

South Durham



Founded April 2001

www.sdurhamu3a.org.uk

Newsletter

January 2012 No 114

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

February 14th 2012
Meet at Bowen Hall
Coffee 10.00am
Ollie Burton
Comedy in Song

Chairman's Report 2012

Happy New Year to all South Durham U3A members. I have no doubt that 2012 will be busy one for all of you and I look forward to sharing it with you as your Chairman.

It is always interesting looking back at the previous year eg what happened ect and we did cover a lot of ground during 2011. As well as excellent speakers, I must admit for me it was Daniel Watkins, Alnwick Castle. I still do not know how he remembered all those dates, people and events. Plus Daniel made it amusing and interesting. Visits were made to Alnwick Castle, Brantwood House, Coniston and Seaton Delavel Hall. There was a Literary Lunch organised by Region. The guest speaker was Mike Panett author of The Yorkshire Bobby. Not forgetting our 10th Birthday Party, which was held at Maxine's Restaurant. Plus all the Groups!! The list is endless.

A sincere thank-you to Roger Harryman for organising the Christmas Quiz, this proved to be very entertaining and also it was a chance for "the little grey cells" to work. A big thank-you to Felix for being the Quiz Master, Jeremy Paxton could be looking for a new job!

I hope that 2012 proves to be just as much fun with plenty of interesting places to visit and people to meet.

Eileen Miller

JANUARY MEETING

January 10th 2012
Meet at Bowen Hall
Coffee 10.00am

"Loopy Lisa"
The Fudge Lady

Notices

Election Results and committee contact numbers.

Chairman Eileen Miller 720697
V. Chair Joan Sadler 358247
Treasurer Rod Tait 469051
Secretary Sylvia Elliott 259949
Mins. Sec. Bill Paton 464351
Newsletter Rod Tait 469051
Ass. Ed. Pat Johnston 282409
Social Sec S. Elliott 259949
Web Site R. Harryman 300033
Mem. Sec. Jean Tolmie 722306
Group Eil. Lorimer 485288
Speakers Joan Sadler 358247
Ass. Treas Judith Hall 266725
Regional Bill Paton 464351

Welcome

Welcome to this month's new members and to visitors to South Durham U3A. We hope that you enjoy with us

Best Wishes

If you know of a member who is particularly unwell or is approaching a significant birthday (80,90,100) please inform a member of the committee so that we can send our best wishes.

Literary Lunch

At Lumley Castle on April 24th with author Anne Cleeves. If you haven't read one of her books yet try the library. They are thrillers- some set on the Shetland Islands, some in NE

England. (Remember Vera played on tv by Brenda Blythyn recently?) The cost is £17.50 and should be paid by 5th March.

Contact **Sandy on 384496**

Regional News.

It was with regret that Shelia Dunston resigned as our Regional Representative. Shelia has undertaken this role for several years and I would imagine at times it would not have been an easy role. Shelia kept us abreast with what was happening in the Region, what other groups were doing etc. Shelia, on behalf of myself, the committee and all South Durham U3A Members, thank-you.

Bill Paton has volunteered to be our new regional representative. Eileen Miller

From the Northumbria Messenger: The Big Event at Walbottle.

The Big Event date has been fixed for Tuesday 24th July 2012 and Eric Midwinter will give the Keynote on the U3A Movement Past Present and Future. The cost will be £12-00 per head. This is only possible by using surpluses from past events to pay most of the room/space



hire costs and will be mainly used on coffee/tea/food. The details can only become FICTUAL with YOUR support and INVOLVEMENT. We need U3As to work together to present themes such as, Art and how you run it, Geology what you do and where you go, History be it British, World or Local and your take on learning, which Languages do you try and how you succeed, Holidays and how you learn from them, the range has no limits just what you can offer. Space should not be any problem. We want all U3As to consider one table displays to strut their stuff for others to see and learn. There will be a Flyer with more facts, time scales and closing payment dates and application forms to start the New Year, **prepare now.**

John Lloyd

John Lloyd

TRY:

www.waldbottlecampus.newcastle

Christmas Lunch

Our lunch in December was at Blackwell Grange. The dining room was very spacious and the staff very efficient and helpful. Oh - and the food was good too! From reports received everyone enjoyed the day and we shall probably go there again this year. We extend our sincere thanks to Jean for organizing this treat for us and for all the lunches she has arranged over the past several years.

