

# Drumbeat



Durham & District u3a

Issue 13, April/May 2025



Happy Easter, all. Things are rapidly coming to life in this lovely spring: witness these young leaves unfurling in John Little's photo, taken in Craghead Woods.

This month we welcome new members **Jean and Peter Jackson, Boyd Sims-Williams and Alan Wilkinson.**

Do take note of the new committee, as of the AGM on 27 March, and of Mike Forrest's final address as chair. Thank you, Mike, for your sterling work in staying on as chair for the first twelve months of D&D; and hello to our new chair David Willock.

Finally, enjoy all the member contributions in this issue!

*Laura Woods, Editor*

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## NOTICES

- 1) Some group venues/times have changed – see p.3.
- 2) Save the date for the **Grand Summer Quiz** on 4 August – open to all (p.9).

## AGM, 27 March

Eighty-one people attended this year's AGM, which saw former Dunelm chair **Mike Forrest** stepping down after steering us through the first twelve months of our merged u3a.

Following presentation of our (very healthy) accounts by **Theresa Mulkerrin** and Mike's heartily applauded final address - details below - elections were held for the committee.

The new chair is **David Willock** and the Vice-Chair is **Paul Newby**. **Steve Beckett**, previously co-opted onto the committee, was formally elected as Secretary. New committee members are **Lesley Thomas, Jim Crinson, Malcolm Dawson** and **Lynn Brooks**. All were elected unopposed.

The full list of committee members can be seen on p. 13 and on the website [here](#).

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## Mike's AGM address



In stepping down from the Chair, Mike took the opportunity to review the first year of Durham & District u3a. Generally

viewed as the instigator of the Durham-Dunelm merger, he refused to take credit for its success, paying tribute instead to the enthusiasm and support of both committee and individual members.

From 311 members at the time of the merger to 338 now, the u3a was continuing to grow - most effectively, it transpired, through word of mouth. Of 34 active groups, five had been formed since April 2024. And while some groups were unable to take on new members, there was every encouragement to start new ones, with support and if necessary financial aid from the u3a.

Recalling the Raby Castle and Harrison Organ Factory visits in 2024, he reminded us that future outings depend on people coming forward: volunteers are critical to D&D's success.

Mike went on to thank the merger steering group and committee for their support, as well as numerous others including Alan Morrison (sound system and website); Richard Dennis (raffle); Peter and Rita McGarr (bookstall); Linda Murdie and Janis Goodson (meeters and greeters); Val Hodgson (former secretary) and Alan Hodgson (newsletter and visits); and finally, the u3a membership itself.

"I understand you can't please everybody all the time and I accept that," he concluded. "But I know I can look back on my stint as Chair and say to myself 'You did your best'."

You did good, Mike!

## Group Notices

A few points to note about group meetings this month:

### New Geology Group?

Lesley Collins, a new member with a



Geology rocks...

background in geology, is holding a meeting to gauge interest in a potential

new group. This is on **Wednesday, 23 April at 11.00 am, Durham Gala Café**. If geology is right up your street, come along. And if you can't make it, email [Paul Newby](#) so he can let Lesley know you're interested.

### Bowls: Change of day

The Indoor Bowling Club is closed on Fridays in summer (summer already??), so the Bowls group will be meeting instead at **12.00 noon on Wednesday, 7 and 21 May**.

### Theatre: Change of time

Because the Gala isn't opening until 11 am on Tuesdays, the Theatre Group has changed its regular meeting time from 10.30 to **11.15 am**.

### Poetry Appreciation: Change of leader and venue

This group, previously led by Ivy Hudson and meeting on the second Monday at 2pm, is now led by **Steve Beckett**, and will

meet from now on at the **Riverfront Bistro, Durham University Business School**.

### New groups welcome

As Mike has pointed out and as Lesley shows above, there's always room for more groups if you have a particular interest you want to share with others.

[Paul Newby](#), Groups Coordinator, is on hand to help with assessing interest and starting up; and funds are available if your group needs a financial boost to get off the ground. So don't hang back if there's something you'd like to get going (disco dancing, anyone?).

