new state of Iraq. She died aged 58 in Bagdad.

WORKSHOP AND SOCIAL EVENTS

DRY STONE WALLING - Report by Ian Reid

A few days before the workshop the country was sweltering under the heat dome. No such concerns bothered our hardy group as we made our way across the tussocks in drizzle to our fallen down stretch of wall.

We were a mile or so east of Bowes with our seasoned guide, Adam. After a little instruction and encouragement, we set to work. There was a 3-metre broken section surrounded by a variety of stones of different shapes and sizes. All wet.

The walls are slightly triangular, with a wide base and a pointed top. They are built with sturdy outer walls with the gap filled with small stones. Gaps are a bad thing. Adam scrutinised our efforts and repositioned a few stones. The wind and rain progressively increased.

DEFRA pays farmers around £32 a metre for dry stone wall maintenance.

Adam can repair 8-10 metres on a good day. We managed two metres and reckoned they looked reasonably good. Adam told us that he would dismantle it all once we had departed. Nonetheless it was a rare and enjoyable experience.

Credit goes to the workshop participants for a demonstration of u3a stoicism.



MOVEMENT WORKSHOP - Report by Annie Clouston

We met at the Guide HQ, in curiosity rather than massive enthusiasm, to discover in what ways our largely sedentary bodies could improve their potential to serve us well.

The class was taken by Simon Coles, a specialist in the kinds of physical activity likely to promote our well-being and protect us from the creakiness and lethargy that often beset people in their later years. His focus is on four main areas: raising the heart rate, strengthening our muscles using weights to support joints and maintain bone density, balance as a preventative to falls, and flexibility to help us maintain suppleness and core strength.

Simon was very encouraging and assured participants that most of the exercises could be done at home with little need of equipment. A chair, a squashy ball and some 1kilo weights (a couple of bags of sugar or tins of beans). For fifty minutes, followed by a calming cool-down using Tai Chi movements, participants worked within their own capacity and during the after-class cuppa the feedback was very positive, with some wanting to attend further classes.

Simon runs Move it or Lose it sessions in various venues in the Dale – at UTASS in Middleton on a Thursday, at St Mary's Church Hall on Fridays from 10-11am, and at Startforth Community Centre on Mondays from 10-11am. No pre-booking is required. If you feel your body is due a workout – as gentle or as rigorous as you please - you could do worse than giving it a go.

Move it or Lose it!

u3a OUTING TO POOLEY BRIDGE – Report and Photographs by Pete Redgrave

By the time our bus arrived outside the Three Horseshoes on Galgate, promptly at 9am, excitement and anticipation were palpable! An hour later, including additional pick-ups at Bowes, we arrived at the Ferry Pier of Pooley Bridge. It was clear the mood of the party was to take the cruise to Glenridding at the far end of the crooked finger that is Ullswater.

While waiting for the call to depart, some of our more intrepid members devised their cunning plan for aquatic activities at Glenridding.

When the call came our tickets were scanned before embarkation – to make sure only those entitled were allowed on board.

Views of the Lakeland hills from the boat were spectacular, even though the more distant ones were masked somewhat by a heat haze – it was a hot day! Fortunately, modern digital image processing has a ‘de-haze’ function, which reveals the hills in their de-hazed glory.



During the early summer season (April – mid July) two sister cruise boats ply back and forth between Pooley Bridge and Glenridding. About halfway along the lake they pass. Despite conspicuous waving from our boat, no one on the returning ferry seemed that bothered.

Another feature of Ullswater, and perhaps Lakeland as a whole, was the abundance of desirable shoreline property, in this case the Glenridding Manor House Hotel – be sure to bring your mallet for afternoon croquet.



At Glenridding our party, to a person, repaired to the cool of The Ullswater Inn for lunch and liquid refreshment. After an exceptionally leisurely time, we caught the ferry back to Pooley Bridge where many delicious gelato ice creams were purchased – chocolate and cinder toffee (think Crunchy Bars mixed with ice cream) was especially to be recommended.

At 5pm it was all aboard the bus back to Barney. It was generally agreed that trips like this, on days like that, are a fine way of whiling away one's retirement.

DATES OF FUTURE WORKSHOPS

1st August– 10.00-12.00 Local Georgian Architecture at Guide HQ

5th September- 10.00-12.00 Using textile remnants creatively, Guide HQ

26th September– 9.00-12.00 AI: repeat of previous workshop - now full

Details of all the above workshops can be found on our website.

UPDATED TRIPS 2026 – Report by Jane Mathieson

Cheques payable to ‘TEESDALE U3A’ - Account 03778576. 20-83-73

Friday July 31st - 9am pick up. Alnwick Castle

Alnwick Castle only & grounds. Visit the town with Farmers & Weekly Market, ‘Barbers’, England’s largest second-hand book shop. If you would just like to visit the town only please let me know.

Cost, entry & coach £34.00, HH members and coach only £16.50

Reference: Alnwick

Pick up at Spar shop Staindrop & Manor House Hotel, West Auckland

Saturday 12th September - 9.30 pick up:

Ushaw House/Chapel, Flower Festival & Plant Fair

Ushaw are holding a Flower Festival within the building, and a Plant Fair in the grounds. There is also an exhibition named ‘Extinction’, about Dinosaurs.

Cost of entry & coach £24.80, HH members £14.00. Reference: Ushaw

Pick up at Spar shop Staindrop & Manor House Hotel West Auckland

Cheques payable to 'TEESDALE U3A' - Account 03778576. 20-83-73

These trips are for U3A members only. Sorry, but payments are non-refundable.

GROUP REPORTS

ART APPRECIATION GROUP – Report by Tony Seward

In July we explored the life and works of Johannes Vermeer of Delft (1632-75). Although only around 36 of his paintings have survived, he is regarded as one of the supreme masters, above all for his treatment of light. His paintings breathe an atmosphere of coolness, tranquillity and harmony, which has captivated art lovers across the world. His restrained style, where nothing is explicitly stated and everything is left to the viewer's imagination, has created an air of mystery around his work that is a source of endless fascination.