Bras.

I am collecting bras for the Great Yorkshire Air Ambulance again. Any bras welcome.

Sylvia 259949

Specs

I haven't collected any specs for a while so if you have changed your glasses and want rid of the old ones please

bring them along to the next meeting.

Sylvia 259949

Competition

Prize money of £1000, £500 and £250 is being offered to U3As in the Northumbria region who come up with the best ideas for easing the problems of daily life, particularly for older people. Originality, quality and feasibility of research are the main criteria for judging. Winners will have the opportunity of developing their ideas in conjunction with experts from Newcastle University. Ideas may be submitted from individual members, groups or U3As. Prize money goes to the U3A. Professor Jim Edwardson from the University will be at the Darlington Rugby Club from 2p.m on Tuesday, 17th January to tell you more about it. Book your place by contacting **Jean on 722306**

New Groups.

Painting and Drawing

I was hopeful that this group might start this month but

a) Bowen Hall has very limited availability which does not suit the prospective artists, could anyone suggest an alternative venue?

b) many members are relative beginners and would like a tutor, would any member(s) be able and willing to help?

Local History

Response to this group has been so good that the problem is finding a venue where everyone can meet. If you know of a small room please let me know.

Best wishes for 2012

Eileen L (485288)

Recent Events

Art Appreciation

For our last session before Christmas we had a DVD Palin on Art with mince pies and mulled wine on offer

afterwards. Michael Palin's subject was Anne Redpath and the Scottish Colourists. Their output was mainly during the inter war years and all were attracted in their own way to the South of France. Palin himself was attracted to Anne Redpath's work sufficiently to invest in a painting by her set in Menten. She had spent time there in the 30s living in a boat house attached to a millionaire's villa. A recent interview with her son revealed her abstract style to be "lay it on thick, paint and scrape down then rub it down with chain mail"! The four 'Colourists' all knew each other well and loved the modern French abstract paintings. J D Fergusson (1874-1961) was first in the field, attracted in some degree to the female form. He in turn influenced his friend Samuel Peploe (1871-1935) to join him there for a while. Later Peploe was encouraged by Francis Cadell (1883-1937) to produce a series of Island landscapes of Iona. Cadell served three years in the trenches of WWI where he produced cartoon sketches of his officers and life in the Army. But his work after the war was less popular and he was forced to sell off his painting stock for very little in 1933 and died in poverty. George Hunter (1877-1931) was a loner who started his career in California and lost all his stock in the San Francisco Earthquake. Undeterred he continued to produce a wide variety of work. All four painters had an abstract use of intense colour in common. Fergusson outlived all the others, married to the dancer Margaret Morris they settled in Glasgow after WWII where he formed a new arte club and Margaret could teach dance. They died within a few years of each other. Collections of their work have made it to No 10 Downing street and to the Head Office of Merchant Bankers Robert Fleming & Co. Michael Palin summed up "They all had a lifelong

commitment to the art of painting and brought a breath of fresh air to British art".

Brian B.

Dinner Group

Our December dinner was at Ochis. We have been there quite a few times now and have never had a bad meal. There were 11 of us this month and we all enjoyed our evening.