### Open Meeting, 24 April

#### Lady Carnarvon and Tutankhamun

April's monthly talk (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>) will be given by Gillian Dodds, who is co-chair of the North East Ancient Egyptian Society.

Gillian will be telling us about Lady Almina Carnarvon and the role she played in the search for Tutankhamun's tomb.

The life of Almina Victoria Maria Alexandra Wombwell – later to become Lady Carnarvon – reads like a cheap novel.



She moved from anonymity to a lavish lifestyle entertaining the rich and the good, and back again to obscurity, with adultery, abortion, money-laundering, tax

fraud, bankruptcy and disinheritance along the way.

Marriage and dowry negotiations undertaken on her behalf provided the funds for Lord Carnarvon to excavate in Egypt along with Howard Carter, and ultimately to find the famous tomb.



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## Shep

They are all called Shep.  
Aren't they – Border Collies?  
I am.

I am the best, he says  
Clever, eager, obedient, faithful.  
Unity in flight were we, Ben and me  
Over the heathered moor.

I am his and he is mine.

We walk, we run, we climb, we swim.  
Rain rocks gleaming, crystals icy,  
sunbeams dancing.  
No fear for us from "the heat o' the sun," or  
"The furious winter's rages." \*

His alarm in the morning. His lullaby at  
night.  
His evening mist, his morning light.  
No confusion in the shadows of the oak.

He is mine and I am his.

Later, too soon and later, with frozen hips  
Nothing changed, but everything changed.  
The father, steeped in country ways, saw  
not  
Ben's love and mine. Canine spirit still  
upheld.  
The father, master of the boy.  
With eyes burning  
Thrust the rifle to the boy.

I am his and he is mine

No time to scream, no time to look  
The rifle aimed and I was gone.  
The boy broken, never, ever to forgive  
The father.  
Cruel deed, to force the boy to shoot his  
love.  
Dead.

In my wilderness, unscarred, I watch him  
mourn  
And cry. And wonder.  
If, when we were reunited, Ben and me  
So soon, too soon from his wasting  
disease

Did the father remember the day when  
He truly lost his son?

He is mine and I am his.  
We feed among the lilies

**Judith Weygang**  
**Creative Writing Group**

*With a nod to:*  
*Shakespeare – Cymbeline\**  
*Song of Solomon*

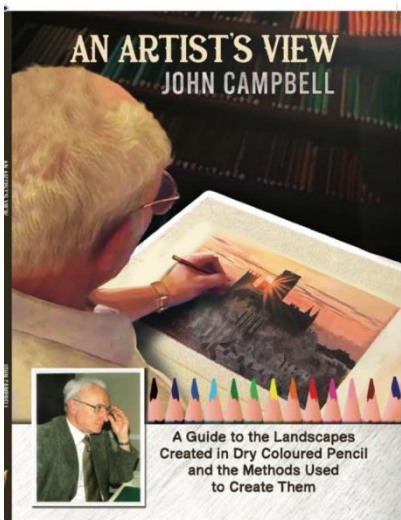
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## An Artist's View

This spring sees the publication of an absorbing new book by u3a member John Campbell on the art of dry coloured pencil drawing. (The term "dry coloured pencil" distinguishes it from watercolour, which many have taken to be the medium he uses.)

Largely self-taught in the absence of any books he could find on the subject, John has been producing beautiful images using this method since the 1950s.

His book, "An Artist's View", explains the techniques he has developed to expand the use of dry pencil as a medium, and



examines the use of composition, balance and colour to create striking images.

It also, of course, features many

reproductions of his works, revealing the extent of his talent for creating intricate detail and vivid atmospheric effects.

A significant section of the work focuses on the magnificence of the Durham City World Heritage Site from the 1960s to the 1980s, showcasing how it appeared before modern developments began to alter the view.

"The landscape below was drawn in 1976 from the new Milburngate bridge", says

John. "Try and view this magnificent spectacle now on your visit."