We concentrated on five of the best-known pictures, starting with *A View of Delft*. The first thing that strikes us about this vision of his home city is that nothing much seems to be happening: it is early morning, before the busy traffic on the river has got going, so full value can be given to the purely pictorial elements of the scene. The buildings, the sky, the water are all carefully brought together in perfect harmony, under that extraordinary light.

A Lady Standing at a Virginal is one of several Vermeers exploring the theme of music and its associations with love (a picture of Cupid is placed on the wall behind her) and harmony.

The Milkmaid (in fact, a domestic kitchen maid) is by contrast a study of a servant, in the simple act of pouring milk into a dish, a monumental figure



in cool blues and yellows set against a rough whitewashed wall, all its imperfections meticulously rendered.

The Milkmaid, c.1660 (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam)

The Girl with a Pearl Earring has taken on a life of her own, an icon instantly

recognisable worldwide, exploited in merchandising and tourism, subject of a bestselling novel and film, and of endless speculation as to her identity. However, it is not a portrait in the conventional sense but a 'tronie', a genre study of a head used to explore different emotions, poses and costumes, in moments captured from everyday life. And the 'pearl' is paste...

We finished with ten minutes' quiet contemplation, followed by discussion, of *The Little Street*, with its timeless glimpse of houses in Delft, cropped as if by a modern photographer to focus

on the subtle beauties of shape, colour and texture in this simple scene.

The Little Street, c.1658 (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam)



On **Wednesday 5th August**, we will move on to the 20th century master of form and colour, Henri Matisse.

AUTOMOTIVE GROUP – Report by Peter Colley

On a blustery June day four cars from the Automotive Group left Mickleton for the trip north to the Solway Aviation Museum at Carlisle Airport. Following a morale boosting brunch at the Nook Farm Shop & Cafe just south of Slaggyford, we drove west along the winding road to Brampton and then on to the museum.

The museum houses various exhibits and artefacts including displays about the Blue Streak missile developed at nearby RAF Spadeadam. One of our members quietly remarked that he had prepared line drawings for the project. Although subsequently decommissioned, Blue Streak remains a fine example of British design and engineering.

We climbed aboard the mighty Avro Vulcan XJ823, a huge Cold War bomber later converted to use as a maritime surveillance aircraft. In its prime this aircraft type could reach a speed of Mach 0.98 and an altitude of 65,000 ft.



Avro Vulcan XJ823 - photo by Pete Redgrave

The volunteers at the museum were largely ex-forces and highly knowledgeable. They invited us to a private backlot tour of what might be mistaken for a boneyard. In fact, they are painstakingly restoring a Blackburn Beverley transport aircraft that had been dismantled and lain in a farmer's field for several decades. This restoration is being undertaken with barely any documentation, they simply seem to know how to construct what might be the largest ever aeroplane kit. The engines are seized so it will not fly again. Nor will the Vulcan, although in the strong winds it felt like it was straining to be set free.

BIRDWATCHING – Report by Charlotte Washbourne

Barningham and Holgate Moors, 15th June

Our group of 10 set off from Newsham in a three-car convoy up Moor Lane driving very slowly and carefully towards Holgate. It wasn't long before we spotted Linnets flying from the hedgerow onto the wall tops and by our first pull-in we'd seen Curlew, Lapwing and Oystercatcher.

We caught sight of a few Snipe and those with good hearing caught the sound of their 'drumming' display flight. Redshank obliged with several shows along our route, perched on the walls or in the wetter patches of grassland near gateways. The Cuckoo was calling clearly but we couldn't see it, so added it yet again to our list as HBNS (Heard But Not Seen).

We parked up again near a plantation with a small pond and heard Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler and saw Mistlethrush. Continuing on our way we had views across the open heather of plenty more moorland birds, many with young families including Grey Partridge. Black Grouse, unfortunately, failed to make an appearance on this occasion, but we were lucky to see a Kestrel and a pair of Wheatear.



On the return leg we were treated to a very good sighting of Spotted Flycatchers in the trees on the plantation's edge - typically landing on the fence line and swooping on insects rising from the pond.

A nice sight amongst the yellow flag irises and a "first" for two members of our group.

Caption: Spotted Flycatcher photo by Anne Newton

Coffee break calling, we headed to Barningham Village and once re-charged made our way onto the edge of the moor. Having parked up again

and just stepped out of our cars we were fortunate to have a Buzzard and a Red Kite circling overhead. It was then a straightforward walk up to and across the bridge. Near the peaty stream were a pair of Grey Wagtails collecting beaks full of insects for their young.

Although June is often considered a quiet time for birdwatching, between us we saw more birds than expected (43 species) helped no doubt by the good fortune of having nice calm, mild, dry weather conditions.

ROOM TO READ BOOK GROUP- Review by Ann Whitfield

Reading in Bed by Sue Gee

One of the (several) joys of a reading group is that you are introduced to books that you wouldn't otherwise have read. Another is that even books you don't particularly care for can generate stimulating and enjoyable discussion, and for that reason alone it may be worth persisting with a book which you might otherwise have abandoned at an early stage.

This book, by a popular author, examines the lives of two very privileged women and exposes the undercurrents of problems in their lives and their immediate families, all of whom are on the face of it equally fortunate and successful. It explores major themes including grief and loss, infidelity, illness, parental expectations and dementia.

The main characters are two rather smug middle-class Oxford-educated women in their sixties, friends from university days. One of them has been recently widowed and the other is about to have her comfortable life upended by illness and infidelity. There's a liberated dyslexic daughter who is a disappointment to her academic mother and who secretly longs for motherhood and marriage, a devilishly attractive Lothario, a dependable gay man, a closet lesbian and a senile old lady. These could be seen as an attempt to balance the concerns of different generations but some of us felt the result was a lack of depth so that the characters became caricatures.

A happy ending can be redemptive or trite. With so many themes in this novel the happy ending to one major event might have been tempered by a more troubling outcome elsewhere. But here every negative seems, however implausibly, to have a silver lining.