Discoverers

No outing in December

Hill Walking

Our last walk in 2011 took us to Teesdale at the end of December. We started at Forest-in-Teesdale and headed down a track before joining The Pennine Way. This took us alongside the fast flowing River Tees, across boggy fields and over slippery walkways. It was a struggle against a gale force wind (blowing directly in to us) with frequent showers of rain and sleet. We turned away from the river at Widdy Bank Farm and were relieved to find the wind now mainly behind us. A good track led us to our lunch stop. After an enjoyable meal, alongside a warming fire, we reluctantly left the Langdon Beck Hotel. Crossing the road we headed up the fell - assisted by the wind! Turning to cross the moor we walked alongside a stone wall which gave us some shelter as the wind had increased in strength. Our descent was slow as the gale force wind was buffeting from the side. It was difficult to stay upright, but at least it was no longer raining. Again the stone walls gave us some shelter as we paused for a rest. With better visibility we could now see across to Great Dunn Fell. Arriving back at our starting point we felt a sense of achievement. Despite the high winds we had completed our walk and enjoyed a day out in our beautiful countryside. Many Thanks to Peter. Margaret

Intermediate Walking

The planned walk on the 19th December was cancelled.

Reading Group

Mulled wine washed down Christmas nibbles as we celebrated the festive season in traditional manner. This year's miscellany of poems, stories, extracts and experiences of well, Christmas, showed that we're really getting into the swing of this annual event. It was a great afternoon. Hilary's telling of the missing baby Jesus is now a real favourite. Thank you Joan for once again hosting this event in such an appropriate setting. SH
Sandy

Group Details and Future Events

Art Appreciation

The next meeting will be on the **12th January** with a DVD, courtesy of John and Dorothy Baldwin, The Adoration of the Christ Child by Filippo Lippi.(1457-1504) One of a BBC series The Private Life of a Masterpiece. Following this on the 9th February before the monthly meeting we have a DVD; Degas The Unquiet Spirit Both meetings are 10am at Trinity Mews as usual.
Contact Brian B on 480611

The Brain in Spain (2)

By the time you read this our new Spanish language group will have had its preliminary get together. 10 further sessions have been diared on consecutive Tuesday afternoons concluding at the end of March. If you're an absolute beginner, haven't already signed up and would like to there's still room.
Contact Felix on 259949

Beginners Bridge

We meet at Eric's on **Wednesdays**, commencing at **1.30 pm, until 4.00/4.30**
Please contact Eric on 720260.

Bezique

Game on at my house **25th Jan** at **2p.m.** Everyone welcome new and old members.
Contact Jean Tolmie 01325 722306

Canasta

The group meets on the **first and third Thursdays** of the month at **2.00pm**. New members always welcome.
Contact Margaret on 485403

Current Affairs

The next meeting will take place **Tuesday 31 January** 2012.

Details contact Eileen Miller 720697.

Dinner Group

Our January dinner will be at Uno Momento on Saturday, **28th at 7.00p.m**
Contact Sylvia on 259949

Discoverers

We intend going to Kirkleatham Museum, Redcar on **January 20th**, weather permitting. (27 miles each way)

There is a Lifeboat house in the grounds and an Owl Centre - there is a £3.50 entrance charge for this which is optional, and may be cheaper if enough people are interested.

Refreshments are available at Lillies Cafe with 'wholesome' food and a good choice. Meet at 10am Cockerton car park for car sharing..

Contact Ian on 463801 or e-mail
ian.sincock@hotmail.com

Gardening Group

The group will meet at Frances' house to exchange house plants on Wednesday, **18th January at 10.30.am.**
Contact Sylvia on 259949

Hill Walking

The next walk on **Wednesday 25th January** will be 7 miles from Croxdale with a bar lunch in Shincliffe. Meet EDWalker's Homes 9.30.
Contact Peter on 469958 or peter.hay1@ntlworld.com.

Intermediate Walking

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

I wish you and your families, A very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year and I hope that you all share and enjoy many walks with the good friends in our group.

On **January 16th** Mavis & Howard Masters are taking us on an easy local walk with an 'escape point' halfway round. The walk takes in the Nature Reserves at Faverdale & Brinkburn, returning to Cockerton through The Dene; Meet at Cockerton Car Park ready to leave at 10am prompt dressed appropriately for the weather on the day;

February 6th; Isabel & Betty MacFall;

March 5th; Norman & Margaret Hewitson;

April 2nd; Mary Allinson & Elaine Searle;

Contact Harry on 284077 or e-mail peart60@btinternet.com

Lunch Group

Lunch in January is at the Burtree on Friday, 20th. 12 for 12.30pm.