*(Publication date will be advised in the next issue)*

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## Readers' Lives

Tell your story!

There's a wealth of talent and experience out there in the D&D u3a, as this issue amply demonstrates.

Why not share yours with the rest of us?

You're strongly encouraged to send in your stories (ideally 400 words max).

Or if you prefer, you could give an interview that can be written up. Email if you're interested: [lauramw100@gmail.com](mailto:lauramw100@gmail.com).



## Get me out of here

They wave frantically and mutely scream  
as they cling on desperately to hope.

Drunkenly askew they slouch untidily  
together  
or, roughly stuffed amid lesser tomes,  
they stand battered but erect craving  
attention -  
mayhap an elegant collection of poetry  
abused  
by trashy novels or bruised by science  
textbooks.

Yards of volumes nervously awaiting  
a pointing finger, or any hopeful signal  
from a redeemer in this musty graveyard.

Resigned they queue, un-dusted,  
unwanted,  
foxed or sun-faded, scuffed parcels of  
words.

Dead or dying in this dingy half-day shop,  
they await resurrection and a return to the  
light.

Forgotten who last turned their pages  
and devoted time to their words and  
ideas.

O that their bound words could proclaim  
aloud to those shuffling by in ignorance.

Hear those words and set them free.

**Miguel Jubilado**

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## VE Day 1945: A Boy's Memories

*It's the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day on 8  
May. James Gilman remembers it well.*

My memory of VE Day, as a 12 year-old in  
Barnet, is of overwhelming explosions of  
light and noise.

For 5 years, Britain had been in darkness.  
Not one glimmer was allowed to escape  
from homes, offices and factories. Street  
lights were extinguished, and pedestrians  
pointed dim torches towards the ground.  
Pointing them skywards meant the cells.

These pedestrians were occasionally  
pursued by slow-moving cars, headlights



dipped and dimmed, bags  
of gas atop  
their roofs.  
Sound wasn't  
actually  
banned; but  
what was there  
to make a  
noise about?  
News, not  
music, was the  
staple diet.

Daily life was at the mercy of bombs,  
doodle bugs, and the terror of the V1  
rocket which would kill you before you  
knew it.

Come VE Day, this darkness was swept  
away. That great wizard of Oz, Winston  
Churchill, having led us safely over the  
rainbow, threw a lever in Downing Street,  
transforming the nation into a fairyland of

lights and laughter. One would have thought a mighty voice boomed: **'LET THERE BE LIGHT!'**

Suddenly, lights were everywhere! Every house, street, village and town lit up in a surge of celebration. Theatres and cinemas switched on their fairy lights, pubs placed tables and chairs outside and became bistros, street lights beamed at passersby, car headlights blazed forth like beacons, against a backdrop of searchlight beams.



*The Wizard waves to the crowds*

*By War Office official photographer, Major W. G. Horton*

And with the lights, came sounds. Radios, record players, impromptu bands, ships' sirens. It was all great fun.

My mother and sister Tubed their way to central London to join the thousands up the Mall. There was only one place everyone wanted to be: Buckingham Palace. Flags waved as ten thousand Vera Lynns promised an eternity of bluebirds, white cliffs and home fires.

Girls kissed servicemen, other soldiers perched like monkeys on poles and posts to watch events. Somewhere in the crowd, it was rumoured, the two Princesses lent

their voices to the roars of: **"We want the King! We want the King!"**.

At last, the Royal Family appeared with Winston Churchill himself, cigar jutting out like a battleship's gun. The crowd roared out cheer after cheer until, with regal waves, the Royal party retreated and the principal act in the VE Day drama was over.

Back in Barnet, we had our own celebrations. Our butcher threw a grand party. Lights blazed, music streamed, girls danced and balloons bobbed while we ate our fill of sausages, pies and sticky buns.