This was a quick, easy read, although not everyone liked the writing style, and this may have led some to set the book aside had it not been a book group choice. Although it wouldn't be true to say we found new things to like, in our discussion we enjoyed talking about the writing style, the characters, those stereotypes and those happy endings.

The scores we gave to discussion were (averaged) 2/5 and for recommendation to a friend 1/5.

CHESS GROUP – Report by Diana Marks

Only five of us this time. We split into two groups. The more experienced players battled it out and managed four games in the two hour slot. Hardly a word was spoken! Three of us played each other at a more leisurely pace and managed a bit of chatting between moves.

We're having a summer break so won't be meeting in August but will reconvene again in September.

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS GROUP – Report by Kate Bailey

This month, as we sweltered in the heat, we shared our ideas for ways of keeping cool at night. Thirty degree days with high humidity can feel really uncomfortable in the North Pennines and few buildings are adapted to keep hot air out in summer. In countries with a longer history of extreme heat, residents organise their days to avoid the worst of the afternoon heat. Outdoor shutters, external blinds, white painted walls and shaded streets help keep indoor temperatures lower.

In the UK, in June and July, strong sunshine persists well into the evening, allowing buildings, roads and urban surfaces to continue absorbing heat long after the hottest part of the day has passed. Keep your home cool during the day by closing curtains and blinds, keeping windows shut when the air outside is hotter than inside. Use kitchen appliances early in the day or late in the evening and use extractor fans when cooking or showering to remove warm, moist air before it spreads through the home.

South-facing large windows and glass doors magnify the sun's heat - try hanging a dark fabric or mesh sheet on the outside to cut the glare and stop the sun reaching the glass. Heat rises through the building - leaving a loft hatch open can allow hot air to escape. During a heatwave, sleeping on the ground floor or north-facing side of the home may help. If you usually share a bed, consider sleeping by yourself on hot nights to avoid excess body heat from your partner.

In hot weather, better sleep starts long before bedtime. Open windows when the outside air is cooler than indoors; opening them on different sides of the house allows air to flow through. Apply reflective films, blinds, shutters, awnings and shaded roofs to conservatories. Plant trees or build pergolas, gazebos or canopies for shade around the hard surfaces in your garden.

Cooling your face, hands and feet in a bowl of cold water, or having a tepid shower before bed, can bring relief, as can sleeping with wet hair, wearing a damp t-shirt or laying a damp towel over your pillow. A (hot) water bottle filled with iced water, reusable ice packs, freezer blocks (wrapped in a cloth to avoid direct cold contact with skin) or cool pillows may help. Wearing lightweight loose clothing and sleeping under a sheet, low-tog duvet or no bedding at all may allow you to sleep better.

DISCUSSION GROUP – Report by Glen Howard

The high heat in July didn't put us off our discussions. We had a very wide-ranging exchange of views based on the subject of Andy Burnham. Other topics covered were the royal family or national treasures; Count Binface; sport; Ann Widdecombe; hospital waiting lists; France v Paraguay; vegan objections to birds of prey displays; and 20mph zones.

New members are always welcome so do contact me if you are interested in joining us. We meet on the second Friday of each month. Our next meetings will be on **August 14th** and **September 11th**.

Glen Howard **07975 705816** glenhow31@gmail.com

FAMILY HISTORY INTEREST GROUP – Report by Alan Swindale

The group watched a presentation from the 2024 RootsTech “Getting Started with British Army Records” by Raymon Nesbitt of Family Search. British Army records commence in 1660 and indexed records can be searched on-line on FamilySearch, FindMyPast and Ancestry. Raymon Nesbitt introduced the various collections and how to access them. He admitted that in the end you may have to go to the National Archives to explore the full range of information and to view the original records rather than indexes/abstracts. Often the information is no more than name and regiment, but you can then go on to explore the regiment's history and where and when it was fighting.

The UK campaign medals collection on Ancestry (3.3 million records) is of this nature; it gives the name and regiment and the award. For a campaign medal there is little else, but a gallantry award will usually lead on the citation for the award.

My own experience is that military records are one of those sources that I call ‘serendipity’. You may find someone you are searching for, you may not. In this they differ from parish registers, birth, marriage and death registers and census records where you will generally find the person you

want (if you search hard enough). It is more like searching probate records, which may not contain the individual at all or provide very limited information but may reveal absolutely priceless information. The on-line sites are valuable since they will usually suggest relevant military records as part of the search for a given individual.

Next month's talk will present FamilySearch's new feature 'Full Text Search' which should provide useful access to vast archives of unindexed microfilm. It will be followed by a 'Help your Neighbour' practical session.

GARDENING GROUP – Report by Kate Keen

In July the garden group travelled to Scampston Hall and Gardens in North Yorkshire. This was another opportunity for the Historic Houses members to gain free entry to a house and garden.

The parkland around Scampston was designed by Capability Brown in 1771, on request of W. H. St Quintin, the 5th Baronet of the hall. We were able to walk through the park, around the pump house, over the Palladian Bridge, past the lake to the icehouse and over the Cascade to return to the house and garden.



We were also able to visit the regency hall for a tour of the ground floor and one of the bedrooms, looking at paintings of past occupants of the hall and learning about the history of the site.

The walled garden was redesigned in 1999 by the world-renowned Dutch designer Piet Oudolf - it has been featured on garden

programmes such as Gardeners World. The garden is divided into areas each with their own theme. We could walk through the vegetable gardens,

flower gardens, spring gardens, grass garden and past the mount. All the garden areas were well maintained and overflowing with flowers.

Scampston has a garden café and a well-stocked plant nursery which was very tempting. This was an enjoyable day out, taking in well maintained gardens and giving us lots of ideas for our own gardens.

On **Friday 7th August** we will visit Sutton Park in North Yorkshire.