Contact **Judith on 266725**

Mah Jong

We meet in members' homes on the **2nd and 4th Mondays** of each month at **2.00pm**.
Contact Adrienne on 482386

Play Reading Group

The first meeting of the New Year will be held at Kay's (720361) on **Tuesday 17th January at 2pm**. For directions, ring **Kay or Muriel (486129)**. We shall be returning to John Mortimer's 'A Voyage Round my Father'. Look forward to seeing you there.

Muriel Jones

Reading Group

Plans for 2012

4th January: The Cellist of Sarajevo by S Galloway, led by Bernard at Rosemary's.

26th January: Meet with author Anne Fine. Booking with Sandy essential.

1st February: Northern Clemency by P. Hensher, details to be finalised. (Library set available, but no audio version.)

29th February: Arts Centre, film "We need to talk about Kevin" from book by Lionel Shriver. 1.30pm & 8pm. (Get your own ticket if interested.)

5th March: last date for payment for Literary Lunch at Lumley Castle on **24th**

April - guest speaker author of TV series VERA, Ann Cleeves. £17.50 via Sandy.

7th March: (Change to plans) Arts Centre - "The Help" - film of the book by Kathryn Stockett. 1.30pm. (£3)

Postponed until 4th April:

Nicholas Nickleby, led by Stella - incl. exploring Dickens in Teesdale. Meeting in Barnard Castle? Details to be finalised. Get your own book.

Contact is Sandy on 01325 384496

Theatre Group

Once again Winston are presenting their Follies night and have block booked us tickets for **Wed 21st March** commencing at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5. This is always a pleasant, funny and cheerful evening. I would be grateful for approximate numbers and a list will be in the side annexe. These numbers can be added to during February. The presenter of the Follies has asked that we provide some indication of numbers during January.

Joan Sadler 01325 358247

Newsletter contributions should be sent to Rod Tait.

Contributions by 28th January please.

e-mail contributions preferred if possible to rodtaitu3a@gmail.com or telephone 469051

Not a member? Like to know more about South Durham U3A? Please contact our membership secretary:

Jean Tolmie 01325 722306

JANUARY 2012 Events

Please note: It has not been possible to obtain confirmation of all the dates listed. Please check with the group contact (as detailed above) before making arrangements.

Tues	10th	Monthly Meeting/Spanish	Sat	28th	Dinner Group
Wed	11th	Bezique, Beginners Bridge	Sun	29th	Intermediate Walking
Thu	12th	Art Appreciation	Mon	30th	Gardening Group
Fri	13th		Tue	31st	Spanish/Current Affairs
Sat	14th				
Sun	15th				
Mon	16th	Intermediate Walking			
Tue	17th	No Spanish/Play Reading			
Wed	18th	Beg. Bridge Gardening			
Thu	19th	Canasta			
Fri	20th	Discoverers			
Sat	21st				
Sun	22nd				
Mon	23rd	Mah Jong			
Tue	24th	Spanish/			
Wed	25th	Hill Walking Group Bezique/ Beginners Bridge			
Thu	26th	Reading			
Fri	27th				

February 2012 Events

Wed	1st	Beginners Bridge/ Reading Group	Sat	18th	
Thu	2nd	Canasta	Sun	19th	
Fri	3rd		Mon	20th	
Sat	4th		Tue	21st	
Sun	5th		Wed	22nd	Beginners Bridge/ Bezique
Mon	6th	Intermediate Walking	Thu	23rd	
Tue	7th	Committee Meeting/Spanish	Fri	24th	
Wed	8th	Beginners Bridge/Bezique	Sat	25th	Dinner Group
Thu	9th		Sun	26th	
Fri	10th	Lunch	Mon	27th	
Sat	11th		Tue	28th	
Sun	12th		Wed	29th	
Mon	13th	Mah Jong			
Tue	14th	Monthly Meeting/Spanish			
Wed	15th	Beginners Bridge			
Thu	16th	Canasta			
Fri	17th	Discoverers			