Later, stuffed to the gills, our gang drifted down to my house. In the lane opposite, we built the largest bonfire ever, strapping Herr Hitler on top. Somehow we realised this was the end of a world we'd known for five long years. To celebrate the dawn of a new future we stood in silence around our bonfire – lit, not with matches, but with sundry secret chemicals – and watched this gloop slowly turn into flames. The faces in its rosy-red glow reflected upon the past, the present, and what Mum would be giving us for breakfast.

Next day the nation awoke to find the yellowbrick road had been rolled up overnight, and Oz was now a hazy memory. The party was over. We were back in Kansas.

But what a helluva party it had been!

**James Gilman**

## Regional Events

The Northumbria Region AGM will be held on 28 April at Seaham Town Hall (9.30 – 12.30, lunch optional). To register, click [here](#). Nominations for chair are invited, as Cecilia Coulson's term of office has come to an end. Without a chair Northumbria Region will have to be wound up. The meeting will be followed by "The crimes and times of Jack the Ripper", presented by award-winning historian Neil Storey.

**How best to use Facebook**, a Zoom event for Northumbria Region members, will be held on **21 May from 3 till 4.30pm**. Booking required.

The **Creative Writing Competition** closes on 2 June. Poems or short stories on the theme "Echoes" are welcomed from any u3a members, More details [here](#).

A **Music Afternoon** is to be held on **5 June** at North Biddick Social Club, 2 – 5pm. More [here](#).

**Future events** include a visit to Hopetown Darlington Museum, AI events and a number of trips. See [here](#) for more details.

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## National events

Online learning events include:

- The assassination of JFK, 25/4
- Understanding online content, 29/4
- Cryptic crosswords in context, 7/5
- Turner and impressionism, 8/5
- Living with wildlife on Galapagos, 8/5
- On this Holy Island, 19/5
- History of the C16th ruff, 30/5

And oh, so much more. Check them all out [here](#).



JMW Turner

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## An Easter Puzzle

*Spot the ten Easter-related words hidden in this reminiscence of 70s teenagerdom. (Answers on p. 13)*

It would be hard to convey to Gens Z and Alpha what a teenage girl's life was like in the olden days (or, as our small daughter once memorably put it, when we lived in caves). Who would now believe the school uniform I had to wear: velour hat, gloves, brown pinafore dress 3 inches below the knee, hair in a bun, nylons (30 denier min.) and lace-ups? Far from what you'd call chic.

KS1-4 were unknown then, though constant exams seemed to be the order of the day. If performance was below par, a detailed critique was posted to hapless parents, outlining deficiencies and demanding improvement. Both classrooms and lessons were very traditional – those schoolroom desks in Beamish look all-too familiar. Music, for example, focused exclusively on classical, varying only by 19<sup>th</sup>-century composer. For PE we wore sashes of coloured ribbon. Netball was inflicted on us all: any skivers were condemned to the school maggot heap.\*

As now, though, we gave the full treatment to unsuspecting supply teachers. As soon as they entered the room the bedlam began.

Once home from school, when mild starvation had set in, one of us would trek across to the bread shop for a fresh loaf to consume before tea. Evening TV, in the days before video streaming, was the likes of Starsky and Hutch, Top of the Pops and Alias Smith and Jones. Top class!

Weekends were for the youth club where, sporting crocheted poncho, cola (teetotal, see? No shorts for us unless they were