GEOGRAPHY GROUP - Report by Phil Johnson

In June, I had the great pleasure of introducing our own member, Jane Harrison, to a large gathering of group members. Her substantial, fascinating and fact-filled talk was on the subject of Copper Mining. The emphasis was on Lower Swaledale around Richmond and environs, with a special look at the mining activity at Middleton Tyas (MT) somewhat further NE. In this latter case, the early to mid-1700's was a boom time for the copper mines, although the rich resources of limestone of the area are still being exploited.

Jane split the talk into two sections, with the first centred on geology and mineralogy. There were plenty of maps and photographs to show us the various copper ores and their locations using both OS maps and maps available via the National Library of Scotland web site. The second section of her talk homed in on the mines at MT with a few outliers to the North East, highly illustrated again by more online maps and photographs she had taken.

The copper rush around MT was not long lived, starting from about 1730's and ending 1780's, but it was some of the highest grade copper ore ever to be found in the UK and even Europe, at some 65% purity. Also of interest, was the aspect of the land ownership. Rather than being under mineral rights from the large estate owners in Teesdale and Swaledale, it was almost down to individuals owning field plots. Sadly, not much remains on the surface, even the smelters and pump houses are reduced to small piles of bricks and outlines in the ground surface, as highlighted by her own

photographs and a LIDAR map taken from around the village Church of St Michael and All Saints.

The session was finalised by access to the Historic England website to highlight the large concentration of Listed Buildings in Middleton Tyas compared to the surrounding villages, the legacy of the tremendous wealth copper brought to the area.

August will be a recess month, but plenty of reminders will be posted to members.

GEOLOGY GROUP – Report by Bob Tuddenham and Jane Harrison

In our May and June meetings, David Saville continued his exploration of life on Earth looking at the Permian and Triassic periods.

In the Permian (299 – 252 mya), the wet climate of the Carboniferous was slowly replaced by a land dominated environment. This saw the development of a fully terrestrial fauna and the appearance of the first large land herbivores and carnivores. A mass extinction event then took place at the end of the Permian and is thought to have been caused by the flood basalt eruptions that created the Siberian Traps.

In the second half of the May meeting, Jane Harrison gave an excellent talk on the Geology of Guernsey from her recent holiday to this Channel Island.

In June, David took us through the Triassic (252-201 mya) period which followed this major mass extinction. The formation of a single supercontinent, called Pangaea, led to increases in temperature and greater aridity and life had to adapt. Plants, for example, developed waxy, needle-like leaves to help retain moisture and seeds evolved as they were more drought-resistant than spores. Insects continued to evolve but amphibian numbers declined as water resources shrank.

Reptiles dominated. Most lived on the coastal margins or in the sea. Pterosaurs, which were the first to develop powered flight, bore superficial resemblance to dinosaurs but had evolved on a separate evolutionary branch. True dinosaurs appeared later in the Triassic, as did the first

mammals, which were small shrew-like creatures. Some of these weird and wonderful animals were brought to life in a video.

Bob concluded the June meeting with some of the geological events that have recently been in the news.

Our next meeting will be at The Witham on **Monday July 27th** at 10 am. All are welcome to join us. Please contact the convenor for details.

iPAD and iPHONE GROUP – Report by Mike Sweeting

Hot topics of the day (pun intended) included Apple Age Confirmation - Apple will restrict its services unless the account holder confirms they are over 18. This is easily done if a credit card is already registered with Apple. We went through the options.

We finished off the topic of Google Maps, looking at how it can be personalised and considering the privacy connotations.

After looking at the theory of Apple Mail last time we moved onto the practical aspects of using Mail as an email client, including a look at the controls and how to manage mail accounts.

Our next meeting will be on **28th July** in Enterprise House starting at 1:30pm. There will be no meeting in August.

LUNCH CLUB – Report by Jane Mathieson

14 of us met at Coghlands cafe, Barningham for lunch. As usual the surroundings were lovely, service good and the food delicious.

We chose between Sea Bass, Quiche, Poached & Smoked Salmon Platter, Warm Goats Cheese Tart & Toasted Sandwiches. The selection of desserts was mouth-watering. We all agreed to having a lovely lunch, with some good purchases made at the shop. The cheese selection & products are locally produced & grown, with fresh fish delivered weekly, & take away meals available.

NEEDLECRAFT – Report by Glen Howard

We had an outing this month to the Bowes Museum to see the Vivienne Westwood exhibition. It was very interesting but many of the outfits we deemed unwearable.



However, some we could imagine wearing particularly in our younger days. The workmanship was superb and the fabrics beautiful.

Of course we ended with a visit to the café.

Vivienne Westwood display – photo by Sheila Kilgariff

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 14th August** when we will be working on our personal projects. New members are always welcome so do give me a call if you would like to join us.

Glen Howard [07975 705816](tel:07975705816)

PHILOSOPHY GROUP – Report by Clare Tuddenham

Marxism, Marcuse and a group anniversary.

At our June meeting we looked at Marxism, followed by a quick peep at the work of Marcuse.

“The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to change it” (Karl Marx, 1845)

We explored some of the core ideas proposed by Karl Marx and his friend and collaborator, Friedrich Engels. We wondered whether some of them, such as “dialectical materialism” are quite simple concepts wrapped up in

infuriating philosophical jargon (or not) and went on to look at the “motor of history”, the Marxist theory of how human societies progress from one stage to another.

The capitalist system and its downsides were reviewed, then we considered how Marx believed the transition to socialism and communism would happen. The question is, is the legacy of Marxism, a) the most potent framework for human emancipation, or b) an inherently flawed ideology that enabled unprecedented state repression?



This discussion was followed by a brief but intriguing introduction by Pat to the work of the 20th century philosopher, Herbert Marcuse. He had much to say about both capitalism and communism, and we will find out more at our next meeting in July when Pat gives us a fuller picture.

This meeting marked the 10th anniversary of the group's beginning, with 4 of the original members present. We decided that this must be celebrated, so this we did with a 'bring and share' lunch, including cake with candles, then puzzles and a quiz – philosophically based as of course you would expect. Here's to the future of this excellent group!