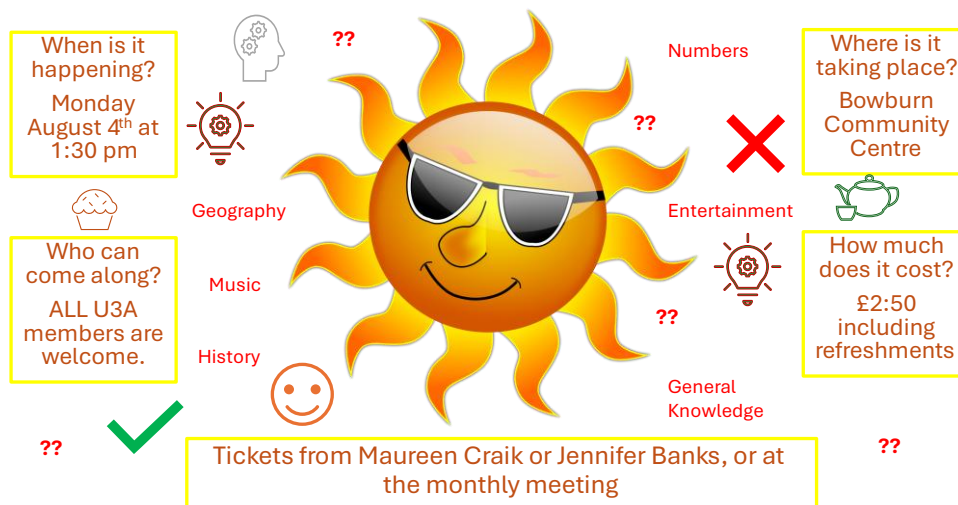
hotpants), midi and platform heels, we sashayed past the table-tennis players in a gaggle. And the perfume we wore – Aqua Manda – the girls’ equivalent of Brut. I loved the smell of it! The feeling evoked by essence of mandarin and patchouli lies deep in my psyche still. Positively Proustian.

As we still say in my neck of the woods, them were t’ days...

*\*An exaggeration, of course – school maggot heaps had been phased out some years before.*

## Grand Summer Quiz: A date for your diary

### The Durham and District U3A – Summer Quiz



**Monday 4 August 2025, at Bowburn Community Centre**

An event to be hosted jointly by the Quiz Group @ Carrville and the Quiz Group @ Sacriston.

All Durham u3a members are invited to take part. Just buy a ticket and come along. Teams of 4 will be allocated on arrival, you do not need to bring your own team. Tickets, available from May, will cost £2.50 and include quiz and refreshments.

## April/May Calendar

Date	Time	Place	Group	Contact
<b>APRIL</b>				
Mon 21st	10.30am	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>Monday Crime Club: No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency (Alexander McCall Smith)</b>	<a href="#">Monday Crime</a>
Mon 21st	1.30pm	Bowburn Community Centre	<b>Photography</b>	<a href="#">Deborah Blindt</a>
Mon 21st	2.00pm	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>Quiz at Sacriston</b>	<a href="#">Maureen Craik</a>
Tues 22nd	10.00am	Belmont Community Centre	<b>Art Appreciation: (FULL) Early Renaissance (Siena &amp; Bruges)</b>	<a href="#">Carol Tritton</a>
Wed 23rd	11.00am	Gala Café	<b>Geology scoping meeting (Lesley Collins)</b>	<a href="#">Paul Newby</a> pro tem
Tues 22nd	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Spanish Conversation (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Group Leader</a>
Wed 23rd	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Français Amical (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Mike Gibb</a>
Thurs 24th	9.45am	Member's home	<b>French</b>	<a href="#">Elizabeth Morgan</a>
Thurs 24th	1.15 for 2.00pm	Bowburn Community Centre	<b>Open Meeting: Women behind Tutankhamun's discovery (Gillian Dodds)</b>	<a href="#">Rob Page</a>
Fri 25th	10.00am	Various	<b>Walking Souter to South Shields</b>	<a href="#">Richard Dennis</a>
Sat 26th	2.00pm	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>Music Appreciation (Ken Maggs)</b>	<a href="#">Group Leader</a>
Mon 28th	10,30am	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>History Too: William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke</b>	<a href="#">History Too</a>
Mon 28th	12.00pm	Waddington St URC Church	<b>Environmental Group: Hot Mess (Matt Winning)</b>	<a href="#">Charles Jolly</a>
Mon 28th	1.30pm	Bowburn Community Centre	<b>Canasta</b>	<a href="#">Jennifer Banks</a>
Tues 29th	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Spanish Conversation (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Group Leader</a>
Wed 30th	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Français Amical (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Mike Gibb</a>
Thurs 1st	9.45am	Member's home	<b>French</b>	<a href="#">Elizabeth Morgan</a>
Thurs 1st	10.15 am	Gala Café	<b>Reading Shakespeare (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Shakespeare</a>
Thurs 1st	2.00pm	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>Circle Dancing</b>	<a href="#">Circle Dancing</a>
<b>MAY</b>				
Thurs 1st	2.00pm	The Story	<b>Parlez Français</b>	<a href="#">Paul Newby</a> pro tem