We meet at Enterprise House, at 10am on the 4th Tuesday of each month and everyone is welcome.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP – Report by Alan Kenwright; Photographs by Alan Kenwright, Pete Redgrave and Ian Royston.

In July the photography group excursion was in two parts. In the morning a group of nine visited Hopetown in Darlington to explore the museum created there to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. We found an interesting variety of subjects to photograph, with the added challenge of working around a number of school visits in progress at the same time.



We spent a pleasant couple of hours there, including a break for some lunch, before moving on to the day's "main event", a visit to the Tees Cottage Pumping Station at Broken Scar, where another two members of the group joined us.

Here, the challenges were somewhat different. No school visits, we were the only visitors allowed in that day, but fascinating machinery in cramped, indoor locations testing our photographic technique.



The wonderful old pumps and ancillary equipment such as the boilers and forge, all housed in magnificent buildings, provided plenty of interesting subjects.

We spent a happy couple of hours there making images and being educated by the immensely helpful volunteers who hosted our visit. If you have never been there, I would strongly recommend a visit to one of their open days, when you can actually see the pumps working!

Our next outing will be to North Shields Fish Quay, on **Tuesday 4th August**.

POETRY GROUP – Report by Elizabeth Long

Our theme this month was ‘Choices’, which provided a wide range of poetry from the melancholic to the reflective and/or religious as well as the humorous. We began with Leonard Cohen singing *If it be your will*, a beautiful song / poem about God’s will and his choices for us.

“If there is a choice

Let the rivers fill

Let the hills rejoice

Let your mercy spill

On all these burning hearts in hell”

This was followed by *The Answer* by R.S Thomas, a favourite poet of our group. Again, dealing with religious themes, but in a more questioning way, typical of Thomas.

Kamikaze, by Beatrice Garland, a new poet to the group, is a brilliant, powerful, poem in the voice of a daughter, about her father, a Japanese pilot, who changed course homeward as he looked out of his plane at the land and sea below and remembered his youth and family. He is then ostracised by his family and friends when he turns back from his mission, and in later life questions his choice.

“And sometimes, she said, he must have wondered

which had been the better way to die.”

The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock by T. S. Eliot divided the group, some liking it and others not.

Our local poet, Meg Peacocke provided two poems: *The Road to Balkh* and *The Toad on Barningham Moor* - different but equally moving. Poems by W. B. Yeats, *The Choice* and *An Irish Airman Foresees his Death* were followed by *The Whitsun Weddings* by Philip Larkin.

Aphra Benn, a 17th century female poet, was next. Thought to be the first female poet to make a living from her poetry, possibly because it was

often quite racy. *On Her Loving Two Equally* tells of loving two men and when in the company of one, wanting the other.

On a similar theme, Wendy Cope's *Bloody Men* has a disenchanted woman moaning that:

"Bloody men are like bloody buses -

You wait for about a year

and as soon as one approaches your stop

Two or three others appear"

Sara Teasdale's *The River* is a short elegiac poem with the lovely image of a river choosing to go the sea but, finding that the sea was not tranquil but 'wild and black', wants to return to the valley but, too late, is enveloped by the salty water.

Our theme for August is Birds.

RUMMIKUB GROUP – Report by Julie Archer

In June the Rummikub group met at Julie's house. There were 9 of us and it was a tight squeeze, with 3 groups of 3.



Two groups were at the table and a third on the settee plus a footstool - thank you Janet for volunteering for this seat. Definitely maximum number for this house location



Sue was the champ, winning all 3 rounds in her group, we need Kate to be here next time to give challenge.

Halfway through we had a break and enjoyed a selection of refreshments. This was another enjoyable and relaxed afternoon.

If anyone wishes to join us to try out Rummikub then please let Julie or Kate know. Have a look at our group web page https://teesdale.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/rummikub/

SCRABBLE GROUP – Report by Ray Thompson

We met at Lillian's house for the June Scrabble meeting. There were 7 of us and we split into 2 groups for the first round. Paula, Jeanette and Phil played, and Lillian, Judith, Regina and Ray made up the other team. Phil won his game with a score of 221 including a seven-letter word SHEAVED for 79 points. Judith won her game with a score of 185. We then stopped for refreshments of tea, coffee, a delicious homemade Victoria Sponge, and an assortment of Kit-Kats and caramel bars.

We started the second round of games with the two winners and next highest runner up, so Judith, Phil and Jeanette played. The second group was made up of Ray, Regina, Lillian and Paula. Judith won her round with a score of 246, including a seven-letter word of RINSING for 68 points. Regina won her game with a score of 168 with STEEPING for 65 points, Ray also got a seven letter word DIALERS for 68.

Our next meeting is on **10th August**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- Report by Phil Johnson

This talk covered Part 1 of the history of domestic energy. For centuries, home life centred on the open wood fire, which was smoky, labour-intensive and very inefficient. In many places wood, peat and even dried animal waste were used, but from the eighteenth-century coal became increasingly important - denser, hotter and easier to transport in bulk.

During the Georgian and Victorian periods, the open hearth gave way to enclosed grates, cast-iron stoves and cooking ranges, though they still produced soot, ash and indoor pollution. The Great Smog of 1952 helped change attitudes to smoky coal. Gas first transformed towns through lighting, and later cooking and heating. Electricity followed more slowly, first as a luxury for lighting and then as a power source for kettles, cookers,

irons, washing machines and refrigerators. In the twentieth century, oil also grew rapidly as a domestic and industrial fuel. Together, gas, oil and electricity made homes cleaner and easier to run, but they also increased total energy demand.

The post-war shift to gas central heating was another revolution. Yet this comfort had costs: fossil fuels brought air pollution, carbon dioxide emissions and wasted energy from poorly insulated homes. Nuclear power promised large quantities of low-carbon electricity, though with concerns over cost, waste and safety. More recently, wind and solar have broken through at national and domestic level. Solar photovoltaic (PVs) panels now allow households to generate electricity on roofs or, where suitable, in gardens. Modern systems usually include an inverter, a smart meter and sometimes a battery to store daytime generation for evening use.

Anyone considering PV panels should expect a survey, scaffolding, installation by an accredited contractor and paperwork for permissions to install (from the DNO) and export payments via your electrical supplier. Payback varies widely, but many estimates fall around eight to fourteen years, faster where daytime use is high, export tariffs are good, or a battery and electric vehicle are well matched. Domestic energy has travelled from smoky hearth to smart roof, and the next chapter will be about using less, wasting less and generating more cleanly.

UNDERSTANDING CLASSICAL MUSIC – Report by Ian Royston

20th Century Greats Part 2 with Howard Goodall – Bernard Herrmann and Henry Purcell

It has been said that classical music did not die in the 20th century but continued as film music and, if so, Bernard Herrmann must be its greatest exponent. Herrmann's film music embraced *Citizen Kane*, *Psycho* – probably the most imitated chords in cinema history – *Vertigo*, the Mount Rushmore sequence in *North by Northwest*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, and finally *Taxi Driver*.

Tormented by his exclusion from the classical elite – his name barely features in Grove's Dictionary of Classical Music – the brash, opinionated,

pushy Herrmann found his outlet at CBS radio. There he got his break working with Orson Welles on the infamous War of the Worlds broadcast, providing the musical backdrop. Radio proved a stepping stone, and Welles brought Herrmann to Hollywood for his first film score, *Citizen Kane*. From that point, Herrmann strove to make music carry the narrative rather than serve as mere incidental accompaniment.

Herrmann's music had American roots, and he greatly admired the innovative Charles Ives and his ideas of "musical collage." An early example is *The Devil and Daniel Webster*, for which Herrmann repeatedly overdubbed fiddle playing to create a frantic effect.

Herrmann revolutionised film music. He discarded Vienna's classical influences, combining instruments not normally heard together, scoring unusual combinations mixed in the studio, and introducing the eerie theremin, first heard in *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. His electronic music pre-dated Stockhausen and Carlos by some years.

His Hitchcock collaboration, beginning with *The Trouble with Harry* in 1955, produced music for nine of the director's films. Music became crucial to the storytelling: sentimentality gave way to anxiety, with less vibrato and tighter strings – never more so than in the shrieking violins and four dissonant chords of *Psycho*. In *Vertigo*, Herrmann introduced harps, celeste and woodwind, abandoning long arcing phrases and smooth strings for violent chords.

Influenced by Bartók, Herrmann in turn influenced minimalists such as Reich and Glass. He kept film music from becoming predictable, and after his final Hitchcock film, *Torn Curtain*, moved to the UK. French New Wave director François Truffaut chose him to score *Fahrenheit 451*. His final film was the edgy, jazzy *Taxi Driver*, for which Martin Scorsese had specifically sought him out.

Part 2 also covered the early English composer Henry Purcell, another composer who died tragically young, but not before becoming the "go-to" composer for Royal occasions and mastering the idiom of theatre music, as in *Dido's Lament*. We concluded by listening to Purcell's *Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary*, written shortly before the composer's death.

WILDFLOWER GROUP - Report by Kate Keen

The original plan in July was to travel to Augill Nature Reserve near Brough, just off the A66, to look for butterfly orchids. However, the recce showed that the path was closed due to the steps being broken. It was possible to use an out and back route and this showed that there were 6 butterfly orchids seen in the meadow at Augill on 27th June 26, which would have gone over by the planned walk date.

The revised plan was to walk along Harwood Beck from Widdybank Gate, which is between the Langdon Beck Hotel and Cow Green Reservoir. The BBC weather forecast was for a heatwave for most of the UK but for this location a more moderate 23 degrees. On the day of the walk on 8th July, we found on arrival that it was already 28 degrees. We set off with hats, sunscreen and water. It was a delight to find 77 plants in flower on the day with a full list being provided to group members.

We cut the walk short due to the intense heat and drove the short distance back to the Langdon Beck Hotel where we could cool down a little with iced drinks.

WINE GROUP TOO – Report by Jane Mardon



This month's gathering brought us wines from both the 'New and Old Worlds' and was of great interest as we tasted wines from Uruguay, Greece and Canada as well as from Germany. It's always intriguing to try wines from relatively new areas (for us) and this selection was a cracking choice.

Diana hosted this month at her home and had invited Morgan and Stephen from the Inglenook Wine Bar to select and introduce their choices. The Inglenook Wine Bar is situated on The Bank in Barney and also sells wines by the bottle that are quite different from the local supermarkets' selections, so well worth a visit. The choices for us at the tasting were excellent. Diana provided accompanying nibbles and the opportunity to visit her beautiful garden. The weather was kind enough for us to enjoy that!

The Whites

1. Simple from the Nakkal vineyard - a fizz of 100% Muscadet, 10%, Uruguay
2. Binz Bratt, a blended wine from the Rhine Valley of Riesling and Gewurztraminer, 12%, Germany
3. Vina Salort, a white Albariño, 13.5%, Uruguay

The Reds

4. Walt a Pinot Noir, 13%, Germany
5. Cave Spring, a Cabernet Franc, 14%, Canada. Interesting back story - this wine comes from the banks of Niagara. The wife of a couple who live locally for varying periods of time, is part owner of the vineyard.
6. Finca Traversa, 14%, Uruguay
7. Cuvée Prestige, Agiogitko, 13%, Greece

We enjoyed all the wines, however, for the whites, the Vina Salort was the top choice and for the reds - the Finca Traversa. It was another splendid early evening tasting and thanks to Diana, Morgan and Stephen - a huge success.

WIMMIN' SWIMMIN' GROUP - Report by Annie Clouston

June's meeting was our usual relaxed affair, wimmin splashing about joyfully, dodging and weaving occasionally to avoid the diagonal swimmers, the backstrokers, those swimmers that if they were boulders would be called erratics - I think I may be one of those erratics...