Fri 2nd	10.30am	Bowburn Community Centre	<b>Singing for Fun</b>	<a href="#">Mike Forrest</a>
Mon 5th	10.00am	Member's home	<b>Book Group:</b> <i>The Great Swindle</i> (Pierre Lemaitre)	<a href="#">Lynn Bilsborough</a>
Mon 5th	1.30pm	Carrville Methodist Hall	<b>Quiz at Carrville</b>	<a href="#">Jennifer Banks</a>
Tues 6th	10.00am	Broomside Park Beefeater	<b>Topical Discussion (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Janis Goodson</a>
Tues 6th	2.00pm	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>History at Sacriston</b>	<a href="#">History (Sacriston)</a>
Wed 7th	12.00pm	Durham Indoor Bowls Club	<b>Bowls</b>	<a href="#">Malcolm Dawson</a>
Wed 7th	1.30pm	Member's home	<b>Craft</b>	<a href="#">Marion Lotts</a>
Thurs 8th	10.00am	Waddington St URC Church	<b>Poetry Reading:</b> <i>Contemporary Women Poets</i>	<a href="#">Pauline Butler</a>
Fri 9th	10.00am	Various	<b>Walking:</b> <i>Bellburn Woods</i> (Simon Pedley)	<a href="#">Richard Dennis</a>
Fri 9th	10.30am	Witton Gilbert Community Centre	<b>Historical Novels:</b> <i>By Any Other Name</i> (Jodi Picoult)	<a href="#">Tina Naples</a>
Mon 12th	10.30am	Bowburn Hall Hotel	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	<a href="#">Marion Lotts</a>
Mon 12th	2.00pm	Riverfront Bistro, DU Business School	<b>Poetry Appreciation:</b> <i>American poets</i>	Steve Beckett
Tues 13th	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Spanish Conversation (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Group Leader</a>
Wed 14th	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Français Amical (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Mike Gibb</a>
Thurs 15th	9.45am	Member's home	<b>French</b>	<a href="#">Elizabeth Morgan</a>
Thurs 15th	10.15am	Gala Café	<b>Reading Shakespeare (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Shakespeare</a>
Wed 14th	10.00am	Member's home	<b>Creative Writing (FULL):</b> <i>Eclipse</i>	<a href="#">Irene Wilkinson</a>
Thurs 15th	1.00pm	St John's Church Hall	<b>History at Meadowfield:</b> <i>Border Reivers</i> <i>Bloody Northumbria</i>	<a href="#">Audrey Adams</a> (D Willock) (J Campbell)
Fri 16th	10.30am	Bowburn Community Centre	<b>Singing for Fun</b>	<a href="#">Mike Forrest</a>
Thurs 15th	2.00pm	The Story	<b>Parlez Français</b>	<a href="#">Paul Newby</a> pro tem
Mon 19th	10.30am	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>Monday Crime Club</b> (waiting list)	<a href="#">Monday Crime</a>
Mon 19th	2.00pm	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>Quiz at Sacriston</b>	<a href="#">Maureen Craik</a>
Mon 19th	1.30pm	Bowburn Community Centre	<b>Photography</b>	<a href="#">Deborah Blindt</a>
Tues 20th	11.15am	Gala Theatre	<b>Theatre Group</b> <i>Discussion &amp; planning</i>	<a href="#">Nancy Gemski</a>
Tues 20th	12.00pm	Various	<b>Pub Lunch</b>	<a href="#">Sylvia Buxton</a>