Meanwhile at Ripon Racecourse, where there is a lake as well as a route for horses to bound around, Ruth and I swam at the Ripon Triathlon Festival, neglecting to bike and run, we confined ourselves to the swim.

A highly intelligent response to overwhelming and sweaty heat, don't you think?

Astonishingly, the water temperature was 25C, in July, in England! That is the average temperature of the Eastern Med in September.

We had a great swim – possibly only surpassed by the previous day's swim in Ullswater. Now, Ruth is a fully paid-up member of the Open Water Swimming Fan Club. Once you are hooked, it's got you.

If you want to join the Club, or if you are already a member, you may be interested in a trip to a (heated) Lido in September. Let me know. Our next regular swim at Teesdale Leisure Centre is on **Saturday, August 26th** at 4pm. If you want to join us please contact Sue Overton sueoverton@hotmail.com

COFFEE AND CHAT

Coffee and Chat - Coming up – Thursdays 2.30 – 3.30pm:

The next Coffee and Chat will be on **Thursday 13th August** at **Winter's, 7 Horsemarket, Middleton-in-Teesdale, DL12 0SH, 2.30 -3.30.**

The following Coffee and Chat will be on **Thursday 10th September** at **Henry's Bar in the Witham, Barnard Castle**

Everyone's welcome!

WALKING GROUPS



SHORTER WALKS - Report by Liz Colley Spring Gardens Wetland

On a day that had threatened high temperatures, Teesdale was as usual cloudy, so the temperature was tolerable for a walk. Eleven of us met outside the Manor House hotel in West Auckland for a four-mile walk. This was unfamiliar territory for most of us, so we were intrigued to discover the route.



Starting through the hotel car park we quickly joined the Haggerleases railway line behind the hotel, leading up to Spring Gardens on the A68. This railway line was a relic of the mining industry rather than a passenger line. Crossing over the A68 we continued along the railway line, stopping to read the information about the Spring Gardens dam.

Photo: 6-spot Burnet moth by Liz Colley

The Spring Gardens 15 metre high earth dam was built after West Auckland and South Church were badly affected by floods in 2000. It is not visible

from the road, so it was a surprise to me to come across it. We admired the very attractive wildflower meadow that adjoins the path, noting the variety of flowers and the insects enjoying the meadow.



We diverted from the railway line to the Spring Gardens Wetland, another surprise. However, after a dry period the pools were nearly dried up, but they do support a diverse wildlife and are known locally as Toad-pools.

Photo: Common Toadflax (Linaria vulgaris) by Elizabeth Hatchell

Following the path we arrived at the Ramshaw/Evenwood border, walking past Ramshaw Primary. This took us over the river Gaunless which we had been criss-crossing since the start of the walk. We then rejoined the railway line to walk back to West Auckland.

7-9 MILE WALKING GROUP – Report by Peter Singer

This month's walk was in an area new to a number of members, a circular route in Mallerstang from Nateby, a small village just outside Kirkby Stephen. The weather forecast was mixed, with the possibility of showers, but clearing later, so we had our waterproofs ready and our fingers crossed, as our group of eight set off from outside the Black Bull Inn on the village green.

A walled, sunken path from the village emerged into a meadow carpeted with buttercups and took us across a footbridge over Thringill Beck, onto

the lower flanks (and fortunately not up) Great Bell. Continuing along this valley of the River Eden, with intermittent views of Wild Boar Fell through the low clouds, we stopped for coffee at the inbye wall of Dalefoot Farm, then waded through a couple of fields of knee-high bracken and a slightly boggy area around Carr House, before crossing Southwaite Gill.



We walked carefully, single file through another wildflower meadow, with buttercups, clover, yellow rattle and an abundance of eyebright, hauled ourselves over a couple of tricky stone stiles and emerged onto a road in front of Pendragon Castle.

Photograph by Caroline Thompson

Legend has it that Uther Pendragon, the father of King Arthur, built a castle here in the fifth century, although there is no archaeological evidence for this. It's possible that he died there, after the Saxons poisoned the well, but what is certain is that it was owned in the 17th century by the redoubtable Lady Anne Clifford, who restored and extended it, before it was abandoned after her death in 1676.

Walking on, we had our lunch sitting on a grassy bank overlooking a charming beck and, inevitably, the weather gods visited on us the only shower of the day. Returning on a lovely trod beside the river and past Lammerside Castle (actually a pele tower and barmkin built to withstand the raiding Scots from across the border), we crossed more fields and passed the fortified manor house of Wharton Hall, occupied by the Wharton family after they vacated Lammerside Castle. From here, we soon regained Nateby and drove back to Kirkby Stephen for tea and cakes, where we were able to sit outside and ponder the (inexplicably barefoot) statue of Lady Anne Clifford, seen walking with purpose towards the tourist information office opposite. A new walk and a grand day out.

SPECIAL WALKING REPORT – Settle-Carlisle Line for Charity

Dear Members,

Alan Middup and myself, Michael Harris, would like to thank everyone who has sponsored our walk in aid of Endometriosis Research. Thanks to the generosity of so many of you we have raised over £3,300 and our Just Giving page will remain open until Alan is 80 on September 13th.

For two octogenarians choosing June to walk the Settle Carlisle Railway route of over 100 miles seemed the ideal month. The Yorkshire stretch certainly lived up to expectations: cloud, sun, cloud and some wet stuff. Plus a storm so fierce that it blew our waterproofs inside out while we were trying to put them on! We also found ourselves walking through dense, damp cloud and suffered 'white fingers' after forgetting to pack our gloves. At 'The Station Inn' at Ribbleshead we received a true Yorkshire welcome, a roaring open fire, just what you expect to find in June,

The Eden Valley presented very different challenges as we tried to find unwalked paths hidden among face high nettles, Himalayan balsam and brambles and we encountered frisky young bullocks and cows with calves daily. The intense heat was a new experience, but it wasn't sufficiently powerful to dry the deep mud around stiles - Alan discovered that to his peril! On the plus side, we did see a red squirrel and watched otters fishing in the river while we ate our picnic.

While travelling daily back and forth between stations to complete the walk we enjoyed stupendous views of the surrounding countryside and then had the opportunity to see the remarkable viaducts from a different perspective as we walked beneath them.

If you would still like to support our appeal or if you have never experienced the Settle Carlisle Railway then this Summer offers the perfect opportunity to do both. Thank you all once again for your kindness and support.

Group	Meeting Time	Contact details
Android Group	1 st Thurs pm	Martyn Radcliffe 07975 970088
Art Appreciation	1 st Wed pm	Tony Seward 01833 630050
Automotive	3 rd Tues am	Peter Colley 01833 695197
Birdwatching	3 rd Mon am	Andrew Lapworth 07962 038052
Board Games	2 nd Mon pm	Hazel McCallum 01833 316484
Book Group Too	2 nd Mon pm	Maggie Cleminson 01833 640801
Book Group 3 Room to Read	3 rd Wed am	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Chess	1 st Thurs pm	Diana Marks 07762 626912
Climate Solutions	1 st Thurs am	Kate Bailey 07867 683195
Crochet Group	Varies	Hazel McCallum 01833 316484
Cryptic Crossword	2 nd Wed pm	Sue Overton 07512 368884
Discussion	2 nd Fri am	Glen Howard 01833 631639
Family History	2 nd Thurs pm	Alan Swindale 01388 488348
Gardening	1 st Fri pm	Julie Archer 07774 903377
Geography	3 rd Thurs 2pm	Phil Johnson 07792 959320
Geology	4 th Mon am	Bob Tuddenham 07812 378004
Historic Environment	2 nd Thurs am	Tim Meacham 07847 182554
iPad & iPhone	4 th Tue 1.30pm	Mike Sweeting 07565 925412
Italian Conversation	Every Wed am	Marie Jenkins 07754 205664
Lunch Group	3 rd Wed noon	Kate Keen 07880 741151
Needlecraft	1 st Mon pm	Glen Howard 01833 631639
Philosophy	4 th Tues 10am	Ruth Sansom 01325 401850
Photography	1 st Tues am	Alan Kenwright 07731 122399

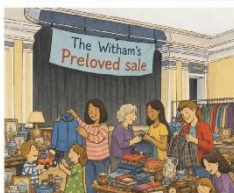
Group	Meeting Time	Contact details
Pickleball	Every Mon pm	Ruth Lapworth 07787 978696
Poetry	2 nd Wed am	Annie Clouston 01833 637091
Rummikub	3 rd Tues pm	Julie Archer 07774 903377
Scrabble	2 nd Mon pm	Judith Fanner 01833 650150
Science and Technology	2 nd Mon am	Ian Royston 07818 046938
Spanish Conversation	3 rd Thurs 10am	Michael Harris 07799 051389
Table Tennis	Every Fri 3pm	Peter Singer 07508 663998
Theatre	Varies	Elizabeth Formstone 07979 204212
Travel & day trips	Varies	Jane Mathieson 07591 095765
Understanding Classical Music	4 th Fri 10am	Ian Royston 07818 046938
Wildflower Group	2 nd Wed 2pm	Anne Thomson 07928 594404
Wimmin Swimmin'	Saturdays	Sue Overton 07512 368884
Wine Group	3 rd Tues pm	Tim Meacham 07847 182554
Wine Group Too	Last Tues pm	Jane Mardon 07816 845557
Walking Groups		
Shorter walks 3-4 miles	3 rd or 4 th Mon pm	Liz Colley 01833 695197
Walking 4-6 miles	2 nd Tues 10am	Janet Bayles 07887 834346
Walking 7-9 miles	3 rd Wed 10am	Nicky Grace nickygrace729@gmail.com
Fell Walking	4 th Wed	Jane Johnstone 07771 657440

WHAT'S ON : 2026

5 JULY - 29 AUGUST



Barnard Castle's Community Arts Centre www.thewitham.org.uk



SATURDAY SESSIONS

RETURNS THIS SUMMER!

27th JUNE - 29th AUGUST

The Witham Youth Theatre Juniors:
Anniversary at Camelot

Sun 5 July | Theatre | 11am | **PAY AS YOU FEEL**

Larry Dean & Brennan Reece:

Two Edfringe WIP Shows (16+)

Thurs 9 July | Comedy | 7.30pm | £14



Jimmy Nail: Songs and Stories **SOLD OUT**

Fri 10 July | Celebrity Music | 7.30pm | £38.50 - £86

St. Mary's Community Orchestra:
Summer Sizzler Part 11

Sat 11 July | Music | 7pm | £10

Barnard Castle Little Brass Bash

Tues 14 July | Brass Music | 6pm-8pm | **FREE**

Sneak Peeks: Connor Burns, Craig Hill, Dan Petrie

Sat 18 July | Comedy | 6pm | (16+) | £5-£12.50



Jimmy Nail: Songs and Stories **SOLD OUT**

Tues 21 July | Celebrity Music | 7.30pm | £38.50 - £86

Film: H is for Hawk (12A)

Thurs 23 July | Film | 7pm | £6 | WITH SUBTITLES

Edinburgh Preview Day (16+)

Sat 25 July | Comedy | From 5pm



Spa to Bar:

A Night at The Spritz with TempleSpa

Tue 28 July | Night Out | 7.30pm | £15

When Rivers Meet: Rhythm, Rust & Static

Fri 7 Aug | Rock Music | 7.30pm | £27.50

The Witham Pre-Loved Sale

Sat 15 Aug | Fundraiser | 10am to 2pm | **FREE ENTRY**

Carl Hutchinson: **SOLD OUT**

Fine Whine Work in Progress

Fri 21 Aug | Comedy | 7.30pm | (14+) | £15



The Amazing Bubble Science Show!

Mon 24 Aug | Family | 2.30pm

£12 Adult | £10 Child | £35 Family



Box Office: 01833 631107

THE WITHAM, 3 HORSE MARKET, BARNARD CASTLE, DL12 8LY