Tues 20th	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Spanish Conversation (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Group Leader</a>
Wed 21st	12.00pm	Durham Indoor Bowls Club	<b>Bowls</b>	<a href="#">Malcolm Dawson</a>
Wed 21st	1.30pm	Member's home	<b>Scrabble</b>	<a href="#">Group Leader</a>
Wed 21st	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Français Amical (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Mike Gibb</a>
Wed 21st	7.00pm	Community Room, Ustinov College	<b>Wine Tasting:</b> <i>Wines from USA</i>	<a href="#">Cynthia Bolton</a>
Thurs 22nd	9.45am	Member's home	<b>French</b>	<a href="#">Elizabeth Morgan</a>
Fri 23rd	10.00am	Various	<b>Walking:</b> <i>Hart Village</i>	<a href="#">Richard Dennis</a>
Mon 26th	10.30am	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>History Too:</b> <i>Colonisation of Australia</i>	<a href="#">History Too</a>
Mon 26th	12.00pm	Waddington St URC Church	<b>Environmental Group:</b> <i>The Wall (John Lanchester)</i>	<a href="#">Charles Jolly</a>
Mon 26th	1.30pm	Bowburn Community Centre	<b>Canasta</b>	<a href="#">Jennifer Banks</a>
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Belmont Community centre	<b>Art Appreciation (FULL):</b> <i>US female artists (2<sup>nd</sup> half 20<sup>th</sup> century)</i>	<a href="#">Carol Tritton</a>
Tues 27th	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Spanish Conversation (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Group Leader</a>
Wed 28th	2.00pm	Gala Café	<b>Français Amical (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Mike Gibb</a>
Thurs 29th	9.45am	Member's home	<b>French</b>	<a href="#">Elizabeth Morgan</a>
Thurs 29th	10.15am	Gala Café	<b>Reading Shakespeare (FULL)</b>	<a href="#">Shakespeare</a>
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	1.15 for 2.00pm	Bowburn Community Centre	<b>Open Meeting: Hartlepool</b> <i>Male Voice Choir</i>	<a href="#">Paul Newby</a> pro tem
Sat 31st	2.00pm	Sacriston Methodist Church	<b>Music Appreciation</b> <i>(Maureen Bennett)</i>	<a href="#">Group Leader</a>

**Other groups/activities include:**

**Cinema** – normally Mondays, but depends on film being shown Paul Newby

**Lunch Group** – meets once per month for meals at local venues Rita McGarr

And all suggestions for **occasional outings** (as well as volunteers to organise them) are more than welcome.

**The following groups are currently full:** Topical Discussion; Français Amical; Spanish Conversation; Reading Shakespeare; Monday Crime Club; Creative Writing; Art Appreciation.

But that needn't hold you back, if you're interested in any of the above, or any topic not covered by this calendar – you can start another group! Contact Paul Newby, groups coordinator, if you think you'd like to set one up.

## Durham and District u3a Committee, 2025/2026

Chair	David Willock
Vice-Chair	Paul Newby
Treasurer	Theresa Mulkerrin
Secretary	Steve Beckett
Assistant Secretary	Lesley Thomas
Beacon Admin	Noreen Freeman (deputy: Tina Naples)
Groups Coordinator	Paul Newby
Membership Secretary	Tina Naples (deputy: Noreen Freeman)
Publicity and Newsletter Editor	Laura Woods
Member	Lynn Brooks
Member	Jim Crinson
Member	Malcolm Dawson

### EASTER PUZZLE ANSWERS

BUNNY (bun, nylons); CHICKS (chic. KS1); PARADE (par, a detailed); CALVARY (musical, varying); BONNET (ribbon. Netball); LAMB (bedlam began); CROSS (across); EOSTRE (video streaming); CHOCOLATE (poncho, cola teetotal); LILIES (patchouli lies)

Contributions to Drumbeat are actively invited! Send your items, ideally by mid-month (around 400 words max), to Laura Woods, newsletter editor, at [lauramw100@gmail.com](mailto:lauramw100@gmail.com)

